

Selection of TRIAL court judges

* 1. Which of the following best describes the method of judicial selection for trial courts in your state? (If more than one, please choose "Other" and indicate the methods in the blank provided below.)

- Non-partisan election
- Appointment with retention-election
- Appointment without retention-election
- Partisan election
- Partisan election with retention re-election
- Partisan nomination and non-partisan general elections
- Initial Appointment, Election, and then Retention-election
- Legislative election
- Other (please specify)

Appointment of TRIAL court judges

2. Who appoints judges in your state?

- Governor
- Legislature
- Other (please specify)

3. Are appointments subject to confirmation by the legislature or another body?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

4. Do you believe that the appointment process works well in recruiting and selecting the best candidates for judicial office?

- Yes
- No (please specify why you believe this)

5. Please indicate anything that you would change about your existing method of judicial selection that you believe might be helpful.

6. While your method of selection involves appointment, does your selection method also include a component of election (partisan, non-partisan, retention)?

- Yes
- No

Election of Trial Court Judges

7. Is the election of judicial officers held on the same day as partisan elections (i.e. presidential, governor, legislative, local etc)?

Yes

No

8. Would you recommend modifying the timing of your state's election?

No

Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

9. Would you recommend modifying the qualifications for holding judicial office?

No

Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

10. Would you recommend modifying the term length of judges in your state?

No

Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

11. How, if at all, would you recommend modifying the recruitment and selection process in your state?

I wouldn't recommend any modifications.

I would recommend the following modifications:

12. Would you recommend modifying the campaign finance system?

No

Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

13. Please add any other information that you think might be helpful in consideration of your state's method of trial court judicial selection.

Selection of APPELLATE court judges/justices

* 14. Which of the following best describes the method of judicial selection for appellate courts in your state? (If more than one, choose "Other" and indicate methods in the blank provided below.)

- Non-partisan election
- Appointment with retention-election
- Appointment without retention-election
- Partisan election
- Partisan election with retention re-election
- Partisan nomination and non-partisan general elections
- Initial Appointment, Election, and then Retention-election
- Legislative election
- Other (please specify)

Appointment of Appellate Court judges/justices

15. Who appoints judges in your state?

- Governor
- Legislature
- Other (please specify)

16. Are appointments subject to confirmation by the legislature or another body?

- No
- Yes (please specify)

17. Do you believe that the appointment process works well in recruiting and selecting the best candidates for judicial office?

- Yes
- No (please specify why you believe this)

18. Please indicate anything that you would change about your existing method of judicial selection that you believe might be helpful.

19. While your method of selection involves appointment, does your selection method also include a component of election (partisan, non-partisan, retention)?

- Yes
- No

Election of Appellate Court Judges/Justices

20. Is the election of judicial officers held on the same day as partisan elections (i.e. presidential, governor, legislative, local etc)?

- Yes
 No

21. Would you recommend modifying the timing of your state's election?

- No
 Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

22. Would you recommend modifying the qualifications for holding judicial office?

- No
 Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

23. Would you recommend modifying the term length of judges in your state?

- No
 Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

24. How, if at all, would you recommend modifying the recruitment and selection process in your state?

- I wouldn't recommend any modifications.
 I would recommend the following modifications:

25. Would you recommend modifying the campaign finance system?

- No
 Yes (Please specify your recommendation or reasoning below)

26. Please add any other information that you think might be helpful in consideration of your state's method of appellate judicial selection.

Use of Commissions

27. Do you use Commissions in your state in any aspect of selecting judges?

Yes

No

28. Does Commission involvement apply to both trial and appellate judges?

Yes

No (please specify at which levels Commissions are involved)

29. Who selects the members of the Commission and how are they selected?

30. What are the qualifications to serve on your Commissions?

31. Do you have requirements in your selection process to ensure the makeup of the Commission reflects the diversity of your population?

No

Yes (Please explain)

32. When does a Commission get involved in the selection process?

By vetting candidates before sending a list of qualified candidates to the appointing authority

Other (please specify how the Commission is involved in the selection process)

33. Do you believe that the use of Commissions works well in recruiting and selecting the best candidates for judicial office?

34. Would you recommend modifying your state's use of Commissions (for example; by modifying the selection process for panel members, the requirements for composition of panel membership, the tenure of panel members, whether panels should be used only at the appellate or trial level?)

Judicial Information and Contacts

35. Does your state provide any information to voters regarding judicial candidates? (For example, indicating on the ballot that a candidate is an incumbent, allowing an incumbent to designate him or herself as "Judge Pat Jones", providing state-prepared information to voters about candidates)

- No
- Yes (please specify type of information provided and whether you would modify how you provide such information and your reasoning)

36. Can you recommend to the Texas Commission on Judicial Selection any judges, legislators, practicing lawyers, or academics whom you feel have particular knowledge about judicial selection in your state or generally that might benefit the Commission in its study? If so, please indicate their name(s) and position below (contact information would be helpful if readily available).

37. (OPTIONAL) Please provide your name and your state.

Name

State