



A Quick Guide to Government: Who Does What

The Federal Government: Constitutional Checks and Balances

The Constitution provides for a separation of powers

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH	EXECUTIVE BRANCH	JUDICIAL BRANCH
<p>Consists of Federal Members of Congress</p> <p>US Senate – 100 elected Senators total; 2 Senators per state. Minimum age 35 years old</p> <p>US House of Representatives – 435 elected Representatives total; number of Representatives per state are based on each State’s population. Minimum age 25 years old</p> <p>Purpose: Create and Pass Laws</p> <p>Regulates foreign and interstate trade</p> <p>Appropriates money</p> <p>Approves treaties and presidential appointments</p> <p>Prints coins and money</p> <p>Raises and supports the Armed Forces</p> <p>Can declare war</p> <p>Examples of Federal Members of Congress:</p> <p>Congressman Maxwell Frost Represents District 10</p> <p>Congressman Daniel Webster Represents District 11</p> <p>Assists constituents who have an issue with a federal agency, but only if they live within the district.</p> <p>US Senator Marco Rubio</p> <p>US Senator Rick Scott</p> <p>Assist constituents who have an issue with a federal agency; represent constituents from all 67 counties in Florida.</p> <p>Examples of Federal Agencies:</p> <p>US Department of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defense ♦ Commerce ♦ OPM Education ♦ Veterans Affairs Social Security ♦ Labor USCIS ♦ DFAS ♦ HHS 	<p>Consists of the President, Vice President and Cabinet</p> <p>Cabinet is nominated by the President and must be approved by the US Senate with at least 51 votes.</p> <p>Purpose: Propose and Carry out Laws; President is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces</p> <p>Appoints federal judges, ambassadors, and other high officials.</p> <p>Negotiates foreign treaties</p> <p>Can grant pardons to federal offenders</p> <p>Can veto laws</p> <p>President must be at least 40 years old at time of election.</p>	<p>Consists of the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts</p> <p>9 Justices are nominated by the President and must be approved by the Senate with at least 51 votes.</p> <p>Purpose: To interpret Laws</p> <p>Can declare laws unconstitutional</p> <p>Can declare executive actions unconstitutional</p> <p>Supreme Court Justices must be at least 40 years old.</p>
Frequently Asked Questions		
<p>Q: I need help with renewing my passport. Is this a State or Federal issue?</p> <p>A: This is a federal issue. Your federal issue that can be handled by either your US House District member or the US Senate member of your choice.</p> <p>Q: I need help obtaining social security benefits. State or Federal issue?</p> <p>A: Federal Issue</p> <p>Q: I need help with my application for an adjustment of status with my application with the USCIS or an appointment with the USCIS.</p> <p>A: Federal Issue</p> <p>Q: I have not received my income tax refund from the IRS.</p> <p>A: Federal Issue</p> <p>Q: I need a copy of my DD-214 or my disability rating changed or my discharge status updated from the VA or military records.</p> <p>A: Federal Issue</p>		



FLORIDA BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT

THE STATE GOVERNMENT: MORE CHECKS AND BALANCES

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH		EXECUTIVE BRANCH		JUDICIAL BRANCH	
Consists of State of Florida Legislative Members		Consists of the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture and Chief Financial Officer		Consists of the State Supreme Court and other State Courts; 7 Justices; 1000 Judges; 92 Courts	
FL Senate – 40 elected Senators total. Each member of the Senate must live in the district that he or she represents. Senators are elected to serve four-year terms.		Purpose: Propose statutes or bills; signs or vetoes bills; oversees State agencies; balance and oversee state budget		Purpose: To interpret Laws Make rulings in cases brought to the court.	
FL House of Representatives – 120 elected Representatives total; number of Representatives per state are based on each State’s population. The Constitution requires a Representative to be at least 21 years of age, a resident of the district from which elected, and a resident of Florida for two years prior to election.		4-year term; The governor is charged with filling vacancies in county and statewide offices, both appointed and elected. Can grant clemency or pardons to state offenders through Office of Executive Clemency (board). Can veto laws			
Purpose: Create and Pass Laws		Frequently Asked Questions			
Examples of State Legislators: FL State Senators: Dennis Baxley, District 13 Geraldine Thompson, District 15 FL House of Representatives: Carolina Amesty, District 45 Bruce Antone, District 41 Douglas Bankson, District 39 Lavon Bracy Davis, District 40 Rita Harris, District 44 • Assists constituents who have an issue with a state agency, but only if they live within the district. Examples of State Agencies: ACHA ♦ DBPR ♦ DCF ♦ DEO DOH ♦ FLDOT ♦ FWC ♦ Medicaid		Q: I am having an issue with registering for unemployment benefits. A: State Issue (DEO) Q: I need a replacement title for my car and cannot get through to DMV. A: State Issue (HSMV) Q: I need food stamps or SNAP. A: State issue (DCF) Q: I am upset because a store I do not like is moving into my neighborhood. A: County or City issue depending on the location. Q: The traffic light is out at XYZ street. A: County or City depending on the location Q: There is a gigantic pothole on my street or in the road. A: County, City or State; depends on the location and maintenance of the road.			
Orange County Government			City of Orlando		
Mayor		County Commissioners		Mayor	
City Council					
Responsible for all County operations; Serves as Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. 4-year term.		6 elected member who serve 4-year terms; 6 districts.		Responsible for all City operations; Serves as Chair of the City Council. 4-year term.	
Oversees Sheriff’s office; safety concerns, public library, budget, tourism, other constitutional offices.		Handles local county issues such as roads and permits.		Oversee OPD, safety concerns, budget, other city offices and centers.	
				6 elected members who serve 4-year terms; 6 districts.	
				Handles local city issues, such as road, and permits.	