



Louisiana: Our History, Our Home

Chapter 4: Louisiana's Government - Section 2: Structure of State Government Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. In both federal and state government, power is shared among the _____, _____, and _____ branches.
2. This division of powers creates a system of _____. Each branch has _____ (controls) to keep the other two branches from misusing their powers.
3. The governor's _____ provides an example of how the system of checks and balances works.
4. The judicial branch also helps to balance power through its ability to decide whether or not laws brought before it are _____. This check is called _____.
5. The executive branch is empowered to _____ (enforce) the laws passed by the legislature.
6. The _____ heads the executive branch.
7. The governor is elected to a _____ term and can serve _____ back-to-back terms.
8. One of the governor's duties is to prepare and submit a _____ to the legislature.
9. The governor can also call the state legislature into _____ (a legislative session called to discuss specific subjects).
10. The lieutenant governor oversees numerous state _____. Chief among them is the _____ of the state's Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
11. The _____ is the state's head legal official and runs the state's Department of Justice.
12. The secretary of state is the chief _____ for Louisiana, and leads the Department of State.



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13. The _____ is the head of the Department of Treasury. This department is in charge of the state's _____ and keeps records of the state's income and expenses.
14. Louisiana voters elect two additional members of the executive branch: the commissioner of _____ and the commissioner of _____.
15. The five members of the _____ regulate public utilities such as telephone, electric, natural gas, and water companies.
16. The state's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) supervises _____ in Louisiana.
17. The _____ branch makes laws for the state and is divided into two _____.
18. The 1974 Louisiana Constitution specifies that the _____ have 144 members. There are 39 _____ and 105 _____.
19. Revising the legislative district boundaries based on population numbers is called _____.
20. Legislators must be _____ years old, be _____ to vote, and have been a _____ of the state for at least two years and a resident of the district for at least one year. They are elected to _____ terms.
21. In 1995, Louisiana voters approved a term limit _____ to the state constitution. Under this amendment, legislators can serve three _____ terms in the same position.
22. The _____ meets every year. It either meets _____ days or _____ days depending on the year.
23. Legislators _____, _____, and _____ laws.



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24. A bill becomes law only after it is _____ by both the House and the Senate and is _____ by the governor.
25. Legislative _____ study and debate proposed laws. Each _____ serves on at least one committee.
26. Once a bill is introduced in either chamber, it is assigned to a committee for _____ and _____.
27. If the House and Senate versions differ, the two versions are sent to a conference committee. The _____ includes members from both the Senate and the House, who try to work out the _____ so they can return the bill to both chambers for another vote.
28. A bill _____ by the legislature must be delivered to the _____ within three days.
29. The _____ branch of government interprets and applies the _____ and laws of the state. The judicial branch also protects the rights of _____.
30. _____ deal with the relationships between and among individuals.
31. _____ protect society from the wrongdoing of an individual.
32. Serious crimes, like murder and armed robbery, are called _____.
33. Less-serious crimes, like speeding, are called _____.
34. The judicial branch has many _____ and _____ officials.
35. The state court system has three levels: _____ Courts, Courts of _____, and the Louisiana _____ Court.
36. The _____ hear both civil and criminal cases and are the main trial courts for the state.



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37. The second step in the judicial process in Louisiana is one of the five circuits of the _____.
38. To _____ means to take a case to a higher court for further consideration (called a _____).
39. Some cases advance from a Court of Appeal to the _____, the highest court in the state.
40. A person _____ of a crime has the right to be tried before a jury of _____ (persons of equal standing in society).
41. A _____ is a group of citizens who hear evidence on a legal case and make a decision based on the evidence.
42. Citizens may also be called to serve on a grand jury. A _____ is made up of twelve citizens who serve for six months.
43. Governments must have _____ to function.
44. The detailed plan for _____ and _____ money is called a budget.
45. _____ are amounts paid by citizens to their governments (federal, state, and local) to support _____ and the services they provide.
46. Louisiana also collects _____, which are an amount charged for *severing* (removing) natural resources—such as timber, oil, and gas—from the state.
47. Oil and gas _____ (shares of the profit) are another source of revenue for Louisiana.
48. _____ (the legal name for gambling) is also an important revenue source for the state.