

Blue Plan: Federal-style appt., e.g. 1995 SB 971

Step 1: Immediately suspended 1996 elections for appellate courts.
Existing terms extended up to 30 months.
Plan applies when a vacancy occurs.



Step 2: Governor nominates.



Step 3: Each house of General Assembly confirms by majority of members present and voting, generally within 60 days of nomination.



Step 4: At the general election following legislative confirmation, the people vote to confirm or reject the judge for an 8-year term of office.
Retention elections indefinitely.

Orange Plan: Missouri-style, e.g. 2012 SB 458

Step 1: A judicial vacancy occurs.



Step 2: A 15-member Judicial Nominating Commission identifies, solicits, reviews and nominates two candidates. The Commission is composed of:

- the Governor's appointees from lists of three nominees by each of:
 1. The North Carolina Bar Association
 2. The North Carolina Advocates for Justice, Inc.
 3. The North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
 4. The North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, Inc.
 5. The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, Inc.
 6. The Council of the State Bar
 7. The North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys
 8. The Commission on Indigent Defense Services
- and non-attorney appointees of (1) the Governor, (2) the President Pro Tem, (3) the Speaker, (4-5) the minority leaders of the Senate and House and (6-7) the majority or minority leaders in the House and Senate of the party opposite the Governor's.



Step 3: Governor must appoint one of the Judicial Nominating Commission's two nominees.



Step 4: The appointee serves a 14-year term and is eligible for re-nomination by the Commission.

Red Plan: SC/Va Model

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.

Purple Plan: Balanced judicial selection plan

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 evaluates all nominees for statewide judicial openings. Local Independent Merit Selection Commissions 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 2nd 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.