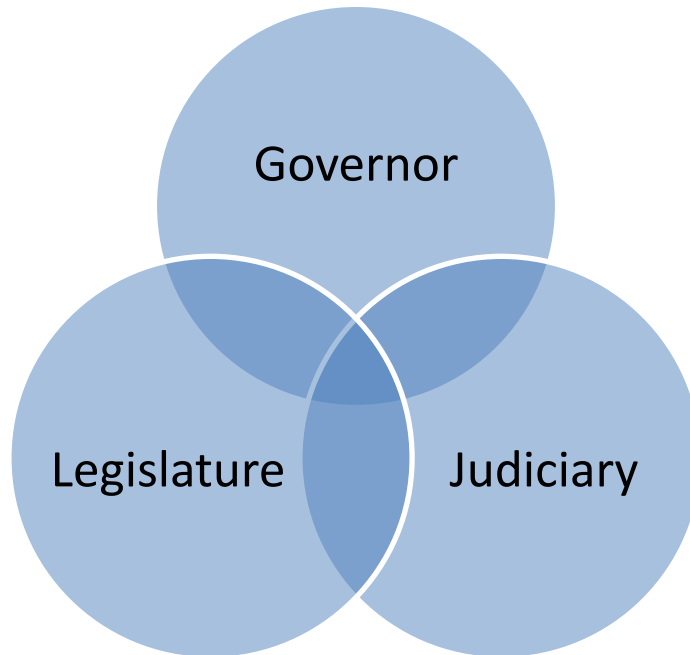


Legislative Fact Sheet



Just like the Federal Government, New York has three main branches of government:

- The **Executive Branch** of New York State government consists of 20 departments, the maximum number allowed by the State Constitution:
 - Agriculture and Markets
 - Audit and Control
 - Banking
 - Civil Service
 - Correctional Services
 - Economic Development
 - Education
 - Environmental Conservation
 - Executive-headed by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor
 - Family Assistance
 - Health
 - Insurance
 - Labor
 - Law-headed by the Attorney General
 - Mental Hygiene
 - Motor Vehicles
 - Public Service
 - State-headed by the Secretary of State
 - Taxation and Finance
 - Transportation
- The **Judicial Branch** consists of:
 - Court of Appeals (State's highest court)
 - Supreme Court, Appellate Division
 - Supreme Court

- Court of Claims
- Surrogate's Court
- The **Legislative Branch** consists of a bicameral (or two chamber) Legislature:
 - Assembly - 150 members
 - Senate - 62 members

Each registered voter is represented by one Senator and one Assembly Member based on where the voter lives (their legislative district). Senators and Assembly Members are elected for two-year terms. The base salary is \$79,500 per year. Legislators may earn more via chairmanships and posts, as well as from a \$154 per diem when they travel to Albany.

The Legislative Leaders are the Temporary President of the Senate (the Senate Majority Leader), Assembly Speaker, Assembly Majority Leader, Senate and Assembly Minority Leaders, Senate Finance Committee Chairperson, and Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chairperson. The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate and its presiding officer and has a casting vote only. The Speaker is the presiding officer in the Assembly and the leader of that house.

The Legislature meets every year from January through mid-June and at the call of the Legislative leaders at other times during the year.

The Governor may call the Legislature into extraordinary session for a limited agenda only, which the Governor identifies.

The Legislature uses two types of Committees:

- Joint Legislative Committees
 - Operate year-round
 - Members from both houses
 - Set up by a concurrent resolution approved by both houses specifying the areas for committee study
- Standing Committees
 - Organized in each house to operate during the session
 - Some Senate and Assembly Standing Committees operate year-round as well
 - The size and total number are determined by the rules of each house
 - They are organized by topic