

Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

Branches of Government



The legislature can:



The executive can:



The judiciary can:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make laws • Power of the purse • Pass tax, budget, and appropriations bills • Declare war | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Veto legislation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Declare a law unconstitutional</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Override presidential veto (2/3 both houses)</i> • <i>Impeach the president</i> • <i>Refuse to pass a bill the president wants</i> • <i>Confirm presidential nominees (Senate only)</i> • <i>Ratify a treaty (Senate only)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce laws • Propose legislation to Congress • Make treaties • Commander-in-Chief • Grant pardons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Declare executive orders/actions unconstitutional</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Impeach federal judges</i> • <i>Alter the # of judges on the Court</i> • <i>Change the jurisdiction of lower courts & the appellate jurisdiction of the S.C.</i> • <i>Propose a constitutional amendment to override Court's decision</i> • <i>Pass a slightly altered version of same law</i> • <i>Confirm judicial nominees (Senate only)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nominate federal judges</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret laws • Review decisions of state and lower federal courts |