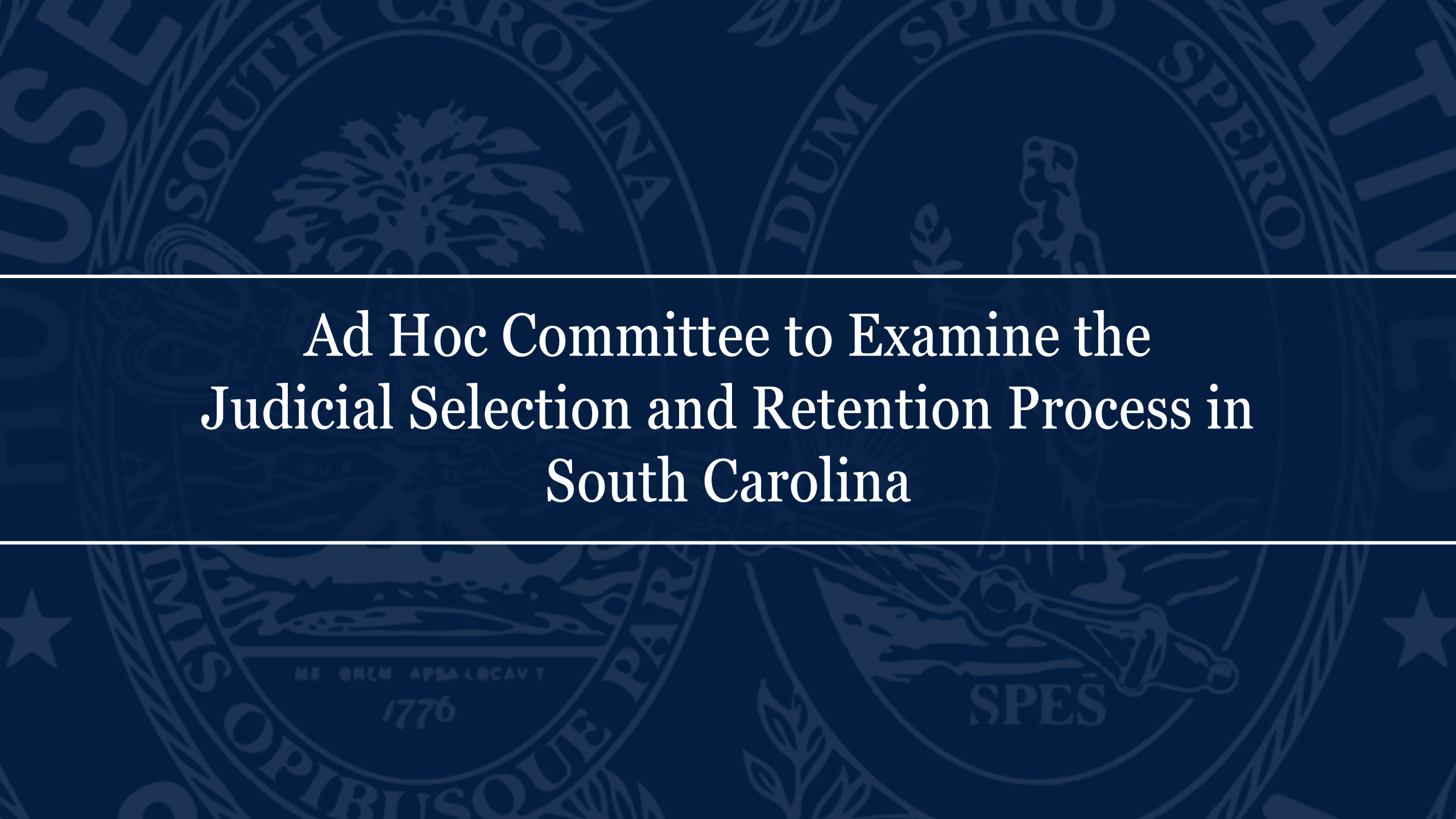




Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Judicial Selection and Retention Process in South Carolina



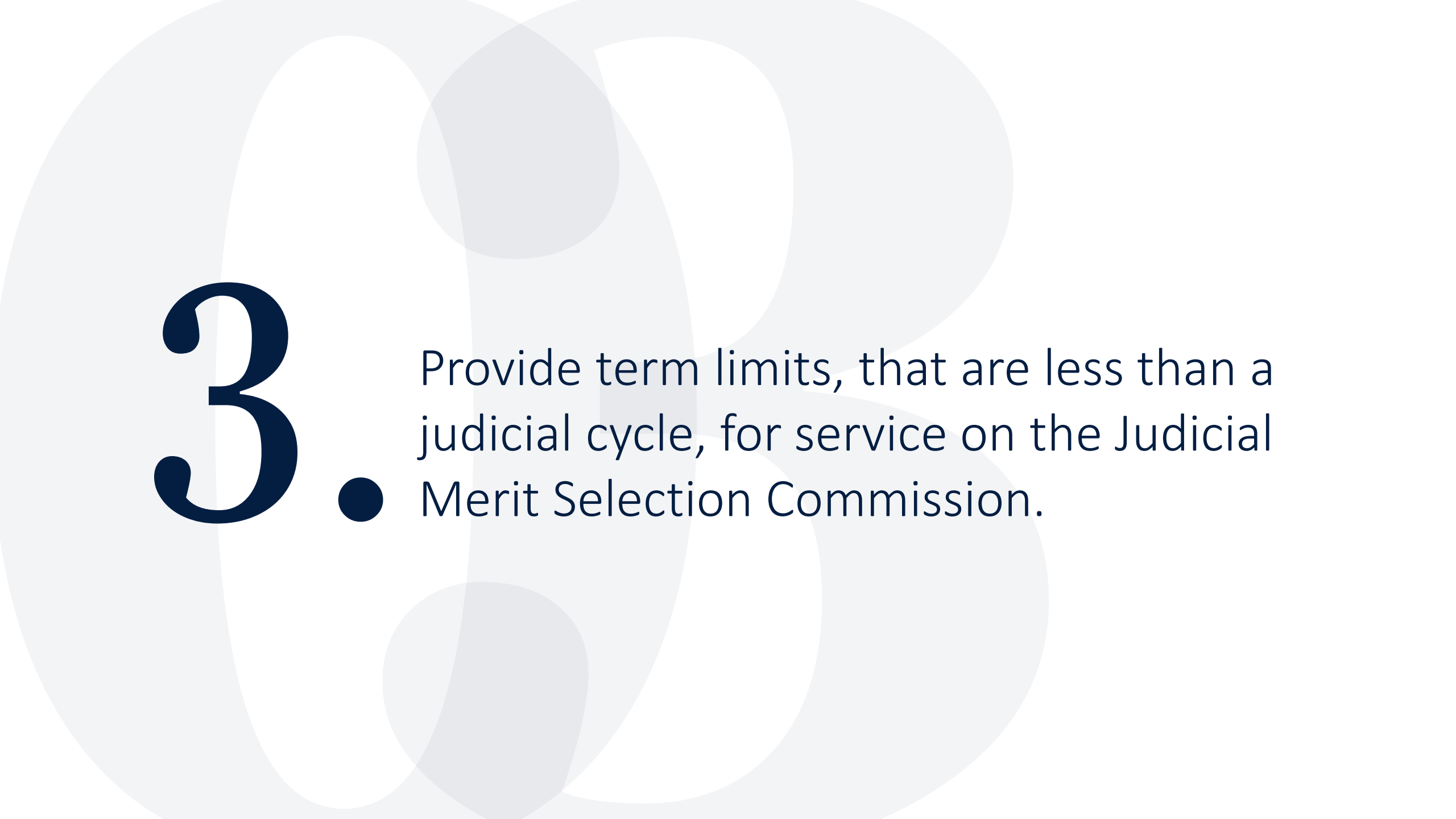
1

- Revise the membership of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to reduce legislative appointments and add appointments by the Governor.



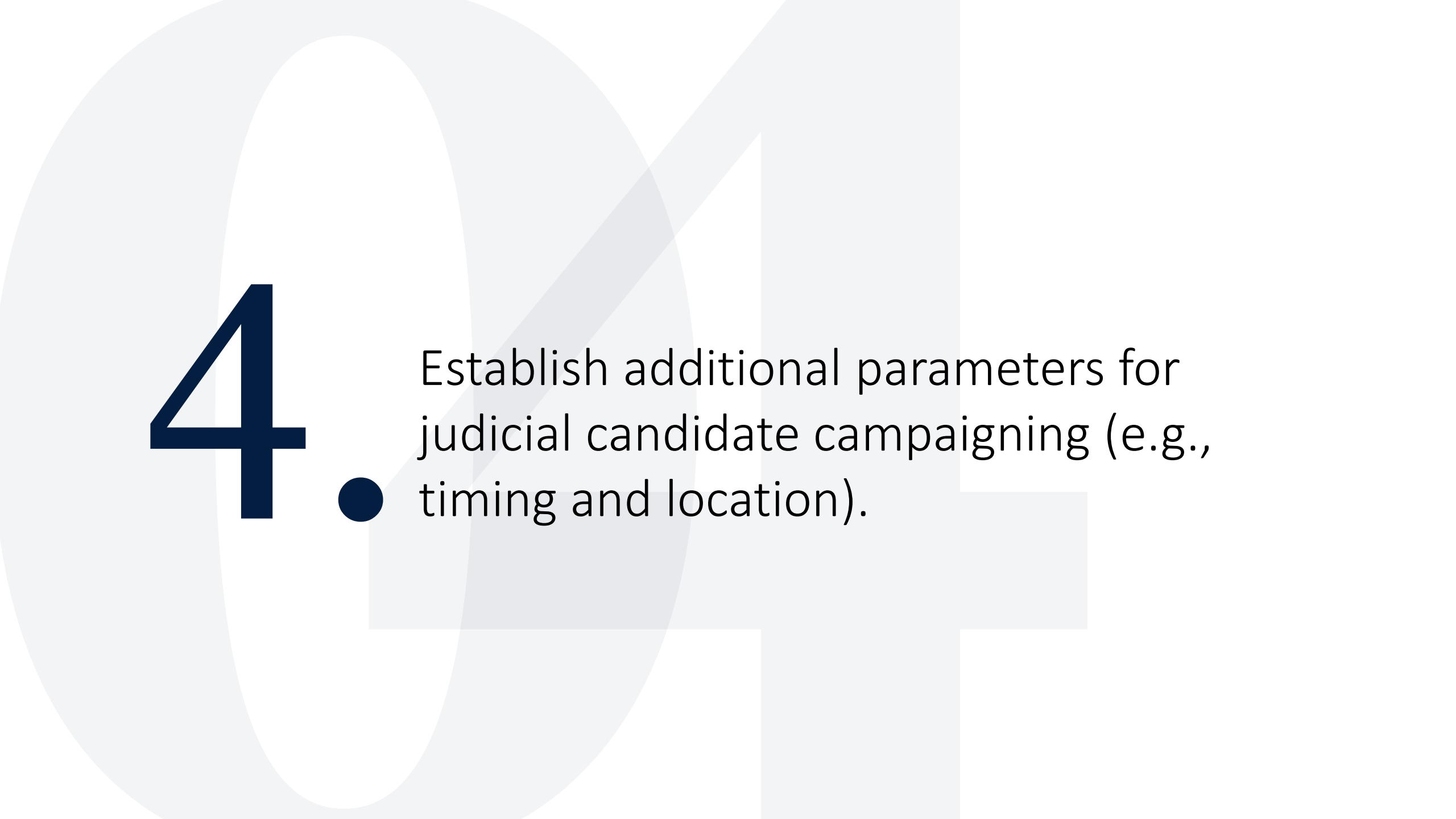
2

- Establish a term of office for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission Chair.



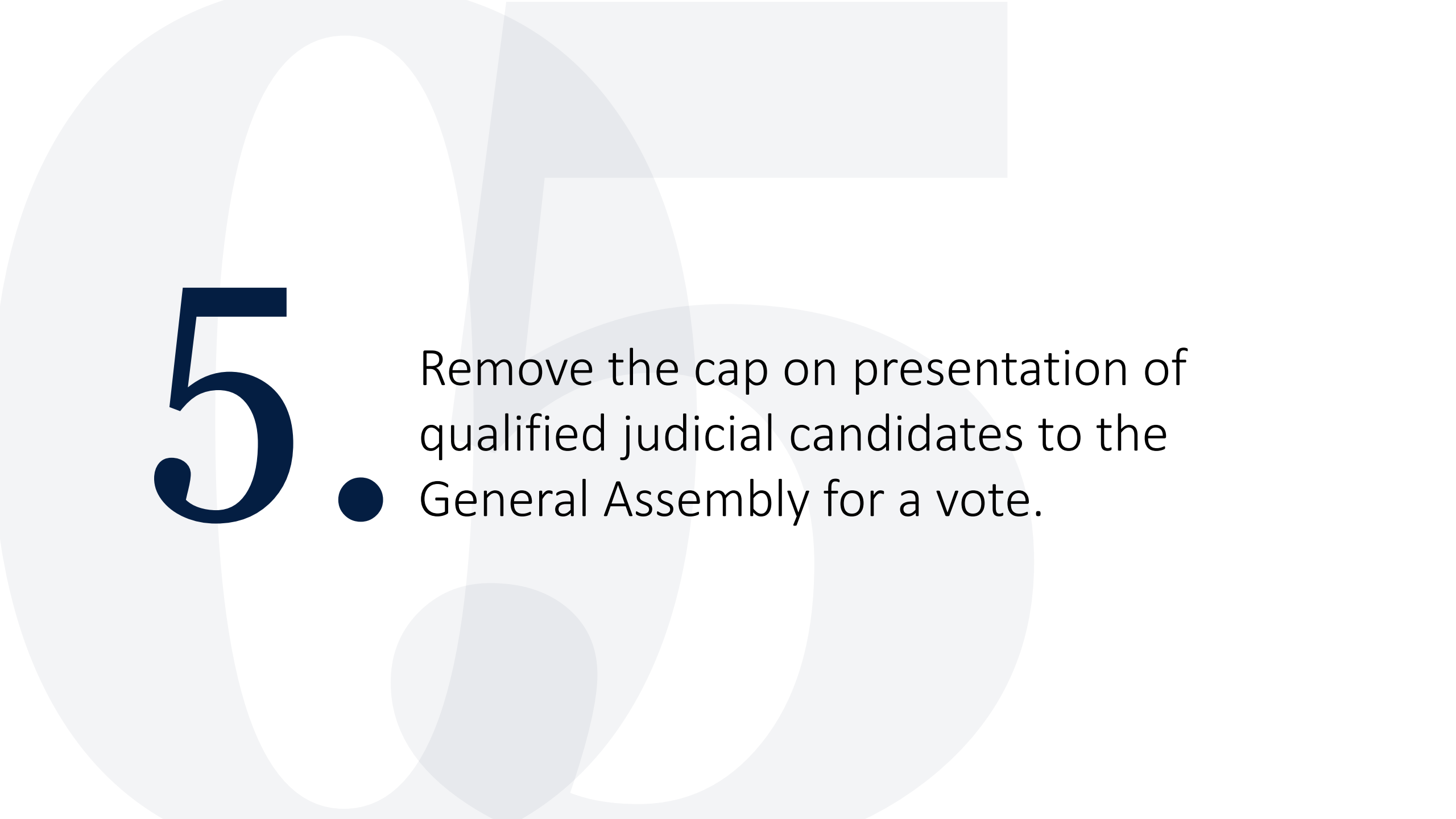
3

- Provide term limits, that are less than a judicial cycle, for service on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.



4

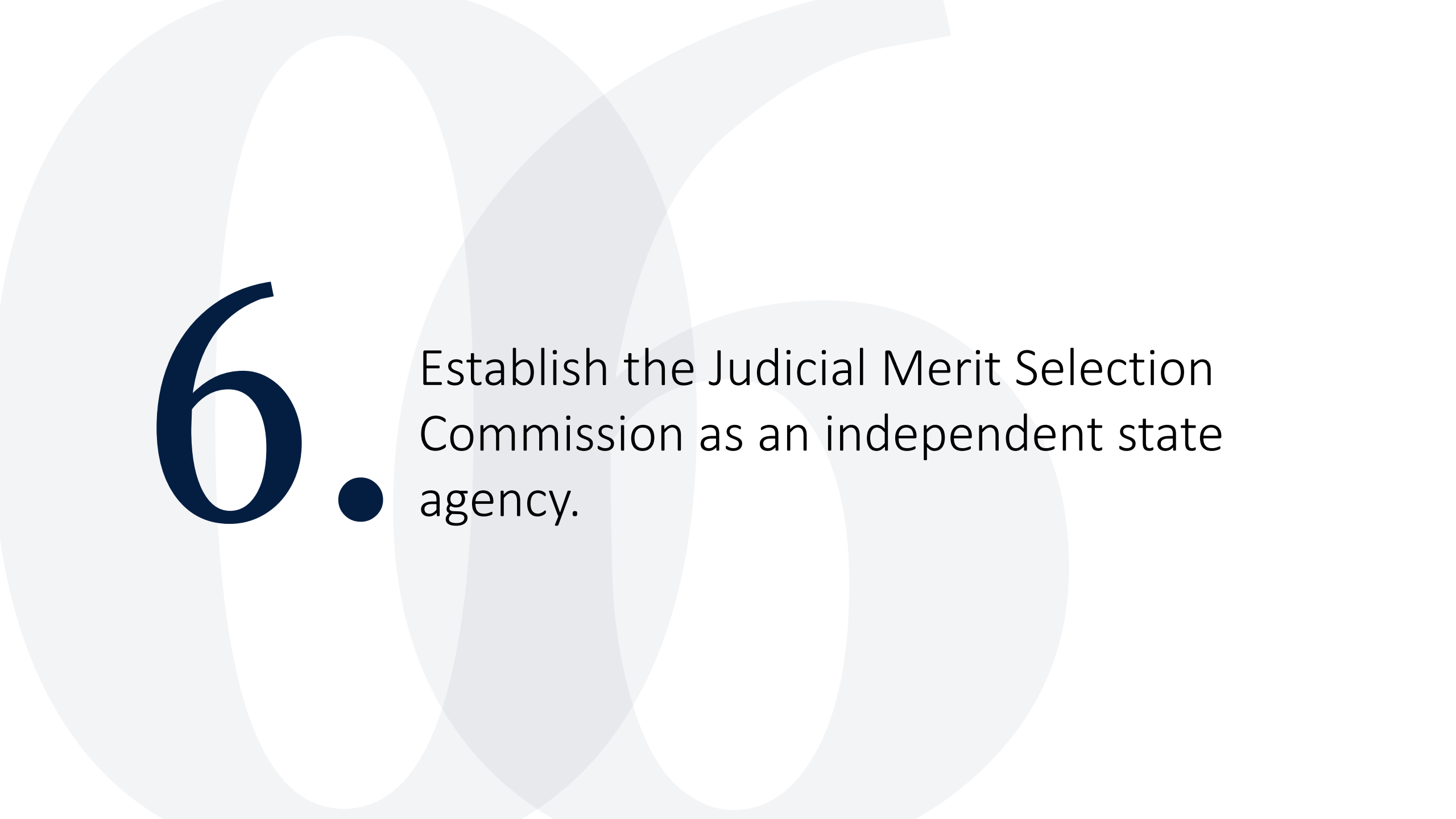
- Establish additional parameters for judicial candidate campaigning (e.g., timing and location).



5

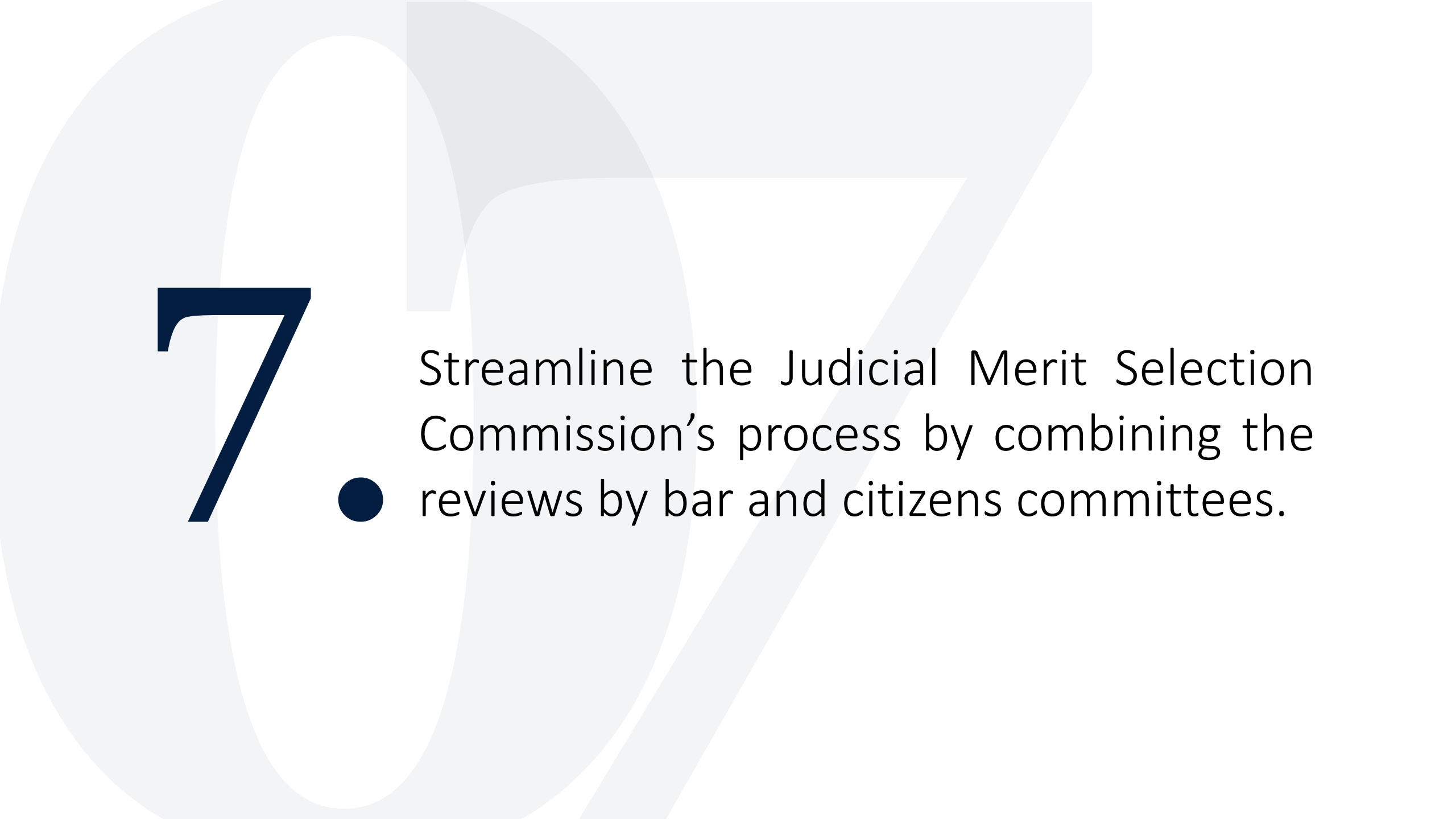


Remove the cap on presentation of qualified judicial candidates to the General Assembly for a vote.



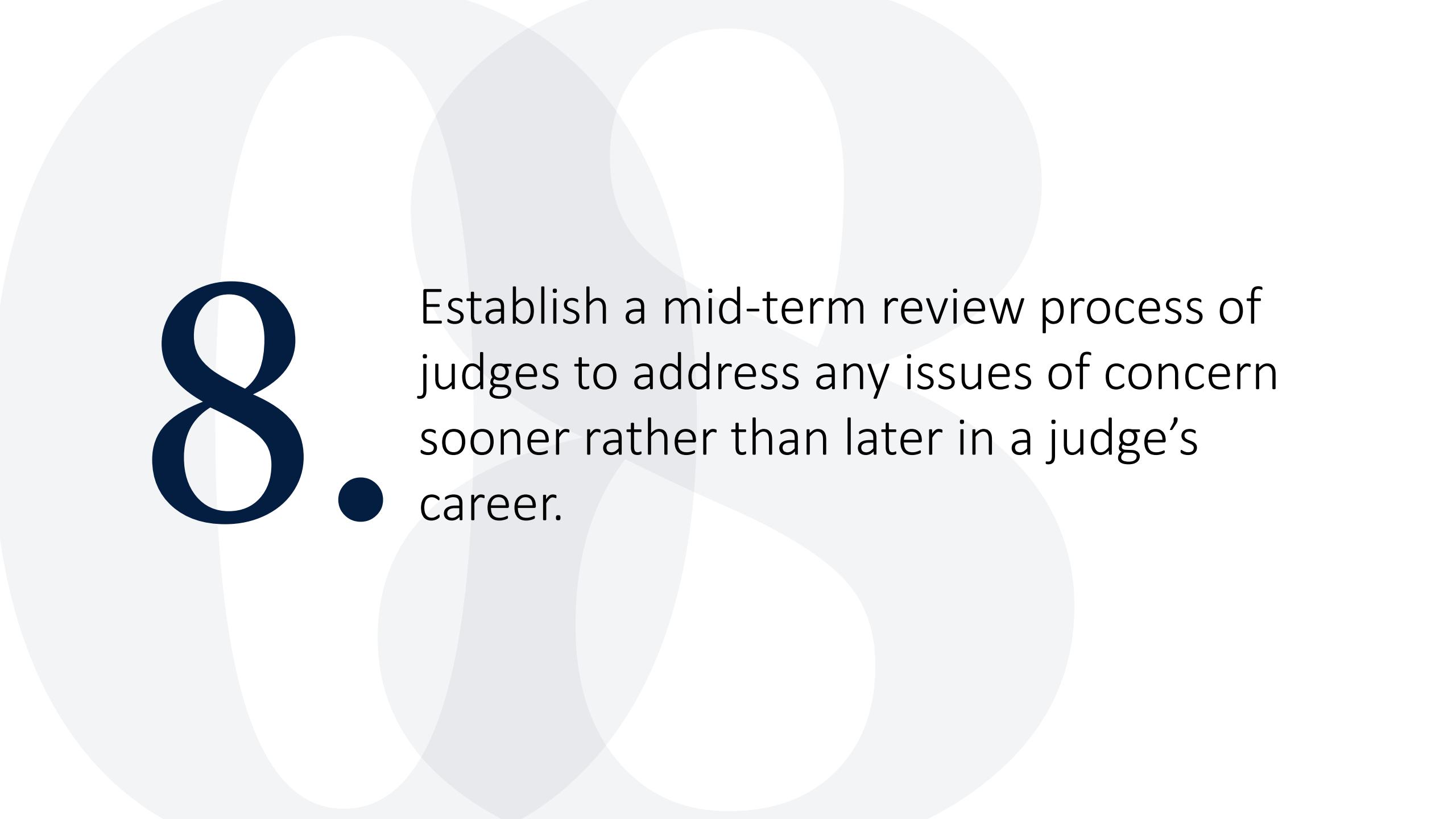
6.

Establish the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as an independent state agency.



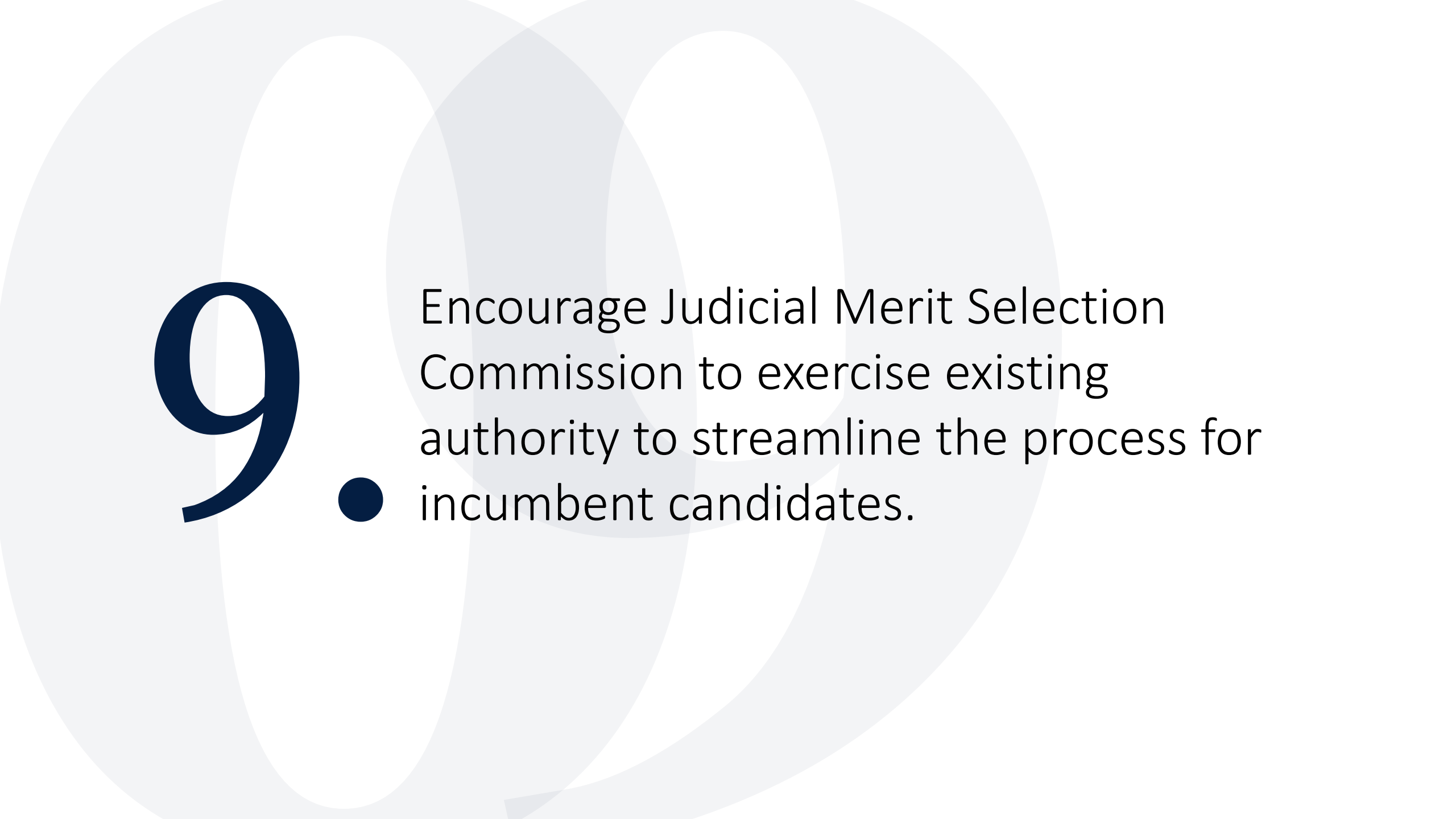
7

- Streamline the Judicial Merit Selection Commission's process by combining the reviews by bar and citizens committees.



8.

Establish a mid-term review process of judges to address any issues of concern sooner rather than later in a judge's career.



9

- Encourage Judicial Merit Selection Commission to exercise existing authority to streamline the process for incumbent candidates.

10.

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11

- Increase transparency to the public by retaining all Judicial Merit Selection Commission's records once a public hearing commences.

12

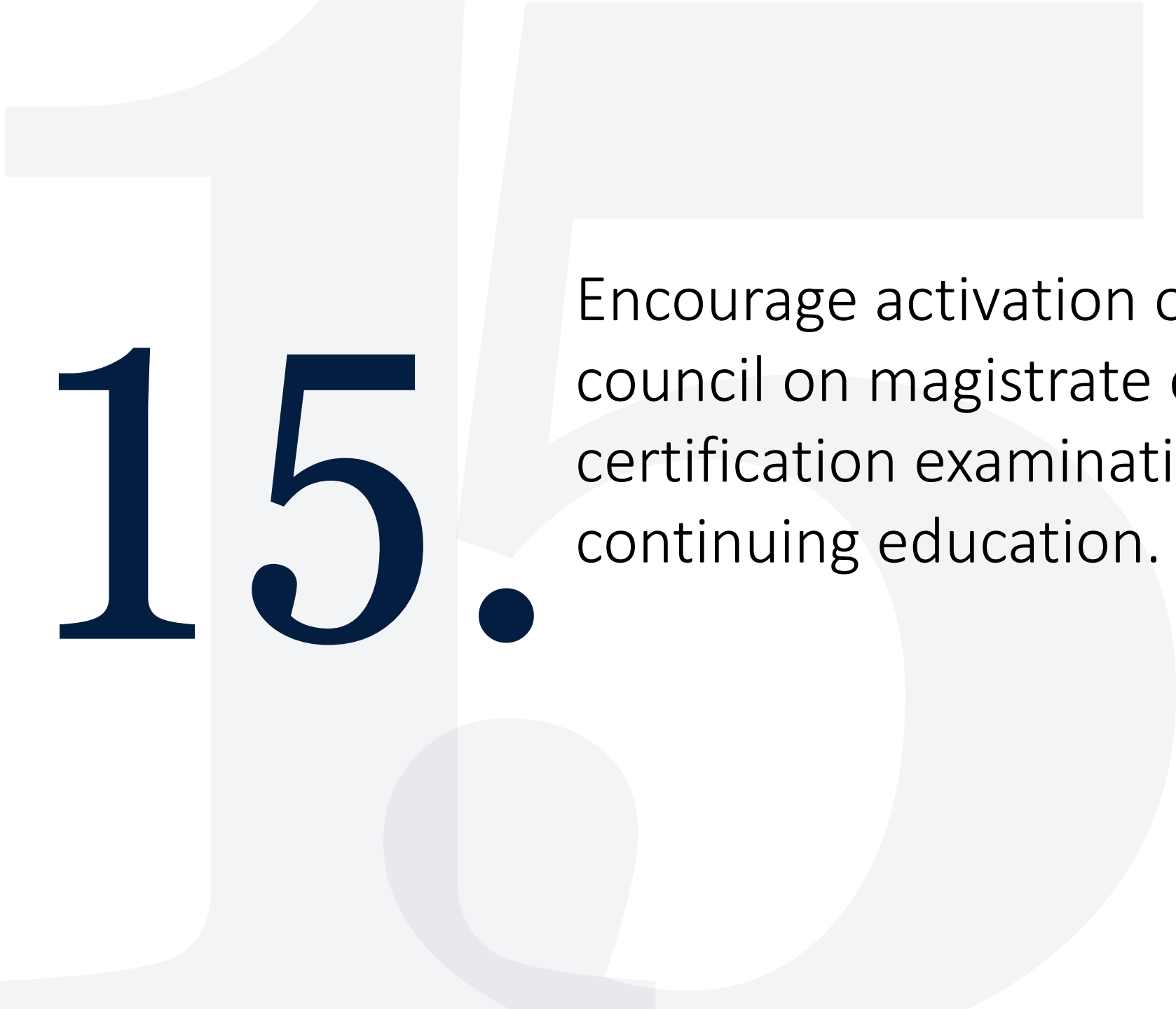
- Limit the timeframe magistrates may serve in a holdover status.

13.

Authorize the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, or a subsection, to screen magistrate candidates to complement the Governor's recent application enhancements.

14.

Increase the civil and criminal jurisdictional limit of magistrates.



15.

Encourage activation of the advisory council on magistrate eligibility, certification examination, and continuing education.

16.

Expressly authorize a county legislative delegation the ability to reject a master-in-equity candidate and direct the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to reopen the process.

Draft Recommendations

1. Revise the membership of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to reduce legislative appointments and add appointments by the Governor.
2. Establish a term of office for the Judicial Merit Selection Commission Chair.
3. Provide term limits, that are less than a judicial cycle, for service on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission.
4. Establish additional parameters for judicial candidate campaigning (e.g., timing and location).
5. Remove the cap on presentation of qualified judicial candidates to the General Assembly for a vote.
6. Establish the Judicial Merit Selection Commission as an independent state agency.
7. Streamline the Judicial Merit Selection Commission's process by combining the reviews of the bar and citizens committees.
8. Establish a mid-term review process of judges to address any issues of concern sooner rather than later in a judge's career.
9. Encourage Judicial Merit Selection Commission to exercise existing authority to streamline the process for incumbent candidates.
10. Increase transparency to the public by live streaming all hearings of the Judicial Merits Selection Commission.
11. Increase transparency to the public by retaining all Judicial Merit Selection Commission's records once a public hearing commences.
12. Limit the timeframe magistrates may serve in a holdover status.
13. Authorize the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, or a subsection, to screen magistrate candidates to complement the Governor's recent application enhancements.
14. Increase the civil and criminal jurisdictional limit of magistrates.
15. Encourage activation of the advisory council on magistrate eligibility, certification examination, and continuing education.
16. Expressly authorize a county legislative delegation the ability to reject a master-in-equity candidate and direct the Judicial Merit Selection Commission to reopen the process.