

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to G.L. 1956 § 8-8.2-1(c) which requires the Chief Justice, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint magistrates of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal, the Chief Justice hereby establishes a five (5) member Magistrate Selection Committee to review applications and interview candidates for three (3) Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal magistrate positions. The five (5) members of the Magistrate Selection Committee so appointed are as follows:

Domenic A. DiSandro, Chief Magistrate, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal;

Erika Kruse Weller, Magistrate, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal;

Christopher S. Gontarz, Esq., Attorney and public member;

Captain Sean P. McGehearty, Rhode Island State Police; and

Craig Hein, Esq.

Chief Magistrate DiSandro shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee.

The Committee shall carefully review each candidate's application and other evidence of good character, judgment, legal ability, temperament, and commitment to equal justice, and decide which candidates it will interview. Once the Committee has compiled a list of interviewees, a copy of this list shall be forwarded to the Rhode Island State Police for a background check that includes the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, Disciplinary Counsel, and the Attorney General's Office, which shall report the results of those checks to the Committee. After receiving completed background checks, the Committee shall interview applicants it deems qualified for appointment to the position of magistrate. Following its interviews, which shall be conducted publicly with notice published on the Judiciary's website (www.courts.ri.gov), the Committee shall also consider

written or oral comments from the public and members of the bar regarding any interviewed candidates' qualifications.

After the Committee deliberates in closed session to discuss the various candidates, it shall vote on the candidates under consideration. The Magistrate Selection Committee shall transmit to the Chief Justice a list of no less than ten (10) names of highly qualified candidates. From this list, the Chief Justice will fill three (3) vacancies on the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. The three vacancies to be filled were created by: 1) the retirement of the Honorable William T. Noonan in March of 2026; 2) the retirement of the Honorable Joseph A. Abbate in April of 2026; and 3) the appointment of Alan R. Goulart as a magistrate to the District Court in May of 2026.

Entered as an Executive Order of this Court on this 3rd day of June, 2026.

BY ORDER:

/s/

Paul A. Suttell
Chief Justice