

# State Governments

GOVLEARN Education

© GOVLEARN Education, Inc. 2021

**State governments are modeled  
after the U.S. federal government.**

# The Executive Branch

## State Governments

- Led by the Governor, directly elected by popular vote every four years.
- Unlike the Cabinet, other executive officials are also elected directly, such as the lieutenant governor (similar to Vice President), attorney general, and secretary of state (NOT foreign policy leader, but in charge of elections).
- States vary in terms of what positions there are, but these key positions typically remain constant.



Seal of the Governor of California

# The Legislative Branch

## State Governments

- Two chambers of state legislatures, typically the state assembly (similar to the House of Representatives) and the state senate (similar to the U.S. Senate). Lone exception is Nebraska, with only one chamber.
- Passes bills, initiates taxes, and has the power to impeach members of the executive branch.
- State senate members typically serve four year terms, and state assembly members typically serve two year terms.



Seal of the State Senate of New York

# The Judicial Branch

## State Governments

- State supreme courts (like the U.S. Supreme Court) are typically the highest judicial power in the state.
- Judges & justices are either elected or appointed by the executive branch. This is determined on a state-by-state basis.
- State courts act in a similar fashion to federal courts.



Seal of the Supreme Court of Illinois

# State Government Websites

To visit your own state government's website, you can visit:

[INSERT STATE ABBREVIATION] .gov

For example, California's website would be ca.gov.

**State governments are just as  
important as the federal  
government!**

COMING SOON

# Local Governments