

## Aretha Franklin to 'American Idol': 'Yes, I am Interested'

Written by Forward Times Staff  
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A little while ago, singing diva Aretha Franklin expressed that she was a bit hurt that she, among other legends, have not been asked to judge any of the popular singing shows.

Now that Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler have declared the end of their judging careers on "American Idol," the queen of soul revived an interest in being involved.

In response to an email question asking Franklin whether she is interested in joining "Idol" as a judge or a mentor, the singer responded, "Yes I am interested as a judge!"

The 70-year-old has been around the block and feels she is more than ready to take on a role like this.

Tyler, the lead singer for Aerosmith, announced Thursday that he would not be returning for a third season of "Idol." Just a day later, Lopez announced the same fate. Faithful Randy Jackson remains the only judge for the show, for now.

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