

Colorado Supreme Court

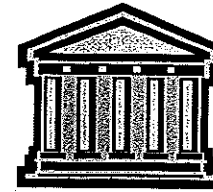
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
Gregory J. Hobbs Jr.
Alex J. Martinez
Michael L. Bender
Nancy E. Rice
Nathan B. Coats
Allison H. Eid

Colorado Court of Appeals

Janice B. Davidson, Chief Judge
Sandra I. Rothenberg
Daniel M. Taubman
James S. Casebolt
Arthur P. Roy
JoAnn L. Vogt
John Daniel Dailey
John R. Webb
Dennis A. Graham
Russell Carparelli
Alan Loeb
Robert M. Russel
Robert D. Hawthorne
Gilbert M. Román
David M. Furman
Steven L. Bernard
Diana L. Terry
Jerry N. Jones
Nancy J. Lichtenstein
Sean Connelly
Richard Lance Gabriel
David Jay Richman

(Judges are listed in order of their tenure on the court.)

The information in this brochure was found on the Web site of the Colorado Judicial Branch and in various brochures produced by the State Court Administrator's Office.



How

Does

Colorado

Select

Judges?



For More Information:

Colorado Judicial Branch
www.courts.state.co.us

For Programs:

Our Courts
www.ourcourtscolorado.org

For Voting Information:

State of Colorado "Analysis of the 2008
Ballot Proposals"
www.coloradobluebook.com
www.cojudicialperformance.com



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What is Merit Selection?

"In November 1966, Colorado voters adopted a constitutional amendment changing how judges are selected.

As a result, the state's judges are selected through merit selection, a process developed to remove judges from political activities such as holding political office, making or receiving campaign contributions, endorsing political candidates and participating in political campaigns."

CO Judicial Branch Fact Sheet

This method focuses on the qualifications of judges and prescribes specific time limits for decisions for filling vacancies.



How does a judge become a judge?

The **Supreme Court Nominating Commission** considers applicants for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals – submitting three nominees to the Governor for selection of a single judge or justice to serve a provisional term.

This commission includes an attorney and a non-attorney from each congressional district in Colorado and one additional citizen at-large. The Chief Justice sits as the non-voting chair.

Each of the 22 judicial districts has a **Judicial District Nominating Commission** to fill County and District judge vacancies. These commissions are composed of four non-attorneys and three attorneys residing in the district. All counties in the district must be represented.

For each nominating commission, non-attorneys are appointed by the Governor. Attorney members are appointed by joint action of the Chief Justice, Governor, and Attorney General. Each commission is chaired by a non-voting justice of the Supreme Court.

How long are judges in office?

After a two-year provisional term, a judge or justice must stand for retention. If retained by the voters he/she may then serve a full term.

County judges serve four years, District judges six years, Court of Appeals judges eight years and Supreme Court justices

ten years. They must stand for retention following each successive term.

All judges must retire at age 72.

Who evaluates judges?

There are **Commissions on Judicial Performance** (six non-attorneys and four attorneys) in each Judicial District that conduct performance evaluations of each judge standing for retention in an election.

These evaluations are printed in the State Ballot Information Booklet ("Blue Book") that is sent to all registered voters and posted online prior to elections at www.cojudicialperformance.com.

Commissions on Judicial Performance are appointed by the Chief Justice, Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

There is a **Judicial Discipline Commission**, made up of four non-attorneys, two attorneys, two District Court judges, and two County Court judges. The four non-attorneys and two attorneys are appointed by the Governor with approval by the state Senate. The judicial members are appointed by the Colorado Supreme Court.

Colorado has a **Code of Judicial Conduct** for all judges. The Judicial Discipline Commission investigates allegations of judicial misconduct, and may recommend that the Supreme Court remove a judge from office.