



# State Advocacy Resources

Much like the federal government, advocacy at the state level requires understanding of the three state branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial. Learn more about the different components of state governments in this chapter.

State Legislatures

State Resources

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## STATE GOVERNMENT

State governments are comprised of three different branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

In general, state legislative branches enact legislation. Every state (except Nebraska) has a bicameral legislature with both a House and a Senate.

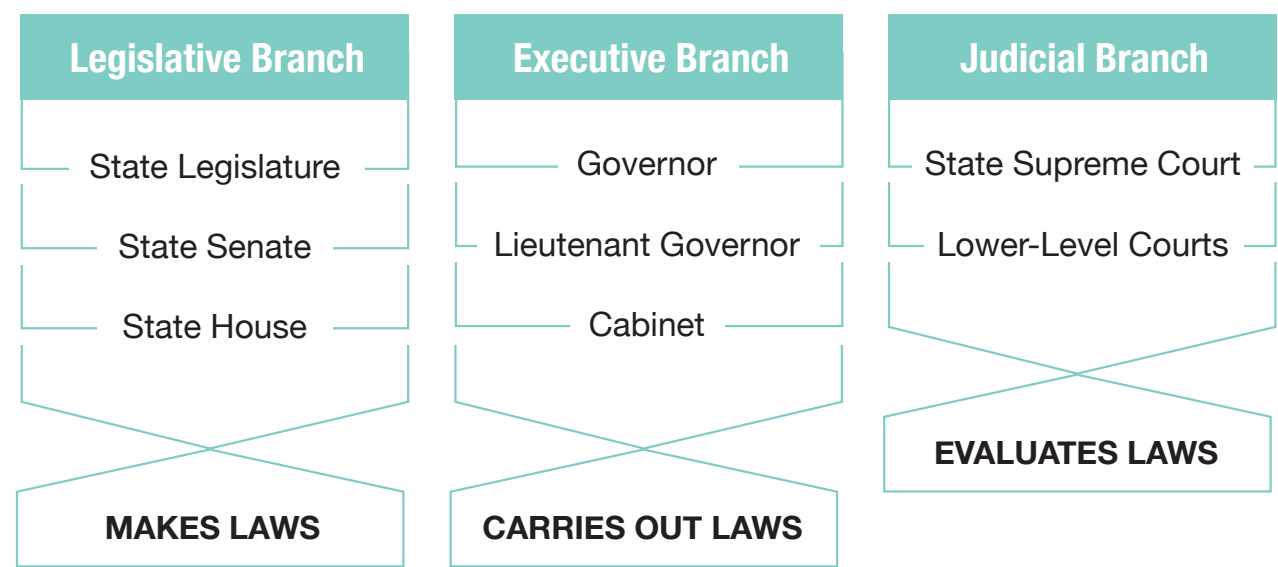
### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive branch carries out and enforces laws. The Governor of each state heads the executive branch.

### JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial branch interprets the meaning of laws, applies laws to individual cases, and decides if laws violate the Constitution. The Constitution and laws of each state establish the state courts. The state supreme court is usually the highest court in the state. Some states also have an intermediate court of appeals. Below these appeals courts are the state trial courts, circuit courts, or district courts. States also usually have courts that handle specific legal matters.

## THE STATE GOVERNMENT



“Surviving cancer inspired me to establish an event to bring awareness and funding to our region’s oncology care and prevention efforts. Since 1995 my annual golf tournament has raised more than \$2.1 million for a mobile mammography unit, housing for patients’ families and diagnostic equipment at our medical center. We are making progress but cancer prevention and early detection requires continuous advocacy in order to eradicate this terrible disease throughout Kentucky.”

ROCKY ADKINS KENTUCKY HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER



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## FIND YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Use our tool to quickly and easily find out who your elected officials are and how to best contact them.

[preventcancer.org/advocacy](https://preventcancer.org/advocacy)

## STATE LEGISLATURE WEBSITES

The U.S. Library of Congress provides links to every official state legislature website.

[thomas.loc.gov/home/state-legislatures](https://thomas.loc.gov/home/state-legislatures)

## COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Founded in 1933, the Council of State Governments serves all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. The mission of CSG is to champion excellence in state governments to advance the common good.

[csg.org](https://csg.org)

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

The National Conference of State Legislatures was created in 1975 and is committed to: improving the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures; promoting policy innovation and communication among state legislatures; and ensuring state legislatures are a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

[ncsl.org](https://ncsl.org)

## NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association is a bipartisan organization of the nation's governors. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with a collective voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.

[nga.org](https://nga.org)

## NATIONAL LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1962, the National Lieutenant Governors Association is the professional association for the elected officials first in line of succession to the governors. NLGA promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of Lieutenant Governor.

[nlga.us](https://nlga.us)

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