

VS.10a The student will demonstrate an understanding of Virginia government by identifying the three branches of Virginia government and the function of each

Virginia State Government

1. The Virginia State Government is made up of three parts called branches. Each branch has a different function, or purpose. These branches make sure that Virginia laws agree with the state constitution.

2. The Legislative Branch

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of Virginia's government. It is divided into two parts: the Senate and the House of Delegates. The Senate has 40 members called senators and the presiding officer is the Lieutenant Governor. Senators are elected to serve for four years. The House of Delegates has 100 members called delegates who are elected to serve for two years. The presiding officer is the Speaker. This branch of government makes state laws.

3. The Executive Branch

The Governor heads the executive branch of the state government and is elected for a four-year term. He or she makes sure that state laws are carried out. The governor also is responsible for signing all new laws.

4. The Judicial Branch

The judicial branch of Virginia is the court system. The highest officials in the judicial branch include justices and judges. The courts decide cases about people accused of breaking the law and whether or not a law agrees with Virginia's constitution.