

## JUDICIAL SELECTION METHODS IN THE 50 STATES

**Sources:** BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, *Judicial Selection: An Interactive Map*, available at <http://judicialselectionmap.brennancenter.org/?court=Supreme> (last visited March 6, 2019), NAT'L CTR. FOR ST. CTS., *Methods of Judicial Selection: Selection of Judges*, available at [http://www.judicialselection.us/judicial\\_selection/methods/selection\\_of\\_judges.cfm?state](http://www.judicialselection.us/judicial_selection/methods/selection_of_judges.cfm?state) (last visited Feb. 28, 2019), and BALLOTPEDIA, *Judicial Selection In The States*, available at [https://ballotpedia.org/Judicial\\_selection\\_in\\_the\\_states](https://ballotpedia.org/Judicial_selection_in_the_states) (last visited Mar. 11, 2019). In seeking to authoritatively set forth the judicial selection procedures applicable to over 140 courts located in fifty states, these three websites occasionally provide conflicting answers, either through human error or subsequent amendment of the applicable law. Accordingly, the accuracy of this chart is necessarily subject to the accuracy of the underlying source data utilized by such websites.

	HIGH COURT	APPELLATE COURT	TRIAL COURT
Alabama	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	<b>IN CERTAIN COUNTIES (8 of 67) Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 6 year term. <b>IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 6 year term.
Alaska	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 3 years hence. If successful, 10 year term.	SAME, save for 8 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Arizona	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. If successful, 6 year term.	SAME.	<b>IN CERTAIN COUNTIES (Pop. Over 250,000 Or Choosing To Opt In) Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. <b>Full Term:</b> in certain counties, gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. If successful, 4 year term. <b>IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election for 4 year term.
Arkansas	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
California	Gubernatorial appointment after nonbinding vetting by state bar, with majority confirmation by commission on judicial appointments, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 12 year term.	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full term:</b> nonpartisan election, with 6 year term.
Colorado	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. If successful, 10 year term.	SAME, save for 8 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Connecticut	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission. Subject to majority confirmation by legislature. 8 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Delaware	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, subject to majority confirmation by senate. 12 year term.	N/A	SAME.

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Florida	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 6 year term.	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next relevant election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, with 6 year term.
Georgia	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 4 year term.
Hawaii	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, subject to majority confirmation by senate. 10 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Idaho	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 4 year term.
Illinois	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> Appointed by state supreme court, until next relevant election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 10 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Indiana	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. If successful, 10 year term.	SAME.	<b>IN CERTAIN COUNTIES (Allen, Lake, and St. Joseph)</b> Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 2 years hence. <b>IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES</b> <b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full term:</b> partisan election, with 6 year term.
Iowa	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 8 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Kansas	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 6 year term.	Gubernatorial appointment with majority senate confirmation, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 4 year term.	<b>IN DISTRICTS ADOPTING COMMISSION-BASED SYSTEM (17 of 31)</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 4 year term. <b>IN ALL OTHER DISTRICTS</b> <b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full term:</b> partisan election, with 4 year term.
Kentucky	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Louisiana	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> supreme court appointment until special election, with replacement barred from running. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 10 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 6 year term.

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Maine	Gubernatorial appointment, after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission. Nominee is then subject to review by joint legislative committee. Committee's recommendation may be overridden by senate, but only by 2/3rds majority. 7 year term.	N/A	SAME.
Maryland	Gubernatorial appointment after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, with majority senate confirmation, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 10 year term.	SAME.	Gubernatorial appointment after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, until nonpartisan election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 15 year term.
Massachusetts	Gubernatorial appointment, with majority confirmation by vote of Governor's Council. Life term.	SAME, save for nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating council, prior to gubernatorial appointment.	SAME, save for nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating council, prior to gubernatorial appointment.
Michigan	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Minnesota	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.
Mississippi	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, until next election OR remainder of term if less than 4 years. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 4 year term.
Missouri	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 12 year term.	SAME.	<b><u>IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS (City Of St. Louis, Jackson County, Or Choosing To Opt In):</u></b> Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 6 year term. <b><u>IN ALL OTHER COUNTIES</u></b> <b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, with 6 year term.
Montana	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, with majority senate confirmation, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.	N/A	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Nebraska	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 3 years hence. If successful, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Nevada	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME.

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New Hampshire	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating council, with confirmation by majority vote of Executive Council. Life term. <b>Full Term:</b> SAME, except recommendation of judicial nominating commission is binding.	N/A	SAME.
New Jersey	Gubernatorial appointment after nonbinding vetting by judicial advisory panel and state bar board, subject to majority confirmation by senate. 7 year term.	Chief justice of state supreme court appoints a gubernatorially-appointed trial judge to serve on the superior court's appellate division. 7 year term.	SAME as supreme court.
New Mexico	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. If successful in partisan election, remainder of 8 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
New York	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, subject to majority confirmation by senate. 14 year term.	Gubernatorial appointment from list of sitting trial judges provided by judicial nominating commission. 5 year term or remainder of trial court term, whichever is shorter.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, subject to majority confirmation by senate, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 14 year term.
North Carolina	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment until next election, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 8 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
North Dakota	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> governor may call special election <u>OR</u> appoint candidate from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election at least 2 years hence, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 10 year term.	Appointed by state supreme court.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> governor may call special election <u>OR</u> appoint candidate from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election at least 2 years hence, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.
Ohio	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Oklahoma	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 6 year term.	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 4 year term.
Oregon	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Pennsylvania	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment subject to 2/3rd senate confirmation, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 10 year term.	SAME.	SAME.
Rhode Island	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission. Subject to majority confirmation by entire legislature. Life term.	N/A	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission. Subject to majority confirmation by senate. Life term.

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South Carolina	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> Legislative appointment from list provided by judicial nominating committee, OR gubernatorial appointment for vacancies shorter than 1 year, and all for remainder of term. <b>Full term:</b> Legislative appointment from list provided by judicial nominating committee. 10 year term.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> SAME. <b>Full term:</b> SAME, save for 6 year term.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> SAME. <b>Full term:</b> SAME, save for 6 year term.
South Dakota	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 3 years hence. If successful, 8 year term.	N/A	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 8 year term.
Tennessee	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, with majority legislative confirmation, until retention election at least 30 days hence. If successful, 8 year term (full term) or remainder of term (interim vacancy).	SAME.	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by trial court vacancy commission, for remainder of unexpired term. <b>Full term:</b> partisan election, with 8 year term.
Texas	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, with majority senate confirmation, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> partisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 4 year term.
Utah	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, with majority senate confirmation, until retention election at least 3 years hence. If successful, 10 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Vermont	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, with majority senate confirmation. 6 year term.	N/A	SAME.
Virginia	When in session, legislative appointment, 12 year term. When out of session, gubernatorial appointment until next session.	SAME, save for 8 year term.	SAME, save for 8 year term.
Washington	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, until next election, for remainder of term. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 6 year term.	SAME.	SAME, save for 4 year term.
West Virginia	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until next election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 12 year term.	N/A	SAME, save for 8 year term.
Wisconsin	<b>Interim Vacancy:</b> gubernatorial appointment, after nonbinding vetting by judicial nominating commission, until next relevant election. <b>Full Term:</b> nonpartisan election, 10 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.	SAME, save for 6 year term.
Wyoming	Gubernatorial appointment from list provided by judicial nominating commission, until retention election at least 1 year hence. If successful, 8 year term.	N/A	SAME, save for 6 year term.