

Missouri: Gateway to the West

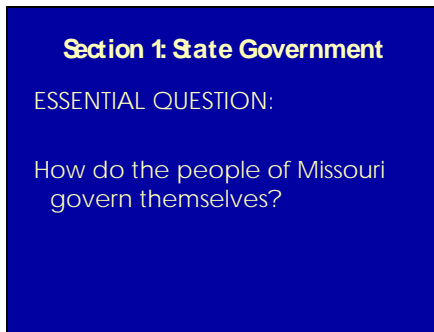
Chapter 5: Government in Missouri

Study Guide & Student Notes

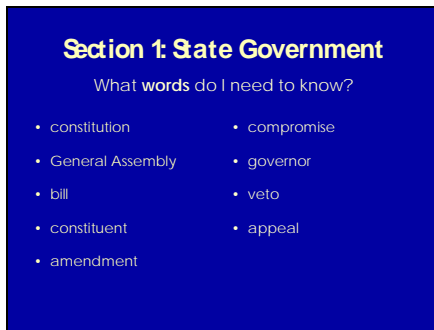
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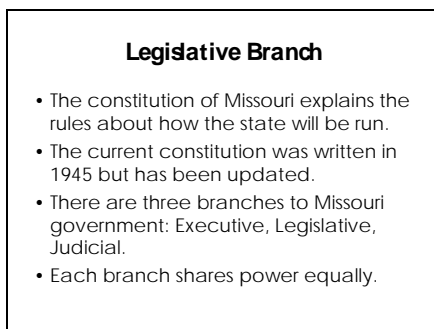
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The General Assembly (page 1)

- The legislative branch makes laws for the state.
- The legislature is called the General Assembly.
- The house of representatives and the senate are the two parts of the General Assembly.

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The General Assembly (page 2)

- Each representative and senator is elected by a particular district in the state.
- Each Missourian is represented by one state representative and one state senator.
- Meets from January to May.

	House of Representatives	Senate
Leader	Speaker of the House	President Pro Tem
Number of Members	163	34
Term of office (years)	2	4

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Making Laws

- Constituents suggest laws to their representatives. These suggestions are brought to the General Assembly as **bills**.
- Bills are sent to committees for study.
- Members of the General Assembly and the public have an opportunity to speak for or against the bill and to suggest changes (amendments).
- If both houses approve the bill, it is sent to the governor. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes law.

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Executive Branch

Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• elected by the citizens to lead the executive branch for a four-year term.• appoints state department heads and state judges.• signs or vetoes bills passed by the General Assembly.
Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• runs the Senate.• replaces the governor if the governor leaves office.
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• takes care of the state's money.• makes sure that tax money is collected and spent correctly.
Secretary of State	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• runs statewide elections.• keeps the state's records and the State Archives.
Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• makes sure the state's laws are enforced.• represents the state government ("the people") in trials.



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Judicial Branch		
	Judges	Deals with...
Supreme Court	7 Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> looks at the facts of a trial from the Court of Appeals to see if any mistakes were made can order a new trial can order another judge to look at a case again
Court of Appeals	Appellate Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> looks at the facts of a trial to see if any mistakes were made can order a new trial can order another judge to look at a case again
Circuit Court	45 circuits: at least one judge per circuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> broken laws wills and estates (probate court) & juvenile court city laws and traffic offenses (municipal division) <p style="text-align: right;">Click here to return to Main Menu.</p>

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Section 2: Local Governments

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How do people in Missouri's counties and towns govern themselves?

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Section 2: Local Governments

What words do I need to know?

- county
- county seat
- charter
- municipality
- ordinance

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County Governments			
	Population (# of this type)	Type Of Government	Notes
1st Class	over 85,000 people (17)	council and county executive	leaders elected by the voters and can pass certain laws
2nd Class	(6)	commission of three members	decides how to spend money, but cannot pass laws
3rd Class	(89)	commission of three members	decides how to spend money, but cannot pass laws
4th Class	fewest people (2)		



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City Governments

- Cities and towns are divided into classes based on population.
- Villages are smallest (less than 500 people) and can have a board of trustees.
- Smaller towns have less power to make their own laws and decide how they will govern themselves. They can have a mayor, council, etc.
- Larger "charter cities" can create certain laws and govern themselves (home rule).

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Other Local Governments

- School boards are another type of local government.
- They decide how money will be spent, create rules for schools, and hire school leaders.
- Other local governments may control libraries, fire protection, soil conservation, etc.

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Section 3: Making it Work

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What resources are needed for local governments to work in Missouri?

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Section 3: Making it Work

What **words** do I need to know?

- revenue
- taxes
- assessment



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People

- Many citizens work for the state and local governments.
- Examples include: firemen, police, prison guards, trash collectors, park rangers, sheriffs, animal control officers, etc.
- School employees include: principals, teachers, cafeteria workers, records clerks, etc.

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Revenue

- Revenue (money) is needed to run state and local governments and to provide services.
- Money for the government comes from taxes.
- Types of taxes include: sales taxes, state income taxes, state fees.
- Counties and cities collect fees, sales taxes, and property taxes.
- Missourians pay federal income taxes to the United States government.

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