



Judicial Selection in the States

Appellate and General Jurisdiction Courts

“Initial Selection: Trial Courts of General Jurisdiction”

Merit Selection (16)	Partisan Election (9)	Non-Partisan Election (18)	Gubernatorial (2) or Legislative (2) Appointment	Combined Methods (4)¹
Alaska	Alabama	Arkansas	Maine (G)	Arizona
Colorado	Illinois	California	New Jersey (G)	Indiana
Connecticut	Louisiana	Florida	South Carolina (L)	Kansas
Delaware ²	New York	Georgia	Virginia (L)	Missouri
District of Columbia	Ohio ³	Idaho		
Hawaii ⁴	Pennsylvania	Kentucky		
Iowa	Tennessee	Michigan		
Maryland ²	Texas	Minnesota		
Massachusetts ²	West Virginia	Mississippi		
Nebraska		Montana		
New Hampshire ²		Nevada		
New Mexico		North Carolina		
Rhode Island		North Dakota		
Utah		Oklahoma		
Vermont		Oregon		
Wyoming		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.