

Civics and Government

The purpose of any government is to see to the well-being of its citizens. Governments create and enforce laws to keep order and ensure that citizens have rights to conserve their freedom.

There are different types of governments- national, state, and local.

The **National Government** is in charge of national issues, such as declaring war, and negotiating with other countries. The powers of the National Government are outlined by the Constitution and interpreted by the Supreme Court.

State governments have authority over state issues, such as issuing licenses, establishing local governments, and state commerce. These powers are given to states in the 10th amendment of the Constitution.

- **10th Amendment**- The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

County governments serve a larger geographical area than cities or towns but are smaller than states and many are located within each state. These governments are created by state governments and operate under provisions set forth in a state constitution. County governments are administrative units of state governments. County governments adopt budgets, pass county resolutions, and hire and fire county officials. Sheriffs and county fire departments also fall under the county. Counties rely on property taxes, sales taxes, and funds from federal and state grants in order to operate.

- Council Elected Executive System- voters elect both members of the council and the executive

City Governments oversee the functions of cities and towns. They are also called municipal governments. City governments provide things to city residents such as clean water, sewage, and garbage collection. They also maintain city facilities, address zoning and building regulations, promote economic development, provide law enforcement, provide public transportation, and provide fire protection. Cities rely on property taxes, sales taxes, taxes on housing, and fees from trash collection and water in order to operate.

- Mayor Council System- Voters elect a mayor and City Council

Federal

Judicial

- **Supreme court**
 - the highest court in the land and the only part of the federal judiciary specifically required by the Constitution.
 - All Justices are nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and hold their offices under life tenure.

- Federal judges can only be removed through impeachment by the House of Representatives and conviction in the Senate. Judges and justices serve no fixed term — they serve until their death, retirement, or conviction by the Senate.

Executive

- **President of the United States**
 - the head of state and head of government of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.
 - responsible for the execution and enforcement of the laws created by Congress.
 - appoints the heads of more than 50 independent federal commissions
 - The President has the power either to sign legislation into law or to veto bills enacted by Congress, although Congress may override a veto with a two-thirds vote of both houses
 - The President can issue executive orders, which direct executive officers or clarify any further existing laws. The President also has unlimited power to extend pardons and clemencies for federal crimes, except in cases of impeachment.
- **Vice President**
 - to be ready at a moment's notice to assume the Presidency if the President is unable to perform his duties due to: death, resignation, or temporary incapacitation, or if the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet judge that the President is no longer able to discharge the duties of the presidency.
 - The Vice President is elected along with the President by the Electoral College
 - Serves as the President of the United States Senate, where he or she casts the deciding vote in the case of a tie. Except in the case of tie-breaking votes, the Vice President rarely actually presides over the Senate

Legislative

- **House of Representatives**
 - made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. Includes 6 non-voting members, representing the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four other territories of the United States.
 - The presiding officer of the chamber is the Speaker of the House, elected by the Representatives. He or she is third in the line of succession to the Presidency.
 - The House has several powers assigned exclusively to it, including the power to initiate revenue bills, impeach federal officials, and elect the President in the case of an electoral college tie.
- **Senate**
 - The Senate is composed of 100 Senators, 2 for each state. Until the ratification of the 17th Amendment in 1913, Senators were chosen by state legislatures, not by popular vote. Since then, they have been elected to six-year terms by the people of each state
 - The Vice President of the United States serves as President of the Senate and may cast the decisive vote in the event of a tie in the Senate.

- The Senate has the sole power to confirm those of the President's appointments that require consent and to ratify treaties. There are, however, two exceptions to this rule: The House must also approve appointments to the Vice Presidency and any treaty that involves foreign trade. The Senate also tries impeachment cases for federal officials referred to it by the House.
- In order to pass legislation and send it to the President for his signature, **both the House and the Senate must pass the same bill by a majority vote**. If the President vetoes a bill, they may override his veto by passing the bill again in each chamber with at least two-thirds of each body voting in favor.

State of Tennessee

Judicial

- **Supreme Court of Tennessee (Court of Last Resort)**
 - Jeffrey S. Bivins is the Chief Justice.
 - Tennessee Supreme Court appoints the Tennessee Attorney General.
 - This is the highest court in the state of Tennessee
- **Appellate Courts**
 - include the court of appeals and the court of criminal appeals.
 - The court of appeals hears cases appealed from probate, chancery, and circuit courts.
 - The court of criminal appeals hears cases appealed from the circuit and criminal courts.
- **Trial Courts**
 - include probate courts, chancery courts, circuit courts, and criminal courts.
- **Courts of Limited Jurisdiction**
 - include juvenile courts, general sessions courts, and municipal courts.

Legislative

- **The Tennessee General Assembly**
 - the state legislature consists of the 33-member Senate and the 99-member House of Representatives. Senators serve four-year terms, and House members serve two-year terms.
 - Each chamber chooses its own speaker, e.g., the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate of Tennessee is elected by the Senate from among its members.
 - Constitutional officials in the legislative branch are elected by a joint session of the legislature.
- Tennessee legislator's objective is to enact, amend, and repeal Tennessee Laws. Powers Specific to Tennessee legislators includes: the **appropriation of money; the levy and collection of taxes; and the right to authorize counties and towns to tax**. The General Assembly is recognized by the state constitution as the supreme legislative authority of the state. It is the General Assembly's **responsibility to pass a budget for the functioning of the state government**.

Speaker of the house—Cameron Sexton

Lieutenant Governor/Speaker of the Senate—Randy McNally

Bradley County Reps:

Senator- Mike Bell

Representative- Mark Hall

Executive

- **Governor**
 - Tennessee's governor is the Supreme Executive Power. He or she (currently Governor Bill Lee) is responsible for enforcing state laws and the state constitution. He is also known as the keeper of the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee.

- **Lieutenant Governor**
 - The Lieutenant Governor serves in place of the Governor if he is absent, incapacitated, resigns, dies, or is removed from office in any way. The Lieutenant Governor often presides over the State Senate. The current Lieutenant Governor is Randy McNally.

- **Cabinet**
 - Deputy to the Governor and Chief Counsel, Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office, Chief Operating Officer in the Governor's Office, Special Assistant to the Governor, Senior Advisor in the Governor's Office, Communications Director and Senior Advisor in the Governor's Office, Policy Director, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Children's Services, Commissioner of Commerce & Insurance, Commissioner of Correction, Commissioner of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, Commissioner of Finance & Administration, Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Commissioner of General Services, Commissioner of Health, Commissioner of Human Resources, the Commissioner of Human Services, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce, Commissioner of Mental Health, Commissioner of the Military, Commissioner of Revenue, Commissioner of Safety and Homeland Security, Director of TennCare, Commissioner of Tourism, Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of Veterans
 - The Cabinet helps to advise the Governor on policies and serves as a vehicle for the Governor to convey priorities

Local Government

Local government is comprised of county and city powers. The authority of these local governments over residents is determined by the zoning lines that have been drawn out by the overarching state government. Those within the city limits are subject to city taxes and are governed by the city powers, while those outside the city limits are governed by the county powers. Each of these local governments operates in a similar manner, with a manager or Mayor, as well as a council or commission, meeting to set ordinances, laws, and solve resident issues.

Bradley County

A county is a governing system whose authority stretches throughout the county lines that are put in place by the state.

Executive and Legislative

Bradley county is governed through a commission style of government in which the county commissioners and the mayor act as both the Executive and Legislative branch.

- The county executive is **Republican D. Gary Davis**. In this role, the Mayor's primary focus is on the financial management of the county. Is the main form of leadership within the county.

- Mayor is an ex officio member of the county legislative body and of all committees of the body.

Bradley County has a 14-member county commission, with two commissioners from each of seven districts. The commission is headed by a chairman and vice-chairman, who are chosen by fellow commissioners. The current chairman is **Johnny Mull** from District 3. Each district is also assigned a constable, also elected.

Dennis Epperson, District 1

Mike Hughes, District 1

Thomas Crye, District 2

Louie Alford, District 2

Milan Blake, District 3

Johnny Mull, Chairman, District 3

Howard Thompson, District 4

Charlotte Peak, District 4

Bobby Goins, District 5

Cindy Slate, District 5

Tim Mason, District 6

Erica Davis, District 6

Kevin Raper, District 7

Bill Winters, District 7

Judicial

Served by a circuit court, a general sessions court, a juvenile court, a chancery court, a criminal court, and municipal courts.

Gayla Miller, Circuit Court Clerk

- Makes records of small claims, probate, child support enforcement, traffic, and criminal courts.

Donna Simpson, County Clerk

- Responsible for vehicle licenses, marriage licenses, and business licenses. They also handle the issuance of notary applications, collection of sales tax for boats, and vehicle titles.

Sandra Knight, Road Superintendent

- Responsible for the city road development and management

Mike Smith, Bradley County Trustee

- Responsible for the resident taxes of Bradley County

Stanley Thompson, Assessor of Property

- This role focuses on the appraisal and assessment of all taxable real and personal property in the county, not appraised or assessed by the state.

Dina Swafford, Register of Deeds

- Maintains public records, not limited to deeds.

Troy Maney, Fire Chief

- Responsible for managing and leading the county fire department

Steve Lawson, Sheriff

- Chief law enforcement of the county

Garry Moore, District 1 Constable

Richard Alford, District 2 Constable

Jason Corum, District 3 Constable

Wayne Henry, District 4 Constable

Steve Anderson, District 5 Constable

Tim Colbaugh, District 6 Constable

Brent Runyon, District 7 Constable

- The role of constable is to enforce the civil and criminal laws within the county.

City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland has a council/manager form of government. The mayor and two council members are elected at-large and five council members are elected from their respective districts. Each member serves a four-year term. The city government is also divided into many other positions that help Cleveland run efficiently.

Kevin Brooks, Mayor

- Head of city government, attends and votes in city council meetings

Charlie McKenzie, District 1

Bill Estes, District 2

Tom Cassada, District 3

David May, District 4

Dale Hughes, District 5

Ken Webb, At-Large

Avery L. Johnson, At-Large

- City council works to review and pass any city budgets, decide city ordinances and make decisions regarding the well being of city residents.

Joe Fivas, City Manager

- The City manager works closely with the city council and mayor. This position is the chief administrator of the city.

Melinda B. Carroll, Assistant City Manager

Shawn McKay, Assistant City Manager

Ron Harrison, Fire Chief

- Responsible for leading the city fire department

Mark Gibson, Chief of Police

- Responsible for leading the city police department

Key Terms

Amendment - A change to the Constitution

Articles Of Confederation - America's first national constitution, which loosely bound the states under a weak national Congress.

Bilateral - A state acting in cooperation with another state

Bill - A proposed law or policy

Bill of Rights - The first ten amendments to the Constitution, which safeguard some specific rights of the American people and the states.

Bureaucracy - An administrative way of organizing large numbers of people to work together; usually relies on specialization, hierarchy, and standard operating procedures

Cabinet - A group, composed of the heads of federal departments and key agencies, that advises the president

Caucus - A gathering of political leaders to make decisions, such as which candidate to nominate for an office; set policy; and plot strategy.

Census - Counting the population to determine representation in the House of Representatives; the constitution mandates one every ten years.

Charter - A document issued by state government granting certain powers and responsibilities to a local government.

Checks And Balances - The ability of different branches of government to stop each other from acting; designed to prevent one branch from gaining too much power.

Chief Of State - The ceremonial head of government; in the United States, the president serves as chief of state.

Citizen - A legal member of a political unit.

Civil Liberties - Individual freedoms that the government cannot take away, including free speech, freedom of religion, and the rights of the accused.

Civil War - A war fought within a single country between or among different groups of citizens who want to control the government and do not recognize another group's right to rule.

Closed Primary - A primary in which the voter must belong to the party in which he or she participates.

Constituency - The people in a district represented by a legislator.

Constitution - A set of rules that govern how power will be distributed and used legitimately in a state.

Constitutional Democracy - A type of government characterized by limitations on government power spelled out in a constitution.

Deficit Spending - When a government intentionally spends more money than it takes in.

Depression - A severe economic downturn that lasts a long time; more serious than a recession.

Diplomacy - The act of negotiating and dealing with other nations in the world, trying to achieve goals without force.

Due Process Clause - Part of the Fourteenth Amendment, which declares that no person can be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Electoral College - The body that elects the president of the United States; composed of electors from each state equal to that state's representation in Congress; a candidate must get a majority of electoral votes to win.

Establishment Clause - A part of the First Amendment that forbids government establishment of religion.

Executive Order - An order issued by the president that has the effect of law.

Expressed Powers - The specific powers given to Congress or the president by the Constitution; also called the *enumerated powers*.

Federal Reserve Bank - The name of the central bank of the United States; often called the Fed.

Filibuster - A Senate tactic; a senator in the minority on a bill holds the floor (in effect shutting down the Senate) until the majority backs down and kills the bill.

Foreign Policy - A state's international goals and its strategies to achieve those goals.

Gerrymandering - The term used to describe the process by which the party that controls the state government uses redistricting to its own political advantage.

Impeachment - The power of the House of Representatives to charge an officeholder with crimes; the Senate then holds a trial to determine if the officeholder should be expelled from office.

International Law - A set of agreements, traditions, and norms built up over time that restricts what states can do; not always binding.

Intervention - When a state sends military forces to help a country that is already at war.

Isolationism - The view that the United States should largely ignore the rest of the world.

Joint Chiefs of Staff - A group that helps the president make strategy decisions and evaluates the needs and capabilities of the military.

Judicial Philosophy - A set of ideas that shape how a judge or lawyer interprets the law and the Constitution.

Judicial Restraint - A judicial philosophy that believes the court's responsibility is to interpret the law, not set policy.

Judicial Review - The power of the courts to declare laws and presidential actions unconstitutional.

Jurisdiction - A court's power to hear cases of a particular type.

Libertarianism - The belief that the government should be small and most decisions left up to the individual.

Line-Item Veto - A special type of veto that the president can use to strike the specific parts of the bill he or she dislikes without rejecting the entire bill.

Lobbying - Attempting to persuade government officials through direct contact via persuasion and the provision of material benefits; also known as the *inside game*.

Majority Leader - (1) In the House, the second-ranking member of the majority party; (2) in the Senate, the highest-ranking member of the majority party.

Majority Party - In a legislative body, the party with more than half of the seats.

Midterm Election - A congressional election that does not coincide with a presidential election.

Military Aid - Assistance to other countries designed to strengthen the recipient's military.

Military-Industrial Complex - The alliance of defense contractors, the military, and some members of Congress that promotes a large defense budget in order to profit themselves.

Minority Leader - In both the House and Senate, the leader of the minority party.

Minority Party - In a legislative body, the party with fewer than half of the seats.

National Convention - A convention held by a political party every four years to nominate candidates for president and vice president and to ratify the party platform.

Pardon - A release from punishment for criminal conviction; the president has the power to pardon.

Pigeonholing - The ability of a committee to kill a bill by setting it aside and not acting on it.

Pocket Veto - An unusual type of presidential veto: When the president neither signs nor vetoes a bill, after ten days the bill dies if Congress is not in session.

Political Party - An alliance of like-minded people who work together to win elections and control of the government.

Public Policy - Any rule, plan, or action pertaining to issues of domestic national importance.

Reverse - When a court overturns a lower court's ruling, declaring it void.

Speaker Of The House - The leader of the House of Representatives, elected by the majority party.

Suffrage - The right to vote; also called the *franchise*.

Term Limits - Limits on the number of terms an elected official can serve.

Veto - The power of the president to stop a bill passed by Congress from becoming law.

Whip - A member of the leadership of a legislative body responsible for counting votes and connecting the leadership with the rank and file.