

June 22, 2016

Missoula County

Media Release

Contact: Anne Hughes or Katie Klietz

Communications Department

Missoula County

(406) 258-3160; (406) 258-3161

ahughes@missoulacounty.us, kklietz@missoulacounty.us



Landee Holloway Named Interim Justice of the Peace

The Board of Missoula County Commissioners has appointed Landee Holloway to serve throughout the end of 2016 to fill the vacancy left from Judge Karen Orzech's retirement. Holloway's first day on the bench is set for Monday, July 11, 2016.

"This was a tough decision, especially given the diverse backgrounds and experiences that contribute to a person's interest and potential to do well in the position," Commissioner Nicole "Cola" Rowley said. "Landee Holloway rose to the top of this panel of highly qualified candidates."

Holloway was selected for this appointment after a thorough interview process, competing against six other eligible applicants. The Commissioners held interviews the week of June 13, asking the same set of questions to each candidate.

"Landee brings knowledge and experience with the justice system, with community systems and resources and with the justice-involved population," Rowley said.

"Ms. Holloway demonstrated the fact that this is a people's court," Commissioner Jean Curtiss said. "She proved that she really knows the system."

"I felt as though she [Holloway] has the most experience to bring to this position," Commissioner Stacy Rye said. "All candidates were uniquely qualified in their own way. I was fascinated to hear from each of them why they were interested in this position."

Holloway will fill the interim vacancy through 2016. Because Judge Orzech is retiring after the June 7 primary election, those seeking the four year office must file to be placed on the November general election ballot. Interim candidates can run for the election but are not required to do so. As provided in statute § [13-14-118](#), a "10-day period for accepting declarations for nomination of statements of candidacy and nominating petitions for the office must be declared."

The Commission has set the 10-day window to open July 11 and close July 20, 2016. During this period, candidates must file and pay the required filing fee with the Missoula County Elections Office. All those eligible will be placed on the Nov. 8 ballot to be elected by Missoula County voters. The winner of the election will take office on Jan. 1, 2017.

As defined in statute [§ 3-10-204](#), “A justice of the peace must reside in the county in which the justice’s court is held.” Further, “a person is not eligible for the office of justice of the peace unless the person is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident of the county in which the person is to serve for 1 year preceding election or appointment.” Compensation will be set by the Missoula County Compensation Board, effective July 1, 2016. The current hourly rate established through June 30, 2016 is \$32.06.

###