

PRESIDING JUDGES

Summary of Amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio Effective June 4, 2026 ¹					
Number of Judges in Court ²	Eligibility Requirement	Term Length	Term Limit	Election/Designation Process	In the Event of a Vacancy or Inability to Serve
One	None.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	A sitting or retired judge assigned by the Chief Justice shall serve as presiding judge until vacancy is resolved. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(D)(1)</i>
Two or three	None.	One year. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(C)</i>	Shall serve no more than two consecutive terms, except by unanimous vote. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(C)(2)</i>	If the judges are unable to elect by majority vote a presiding judge, selection is based on seniority. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(B)(2)</i>	In two-judge courts: The remaining judge becomes presiding judge. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(D)(2)</i> In three-judge courts: A successor presiding judge must be elected within 15 days. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(D)(3)</i>
Four or more	None.	One year. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(C)</i>	None.	If the judges are unable to elect by majority vote a presiding judge, selection is based on seniority. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(B)(2)</i>	A successor presiding judge must be elected within 15 days. <i>Sup.R. 4.00(D)(3)</i>

Other New Provisions Concerning Presiding Judges:

1. A presiding judge shall notify the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio of a judge's mid-term designation or election as presiding judge within three business days. *Sup.R. 4.00(F)(2)*
2. In the event judges are unable to resolve administrative problems, the presiding judge shall consider referring the matter to the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program. *Sup.R. 4.02(A)*

¹ The rule citations throughout this document reflect the renumbering of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio effective July 1, 2026.

² The presiding judge role applies to a court's entire organization, regardless of the court's divisional configuration, if any.

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

Summary of Amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio Effective June 4, 2026 ³					
Number of Judges in Court or Division ⁴	Eligibility Requirement	Term Length	Term Limit	Election/Designation Process	In the Event of a Vacancy or Inability to Serve
One	None.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	A sitting or retired judge assigned by the Chief Justice shall serve as administrative judge until vacancy is resolved. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(D)(1)</i>
Two or three	Must have served in the court or division for two years, except by majority vote. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(B)(1)</i>	Six years unless otherwise agreed. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(C)(2)</i>	May only serve one full term except by unanimous vote. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(C)(2)(b)</i>	If the judges are unable to elect by majority vote an administrative judge, the position rotates according to a seniority-based order, beginning with the most senior judge not currently serving as administrative judge. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(B)(3)</i>	In two-judge courts or divisions: The remaining judge becomes successor administrative judge. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(D)(2)</i> In three-judge courts or divisions: A successor administrative judge must be elected within 15 days. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(D)(3)</i>
Four or more	Must have served in the court or division for two years, except by majority vote. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(B)(1)</i>	Six years unless otherwise agreed. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(C)(2)</i>	May only serve one full term except by majority vote. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(C)(2)(c)</i>	If the judges are unable to elect by majority vote an administrative judge, the position is determined by seniority. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(B)(4)</i>	A successor administrative judge must be elected within 15 days. <i>Sup.R. 4.10(D)(3)</i>

³ The rule citations throughout this document reflect the renumbering of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio effective July 1, 2026.

⁴ If a court has divisions, the administrative judge role pertains to each division of the court.

Other New Provisions Concerning Administrative Judges:

1. An administrative judge shall notify the Administrative Director and the Judicial Assignment Analyst of the Supreme Court of Ohio of a judge's mid-term designation or election as administrative judge within three business days. Sup.R. 4.10(F)(2)
2. First-time administrative judges shall complete the Judicial College's Administrative Judge Fundamentals course. Sup.R. 4.12(A)(1)
3. Pursuant to Sup.R. 5.23, administrative judges shall ensure the timely and accurate processing of all cases, including those heard by assigned judges. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(3)
4. Pursuant to Gov.Jud.R. IV(5), ensure all acting judges and magistrates are registered with the Secretary of the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Legal Education and complete the required credit hours of continuing legal education for each biennial period. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(13)
5. On or before January 15 each year, file with the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Ohio an email address to be used by the Supreme Court in communicating official notifications to the clerk of the court or division, as applicable. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(14)
6. Pursuant to Sup.R. 3.00, ensure the timely filing of a local rule of practice. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(15)
7. Pursuant to R.C. 117.103, ensure all required employees complete the auditor of state fraud training. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(16)
8. Pursuant to R.C. 2929.021, collaborate with the clerk of the court for timely notice of an indictment or dismissal of the indictment to the clerk of Supreme Court of Ohio. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(17)
9. Pursuant to Sup.R. 3.00 through 3.04, develop and administer the various operational plans required under those rules. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(18)
10. Pursuant to Sup.R. 9.10, develop and administer a language access plan. Sup.R. 4.12(B)(19)
11. In a multi-judge court or division of a court, the administrative judge has no authority over the personal, fiduciary, or confidential judicial staff of individual judges, except in instances where budgetary, operational, or professional conduct affecting the court or division as a whole compel the intervention of the administrative judge. Sup.R. 4.13(A)
12. In a multi-judge court or division of a court, the administrative judge shall not terminate any staff shared by the court or division without taking into consideration the opinions and concerns of judicial colleagues, except in instances where budgetary, operational, or professional conduct affecting the court or division as a whole compel the intervention of the administrative judge. Sup.R. 4.13(B)
13. In the event of a tie among a multi-judge court or division's judges seeking to modify or vacate the actions of the administrative judge, the judges may utilize the Government Conflict Resolution Services Program of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Sup.R. 4.13(C)