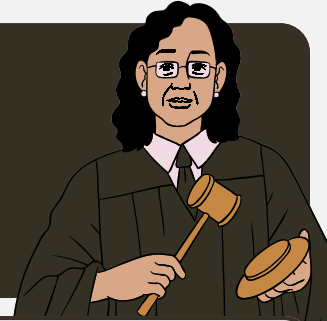


How'd this judge get on my ballot?



Appellate Courts

Appellate courts review decisions made by lower courts. This includes civil courts like the Oklahoma Supreme Court and the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals, which are the highest courts in the state.

Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC)

The Judicial Nominating Commission is an independent board that reviews candidates for the governor to appoint. It was created to reduce political influence and ensure judges are qualified after a major bribery scandal in 1967.

6 non-attorneys
by the Governor

1 by House Speaker
1 by Senate President

6 licensed attorney by
the Bar Association

1 by the Commission

Selected Candidates

JNC presents 3 candidates to the Governor for appointment.

A

B

C

Governor's Choice

Governor chooses someone to appoint from the JNC selections.

A

Starting out as a Judge

Governor's pick becomes a judge right away but must be approved by voters in the next general election to serve a full 6-year term.

Vote for Retention

Voters decide if the appointed judge should remain on the bench by voting YES or NO to retain. Retention asks, "should they keep their job?"

Yes Retain

No Retain

Full Term

Retained judges serve a full 6-year term.

Failed retention starts the process over

District Courts

District Courts are more local, handling almost all cases in their area, from divorces to homicides. There can be more than one judge in a district, and a district may cover more than one county.

Candidates Decide to Run

In district court elections, all candidates compete against each other. Anyone who qualifies can run.

A

B

C

Election

A

B

C

Winner!

Elected judges serve four-year terms

B

Re-election

Re-election

Vacancies

If a district judge doesn't finish their term, the governor picks a temporary judge from candidates chosen by the JNC. A new judge is elected in the next election.

Full Judicial Guide at metriarchok.org

