

# Legislature appoints

**Step 1:** A judicial vacancy occurs.



**Step 2:** The people nominate or self-nominate candidates to fill the vacancy.



**Step 3:** The General Assembly appoints from among the candidates.



**Step 4:** Judge serves for life or until mandatory retirement age of 72.

# Federal-style appointment

**Step 1:** A judicial vacancy occurs.



**Step 2:** Governor nominates candidate for appointment to provisional term pending confirmation.



**Step 3:** Senate must confirm appointment by majority vote.



**Step 4:** Judge serves for life or until mandatory retirement age of 72.

# Balanced Model for Judicial Independence and Accountability

**Step 1:** A judicial vacancy occurs.



**Step 2:** The people nominate or self-nominate candidates to fill the vacancy.



**Step 3:** A non-partisan 7 or 9 member Independent Merit Selection Commission appointed by the Chief Justice to staggered terms to evaluate all nominees for statewide judicial openings. Local Independent Merit Selection Commissions will evaluate nominees for superior and district court judgeships. The commissions will rate nominees either “*Qualified*” or “*Not Qualified at this Time*”. The Merit Selection Commission shall forward all qualified nominees to the General Assembly for further consideration.



**Step 4:** The General Assembly reviews the qualified nominees submitted by the Independent Merit Selection Commission and forwards at least 3 nominees they consider best qualified to the Governor for consideration.



**Step 5:** The Governor reviews the qualified nominees submitted by the General Assembly and appoints the nominee he/she considers most qualified to serve a provisional judicial term.



**Step 6:** At the 2<sup>nd</sup> general election following the Governor’s appointment the people vote to confirm or reject the judge to a 10 year term of office. After the term the Judge is not eligible for reappointment to the same court.