



City of Thornton
Colorado

PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE

APPROXIMATELY \$170,000+

Apply by
November 19, 2021
(First Review, Open Until Filled)

***P*ROTHMAN**



THORNTON, COLORADO



Located in the northeast quadrant of the Denver metropolitan area and comprising 37 square miles, the city of Thornton is Colorado's sixth largest city

and home to a diverse and growing population of 146,000 residents. The City is only 10 minutes from downtown Denver, 35 minutes from Denver International Airport (DIA) and less than 2 hours from the Breckenridge and Vail ski areas. The community's location provides an ideal environment for a wide range of businesses to thrive, and the community's natural setting of ridgelines, wildlife, waterways, rolling hills, and undeveloped land provide Thornton residents with amenities and an abundance of recreational opportunities that contribute to a unique and excellent quality of life. Thornton's location also allows for easy access to the region's 28 major resort areas found in the nearby Rocky Mountains, which offers skiing, hiking, rafting, and camping, as well as beautiful and breathtaking scenic wonders, all within a two-hour drive. Cultural activities, including numerous museums, gardens, the opera and symphony, are readily available in Denver and other nearby communities such as Boulder, Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley and Arvada.



Thornton has aggressively pursued recreation programs with nearly 1,000 acres of land developed or designated for public parks. The city's 18-hole municipal golf course, numerous lighted tennis courts, athletic fields, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, recreation centers and gymnasiums present recreation opportunities for people of all ages and activity levels. Sports fans can also enjoy the region's multiple professional sports teams, including the Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies, Colorado Avalanche, Colorado Rapids and the Denver Nuggets.

The region's residents are well educated. Nine major universities and colleges are located within a 45-mile radius of the community, along with numerous smaller institutions of higher learning. The larger institutions include the Universities of Colorado at Boulder and Denver, University of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, Regis University, and Colorado Christian University. Thornton is served primarily by two school districts encompassing four high schools, five middle schools and fourteen elementary schools.

To learn more about the incredible opportunities found in and around the city of Thornton, please visit www.thorntonco.gov.

THE CITY

Operating on a 2021 total budget of \$437,053,743 with approximately 1,100 FTEs, the city of Thornton utilizes a Council-Manager form of government. Thornton's City Council consists of a mayor who is elected at large, and eight council members, where two are elected from each of the City's four wards. The mayor and council members each serve staggered four-year terms. The City Manager, City Attorney, and Presiding Municipal Judge are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the city council.

THE COURT & POSITION

As defined by Thornton's City Charter, the Municipal Court shall be presided over and its functions exercised by one or more judges. Under the general direction of the Mayor and City Council and in cooperation with the City Manager, the Presiding Municipal Judge provides leadership and support to the Court Administrator who leads a staff of thirteen (13) full-time and part-time employees.



This position shall faithfully perform the inherent duties of the Office of Presiding Municipal Judge including, but not limited to, the conduct of all Court sessions as necessary to hear and determine all matters filed with the Municipal Court as the same may be within its subject matter jurisdiction. A determination of such cases shall be as provided by law. This position is responsible to preside over sessions of the Thornton Municipal Court and utilize the services of Associate Judges only on a reasonable and necessary basis when the incumbent is not available or in the event a conflict exists and judicial disqualification is appropriate. The Judge oversees, mentors and provides guidance to the Associate Municipal Judges, who fill in the Judge's absence or in case of conflict or additional courtroom coverage, to ensure consistent and professional hearing of cases. Primary responsibilities include ensuring effective, fair, and respectful municipal processes to take place.

This position is responsible for administering the operations of the judicial branch of the City government according to the ordinances adopted by City Council. Cases adjudicated in Municipal Court typically include traffic, criminal, animal, and other municipal code violations. The Presiding Municipal Judge is expected to devote four days a week (40 hours) to fulfill job duties. Please view the attachment found [here](#) for a list of general duties, necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities, and an outline of a typical work week.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

1. The Presiding Judge will work in partnership with the Thornton City Manager and the Thornton City Attorney to carry out the policies set by the Thornton City Council. Together striving for an open, transparent, collaborative approach within the limits of the separation of powers doctrine.
2. This will only be the second Presiding Municipal Judge in the city of Thornton's history. Candidates who have experience both as a judge and as an administrator, and who demonstrate excellent communication will be most successful.
3. Engaging with the City Council to develop meaningful metrics with regular reporting as a part of an ongoing dialog about Thornton Municipal Court operations and City policy development will be a priority of the incumbent.
4. It will be crucial that the selected candidate bring an even-handed administration of justice that demonstrates there are consequences for actions that breach the Thornton Municipal Code. Running a fair, just, organized, and efficient courtroom, ensuring that people feel heard, and an understanding of implicit bias and the role it can play in courts are a few traits highly sought.
5. The Thornton Presiding Judge will be looked up to by the community and will lead by example, both in the municipal court room and in the Thornton community at large. This person will be expected to hold people accountable and should expect to be accountable for the administration of the city's judicial system and their own actions.
6. Being a judge in a municipal court requires a strong community orientation, as there are multiple opportunities to change behavior for the benefit of the individual and the community. The ideal candidate must have a genuine desire to serve the community of Thornton.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Candidates must have a Juris Doctorate from a nationally accredited law school, at least 5 years' litigation or judicial experience, a registered elector of the State of Colorado, at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and be licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of the State of Colorado.

Demonstratable knowledge of and the ability to apply the Colorado Rules of Evidence, the Colorado Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Colorado Rules of Municipal procedure, and the general ordinance, statutory and case law in Colorado is preferred.

For more information on the city of Thornton, please visit:

www.thorntonco.gov

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **Approximately \$170,000+: Salary Based on Experience.**
- Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance
- Life, Dependent Life & Supplemental Life Insurance Options
- Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy
- Flexible Spending Plan
- Retiree Health Savings Plan
- Retirement Plan
- Deferred Compensation Plan
- Short & Long-term Disability Plans
- Paid Holidays
- In-House Training Opportunities
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Employee Assistance Program

The city of Thornton is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **November 19, 2021** (first review, open until filled). Applications will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "**Open Recruitments**" followed by "**Presiding Municipal Judge – City of Thornton, CO**" and follow the directions provided, or please **[click here](#)**.



www.prothman.com

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