



UTAH

**Governor
Spencer J. Cox**

**Lieutenant Governor
Deidre Henderson**

**Department of
Criminal Justice**

**Commissioner
Tom Ross**

August 26, 2026

To Whom It May Concern

The Utah Department of Criminal Justice (DOCJ) today is pleased to announce it has selected five candidates to recommend to Governor Spencer Cox to fill a vacancy on the Utah Board of Pardons Parole (BOPP) created by the resignation of Melissa Stirba. In accordance with Utah Code 77-27-2(3), the Utah Department of Criminal Justice (DOCJ) is required to recommend five candidates for each BOPP vacancy. DOCJ must consider the applicants' "knowledge of the criminal justice system, state and federal criminal law, judicial procedure, corrections policies and procedures, and behavioral sciences." Based on these criteria, the five recommended candidates are:

- Lisa Crawford - Attorney, Private Practice, and Pro Tempore Member of the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole
- Clint Heiner - Deputy District Attorney, Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office
- Armanda Mercado - Director of Strategic Initiatives, Utah Department of Corrections
- Kelly Perri - Lead Senior Hearing Officer and Mental Health Liaison, Utah Board of Pardons and Parole
- Bruce Pickett - Attorney and Section Director, Utah Attorney General's Office

Governor Cox will now review the recommendations and make an appointment to the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Ross", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Ross
Commissioner
Utah Department of Criminal Justice