

# 39-North Carolina State Government

## *State Executive Branch*

### **Governor-**

State level equivalent of the president  
Serves 4 year term  
2 consecutive term limit  
30 years old age requirement

*Governor fills same roles as the president but on the state level*

Chief executive of state  
Commander in chief of national guard  
Party leader of state  
Judicial powers of appointing some judges and pardoning state crimes  
Chief of state, symbolic leader of the state

## *State Legislative Branch*

**North Carolina General Assembly**-State equivalent of Congress

NC Senate-50 seats  
NC House-120 seats

2 year terms, no limits

**Reynolds v. Sims**-SCOTUS case that determined state legislatures must be based on population

## *State Judicial Branch*

State courts handle 90% of all cases

Most state judges are elected not appointed

7 member **NC Supreme Court** is the highest authority in NC, next step us SCOTUS

**NC Court of Appeals**-15 judges who sit in panels of 3 to hear appeals

### **Lieutenant Governor-**

Elected separately (can be from a different party than the governor)  
State level equivalent of the vice president  
Same requirements as governor

## *State Executive Departments*

10 member **Cabinet** (appointed by governor) ex. *Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Revenue, Secretary of Public Safety, Secretary of Transportation*

8 member **Council of State** (elected) ex. *Attorney General, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction*

## *Members of General Assembly*

Varying requirements, full time job

**NC House**-21 years old, 1 year resident of NC

**NC Senate**-25 years old, 2 year resident of NC

Making laws is very similar to the method Congress uses, biggest problem is balancing budget

**Higher state courts**-deal with felony cases, large civil suits-use jury trials

**Lower state courts**-deal with misdemeanor cases, family law, and small civil suits-judge only trials

**Trials courts, county courts, district courts**