

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