



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	Maine (G)	Illinois	Georgia	Florida
Connecticut	New Jersey (G) ²	Louisiana	Idaho	Indiana
Delaware	Virginia (L)	Ohio ²	Kentucky	Kansas
District of Columbia	South Carolina (L) ²	Pennsylvania	Michigan ²	Missouri
Hawaii		Texas	Minnesota	New York
Iowa		West Virginia	Mississippi	Oklahoma
Maryland			Montana	South Dakota
Massachusetts			Nevada	Tennessee
Nebraska			North Carolina	
New Hampshire			North Dakota	
New Mexico			Oregon	
Rhode Island			Washington	
Utah			Wisconsin	
Vermont				
Wyoming				

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

2. See attached chart for details.