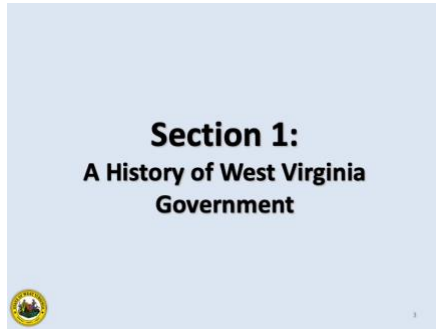


## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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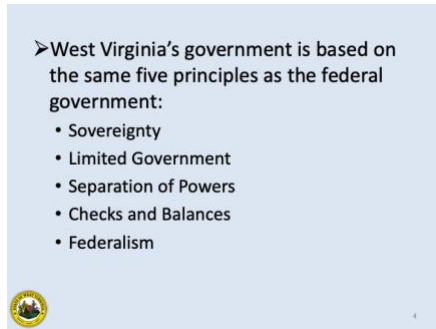
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Slide 2



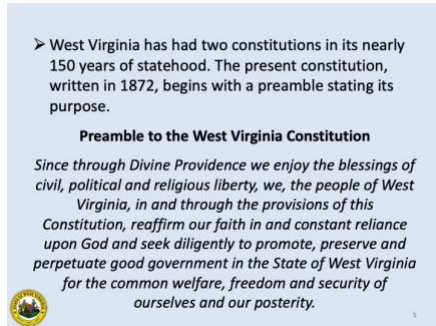
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Slide 3



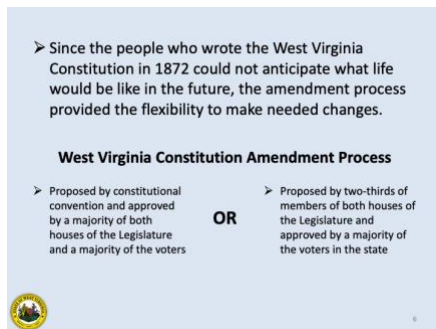
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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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➤ Amendments include:

- Adding a preamble
- Establishing a family court system
- Allowing the governor to serve two consecutive terms
- Providing better highways
- Providing bonuses for veterans

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**Section 2:**  
**The Three Branches of State Government**

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**The three branches of State Government are:**

- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch

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Slide 8



**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

➤ **HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

- 100 members; 58 districts
- Serve two-year terms; unlimited number of terms
- Speaker of the House is the presiding official

➤ **SENATE**

- 34 members; 17 districts
- Serve 4-year terms; unlimited number of terms
- President/Lieutenant Governor is the presiding official

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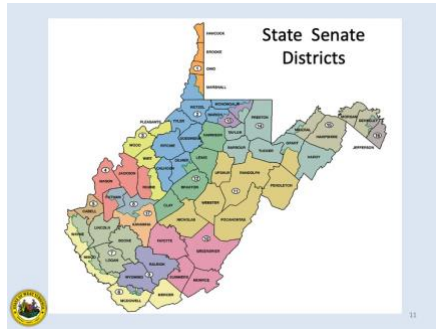
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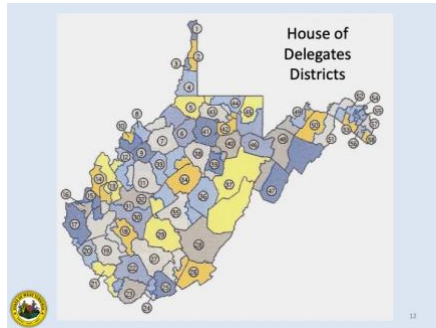

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REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE IN THE LEGISLATURE	
House of Delegates	Senate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible to vote</li> <li>• Resident of state for one year</li> <li>• Resident of district in which they are running</li> <li>• At least 18 years of age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible to vote</li> <li>• Resident of state for one year</li> <li>• Resident of district in which they are running</li> <li>• At least 25 years of age</li> </ul>

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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

- GOVERNOR
- BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
- CABINET
- VARIOUS AGENCIES AND OFFICES



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**➤ GOVERNOR**

- Patrick James Morrisey was elected the 37<sup>th</sup> governor in 2024 and took office January 13, 2025. To be governor, a person must be at least 30 years of age and have lived in the state for five years prior to the election.

**DUTIES**

- Enforces state laws
- Prepares annual budget
- Commander-in-chief of state's military
- Pardons people accused of crimes
- Appoints heads of various agencies
- Serves on state boards and commissions
- Holds press conferences to keep people informed

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**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

- **Secretary of State: Kris Warner**
  - Keeper of Great and Less Seal of State
  - Chief state election officer
  - Maintains all official state papers
- **State Treasurer: Larry Pack**
  - Receives state revenues
  - Pays the state's bills



Kris Warner



Larry Pack



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- **Attorney General: John McCuskey**
  - Heads state legal department
  - Serves as the state's lawyer
- **State Auditor: Mark Hunt**
  - State's official bookkeeper
- **Commissioner of Agriculture: Kent Leonhardt**
  - Sets standards
  - Grades all farm products
  - Identifies markets for farm products
- **State Superintendent of Schools: Michele L. Blatt**
  - Oversees state's public school system, including teacher certification, curriculum, and textbook adoptions



Mark Hunt



John McCuskey



Kent Leonhardt



Michele L. Blatt



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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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**Other Executive Departments**

- Department of Administration
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Arts, Culture and History
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Health and Human Resources
- Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans' Assistance

 Each of these departments is headed by a secretary.

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**This chart provides a look at the organization of the executive branch of West Virginia's government.**



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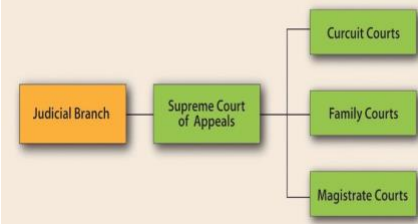
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**JUDICIAL BRANCH**




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**WEST VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT**

- The Court has five justices, one of whom serves as the chief justice.
- A chief justice may serve from one to four years.
- Justices are elected for twelve-year terms.
- The Court has two terms each year: January to July and September into December.



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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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➤ **THE SUPREME COURT**

- has appellate and original jurisdiction. Most of the court's cases are appealed from circuit or magistrate courts.
- has no witnesses, testimony, or juries. The justices hear oral arguments and review printed materials.
- has the power of judicial review.
- Most of the decisions of the Supreme Court are final.



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**OTHER STATE COURTS**

➤ **CIRCUIT COURTS**

- Trial Court
- 31 circuits; 74 judges
- Judges elected to eight-year terms
- Hear all felony and some misdemeanor cases

➤ **MAGISTRATE COURTS**

- 158 magistrates
- At least 2 in every county
- Magistrates elected to four-year terms



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**Section 3:**  
**County and Municipal**  
**Government**



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Slide 24

West Virginia's Constitution provides for the establishment of governments for counties, municipalities, and boards of education.

There are over **3,000 counties** in the United States; **55** of those counties are located in **West Virginia**.



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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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**Services Provided by County Governments**



- Building and maintaining water and sewage systems
- Fire Protection
- Building and maintaining libraries
- Providing emergency services, e.g., law enforcement, fire protection, medical emergencies
- Providing recreational opportunities, e.g., swimming pools, parks






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➤ **A County Commission presides over county government.**

- Each county commission must have at least three members.
- Commissioners are elected to six-year terms.
- Commissioners must meet at least four times per year.

**Other Elected County Officials**

- **County Clerk:** keeps official records of county
- **Circuit Clerk:** keeps records of circuit court
- **Sheriff:** enforces the law and collects taxes
- **Assessor:** determines value of property for tax purposes
- **Prosecuting Attorney:** represents county in court; pursues wrongdoers



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**Counties have executive, legislative, and judicial duties.**

EXECUTIVE	LEGISLATIVE	JUDICIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect taxes</li> <li>• Enforce county ordinances</li> <li>• Conduct elections</li> <li>• Keep records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulate the use of property</li> <li>• Levy taxes</li> <li>• Issue bonds</li> <li>• Set requirements for business licenses</li> <li>• Spend money for county purposes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear appeals on tax assessments, employee complaints, and zoning decisions</li> <li>• Prosecute cases in circuit courts</li> </ul>



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**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**

➤ Depending on its size, a municipality may be classified as a city, town or village.

- **CLASS I CITIES** have a population of at least 50,000
- **CLASS II CITIES** have a population between 10,000 and 50,000
- **CLASS III CITIES** have a population between 2,000 and 10,000

-Municipalities of less than 2,000 are classified as towns or villages.



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## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

### Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia – Quick Notes

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**Municipalities may choose from one of three types of government:**

- **Mayor-Council Form**
  - The people elect both the mayor and the council members.
- **Commission Form**
  - Voters elect individuals to specific administrative positions. In West Virginia, there must be either three or five commissioners.
- **Council-Manager Form**
  - Elected city council members set policy and pass ordinances. There is a mayor who presides at council meetings. The mayor is either elected to the office or designated by a vote of the council members.
- Municipalities of fewer than 2,000 residents **must** use the Mayor-Council form of government.

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**BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

- The third example of local government is the board of education.
- Each county has a Board of Education consisting of five members.
- Board members are chosen in nonpartisan elections.
- Board members set education policy, approve a budget, approve curriculum, and hire employees.
- Board members hire the county superintendent to carry out the system's goals.
- County boards of education receive direction from the West Virginia Department of Education.
- County boards of education receive funding from county property taxes, state funds, federal funds, and sometimes from special assessments.

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