

Judicial Elections

Elections Clearinghouse Notice Supplementary Charts

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Judicial Elections Chart

The chart below explains the framework for judicial elections.

Candidates	Municipal Court District Court Court of Appeals Supreme Court		Superior Court	
	Primary	General	Primary	General
1	No ¹	Yes ²	County population less than 100,000: No ¹ County population 100,000 or more: No; certificate of election is issued after candidate filing. ³	County population less than 100,000: Yes ² County population 100,000 or more: No; certificate of election is issued after candidate filing. ³
2	No ¹	Yes ²	No ¹	Yes ²
3 or more	Yes	Yes ²	Yes	Yes ²

1 [RCW 29A.52.220\(1\)](#)

2 [RCW 29A.36.170\(1-2\)](#)

3 [WA Const. Art. IV § 29](#) Note: When applied to multi-county jurisdictions, all counties in the jurisdiction must meet the population threshold.

Elections to fill a vacancy in District Court occur in even-numbered years only. ([AGLO 1973 No. 76](#); [RCW 29A.04.321\(1\)](#))

Judicial Certificates of Election

Though single-county judicial district candidates file for office with the Office of the Secretary of State, the county auditor produces certificates of election for single-county positions. ([RCW 29A.52.360](#))

The Office of the Secretary of State produces certificates of election for multi-county judicial district candidates. ([RCW 29A.52.370](#))

The chart below explains the framework for judicial certificates of election.

Location	Accepts Candidate Filing	Issue Certificate of Election
Governor	N/A	Court of Appeals and Supreme Court ¹
OSOS	Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Superior Court ²	Multi-county Superior court districts ³
County Auditor	District Court and Municipal Court	Single county Superior Court, District Court, and Municipal Court within the county ⁴

An informational publication of the Certification and Training Program, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State.

¹ [RCW 29A.52.370](#)

² [RCW 29A.24.070\(1\)\(a\)](#)

³ [RCW 29A.52.370](#)

⁴ [RCW 29A.52.360](#)