



West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia

Section 2: The Three Branches of State Government

Guided Reading

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

1. Just like the national government, West Virginia's state government is organized into three branches—_____, _____, and _____.
2. The legislative branch of the state government is called the _____.
3. It has two houses—the _____ and the House of _____.
4. Voters elect _____ senators (two from each of seventeen districts) and _____ members of the House of Delegates from fifty-eight districts.
5. The West Virginia Constitution requires that the maps of the legislative districts be redrawn after every _____ to ensure that each district has about the same population.
6. Members of the West Virginia Senate are elected to _____-year terms.
7. Members of the House of Delegates are elected to _____-year terms.
8. Members must, however, be state residents for at least one _____ before their election and residents of the districts they represent.
9. _____ must be at least _____ years old, but delegates may be elected at age _____.
10. Regular legislative sessions begin in _____ on the second Wednesday of January of each year.

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11. The sixty-day regular session generally begins with the State of the _____ Address, in which the _____ makes recommendations for legislation.
12. If the Legislature does not complete its work within the _____ days, the governor may call an _____.
13. The best-known powers of the West Virginia Legislature are to pass _____ and to make constitutional _____.
14. The _____ has the power to choose a new governor if the governor dies, is convicted of wrongdoing, or resigns.
15. The state _____ must approve many of the governor's appointments.
16. The House of Delegates also has the power to _____ any officer of the state.
17. Laws begin as _____, and, as you will see, most of the work in the Legislature is done in _____.
18. A _____ must pass both houses in exactly the same form in order to become _____.
19. The governor has _____ days to act on a bill and can sign the bill into law, _____ the bill, or allow it to become law without a _____.
20. If the governor _____ a bill, lawmakers may then vote on the bill again.
21. The governor heads the _____ branch of state government.

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22. To be governor of West Virginia, a person must be at least _____ years of age and have lived in the state for at least _____ years before the election.
23. The Governor's _____ Amendment, passed in 1970, allows the governor to serve an _____ number of terms, but prohibits anyone from serving three or more _____ terms, regardless of whether they are whole or part terms.
24. The governor is responsible for overseeing the _____ of the state government.
25. The governor is commander in chief of the state's _____ forces and may also grant _____ and reprieves for people convicted of crimes.
26. A number of elected _____ or officials assist the governor. These _____ offices, along with the governor, make up the board of _____.
27. There are _____ cabinet-level positions within the executive branch. The _____ appoints the head of each of the departments.
28. The third branch of West Virginia state government is the _____ branch.
29. The _____ system was established in the West Virginia Constitution of 1872.
30. In 1974, the system was again revised with the passage of the Judicial _____ Amendment.
31. The state court system has four major functions: (1) to hear and decide _____ cases, (2) to protect the individual _____ of all citizens as outlined in the State Constitution,

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(3) to determine the innocence or guilt of those accused of _____ acts, and (4) to act as a check on the _____ and _____ branches of government.

32. The highest court in the state is the _____ court of appeals. It has five judges, known as _____, who are elected by the people for _____-year terms.

33. Before 2015, supreme court justices were elected in _____ elections.

34. The West Virginia _____ court is one of the busiest of its type in the country. The court has both _____ and _____ jurisdiction.

35. The supreme court also has the power to determine if state laws or the actions of state officials are _____.