



The President

The President is the leader of the United States. Citizens of the United States vote every four years for a new President. Each term the President serves is four years long. Presidents can only be re-elected once, so the total time a president can be in office is eight years.

The President works and lives in a big house. It is called the White House. The White House is in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States. The room where the President works is called the Oval Office. Congress brings bills to the President. A bill is an idea for a law. If the President likes the bill, he can sign the bill to make it a law. Laws are written on paper that the President signs. Laws are rules for our country.

The President gives speeches often. He or she informs the public about what is happening in the United States of America. The President meets with leaders from other countries. They try to work out ways to work better together. The President flies to other countries on a huge plane. The plane is called Air Force One. He or she leads the military. The president decides how the military will keep us safe.

Governor

The governor is a state's highest ranking elected official. A man or woman can be elected to be governor. He or she would lead the executive branch of the state level of government. The governor is the leader of a state. What the governor does is different in each state. The most common responsibility is to enforce state laws. Governors sign bills into law. The governor is the commander-in-chief. He or she controls the state's National Guard. The governor gives a "state of the state" address. This tells the citizens of the governor's state what is currently happening in the state. Governors can veto bills. A veto is a way of saying no to bills that are brought to him or her. States like the national government have checks and balances. The governor can veto a bill. A bill is sent from the General Assembly. The General Assembly can still pass the bill into a law with a two-thirds vote. The General Assembly sets a budget, but it is the governor who is responsible for managing the state budget. A budget is a plan of how to spend and save money. The U.S. Constitution states that the governor can fill vacancies in both General Assembly houses (House of Representatives and Senate.)

