

Three Branches of Government

America's Founding Fathers wanted to create a strong government. At the same time, they wanted to keep the government from becoming too powerful. So they created a new system of government with three branches. All three branches work together, but each branch also helps control the other branches. Each branch of government is explained below.

The Legislative Branch

Two groups make up the legislative branch of government. These two groups are the Senate and the House of Representatives. These two groups write laws for the country.

Each state has two senators. Senators are elected once every six years. States have different numbers of representatives based on their population. Larger states have more representatives, while smaller states have fewer. Representatives are elected once every two years.



Legislative Branch



Executive Branch

The Executive Branch

One person leads the executive branch of government. This person is called the President. The President is responsible for making sure that the government runs smoothly and that laws are obeyed. He also leads the armed forces. The President is elected once every four years.

The Judicial Branch

The United States Supreme Court is at the top of the judicial branch of government. The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices. These justices are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. Once approved, these justices may serve as long as they wish.

Some serve their entire lives. The Supreme Court settles questions about the law. It decides whether laws are fair. It may also decide what happens when people break laws.



Judicial Branch