

Visual Aid 18: Levels of Government

Alabama: Our Beautiful Home

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LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

Level/Branch	Elected by	Functions
FEDERAL		
Legislative Senate House of Representatives	Popular vote in each state	Makes laws for the nation
Executive President Vice President	Electoral vote	Approves laws; commander in chief of armed forces; makes treaties
Judicial Supreme Court Court of Appeals District Courts	Appointed by president	Interprets laws and U.S. Constitution
STATE		
Legislative Senate House of Representatives	Popular vote in state districts	Makes laws for state
Executive Governor Lieutenant Governor	Statewide popular vote	Heads state militia; can veto state legislative bills
Judicial State Supreme Court Court of Appeals Chancery Court Circuit Court	Generally elected by popular vote	Interprets state laws; passes sentences
COUNTY/CITY		
Board of Supervisors	Popular vote in county districts	Provides services to county residents (police, fire sanitation, schools, etc.)
Mayor and Board of Aldermen	Popular vote of residents of city (police, sanitation, schools, etc.)	Provides services to residents
City Council and City Manager	Mayor, council elected by popular vote of residents of city; city manager hired by council	Provides services to residents (police, sanitation, schools, etc.)
Commission	Popular vote of residents of city	Provides services to residents (police, sanitation, schools, etc.)