

3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT

Local Government

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



PRIMARY FUNCTION: CARRIES OUT THE LAW

Mayor

The highest-ranking official within a city or town, who is the chief administrative officer of the city. They have the power to appoint or remove members of their government.

County Executives

County executives have the role of overseeing and advising the agencies and departments of a locality. They have an extremely similar job to the mayor, but rather than just a city or town, they control the affairs of the whole county.

City Manager

They carry out decisions made by the City Council of their locality and oversee all employees of the city. City planning and management is also an important role carried out by this office.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

PRIMARY FUNCTION: MAKES THE LAW

City Council

The City Council has the primary job of not only making, but also passing laws in their city. They also must approve the budget for a city, and then continue to monitor that approved budget. The council also borrows appropriate money for the goals of a city, in order to fulfill projects.

Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors must oversee the functions of government on the county level. They have similar jobs to the City Council such as fiscal responsibility and the passing or vetoing of laws or budgets.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

PRIMARY FUNCTION: INTERPRET THE MEANING OF THE LAW

Municipal/City Courts

Municipal courts primary focus are minor criminal offenses or civil disputes and have a specific focus on the breaking of local ordinances. The structure of these courts is more similar to a town hall, rather than a true criminal court. (Example: traffic laws)

County Courts

County courts primary focus are also minor criminal offenses or civil disputes. They have a locality limit, as the crimes must be committed in the county, in order for the trial to be held there.