

**602.6404 Qualifications.**

1. A magistrate shall be a resident of the judicial election district or a resident of a county contiguous to the judicial election district in which appointed during the magistrate's term of office. A magistrate shall serve within the judicial district in which appointed, as directed by the chief judge, provided that the chief judge may assign a magistrate to hold court outside of the county or counties of appointment for the orderly administration of justice. A magistrate is subject to reassignment under [section 602.6108](#).

2. A person is not qualified for appointment as a magistrate unless the person files a certified application form, to be provided by the supreme court, with the chairperson of the county magistrate appointing commission. A person is not qualified for appointment as a magistrate if at the time of appointment the person has reached age seventy-eight.

3. A magistrate shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. However, a magistrate not admitted to the practice of law in this state and who is holding office on April 1, 2009, shall be eligible to be reappointed as a magistrate in the same county for a term commencing August 1, 2009, and for subsequent successive terms.

[83 Acts, ch 186, §7404, 10201](#); [87 Acts, ch 115, §76](#); [89 Acts, ch 114, §5](#); [89 Acts, ch 212, §5](#); [96 Acts, ch 1153, §6](#); [2009 Acts, ch 179, §145](#); [2011 Acts, ch 78, §5](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1026, §167](#); [2021 Acts, ch 168, §7](#); [2025 Acts, ch 101, §3, 10, 15](#)

2025 amendment to subsection 2 applies to judicial officers retiring on or after July 1, 2025; 2025 Acts, ch 101, §15

Subsection 1 amended

Subsection 2 amended