



Judicial Selection in the States

Appellate and General Jurisdiction Courts

Summary of Initial Selection Methods

Merit Selection¹	Gubernatorial (G) or Legislative (L) Appointment	Partisan Election	Non-Partisan Election	Combined Merit Selection and Other Methods²
Alaska	California (G)	Alabama	Arkansas	Arizona
Colorado	New Jersey (G) ²	Illinois	Georgia	Florida
Connecticut	Virginia (L)	Louisiana	Idaho	Indiana
Delaware	South Carolina (L) ²	New Mexico ²	Kentucky	Kansas
District of Columbia		Ohio ²	Michigan ²	Missouri
Hawaii		Pennsylvania	Minnesota	New York
Maine		Texas	Mississippi	Oklahoma
Maryland		West Virginia	Montana	South Dakota
Massachusetts			Nevada	Tennessee
Nebraska			North Carolina	
New Hampshire			North Dakota	
Rhode Island			Oregon	
Utah			Washington	
Vermont			Wisconsin	
Wyoming				

1. The following ten states use merit plans only to fill midterm vacancies on some or all levels of court: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and West Virginia.

2. See attached charts for details.