

How does Alaska make sure its judges are fair and impartial?

The framers of Alaska's constitution wanted to avoid the problems that result when judges are either elected or appointed. They picked a middle ground system that focuses on choosing the most *qualified* judges, regardless of political affiliations, money, or personal beliefs. Many scholars consider Alaska's system, called a "merit selection" system, to be the best and fairest way to choose judges. This system has resulted in Alaska having an exceptionally qualified, fair, and impartial slate of judges since statehood.