

Table 5.1
STATE COURTS OF LAST RESORT

State or other jurisdiction	Justices chosen (a)		No. of judges (b)	Term (in years) (c)	Method of selection	Chief justice	Term of office for chief justice
	At large	By district					
Alabama.....	★		9	6	Popular Election		6 years
Alaska.....	★		5	10	By court		3 years
Arizona.....	★		5	6	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission		6 years
Arkansas.....	★		7	8	Non-partisan popular election		8 years
California.....	★		7	12	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature		12 years
Colorado.....	★		7	10	By court		10 years
Connecticut.....	★		7	8	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the legislature		8 years
Delaware.....	★		5	12	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature		12 years
Florida.....	(d)		7	6	By court		2 years
Georgia.....	★		7	6	Non-partisan election		6 years
Hawaii.....	★		5	10	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature		10 years
Idaho.....	★		5	6	By court		4 years
Illinois.....	★	★	7	10	By court		3 years
Indiana.....	★		5	10	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission		2 years
Iowa.....	★		7	8	By court		8 years
Kansas.....	★		7	6	Rotation by seniority		Duration of service
Kentucky.....	★		7	8	By court		4 years
Louisiana.....	★	★	7	10	By seniority of service		Duration of service
Maine.....	★		7	7	Appointed by governor		7 years
Maryland.....	★	★	7	10	Appointed by governor		To age 70
Massachusetts.....	★		7	To age 70	Appointed by governor (e)		To age 70
Michigan.....	★		7	8	By court		8 years
Minnesota.....	★		7	6	Gubernatorial appointment		Duration of service
Mississippi.....	★		9	8	By seniority of service		Duration of service
Missouri.....	★	★	7	12	By court		2 years
Montana.....	★		7	8	Non-partisan popular election		8 years
Nebraska.....	★(f)	★(f)	7	6 (g)	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission		Duration of service
Nevada.....	★		7	6	Rotation	(h)	(h)
New Hampshire.....	★		5	To age 70	Gubernatorial appointment with approval of elected executive council		To age 70
New Jersey.....	★		5	7 (i)	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the legislature		7 years, plus tenure, to age 70
New Mexico.....	★		5	8	By court		2 years
New York.....	★		7	14	Appointed by governor from Judicial Nomination Commission		14 years
North Carolina.....	★		7	8	Non-partisan popular election		8 years
North Dakota.....	★		5	10	By Supreme and district court judges		5 years (j)
Ohio.....	★		7	6	Popular election (k)		6 years

See footnotes at end of table.

STATE COURTS OF LAST RESORT — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Justices chosen (a)		No. of judges (b)	Term (in years) (c)	Method of selection	Chief justice	Term of office for chief justice
	At large	By district					
Oklahoma.....		★	9	6	By court		2 years
Oregon.....	★	★	5	6	By court		1 year
Pennsylvania.....	★		7	6	By court		6 years
Rhode Island.....	★		7	10	Seniority		To age 70
South Carolina.....	★		5	(1)	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature		Hold office during good behavior
South Dakota.....	★		5	10	Legislative appointment		10 years
Tennessee.....	★(m)	★(m)	5	8	By court		4 years
Texas.....	★		9	8	By court		2 years
Utah.....	★		9	6	Partisan election		6 years
Vermont.....	★		9	6	Partisan election		6 years (n)
Virginia.....	★		5	10 (o)	By court		4 years
Washington.....	★		5	6	Gubernatorial appointment from judicial nominating commission with consent of the legislature		6 years
West Virginia.....	★		7	12	By court		4 years
Wisconsin.....	★		9	6	By court		To age 75
Wyoming.....	★		5	10	Seniority		1 year
Dist. of Columbia.....	★		5	8	By court		Until declined
Puerto Rico.....	★		9	15	Judicial Nominating Commission appointment		4 years
				To age 70 (l)	Gubernatorial appointment with consent of the legislature		To age 70

Source: *State Court Organization*. Last updated May 16, 2014. National Center for State Courts, May 16, 2014. www.ncsc.org/sco.

Key:
 ★ — Yes
 S.C. — Supreme Court
 S.C.A. — Supreme Court of Appeals
 S.J.C. — Supreme Judicial Court
 C.A. — Court of Appeals
 C.C.A. — Court of Criminal Appeals
 H.C. — High Court

(a) See Table 5.6, entitled, "Selection and Retention of Appellate Court Judges," for more detail.
 (b) Number includes chief justice.
 (c) The initial term may be shorter. See Table 5.6, entitled, "Selection and Retention of Appellate Court Judges," for more detail.
 (d) Regional (5), Statewide (2); Regional based on District of Appeal.
 (e) Chief Justice, in the appellate courts, is a separate judicial office from that of an Associate Justice. Chief Justices are appointed, until age 70, by the governor with the advice and consent of the Executive (Governor's) Council.
 (f) Chief justice chosen statewide; associate judges chosen by district.
 (g) More than three years for first election and every six years thereafter.
 (h) The senior justice in commission is the Chief Justice, and in case the commissions of two or more of the justices bear the same date, the justices shall determine by lot who is the Chief Justice.
 (i) Followed by tenure. All judges are subject to gubernatorial reappointment and consent by the Senate after an initial seven-year term; thereafter, they may serve until mandatory retirement at age 70.
 (j) Or expiration of term, whichever is first.
 (k) Party affiliation is not included on the ballot in the general election, but candidates are chosen through partisan primary nominations.
 (l) Shall hold office during good behavior.
 (m) Initially chosen by district; retention determined statewide.
 (n) Presiding judge of Court of Criminal Appeals.
 (o) Initial term of between 3 and 5 years is served prior to the first "full" term, which is not served until after retention election is held.