



*Reaffirmation of the Judicial Compact Procedure  
for Relationship Between the Governor and  
the New Jersey State Bar Association*

WHEREAS since 1969, the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Bar Association have found substantial public benefit in devising, developing and implementing a process for the nonpartisan evaluation of candidates for judicial and prosecutorial office; and

WHEREAS the Governor and the New Jersey State Bar Association recognize the value of reaffirming such a process to ensure the continued nomination of qualified candidates for judicial and prosecutorial office;

THEREFORE, it is on this, 17 day of Feb, 2026, agreed that the relationship between the Governor and the New Jersey State Bar Association with respect to the process of evaluating such candidates is as follows:

1. Names of candidates being considered by the Governor as nominees for judicial appointment or reappointment to the Supreme Court and Superior Court, and for appointment or reappointment as a County Prosecutor will be referred to the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee ("State JPAC" or "Committee") on a confidential basis for evaluation.
2. The State JPAC shall be appointed by the NJSBA and composed of NJSBA members. The membership of the State JPAC shall include at least one representative from each county in New Jersey and at least three additional members representing underrepresented segments of the legal profession.
3. In furtherance of this referral and review process, the Governor will submit to the State JPAC a completed, confidential questionnaire for each candidate providing biographical material that includes the candidate's educational background, professional qualifications, experience and civic activities.
4. The State JPAC shall meet with all candidates under consideration for an original appointment. If the Committee deems it appropriate, candidates for reappointment will appear before the Committee.
5. The State JPAC will contact the County Bar Association Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee ("County Committee") from the candidate's home county. The State JPAC shall provide a copy of the confidential questionnaire to the County Committee, who will interview the candidate and provide a confidential recommendation of the County Committee to the State JPAC concerning the qualifications of the candidate.

6. Both the State JPAC and the County Committees are required to adhere to the uniform policies and procedures as set forth in the New Jersey State Bar Association's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee Manual, as adopted and as may be amended, including those relating to the confidential nature of JPAC's review.
7. The State JPAC will provide the Governor with a finding of "Qualified" or "Not Qualified" for each candidate reviewed. When asked by the Governor, the State JPAC will also provide an explanation of its determination.
8. The State JPAC may alert the Governor to a candidate who would be found "Not Qualified" but may be deemed to be "Qualified" in the future. In those situations, the Governor will have the option to withdraw the candidate from consideration with an agreement that the candidate will not be nominated at that time and will be sent to JPAC again for review when and if that candidate's nomination is being reconsidered.
9. No member of the State JPAC or County Committees shall speak to anyone outside of the Committees, with the exception as noted in Paragraph 10 of this Compact, regarding deliberations or recommendations concerning any candidate. Strict confidentiality is particularly important in view of the fact that some candidates who come before the Committee may never be appointed.
10. The Chair of the State JPAC will communicate the Committee's finding of candidates to the Governor's office only. In the event the Governor nominates a candidate despite a "Not Qualified" finding by the State JPAC, the New Jersey State Bar Association may appear and testify before the State Senate Judiciary Committee or communicate with any other legislative committee considering the nomination concerning its findings and the reasons therefore.
11. The NJSBA will not appoint to, nor maintain on the State JPAC any NJSBA member who is actively seeking a position for which they would appear before the Committee. Conversely, the Governor will not nominate to judicial or prosecutorial office anyone who has sat as a member in any capacity of the State or a County JPAC within the preceding 12 months.
12. The State JPAC will make every effort to make a recommendation to the Governor within twenty (20) calendar days of receiving a candidate's name. Recognizing the importance of providing the State JPAC with sufficient time to consider a candidate's qualifications and submit an accurate report to the Governor, the State JPAC may require more than twenty (20) calendar days to perform an evaluation and will timely notify the Governor when additional time is needed.

Signed on this day:



**Christine A. Amalfe**  
**President**  
**New Jersey State Bar Association**



**Mikie Sherrill**  
**Governor**  
**State of New Jersey**