

STATE GOVERNMENT

State government is much like the federal government. There are 3 branches: executive, legislative and judicial. This gives a system of **checks and balances**, to make sure that no one party gets too much power. Each state has its own Constitution.

The executive branch is led by the **Governor**. He or she serves a 4 year term and has many jobs:

- Give speeches, including the "State of the State"
- Work with the lieutenant governor
- Travel around the state
- Have ideas and plans
- Propose the state budget
- Propose other laws and policies
- Serve as leader of political party
- Support other people in the party



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The **legislative** branch has two houses—the **Senate** and the **House of Representatives**. They are called **legislators** and make **laws**.

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The **judicial branch** has many different types of courts, including state Supreme Court, appellate courts, and circuit courts. This branch has to apply the laws to new cases.

Here are some ways that citizens can be involved in state government:

- Contact state officials by web, mail, phone,
- Register to vote: must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and state resident
- Vote in primary and general elections
- Work in the Legislature as a Legislative page
- Work in one of the many departments (transportation, parks and recreation, etc.)
- Complete jury duty

Try This!

Circle the things that must be true about people who want to vote in the state of Vermont.

U.S. citizen Democrat resident of Vermont

Age 15 at least age 18 Republican

Healthy eaters resident of Ohio Green Party

Cross out jobs that are not done by the Governor.

Propose the budget laws decide criminal cases make new laws

Impeach the president Veto bills give speeches

Draw lines around
people in

Executive

Legislative

Judicial



PREVIEW

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legislators

Supreme Court judges

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