

Levels of Government

National Government

The national government is divided into three branches of government: the legislative branch (representatives and senators) makes the laws, the executive branch (president and vice-president) enforces the laws, and the judicial branch (supreme court) interprets laws and makes sure that they are constitutional. The national government establishes taxes, prints currency (money), declares wars, creates military branches, creates post offices and stamps, and makes laws that support the Constitution. It is also responsible for building roads and airports, and protecting United States citizens.

State Government

The state government is also divided into three branches of government: the legislative branch (state representatives and state senators) makes the laws for the state, the executive branch (governor and lieutenant governor) enforces the laws, and the judicial branch (state supreme court and lower courts) interpret the laws. The state government's responsibilities include establishing local governments, issuing licenses (for marriage, driving, hunting, etc.), conducting elections, and supporting the public health of the citizens. It raises taxes, maintains state roads, and carries out national laws at the state level. State and local governments work together to make sure schools are meeting state standards.

Local Government

Local government plays a big part in your everyday life. Local government is divided into three branches of government as well: the legislative branch (commissioners/ council) makes the laws, the executive branch (mayor) enforces the laws, and the judicial branch (courts) interprets the laws. Local government responsibilities include maintaining public services such as parks, libraries, schools, police, and fire stations. Local governments are responsible for education (schools), taxes, utilities (water, sewer, electricity), public transportation, and maintaining roads.