

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



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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

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