

**602.4103 Chief justice.**

1. At the first meeting in each odd-numbered year, the justices of the supreme court by majority vote shall designate one justice as chief justice, to serve for a two-year term. A vacancy in the office of chief justice shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by majority vote of the justices of the supreme court, after any vacancy on the court has been filled.

2. If the chief justice desires to be relieved of the duties of chief justice while retaining the status of justice of the supreme court, the chief justice shall notify the governor and the other justices of the supreme court. The office of chief justice shall be deemed vacant, and shall be filled as provided in [this section](#).

3. The chief justice is eligible for reselection.

4. The chief justice shall appoint one of the other justices to act during the absence or inability of the chief justice to act, and when so acting the appointee has all the rights, duties, and powers of the chief justice.

[83 Acts, ch 186, §5103, 10201; 2019 Acts, ch 89, §61](#)

Referred to in [§602.1101](#)