### Levels of Government | Legislative | Executive | Judicial
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**Federal**
Congress has two bodies elected by voters:
- The House of Representatives
- The Senate

Each body has committees assigned certain areas of policy oversight or procedural authority.
Elected members hire personal and committee staff and consultants.
Other Congressional agencies include the Library of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, and the Congressional Budget Office.

The President is the chief executive.
Other executive branch officials include the Vice-President and the Secretaries who head Cabinet-level Departments (e.g., the U.S. Department of Commerce).
Other executive branch offices and agencies (e.g., the Office of Management and Budget) are led by Presidential appointees, staffed by permanent career and temporary employees, and operated with the assistance of regulatory commissions, advisory boards, private contractors, and grantees.

The Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, and U.S. District Court.
Federal judges are appointed by the President and must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
Judges retain clerks and other employees.

**State**
Most state legislatures have two elected bodies known as the House (or Assembly) and the Senate. Nebraska is the lone exception with only one chamber (known as a unicameral legislature).
State legislatures have committees, staff, agencies and offices, etc., similar to Congress.

The chief executive is the Governor.
In many states, certain other state officials are elected by the voters (e.g., the state Attorney General), although most state departments, agencies, offices, etc. are led by gubernatorial appointees and are staffed in ways similar to the federal executive branch.

State supreme courts, appellate courts, and trial courts each have their own elected or appointed judges, as required by constitutions and statutes that vary from state to state.

**Local General Purpose Governments: County and Municipal**
Local legislation is the responsibility of elected city or town councils or selectmen, and elected county boards of supervisors (sometimes called commissioners, county judges, or parish police juries).
Titles and structures vary, depending on state constitutions. In some municipalities, the mayor is a council member chosen by other members to be council president. In that case, the chief executive may be a professional city manager or county executive hired by the council or board.

In some cities, the mayor is a chief executive elected by voters.
Voters might also elect other officials like the auditor or city attorney.
The council, instead of the mayor, might select some agency heads like the police chief.

Some states have local municipal courts, justices of the peace, and small claims courts.
In other states, local courts are administered by the state judiciary, and are not directly accountable to local government or voters.

**Local Special Districts** (e.g., school districts and irrigation districts)
Boards of directors, who are elected by voters residing within district boundaries or are appointed by local or state legislatures or chief executives, typically govern special districts.

Staff usually are hired by the district board.

District boards sometimes serve judicial as well as legislative functions (e.g., school boards might decide whether to impose disciplinary suspensions upon individual students or teachers).

**Tribal Governments**
may each have their own constitutions and by-laws, in addition to treaties and federal laws that recognize and limit tribal authority. Each tribe determines eligibility for tribal membership in its own way, and decides its own form of tribal government. See [National Tribal Justice Resource Center](https://www.tribalselgov.org) or www.tribalselgov.org for more information.

Many tribes have tribal councils who legislate rules and laws and set tribal policies, within jurisdictional boundaries set by federal laws and treaties.
Although they vary widely, many tribes employ tribal members as well as outside firms and consultants, to carry out policies and programs under the direction of tribal councils, or under the direction of tribal officials elected by members of the tribe or chosen by tribal councils.

Each tribe has its own traditions and/or system of justice.
Many tribes rely on both traditional consensus-based procedures and, since the nineteenth century, formal tribal court systems shaped in part by federal law.
Although litigants might turn to federal courts instead, federal courts usually abide by decisions made by tribal courts acting within areas of tribal jurisdiction recognized by treaties and federal laws.