

Selection of Appellate Court Judges: Courts of Last Resort

Partisan Elections

Alabama Supreme Court
Illinois Supreme Court²
Louisiana Supreme Court⁴
Michigan Supreme Court
New Mexico Supreme Court⁵

Ohio Supreme Court¹
Pennsylvania Supreme Court³
Texas Supreme Court
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals

Nonpartisan Elections

Arkansas Supreme Court
Georgia Supreme Court
Idaho Supreme Court
Kentucky Supreme Court
Minnesota Supreme Court
Mississippi Supreme Court
Montana Supreme Court⁶

Nevada Supreme Court
North Carolina Supreme Court
North Dakota Supreme Court
Oregon Supreme Court
Washington Supreme Court
Wisconsin Supreme Court

Gubernatorial Appointment from Nominating Commission with Retention Elections

Alaska Supreme Court
Arizona Supreme Court
Colorado Supreme Court
Florida Supreme Court
Indiana Supreme Court
Iowa Supreme Court
Kansas Supreme Court
Maryland Court of Appeals

Missouri Supreme Court
Nebraska Supreme Court
Oklahoma Supreme Court
Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals
South Dakota Supreme Court
Tennessee Supreme Court
Utah Supreme Court
Wyoming Supreme Court

Legislative Appointment

South Carolina Supreme Court

Virginia Supreme Court

¹ Party affiliation is not included on the ballot in the general election, but candidates are chosen through partisan primary nominations.

² Partisan election for initial terms. Retention elections for subsequent terms.

³ Partisan election for initial terms. Retention elections for subsequent terms.

⁴ In the primary, all candidates appear with party labels. Two top vote getters compete in general election.

⁵ Partisan election for initial terms. Retention elections for subsequent terms.

⁶ If the justice is unopposed, a retention election is held.

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Gubernatorial Appointment from Nominating Commission and No Election

Connecticut Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature.)

Delaware Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature.)

Hawaii Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature. Judicial nominating commission approval for subsequent terms.)

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with approval of elected executive council. Judges serve until 70.)

New York Court of Appeals (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature.)

Rhode Island Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission. Judges serve for life.)

Vermont Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature. Legislative approval for subsequent terms.)

Gubernatorial Appointment (Other)

California Supreme Court (Governor appoints, Commission on Judicial Appointments confirms. Retention elections for subsequent terms.)

Maine Supreme Judicial Court (Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the legislature.)

New Hampshire Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council. Judges serve until 70.)

New Jersey Supreme Court (Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the legislature.)