

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSIONS

SUMMARY: The attached document reviews the history, authority, and appointment guidelines for judges serving as the appointing authorities for county veterans service commissions. It also sets forth practical suggestions and recommended best practices for the judge and court.

BASIC OVERVIEW:

- In Ohio, each county has a five-member veterans service commission. The county veterans service commission is the primary resource to care for and serve local members of the veterans community.
- With one limited exception, a judge on the Court of Common Pleas is entrusted with the duty to appoint commissioners to serve on the county veterans service commission. The judge appoints one commissioner each year for a five-year term.
- Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code sets forth the qualifications of commissioners, criteria for selection, and the appointment timeline and procedure.
- The appointing judge should be aware of the importance of these duties and exercise due diligence in performing these functions.
- The goal is to establish and maintain a county veterans service commission that provides high quality and responsive services to eligible veterans and their dependents.