



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 ²			Oregon	
Rhode Island			Washington	
Utah			Wisconsin	
Vermont				
Wyoming				

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

2. See attached chart for details.