

Recommended Questions from Study Group 3

Judicial Selection in the States

Use of Commissions (or Similar-Type Citizen Panels)

Do you use commissions in your state in any aspect of selecting judges?

No

Yes

If your state uses commissions, who selects the members and how are they selected? (For example: Do potential members apply? Are they appointed and by whom?)

What are the qualifications to serve on your commissions? (For example, does a commissioner's political affiliation factor into the selection? How do you apportion attorney and non-attorney members?)

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

No.

Yes (please specify what those requirements are)

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)

Does commission involvement apply to both trial and appellate judges?

Yes

No (please specify which level commissions are involved)

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

Yes

No (please specify why you believe this)

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)?

No

Yes (please specify your recommendation and reasoning)

Other potential question (under Election of Trial Judges):

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)
