

California's Executive Branch



Governor

- Power to sign or veto laws passed by the legislature
- Lien item veto
- Appoint judges, subject to ratification of the electorate
- Propose a state budget
- Give the annual State of the State address
- Command the state militia
- Grant pardons
- Ex officio member of the UC Board of Regents

Lieutenant Governor

- President of the Senate
- Acts as governor when the governor cannot OR is out of state
- Can and sometimes is of a different political party than the governor

Other Executive Branches

- Attorney General – head lawyer of the state
- Secretary of State – handles elections and other administrative matters
- State Treasurer – money that comes in
- State Controller – money that goes out
- Insurance Commissioner
- Superintendent of Public Instruction

Departments organized into agencies

- Business
- Consumers and Families
- Education and Training
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Health and Safety
- History and Culture
- Labor and Employment
- Travel and Transportation

ALL “CABINET” level offices

Working together

- The governor cannot work alone
- He must collaborate with people from both parties
- THE BIG FIVE is a term in CA referring to the
 - Governor
 - Assembly speaker
 - Assembly minority leader
 - Senate president pro tem
 - Senate minority leader
- They meet regularly to discuss pending legislation; if they all agree, a law is almost sure to pass
- If they do not agree, a law is almost sure to fail
- The state budget is a good example of this