

# Legislative Process

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educate. prevent. empower.



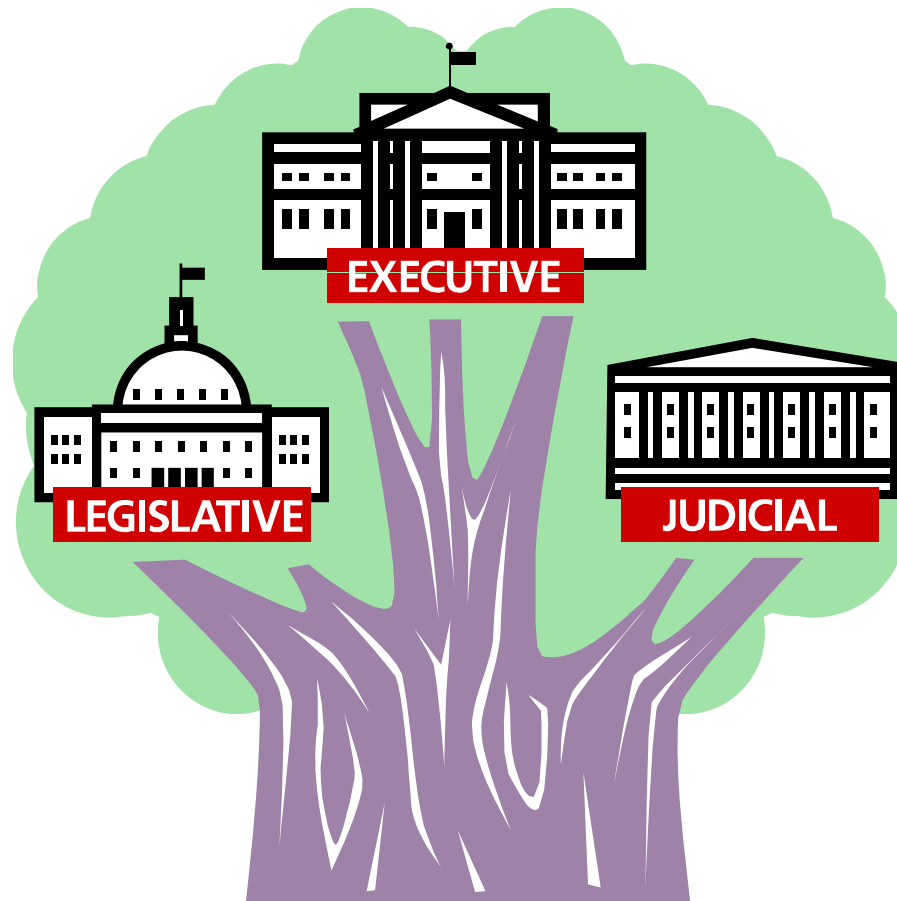
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# Agenda

- Federal Government
- State Government
- Illinois Government
- Legislative Process
- Bill Passage in Illinois
- Lobbying

# U. S. Government



# Federal Government based on US Constitution



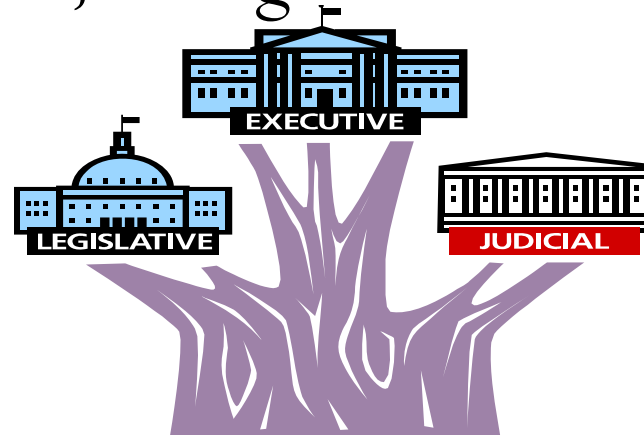
# United States



# State Government

- Executive Branch
  - Governor
- Legislative Branch (Bicameral or Unicameral)
  - Senate
  - House of Representatives, Delegates or Assembly
- Judicial Branch

State Constitution



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# Illinois



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# Illinois

- Executive Branch
  - Constitutional Officers
- General Assembly
  - Senate - 59 Members
  - House of Representatives - 118 Members
- Judicial Branch

State Constitution



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# Executive Branch-Enforces Law

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Comptroller
- Treasurer



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# Legislative Branch-Makes Law

## ➤ General Assembly

- Senate
- House



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# Judicial Branch-Interprets Law

- Supreme Court
  - 7 Justices
  - Has general administrative and supervisory authority
- Appellate Court
  - 52 Judges
  - Hears appeals from Circuit Courts and administrative agencies
- Circuit Court
  - 23 Judicial Circuits
  - Hears cases and enters judgments



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# Illinois Legislative Biennium

- Regular Session – Odd Year
  - Convenes on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in January
  - Election of officers
  - Governor's State of the State message
  - Committees organized
  - Bills introduced
  - Governor's Budget Address (by 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in February)
  - Appropriations Process – bills to fund the state for the fiscal year beginning July 1
  
- Veto Session



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# Illinois Legislative Biennium

- Regular Session – Even Year
  - Convenes on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in January
  - Governor’s State of the State message
  - Limited Session – House and Senate rules limit what bills can be considered
    - Revenue or appropriations bills
    - Bills of importance to state government
    - Emergency Bills
  
- Veto Session – after November election
  - Returns in January for a brief session to finish work of that General Assembly, then adjourn *sine die* (without day – setting no date to return)
  
- Special Session – called by Governor, or a joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House



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# Illinois Bill Passage



1. Bill Drafted – Legislative Reference Bureau
2. Bill Introduced – Clerk of the House or Secretary of Senate – assigned a bill number – read for the first time (must be read in front of the legislative body 3 times)
3. Referred to Committee – Rules Committee refers to appropriate committee
4. Committee Hearing – Sponsor reads the bill, lobbyists, concerned groups and the public can voice their support or opposition. Committee votes.
5. Second Reading – Amendments can be proposed
6. Third Reading – members can ask questions of the sponsor, debated, chamber votes – simple majority is needed – 60 House or 30 Senate



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# Illinois Bill Passage

7. Second Chamber – if the second chamber approves the bill as written, it is sent to the Governor; if not the returns to the original chamber for voting to “concur,” or agree with the changes. If concurred, the bill goes to the Governor
8. Governor’s Action – Sign, veto with recommendations for changes, or veto absolutely
9. New law – Governor’s signature or if vetoed, it can become law if both chambers override the Governor’s veto by two-thirds majority



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# Other Participants in the Legislative Process

- Lobbyists – “Third House of the Legislature”
  - The right to petition the government is guaranteed by the U.S. and Illinois Bill of Rights. The Illinois constitution states that the people have the right to make known their opinions.
  - Grassroots lobbying



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