



# Judicial Selection in the States

## *Appellate and General Jurisdiction Courts*

### “Initial Selection: Trial Courts of General Jurisdiction”

<b>Merit Selection (15)</b>	<b>Partisan Election (10)</b>	<b>Non-Partisan Election (18)</b>	<b>Gubernatorial (2) or Legislative (2) Appointment</b>	<b>Combined Methods (4)<sup>1</sup></b>
Alaska	Alabama	Arkansas	Maine (G)	Arizona
Colorado	Illinois	California	New Jersey (G)	Indiana
Connecticut	Louisiana	Florida	South Carolina (L)	Kansas
Delaware <sup>2</sup>	New York	Georgia	Virginia (L)	Missouri
District of Columbia	New Mexico	Idaho		
Hawaii <sup>4</sup>	Ohio <sup>3</sup>	Kentucky		
Iowa	Pennsylvania	Michigan		
Maryland <sup>2</sup>	Tennessee	Minnesota		
Massachusetts <sup>2</sup>	Texas	Mississippi		
Nebraska	West Virginia	Montana		
New Hampshire <sup>2</sup>		Nevada		
Rhode Island		North Carolina		
Utah		North Dakota		
Vermont		Oklahoma		
Wyoming		Oregon		
		South Dakota		
		Washington		
		Wisconsin		

1. In these states, some judges are chosen through merit selection and some are chosen in competitive elections. See attached chart for details.

2. Merit selection is established by executive order.

3. Candidates appear on the general election ballot without party affiliation but are nominated in partisan primaries.

4. The chief justice makes appointments to the district court and family court.