



Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.

Executive orders are a tool used by leaders of the executive branch at the federal, state, and local levels of government. Executive orders are directives issued by the president, a governor, or a city or county chief executive that holds the weight of law. Executive orders can impact the daily lives of citizens.



President Donald J. Trump

The [President of the United States](#) issues executive orders to help fulfill their obligations under the United States Constitution. Governors can also issue executive orders. This means that an executive order issued by [Florida’s governor](#), for example, has the force of law (though can be overturned by the next governor). Executive orders that are issued by governors draw on the power granted to them by their [state constitutions](#) to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”



FL Governor Ron DeSantis

Even municipal (local level) leaders might have the power to issue executive orders. Here are some examples of state and local government executive orders:

State	Municipality
Florida: Governor Ron DeSantis	Jacksonville
Georgia: Governor Brian Kemp	Atlanta
Illinois: Governor J.B. Pritzker	Chicago
Louisiana: Governor John Bel Edwards	New Orleans
Pennsylvania: Governor Tom Wolf	Philadelphia

To Do and To Think: Look up the recent executive orders relating to the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus from your state’s governor. What actions should citizens be taking based on the most recent executive order issued by their governor?

Learn MORE: The resources below apply to executive orders from both the president and governors

- [Where Do Governors Get The Power for Executive Orders?](#), from The National Governors Association
- [The President and Executive Orders](#), from Khan Academy
- [How Do Executive Orders Work?](#), from TED-Ed

