

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2025

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PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON CHIEF WATER COURT JUDGE APPLICANT

The following candidates have applied for the position of Chief Water Court Judge for the Montana Water Court:

- Stephen Brown

Public comment is now open on the appointment. The applications may be viewed through a link available at:

[Boards & Commissions \(mt.gov\)](https://boardsandcommissions.mt.gov).

Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

The Montana Water Court, located in Bozeman, was created by the 1979 Montana Legislature. The court has exclusive jurisdiction over the adjudication of all water rights claims in Montana. The associate water judge is appointed by the chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court. This judgeship is not subject to general election. Public comment regarding the applicant is an extremely important part of the appointment process, especially given that Montanans do not have an opportunity to vote on the associate judge position.

Public comment must be submitted via e-mail. These comments, which become part of the applicant's file, will be posted on the Judicial Branch web page and forwarded to Chief Justice. Public comment may be submitted to:

rbird@mt.gov

After reviewing the application and public comment, the information will be forwarded to the chief justice for consideration for reappointment. The appointed judge is subject to Senate confirmation during the 2025 legislative session.