

California's Legislative Branch



Two Houses (just like the US Gov't)

- Senate
 - 40 members in 40 districts organized regionally by population
 - 2 year terms
- Assembly
 - 80 members (2 per Senate district)
 - 2 year terms
- Must be 18 and a resident of the district to run for office

Roles

- Influence over funding
- Influence over the organization and procedures of the agencies in the Executive Branch
- Appointing citizens to policy-making committees in the executive branch
- Designate members of the legislature who will serve on agency boards
- Approve many of the governor's appointments

Most important role

- Find out the issues affecting constituents and draft and pass legislation (laws) that will make California a better place

One of the most critical roles

- Redistricting
- Every 10 years after the US Census is taken, the legislature reorganizes the 40/80 districts so that the population of CA is evenly divided into those 40 senate districts and then further subdivided in half within each senate district to become two assembly districts
- This makes a MAJOR difference in political parties and decisions that get made by the legislature as a result of the redistricting

California Codes

- Business and Professions Code
- Civil Code
- Code of Civil Procedure
- Commercial Code
- Corporations Code
- Education Code
- Elections Code
- Evidence Code
- Family Code
- Financial Code
- Fish and Game Code
- Food and Agricultural Code
- Government Code
- Harbors and Navigation Code
- Health and Safety Code
- Insurance Code
- Labor Code
- Military and Veterans Code
- Penal Code
- Probate Code
- Public Contract Code
- Public Resources Code
- Public Utilities Code
- Revenue and Taxation Code
- Streets and Highways Code
- Unemployment Insurance Code
- Vehicle Code
- Water Code
- Welfare and Institutions Code

Checks and balances

- Make sure that the governor and executive branch officers over the operation of the State; nor does the legislature or the court system
- The court system assures that laws are upheld and legitimate
