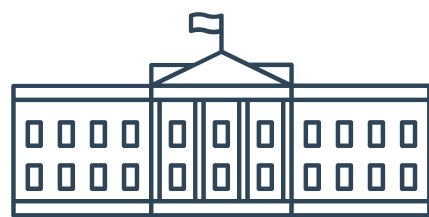


# 3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT

## State Government

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH



PRIMARY FUNCTION: CARRIES OUT THE LAW

#### Governor

Directly elected by the people and serves as the **head of the executive branch**. The governor advances and enforces state laws

#### Liutenant Governor

Serves directly below the **governor** in the chain of command. However, they are **elected separately** from the governor. They serve to take the place of the governor, shall they be unable to run.

#### Attorney General

Serve as the **chief legal officers and advocates** for the law, in the state which they are elected or appointed. They also hold an important role in ensuring the rights of citizens are protected.

#### Secretary of State

In 37 states, the secretary of state fulfills the role of being the **chief elections officer**, holding total and ultimate oversight in **registration and elections**

#### Commisioners

Boards or commissions are created through legislation with a specific purpose, such as **advising, policy and supervising**. These commissions are **extremely specialized**.



### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

PRIMARY FUNCTION: MAKES THE LAW

#### Senate

UPPER CHAMBER

#### House of Representatives

LOWER CHAMBER

All 50 states in the United States have a **legislative branch** which is made up of **elected officials**. These officials have the power to determine decisions on matters brought forth **by the governor or other members**, with the hope of creating **legislation**. Besides Nebraska every state has two chambers in their legislative branch, **consisting of a smaller Senate and larger House of Representatives** (sometimes called the Assembly or House of Delegates). They also approve state budgets and can initiate articles of impeachment, against officials.

# JUDICIAL BRANCH

PRIMARY FUNCTION: INTERPRET THE MEANING OF THE LAW



## State Supreme Court

Most of the states located in America have a **designated Supreme Court**, which has the role of **hearing appeals** from **lower-level state courts**. The structure of these courts is determined in **state legislature** or could also be contained in the **constitution of the state**, in other words the structures can vary widely. Once they reach rulings, they are typically considered binding. The primary and main job of these courts is **correcting errors** made by lower-level courts. However, if there are questions regarding their rulings, then they are sent directly to the **Supreme Court of the United States**.

### Appellate Courts

Any court of law that has the power to hear an appeal of a trial court decision, or any other lower court level. They have a key job at correcting previously made decisions, if found to be incorrect.

### Trial Courts

A court of law where cases are tried in the first places, records of presentation of evidence are main here. This is in case they need to be given to an appeals court, for further trial.