



Judicial Branch Demographics

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Vision

The general public and those who use the court system will refer to it as accessible, fair, consistent, responsive, free of discrimination, independent, and well managed.

Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

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The Judicial Branch operates through three levels of courts:
The Supreme Court, The Court of Appeals and The District Courts

Method of Selecting Judges: Justice and judges are elected to a term of 6 years in a general election. For the district court, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor from a list compiled by the Commission on Judicial Selection. For the appellate courts, vacancies between general elections are filled by appointment by the governor. Justices and judges appointed by the Governor must run for election at the first general election at least one year after taking office.

Term of Office: 6 years

Number of Judgeships: 317

- Supreme Court- 7
- Court of Appeals- 19
- District (Trial) Courts- 291

Permanent Full-Time Employee Positions: Approximately 2,500

Judicial Districts: 10

Funding: State-funded

Number of Judicial Branch hearing facilities: 106

Oldest Courthouse: Washington County Courthouse, 101 West Pine Street, Stillwater, 1869.

Number of Courthouses on the National Register of Historic Places: 62