

### State History

In 1787 when the Constitution was signed, the area that is now Illinois was a wilderness. Although Marquette and Joliet discovered the Illinois country in 1673, it was not until 1818 that the state was formally admitted into the Union.

During the time between the discovery of the Illinois territory and its admission to the Union as a state, the French and the English each controlled the area for a period. Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle and his lieutenant and successor, Henry de Tonty, carried the standard for France. Fort de Crevecoeur was established near Peoria in 1680, followed in 1682 by Fort St. Louis on Starved Rock. One of the first white villages, Pimitouri, later called Peoria, was established in 1691. Cahokia was organized in 1699, and Kaskaskia, four years later.

Defeated by Great Britain in the French and Indian War, France gave up claim to its possessions east of the Mississippi. British rule over this area was short, however, as a handful of American militia, led by George Rodgers Clark in 1778, captured the villages of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes and forever ended foreign rule in the Illinois country.

Established as a county of Virginia in 1778, the Illinois country remained so until 1782. During the next five years the area had no legally constituted government, but in 1787, it became part of the Northwest Territory, in which it remained until 1800. In 1800, the territory of Indiana was established and Illinois was included. Nine years later, Illinois, including the present state of Wisconsin, was made a territory in its own right. Kaskaskia was the capital, and Ninian Edwards of Kentucky served as the first territorial governor. On December 3, 1818, Illinois, with a population of about 35,000 was admitted to statehood. Kaskaskia was selected as the state capital, and Shadrach Bond became the first governor.

The last great Indian uprising in Illinois was the Black Hawk War in 1832. Chief Black Hawk and his Sauk

and Fox warriors defeated the white militia at Stillman's Run, but retreated into Wisconsin where the band was decisively defeated.

The capital was moved from Kaskaskia to Vandalia, and, in 1839, was moved again, this time to Springfield. Abraham Lincoln urged the selection of Springfield while he was a member of the state Legislature.

Soon after Springfield was selected as the new capital, the state became divided on the question of slavery. Abraham Lincoln emerged from political retirement in 1858 to challenge Stephen A. Douglas, United States senator from Illinois, and the national policy on slavery, which he advocated. The eyes of the nation focused on the state as the two men engaged in their historic series of debates on the question. Although Lincoln was defeated for senator in 1858, he won the presidential nomination of the Republican Party in 1860 and became the first Republican president.

John Deere's invention of the prairie plow in 1837 gave encouragement to Illinois agriculture and it became a leading agricultural state. After the Civil War, Illinois turned to the development of its natural resources and to its transportation. By 1870, coal mining had become one of Illinois' largest industries. Improved transportation, an abundance of coal, and the westward movement of industry combined to make Illinois a great industrial area.

By 1850, the state had a population of 850,000. By 1870, this figure had tripled. Today, Illinois has nearly 13 million residents. Sprawling, vigorous Chicago was destined early in American industrial development to become the manufacturing center not only of Illinois, but the entire Midwest.

### Illinois Constitution

The first Constitution of Illinois was adopted in 1818 by a convention that met at Kaskaskia. This convention was attended by 33 delegates, representing the state's 15 counties. At that time, most of the population was in the southern part.

#### The Great Seal of Illinois

At the top of this page you will find a copy of the Great Seal of Illinois. The seal features an eagle carrying a shield in its talons. Thirteen stars and stripes on the shield represent the original 13 states of the Union. This basic design was first conceived in 1818, the year that Illinois gained statehood. The date of the state's first constitution, August 26, 1818, appears along the bottom arc of the circle. The year of statehood displays on the seal, along with 1868, the year the current seal was adopted.



The brief constitution that this convention wrote became the legal constitution when approved by Congress, and Illinois was then admitted to statehood. The *Constitution of 1818* did not interfere with the status of slaves already in the state, but it did prohibit any further extension of slavery. By 1824, there was some public support for a constitution that was more favorable to slavery, but the public rejected these changes. Governor Edward Coles was important in keeping Illinois a free state.

In 1848, a new constitution was adopted. This constitution was noted for the increase of power to the people, since they could now elect many officers that had been previously appointed.

In 1862, a new constitution was discussed, but not adopted. In 1869, another proposal met with success and became the new constitution in 1870. This 1870 Constitution became the Constitution of the State of Illinois for more than 100 years.

In November 1969, Illinois voters elected delegates to a new constitutional convention. The Constitution of 1870 was outdated, and it had become almost impossible to govern Illinois under such a document. The convention met for the first time in 1970 and began work on a new state constitution. Samuel Witwer, largely because of his 23-year fight for a new constitution, was elected president of the convention. A new constitution was written, adopted in convention on September 3, 1970, and approved by the voters on December 15, 1970. The Constitution of 1970 went into force on July 1, 1971.

The new constitution is designed to give greater protection to individual rights, modernize government at all levels, and improve the *revenue* (tax) system of the state.

### Organization of State Government

You have seen in studying the U.S. Constitution that certain responsibilities are left to the states. To carry out these responsibilities states have set up state constitutions. The state government, for example, is responsible for state highway construction, local laws, intrastate commerce, traffic laws, education, marriage and divorce laws, hospitals, voting regulations, and so on. The federal government has certain other responsibilities. For example, national defense, foreign affairs, coinage of money, and so on.

The organization of state government is very similar to that of the federal government. Both have three branches and these three branches have about the same types of duties in the state as they have in the federal government. The same type of checks and balances system applies to both (see Page 39). Both the U.S. Constitution and the Illinois Constitution have bills of rights. There are other similarities, and some differences that you will notice as you read about the Illinois Constitution.

## CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

### UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

### FEDERAL LAWS & TREATIES

### STATE CONSTITUTIONS

### STATE LAWS

### LOCAL LAWS: COUNTY, TOWNSHIP, CITY AND VILLAGE

Read Article 4 and Amendment 10 of the U.S. Constitution if you wish to know exactly what the federal Constitution says about the role of states. The chart above also shows where the state constitution fits in terms of authority and power.

## QUESTIONS

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a *T* or *F* in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Illinois has had four constitutions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Illinois became a state in 1815.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The last great Indian uprising in Illinois was the Black Hawk War in 1832.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Illinois has had three capitals.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Governor Edward Coles worked to keep Illinois a free state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Both the Illinois Constitution and the United States Constitution have bills of rights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Both the Illinois government and the United States government have three branches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Foreign affairs is the duty of state government.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The capital of Illinois is Springfield.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. States may make treaties.

**MATCH THE PERSON.** Write the letter from Section B in the space that matches the person in Section A.

### A

1. John Deere \_\_\_\_\_
2. Shadrach Bond \_\_\_\_\_
3. Samuel Witwer \_\_\_\_\_
4. George R. Clark \_\_\_\_\_
5. Abraham Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_

### B

- A. President of Constitutional Convention in 1970
- B. Invented Prairie Plow
- C. First Republican President
- D. First Governor of IL
- E. Helped defeat British Rule

**EVENTS IN ORDER.** Write the numbers 1-4, indicating which historical event happened first, second, third, or fourth.

- \_\_\_\_\_ State capital moved to Springfield
- \_\_\_\_\_ Illinois becomes a state
- \_\_\_\_\_ United States Constitution signed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Current IL Constitution approved



# Illinois Statistics

## "The Land of Lincoln" THE 21st STATE

Became a territory: February 3, 1809

Entered Union: December 3, 1818

Four Constitutions: 1818, 1848, 1870, 1970

Governor: Pat Quinn (D)

Motto: State sovereignty, national union

State flower: Violet, 1908

State tree: White oak, 1973

State bird: Cardinal, 1929

State song: "Illinois"

State slogan: Land of Lincoln

State mineral: Fluorite, 1965

Nickname: Prairie State

Origin of name: From an Indian word and French suffix meaning "tribe of superior men."

2010 population and rank: 12,830,632, (results from the latest census, 3.3% gain from the year 2000)

Land area: 56,345 square miles

Geographic center: in Logan County, 28 miles north of Springfield

Number of counties: 102

Cities over 100,000 (2010 census results)

Chicago, 2,695,598, Aurora, 197,899

Rockford, 152,871, Joliet, 147,433

Naperville, 141,853, Springfield, 116,250

Peoria, 115,007, Elgin, 108,188

State forests: 5 (17,000 acres)

State parks, memorials, conservation areas: 227  
(207,095 acres)

Capital: Springfield 62706

Telephone: 217-782-2000

United States representatives: 18

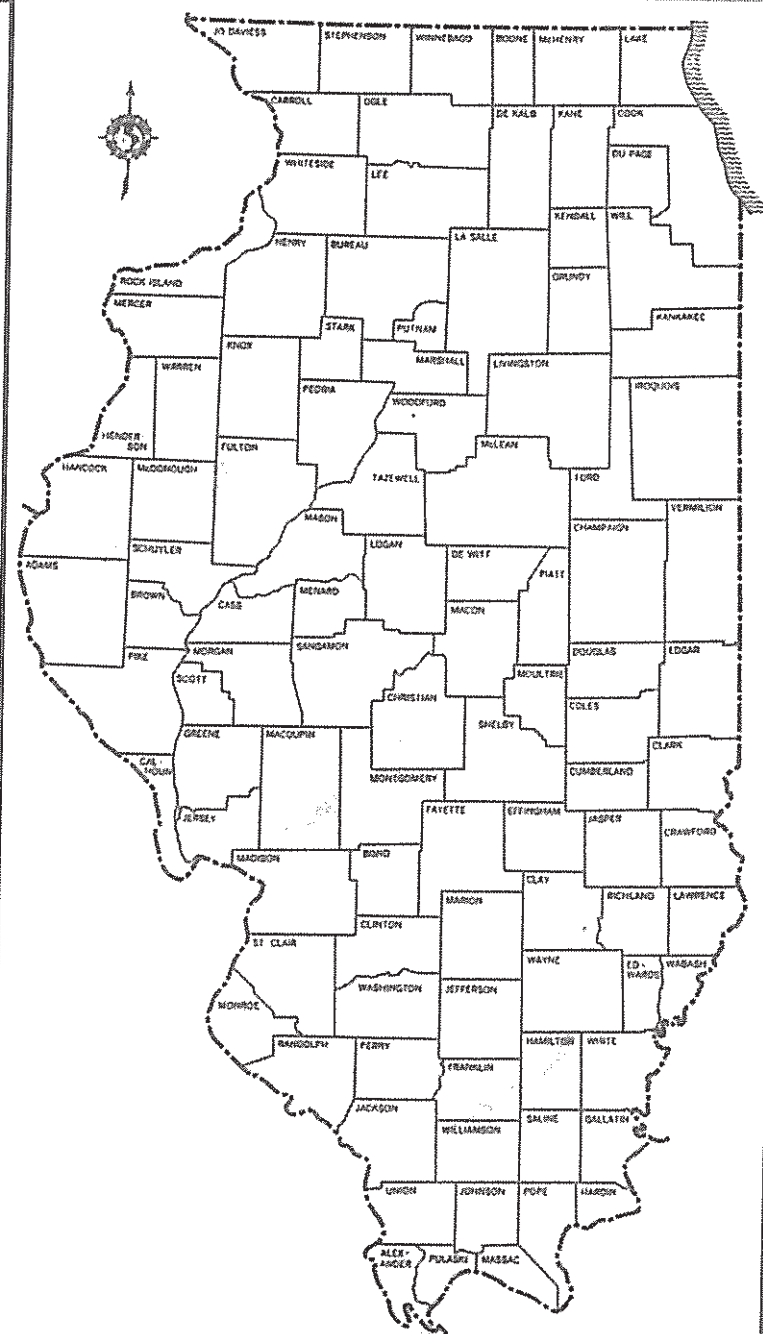
United States senators: 2

Electoral votes: 20

Illinois Senate: 59

Illinois House of Representatives: 118

See Page 69 for quick facts chart.



## Illinois Geography - Map Study

**1.** On the map, identify the states that border Illinois. **2.** On the map, identify and show the locations of the five largest cities using number 1 to 5. **3.** On the map, identify and show the location of your hometown with a star. **4.** On the map, identify the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. **5.** Shade your county lightly and identify the county seat. **6.** Identify the directions: north, south, east, and west on the map. Check here when all work is done.

## Illinois and the Federal Government

As you learned on Page 17, each state gets at least one representative and two senators in the U.S. Congress. Because of its population, Illinois gets 18 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. The state is divided into 18 districts, each with one of these representatives (called *congressional districts*). Of course, Illinois has two U.S. senators who serve the state *at large*. (At large means they serve the total state without having their own district). Illinois lost one U.S. representative when the 2010 Census was finalized, leaving the state with 18 instead of 19 representatives.

### Outline of Illinois Constitution

For an overview of the Illinois Constitution and for use as an index to the state constitution, an outline is presented here.

**Preamble:** "We, the people of the State of Illinois...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois."

<b>Article I</b>	Bill of Rights
Section 1	Inherent and Inalienable Rights
Section 2	Due Process and Equal Protection
Section 3	Religious Freedom
Section 4	Freedom of Speech
Section 5	Right to Assembly and Petition
Section 6	Searches, Seizures, Privacy and Interceptions
Section 7	Indictment and Preliminary Hearing
Section 8	Rights after Indictment
Section 9	Bail and Habeas Corpus
Section 10	Self Incrimination and Double Jeopardy
Section 11	Limitation of Penalties after Conviction
Section 12	Right to Remedy and Justice
Section 13	Trial by Jury
Section 14	Imprisonment for Debt
Section 15	Right of Eminent Domain
Section 16	Ex Post Facto Laws and Impairing of Contracts
Section 17	No Discrimination in the Sale or Rental of Property
Section 18	No Sex Discrimination
Section 19	No Discrimination Against Handicapped
Section 20	Individual Dignity
Section 21	Quartering of Soldiers
Section 22	Right to Arms
Section 23	Fundamental Principles
Section 24	Rights Retained
<b>Article II</b>	The Power of the State
<b>Article III</b>	Suffrage and Elections
<b>Article IV</b>	The Legislature
<b>Article V</b>	The Executive
<b>Article VI</b>	The Judiciary
<b>Article VII</b>	Local Government
<b>Article VIII</b>	Finance
<b>Article IX</b>	Revenue
<b>Article X</b>	Education (Provides for State Board of Education)
<b>Article XI</b>	Environment
<b>Article XII</b>	Militia
<b>Article XIII</b>	General Provisions
<b>Article XIV</b>	Revision, Schedules, Misc.

### Full Illinois Constitution

The full Illinois Constitution can be found in the Illinois Blue Book in your school library. You may also obtain a free copy by writing the Secretary of State, Springfield, Illinois. The entire state constitution is also available on the Illinois General Assembly website at <http://www.ilga.gov>.

### Amending the State Constitution

There are two ways of amending the Illinois Constitution (which is covered in Article XIV of the state constitution):

- 1. Constitutional Convention.** If three-fifths of the members in each house of the General Assembly approve, there can be a call to a constitutional convention, which the voters can approve or disapprove. If such a call does not occur within 20 years, a call is automatically put before the voters.
- 2. Amendments by General Assembly.** If three-fifths of each house of the General Assembly approve, amendments can be proposed by the General Assembly. These must be submitted to the voters at the next general election. Not more than three can be offered to the voters at one time.

### QUESTIONS

**WHICH ARTICLE?** In which article of the state constitution would you find information on the following? (Give section number when possible.)

1. Education \_\_\_\_\_
2. Rights of Individuals \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Governor \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jury Trial \_\_\_\_\_
5. Religious Freedom \_\_\_\_\_
6. Status of Handicapped \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Judicial System \_\_\_\_\_
8. Revising the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
9. Environment \_\_\_\_\_
10. Local Government Rules \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Voters must approve changes in the state constitution.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. The General Assembly can call for a convention only with the voters' OK.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Six amendments at a time may be presented to the voters.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. An amendment to the state constitution may be proposed in either house of the General Assembly.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. The Illinois Constitution helps establish federal laws and treaties.



Students should not let the fact that there is a federal government, as well as a state government, confuse them. If you remember that these two bodies of government meet separate needs for our people, and that together they solve the problems of a nation (federal government) and of a local area (state government), you will see that we have a logical form of government.

### Legislative Branch

The legislative branch makes the laws. The Legislature of the State of Illinois meets each year, beginning on the second Wednesday of January and concluding when the legislative work of the state has been completed. Extra sessions, after the Legislature has adjourned, may be called by the governor.

### General Assembly

The main body of the legislative branch is the *General Assembly*. It contains the Senate and House of Representatives of the state. (In other words, the Senate and House of Representatives together are called the General Assembly. It is also common to call these two bodies the *Legislature*.)

All members of the General Assembly are elected by the people. They receive a salary of \$67,836 yearly. Each member of the General Assembly must be 21 years or older, a resident of the district for at least two years, and a United States citizen.

A *quorum* in each house is set as a majority of its members. The state constitution requires a majority of members to be present for the House and the Senate to conduct business. Each house may punish individuals for contempt or disorderly behavior, although no member may be expelled, except by a two-thirds vote.

### Districts

In Illinois, there are 59 *senatorial districts*. (These are also known as *legislative districts*.) There is one senator elected from each of these senatorial districts. Each of these senatorial districts is divided into half to make up 118 representative districts. One representative is elected from each of the representative districts. So there are 59 state senators and 118 state representatives. Senatorial districts are numbered from 1 to 59, while representative districts are numbered from 1 to 118. Find out what districts you live in and which officials represent you.

### Special Duties

Besides making the laws, the General Assembly conducts investigations, submits constitutional amendments to the people, acts on amendments to the federal Constitution, and helps plan redistricting every 10 years.

### State Senate

There are 59 state senators. A senator's term is for four years. He or she may be reelected. Elections are held in even-numbered years, with about half the Senate elected every two years. The presiding officer of the Senate is the president of the Senate, elected by all the state senators.

### Special Duties of the State Senate

In addition to its regular lawmaking powers to be discussed later, the Senate has the following special powers: the Senate tries impeachment cases and must approve many of the appointments made by the governor.

### State House of Representatives

There are 118 state representatives. A representative's term is for two years. Elections are held in even-numbered years. The presiding officer of the House is the speaker of the House, elected by the representatives themselves.

### Special Duties of the State House

Besides its regular lawmaking duties, the House has sole power to start impeachment proceedings.

### QUESTIONS

#### WHICH BODY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The following duties are the responsibility of the Senate or House and, in some cases, may be the responsibility of both or neither. Answer *Senate*, *House*, *neither*, or *both*.

1. Elected by the people. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have 118 members. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have 59 members. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are parts of the General Assembly. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Receive salary of \$67,836. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have speaker as chief officer. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Have governor as chief officer. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Term is two years. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Term is four years. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Start impeachment proceedings. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Must be at least 21 years old. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Must live in district at least two years. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Approves appointments of the governor. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Sometimes called the Legislature. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Have three in each district. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Have president for chief officer. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Tries impeachment cases. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Meets in Springfield. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Have one from each district. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Makes laws for every state. \_\_\_\_\_

*"The General Assembly shall enact laws only by bills. Bills may originate in either house, but may be amended or rejected by the other...."* — Illinois Constitution Article IV

Briefly speaking, a bill becomes a law after passing both houses of the General Assembly and getting the governor's approval. (Or, if the governor vetoes the bill, by passing both houses with a three-fifths vote.)

A bill may start in either house. Committees are used in the state lawmaking process similar to the federal government's lawmaking process.

Bills only need a majority vote for passage. However, if the governor vetoes a bill that has passed the General Assembly, the General Assembly must then pass the bill by a three-fifths vote in both houses. If this is done, it will be a law without the governor's approval.

The lawmaking process is discussed in Article IV of the Illinois Constitution.

The Illinois Constitution mentions a few special rules about passing bills in the houses. Some of these are:

1. Bills are to be read on three different days (by title) before final vote on passage.
2. Most bills are confined to one subject.
3. A bill passed by both houses must be sent to the governor within 30 days. The governor has 60 days to sign it or to return it with a veto. If the governor does nothing, the bill will automatically become a law after the 60-day period.

### Representatives and Restrictions

Selection of officers in the federal government often gets more publicity and voter participation than does the selection of state officers. This is unfortunate since many important state matters are close to our homes and jobs. These matters require talented and honest officials. The citizens of any state would do well to increase their interest in their state government.

While our legislators are making laws they are free from arrest, except in special cases, and cannot be prosecuted for their speeches in the General Assembly. On the other hand, they have some restrictions:

1. They cannot receive an appointment by the governor to another public office.
2. They cannot hold any other state-level public office, but are allowed to hold a second county or municipal-level office (if not in conflict with their legislative position).
3. They, along with all other state officeholders, must file a statement of economic interests.
4. They cannot receive a salary increase during their term of office.
5. Neither house can adjourn without the consent of the other house. If they cannot agree on adjournment, the governor may adjourn the General Assembly.

### Lobbies in Illinois

Also found in Springfield during every session of the General Assembly are *lobbies*. These organized groups seek to influence lawmakers. Most of these lobbies operate legally under the laws controlling them, and some of them do a service of informing our

lawmakers. However, there are some instances where these lobbies exert too much influence, and the views of other citizens are overlooked.

An example of lobbying would be the music industry hiring representatives to advocate for laws against music downloading and file sharing. The lobbyists would examine current legislation and regulations, as well as talk to musicians and music store owners about how current laws on online music sharing affect them. The lobbyists may also attend legislative hearings when new legislation on copyright law is discussed to tell lawmakers how the legislation would affect the music industry. They might also hold press conferences to inform the general public on the issue and to gain wider support for their goal. The above example reflects a professional lobbyist, however, lobbying can be as simple as a constituent contacting his or her legislator by phone to express an opinion on pending legislation.

### QUESTIONS

1. What are lobbies? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Give an example of a lobbying group. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. No bill can pass the Senate or House except by three-fifths vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Bills may start in either house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The lawmaking process is discussed in Article IV of the state constitution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Bills must cover at least three subjects.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Each house must have approval of the other to adjourn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. If the governor's veto results in the bill being passed by a three-fifths vote in each house, the bill will be law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Legislators may hold only one additional public (government) job in the state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The governor has 30 days to consider a bill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Bills must be read on three different days (by title) before final vote.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. If the governor doesn't act on a bill within 60 days, it automatically becomes a law.

### DEFINE

1. veto \_\_\_\_\_
2. bill \_\_\_\_\_
3. adjourn \_\_\_\_\_
4. legislation \_\_\_\_\_



*"The Executive Branch shall include a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer elected by the electors of the state . . ." — Illinois Constitution, Article V*

## The Governor

The executive branch of Illinois enforces and administers the laws. The governor is assisted by the lieutenant governor, who becomes governor if the governor cannot continue to serve. The governor is the most important officer in the executive branch.

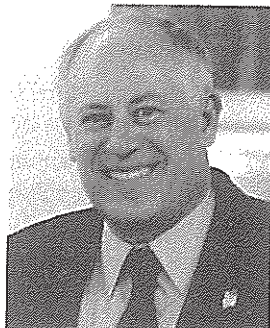
The governor, as well as the lieutenant governor, must be at least 25 years old, a resident of the state for the three years preceding the election, and a U.S. citizen. Unlike the president, a governor does not need to be a natural-born citizen. The governor receives a salary of \$170,804 and can be reelected. The lieutenant governor receives a salary of \$139,200. The governor's term of office is four years. The order of succession to the governor's office is: lieutenant governor; the attorney general; secretary of state.

The governor, besides enforcing and administering the law, also has the important duty of vetoing or approving bills passed by the General Assembly.

The governor of the State of Illinois has many other important duties. Among these are:

1. The governor appoints many members of the state government. Many of these appointments require the approval of the state senate. The governor may also remove any of these officials he or she feels are incompetent.
2. With the approval of the General Assembly, the governor may reorganize any executive agencies in the state that are responsible to the governor.
3. The governor may grant pardons, commutations, and reprieves as he or she thinks proper.
4. The governor, at the beginning of each session and at the close of the governor's term of office, shall report to the General Assembly on the condition of the state.
5. The governor is commander-in-chief of the state militia, except in cases of national emergency when they are called into federal service. (They are then under the control of the President of the United States.)
6. The governor may call special sessions of the General Assembly.
7. Each year the governor must submit a state budget to the General Assembly for its consideration.

*The current governor of Illinois is Pat Quinn. Quinn was reelected governor in the 2010 Illinois General Election. His current term will expire in 2014.*



## Veto

The governor has three types of vetoes:

1. The *regular veto* in which the whole bill is rejected, much like the veto of the president.
2. The *item or reduction veto*. This is for appropriation bills only, where the governor simply changes the appropriation. The houses can pass this appropriation by simply accepting the appropriation change.
3. The *amendatory veto*. If the governor notes specific recommendations, the General Assembly can pass a bill by simply accepting the specific recommendations.

The governor's office is similar in some ways to the office of the President of the United States. However, there are some differences. Some of the most important differences are the lack of foreign affairs and national defense in the responsibilities of the governor. We might also assume that the governor has a somewhat less demanding job.

Illinois has had many famous and talented men serve as governor. The lives of these men make an interesting and worthwhile study. Illinois has yet to elect a woman governor.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are the qualifications for governor? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the order of succession to the office of governor? \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a *T* or *F* in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The General Assembly cannot be called into special session.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The governor may remove any officer he has appointed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The governor has the job of enforcing the law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The governor is the commander-in-chief of the state militia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The governor's salary is \$170,804.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The governor is in charge of foreign affairs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The governor cannot grant pardons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The governor's term of office is four years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The governor may veto a bill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The governor must be 35 years old or older.

## DEFINE

1. reprieves \_\_\_\_\_
2. commutations \_\_\_\_\_
3. agency \_\_\_\_\_
4. pardons \_\_\_\_\_
5. militia \_\_\_\_\_
6. succession \_\_\_\_\_



### Other Members of the Executive Branch

Although the governor is probably the most well-known member of the executive branch, there are many other individuals who contribute to the smooth operation of state government. The Illinois Constitution provides for five constitutional officers in addition to the governor, all have the same qualifications and term as the governor.

Article V of the state constitution gives the following description of these officers:

#### Lieutenant Governor

"The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties and exercise the powers in the executive branch that may be delegated to him (or her) by the Governor and that may be prescribed by law." These responsibilities include:

- serving as governor if the current governor is unable to serve due to death, disability, impeachment, resignation, or absence from the state;
- chairing several different boards and councils and serving on many committees, often acting as the governor's representative.

#### Attorney General

"The attorney general shall be the legal officer of the state, and shall have the duties and powers prescribed by law." This summarizes into these responsibilities:

- providing legal and criminal investigation for the state, including investigating consumer complaints;
- providing legal representation for the state and advising state offices of their legal rights.

#### Secretary of State

"The secretary of state shall maintain the official records of the acts of the General Assembly and such official records of the executive branch as provided by law....He (or she) shall keep the Great Seal of the State of Illinois and perform other duties that may be prescribed by law." In addition to the details above, this office is also responsible for:

- issuing licenses to Illinois-registered motor vehicles and their drivers;
- registering and licensing businesses in Illinois.

#### Comptroller

"The comptroller...shall maintain the state's central fiscal accounts, and order payments into and out of funds held by the treasurer."

#### Treasurer

"Treasurer...shall be responsible for the safekeeping and investment of monies and securities deposited with him (or her), for their disbursement upon order of the comptroller."

Some legislators believe there is a redundancy between the offices of Comptroller and Treasurer, proposing constitutional amendments to merge the two offices.

### Terms of Office

All executive officers are elected together and serve for four years after each election. This arrangement was part of the 1970 Constitutional Convention that decided that the officials of the State of Illinois should be elected at the same time, but not when the President of the United States is elected (2016, 2020, etc.). Instead, the state officers will be elected in off-presidential years (2014, 2018, etc.).

### Executive Department Organizations

Various departments of the executive branch are organized to carry out specific tasks of the branch. These are called *Civil Administrative Code Departments*. The most important of these departments are: Aeronautics, Agriculture, Conservation, Finance, Labor, Mines Safety, Public Aid, Public Works and Buildings, Registration and Education, Revenue, Personnel, Children and Family Services, Insurance, Mental Health, and Financial Institutions. The governor has the responsibility of selecting and appointing the heads of these departments.

Besides the code departments, there are also a great number of independent boards and commissions under authority of the governor. Some of these boards and commissions are permanent, while others exist only for a short time and are dissolved after their particular jobs are finished. Some of the better known of these boards and commissions are: Racing Board, Fair Employment Practices Commission, Human Relations Commission, and the Toll Highway Commission. These commissions are also appointed by the governor.

### QUESTIONS

**WHICH STATE OFFICIAL?** Fill in the blank with the correct state-elected executive official.

1. Keeps the Great Seal. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Maintains the records of the General Assembly. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Chief legal officer. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Maintains central fiscal accounts. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Exercises powers assigned by governor. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Safekeeping of monies and securities. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Issues drivers' licenses. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All state executive officers serve four-year terms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Civil Administrative Code Departments are in the executive branch.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The governor appoints the independent boards and commissions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The governor is elected at the same election as the president.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Year 2014 is a presidential election year.



"The judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court, and Appellate Court, and Circuit Courts." — Illinois Constitution Article VI.

The judicial branch of government in Illinois administers justice and interprets the laws. It is composed of a system of courts.

### Circuit Courts

Circuit courts are the *general trial courts*. In these courts, cases are heard and judgments are made. The constitution says that this court has jurisdiction, "...of all justiciable matters..." Most of the work on the state court system takes place in these courts.

Circuit court judges are elected by the voters for six-year terms. There are appointed associate circuit court judges, and they have four-year terms. The number of judges is provided by law.

### Appellate Court

This court hears appeals from the circuit courts. The appellate court is organized into five districts. The first meets in Chicago, the second in Elgin, the third in Ottawa, the fourth in Springfield, and the fifth in Mt. Vernon. The judges serve 10-year terms and the number of judges is provided by law. A panel of three judges hears the appeal and makes a ruling.

### Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in the following cases: revenue, mandamus, and habeas corpus. Otherwise, it is simply the final court of appeal on all other state matters that come from the circuit court on appeal. The judges are elected by the people to serve 10-year terms. There are seven Supreme Court judges: three from the First Judicial District and one each from the second, third, fourth, and fifth districts. The seven justices select one of their members to act as chief justice for a three-year term. A *quorum* of four justices is required for transaction of court business and there must be agreement among at least four justices on any decision or opinion rendered by the court.

### Reelection

Once judges have been elected, they may run for reelection on their records, without opposition. In these cases voters simply vote yes or no on their retention. If three-fifths say yes, the judge gets another term. If three-fifths approval is not obtained, the judge must be replaced.

### Districts

Much of the state judicial organization and provisions are too complex to be given here. However, the most important facts are found above and the organizing of

districts is quite basic. The state is divided into five judicial districts. The First Judicial District is Cook County, and the remainder of the state is divided into four districts of approximately equal population.

### Qualifications

All judges must be citizens, licensed attorneys of the state and residents of the districts from which they were elected. Judges must devote full time to their judicial duties and may not engage in law practice or hold another office, including offices in political parties. Judges can be disciplined by a Judicial Board of Inquiry and a Courts Commission. All courts of the state are under the supervision of the chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

### Visiting a Court

While all details of the state court system are complex, you can learn a lot about your state court system by visiting a local court. A circuit court is located not far from your home and probably has hours that would allow you to watch the proceedings of some of the cases that come before it. The *Illinois Blue Book* in your school or town library will give you more details on the courts, if you should want to do further research.

### QUESTIONS

**MULTIPLE CHOICE** - Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- Which of the following is not a state court?  
a. District Court                      b. Supreme Court  
c. Appellate Court                  d. Circuit Court
- The judges with the shortest terms are:  
a. Supreme Court                      b. Appellate  
c. Circuit                                  d. District
- The state is divided into how many judicial districts?  
a. one                      b. three                      c. five                      d. 50
- How are judges usually selected?  
a. by the governor                      b. by General Assembly  
c. by the people                          d. by lot
- Most of the state's court cases would take place in the following court:  
a. Circuit                                  b. Appellate  
c. Supreme                                  d. District

### SHORT ANSWER

- What are the qualifications for judges in Illinois?

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- What are three types of courts in Illinois?

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## Introduction

In a democracy, a citizen has the responsibility for the government under which he or she lives. By voting and staying informed on the issues he or she takes part in the business of government. With every freedom we enjoy, there are also corresponding duties. We must perform these duties, such as voting, if we expect to enjoy our freedom.

Voting is a constitutional right. Early in American history, only white men over the age of 21 could vote. Then it took two constitutional amendments — one in 1870 and the other in 1920 — to give black people and women, respectively, the right to vote. Then, when Americans 18 and older were in the military fighting in wars, people began to think that if young people were old enough to die for their country, they were surely old enough to vote. So in 1971, the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave 18-year-olds the right to vote, and so did the state of Illinois.

## Primaries

*Primaries* are elections held before the general election in which party members select the candidates of their party, mainly the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The winners of these primaries then face each other in the upcoming general election. Primaries are held in February before the fall general elections.

## General Elections

The most publicized elections in Illinois are the *general elections*. They are *biennial* elections. That is, they are held every two years in even numbered years. Illinois residents also vote for the President of the United States in every other general election. The next presidential election in Illinois will be 2016. President Obama will not be eligible to run, as he will have served the maximum number of terms for a president (two). You will read about the 2012 Illinois General Election on the following page.

## Other Types of Illinois Elections

Other types of Illinois elections include judicial, township, municipal, school, village, park district and some other miscellaneous elections. Many of these occur in the spring elections. Their dates are established by law. Watch your newspapers for elections that may be affecting your local area.

## Absentee Ballots & Early Voting

When voters are going to be absent from the voting area on Election Day, they may apply for an *absentee ballot*. Voters who are sick, or meet certain other requirements, may also request an absentee ballot. Your local election officials can provide details on absentee ballots.

Many registered voters in Illinois are unable to vote in person at the polling place on Election Day. Early voting was created to allow the voter to vote in a designated polling place during the 22nd day through the 5th day preceding an election without having to supply an excuse or reason.

## Voting Requirements

In Illinois, like any state, a citizen must obey the election laws. They also must meet the requirements that have been set up by those laws. Illinois requirements include:

1. A voter must be at least 18 years old on Election Day.
2. A voter must have lived in the election district for at least 30 days.
3. A voter must be a citizen.
4. A voter must register with the local election district at least 28 days before the election.

## Referendums

Voters in Illinois are sometimes asked to do more than just vote for elected officials. Sometimes they vote on public issues such as bond issues of governmental bodies or changes in the state constitution. One of the better known *referendums* are the ones school districts use to ask voters about building new schools.

### Upcoming Elections in Illinois

**Upcoming Illinois General Elections:** 2014, 2016, 2018 (2014 and 2018, will include the governor)

**Upcoming Presidential Elections:** 2016, 2020

\*General elections are always held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in even-numbered years.

## QUESTIONS

### SHORT ANSWER

1. When is the next general election? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How often is a general election held? \_\_\_\_\_
3. On what day are general elections held? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are some other kinds of elections? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you are going to be absent on Election Day, how can you still vote? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What are the requirements for voters? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the purpose of a primary election? \_\_\_\_\_



### 2010 Illinois General Election

The race for Governor of Illinois was the most important issue for the voters in Illinois. Although Republicans won a number of governorships in other states, Democrat Pat Quinn was elected Governor of Illinois. Since the governor and lieutenant governor run on the same ballot, Sheila Simon became the Lieutenant Governor of Illinois. Earlier in the year, Governor Quinn, signed legislation requiring candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to be jointly nominated at the primary election. The law takes effect January 1, 2011, making 2010 the last electoral cycle for Illinois' separate ticket balloting system for its highest offices.

Republican Mark Kirk was elected as one of Illinois' two U.S. senators. The other senator, who was not up for reelection, was Democrat Dick Durbin. He will be seeking his fourth term in the 2014 election.

Other Illinois 2010 election winners were:

- Jesse White (D) – secretary of state
- Lisa Madigan (D) – attorney general
- Dan Rutherford (D) – treasurer
- Judy Baar Topinka (R) – comptroller



The Illinois Capitol Building - With a 361-foot high dome, it is 74 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol.

### 2012 Presidential Election in Illinois

Democratic President Barack Obama faced Republican Mitt Romney in the presidential election of 2012. The president defeated Mr. Romney and won a second term as U.S. president. In Illinois, which is typically Democratic, Obama won 57% of the popular vote with a total of 2,916,811 votes. This gave the president the state's 20 electoral votes.

President Obama flew back to Chicago to place his vote for president with the early voting process. Although he resides more than 700 miles from Chicago, at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, in Washington, D.C., he is still eligible to vote in Illinois. Because of his "serving the people," Illinois allows anyone who has resided in the state and in the election district 30 days before the election to cast a vote.

It is a great honor to have someone from your state elected as President of the United States. Although

not born in Illinois, Mr. Obama has deep roots in Illinois. Before being elected president, he was a two-term senator in the Illinois State Senate and had worked with community groups in the Chicago area along with a number of political causes.

### 2012 General Election in Illinois

The 2012 Presidential Election also included a general election for:

- All 18 members of the U.S. House of Representatives
- All 118 members of the Illinois House of Representatives and 59 members of the Illinois Senate
- A number of other state and local officials

In the races for the U.S. House, Democrats benefited from redistricting (due to population changes) by picking up four seats. Democrats also retained control of both state General Assembly houses.

The next general election in Illinois will be held on November 4, 2014, and will include the governor's office.

### Constitutional Convention in Illinois

The Illinois Constitution requires that every 20 years voters must be given a choice whether or not to call for a new constitutional convention, write a new constitution, or make changes in the old one. In 2008, Illinois voters were asked if they wanted to have a constitutional convention since it had been 20 years since they were asked. The voters soundly defeated such a constitutional convention. That question will be asked again in 2028.

### The Two-Party System

Our political party system is called the *two-party system* because most elections are won by a candidate from either the Democratic or Republican Party. The many smaller or special interest parties in the country may also try to elect a candidate.

### QUESTIONS

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. When is the next presidential election in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who became the newest Illinois U.S. senator in the 2010 election? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who won the popular vote for U.S. president in the 2012 election? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is an incumbent? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the three-term senator from Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When will Governor Quinn's post be up for reelection? \_\_\_\_\_



A *municipality* (city, village or town) is created upon the request of, or with the consent of, the residents in order that they may provide for themselves the services that they need or desire. Some of these services are: fire and police protection, cultural and recreational facilities, water and sewer systems, street construction, traffic regulations, building and zoning regulation, and general health and welfare of the community.

There are more municipalities in Illinois than in any other state in the Union. More than 1,280 places are incorporated as cities, towns, and villages. All these are governed by the state laws dealing with local government, particularly the *Cities and Villages Act*.

Any municipality, except Chicago (see special section on Chicago on Page 65), may organize its government under the following forms of local government: mayor and council, trustee village, strong mayor, commission, council-manager.

### Mayor and Council Form

In the mayor and council form of government, the size of the council ranges from six to 20 depending on the population of the city. Cities are divided into wards, with one, two, or three aldermen (usually two). This council is the legislative body for the town and passes local laws. The mayor presides over council meetings, and he may vote in cases of a tie. He or she may veto measures from the council, but that board can override his veto by two-thirds vote.

The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city and he or she enforces all laws and appoints some city officers, with council approval. A city clerk and city treasurer are also elected. Almost all terms of office under this form are for four years.

### Trustee Village

Under this plan there are six trustees (like aldermen above) and a village president (like mayor above). Officials are elected for two- or four-year terms, usually four. A village clerk is also elected, and the board may appoint a treasurer and other officers as needed.

### Commission Form

All cities and villages of less than 200,000 population may select the commission form of government. This form provides an elected mayor and four commissioners to serve four-year terms. There is no division into wards or districts. The duties of city government are divided among these officers. There are no other elected officers.

### Council Manager Form

This form may be adopted by cities and villages by referendum. The municipality may retain its structure as mayor council, trustee village, or commission while adopting the manager form. The difference is when this form is added a professionally trained manager is selected as manager of the city government by the council.

### Strong Mayor

This form of city government was added by statute in 1969. The mayor, clerk, and treasurer are elected at large and from eight to 20 aldermen are elected from wards, usually for four-year terms. Besides his regular duties as mayor, the mayor gets almost complete executive powers, and the council is only legislative. As an example, the mayor does not need legislative approval of any of his appointments. This strengthening of the mayor's position is why the system is called "strong" mayor.

### Home Rule and the 1970 Constitution

Prior to the 1970 Constitution, local governments had only the powers granted specifically by the General Assembly. The 1970 Constitution Convention felt that the local governments must be given more power to deal with the complex problems of urban life. These new powers were called "home rule" and gave the cities and towns the powers to pass ordinances "for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare" or, within certain limitation, to tax and to incur debt, all without specific legislation from the General Assembly.

### QUESTIONS

**WHICH FORM OF GOVERNMENT?** Write the form of local government that matches the statement below.

1. The duties of the city government are handled by commissioners. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A professionally trained officer is selected as administrator. \_\_\_\_\_
3. There is a mayor and aldermen, and aldermen must approve the mayor's appointments. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The mayor does not need legislative approval of his appointments. \_\_\_\_\_

### SHORT ANSWER

What is home rule? \_\_\_\_\_



In addition to the municipalities discussed earlier, there are other local governments that support the people of Illinois. These include *special-purpose districts*, *counties*, and *townships*. If you add all the local government units you will find that Illinois has the most of any state, over 6,600 local governments. These local governments influence much of state and federal policies.

### Special-Purpose Districts

For the purpose of providing special services for the people of Illinois, various special-purpose districts have been created. An example of a very common special-purpose district is the public school district. Other special-service districts would be: forest preserve, transit authority, library district, mosquito abatement district, park district, and soil conservation district.

### County

There are 102 counties in Illinois. All counties carry out state policy of a general nature: they enforce laws, prosecute offenders, build and maintain roads, keep records, conduct elections, assess property, and collect taxes. In addition, counties are authorized to provide a variety of local government services, such as public health and planning, licensing, regulating the use of land, and establishing such diverse services as health care, hospitals, parks, and libraries. Every county has a governing body known as the county board. Other officers include: sheriff, clerk, and treasurer. A coroner, recorder, assessor, auditor, and others can be either appointed or elected depending on the particular county.

### Township

The counties are divided into townships. Like the county, the township has certain specific powers and is subject to state restriction and supervision. Township affairs are administered by elected officials including: supervisor, clerk, assessor, and trustees. The three main functions of township government in Illinois are:

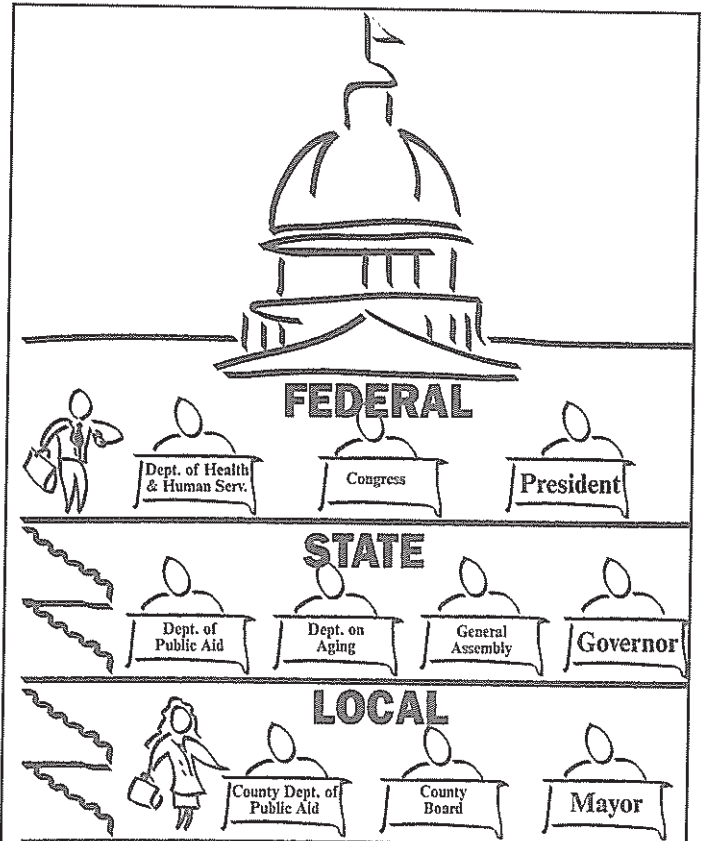
1. Construction and maintenance of rural roads and bridges.
2. General assistance to the needy.
3. Assessment of property. There are also miscellaneous functions, such as voter registration, cemeteries, and mental health facilities.

### The Woman Who Would Be Governor

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon is next in line for the governor of Illinois if something should happen to the current governor. She has had a long career as a lawyer, teacher, and public servant. Her father, Paul Simon, was one of the most respected senators in the United States Senate. There has never been a woman governor in Illinois.



Sheila Simon became Governor Pat Quinn's running mate in the November 2010 General Election despite not appearing as a candidate in the original primary election.



There are three main levels of government — federal, state, and local. Often the three must coordinate what they offer to you. For example, the federal Department of Human Services might provide funding for a health program. Then, the state Department of Public Aid makes sure that the program gets to the county level and then to you.

### QUESTIONS

**TRUE OR FALSE?** Write a *T* or *F* in the space provided.

1. There are 102 counties in Illinois.
2. There are more townships than counties.
3. A school district is a special-purpose district.
4. A sheriff is a township officer.
5. Some county officers are elected.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. What county do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What township? \_\_\_\_\_

### For Your Information

**Interested in state history?** Illinois can be rightfully proud of its history. Students who study this history will find a rewarding story. Among the books and magazines on Illinois history, students will find Illinois History Magazine an interesting study. Copies can be found in your school or local library or by writing the magazine at the Centennial Building, Springfield, Illinois, or searching on the Internet. This magazine is written by students like you.

The city of Chicago plays a very important role in the state of Illinois. About one-third of Illinois residents live in Chicago. The 2010 population of the city based on the census was about 2.7 million, making it the third largest city in the United States. Chicago's population by race and Hispanic origin is about 1.2 million white, 880,000 black, and more than 750,000 Hispanic. As with other large cities, Chicago faces serious challenges. Problems in the area of pollution and providing equal opportunity for all citizens will continue to challenge the leaders and citizens of Chicago.

### City of Chicago Government

The city government is divided into the usual three branches: *executive*, *legislative*, and *judicial*. However, the judicial is really part of the state court system, since regular state courts have jurisdiction in Chicago (see Page 48). Chicago is divided into 50 *wards*; each ward selects one alderman or alderwoman to represent that ward. The 50 aldermen or alderwomen make up the *city council*. (See next column.)

Chicago is restricted to the mayor and council form of municipal government (see Page 64). City elections take place in February and April every fourth year (2015, 2019, etc.).

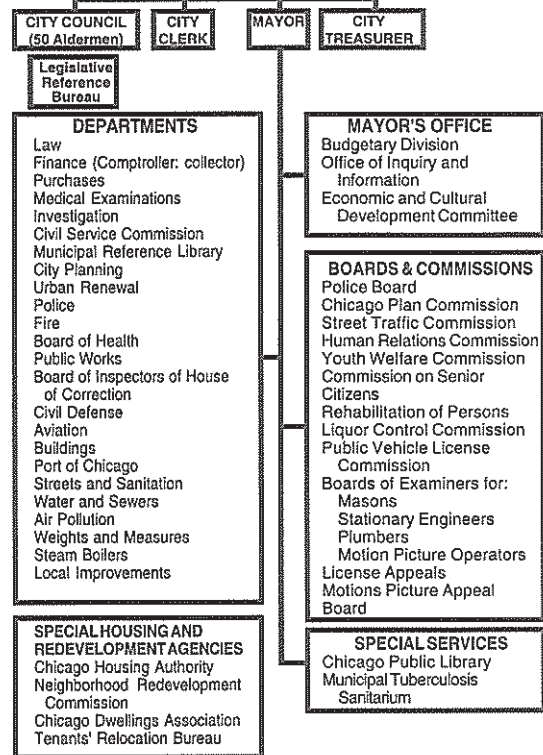
In February every fourth year, the voters elect the 50 aldermen, and in elections where they have a majority, they are declared elected. Again in February, the voters have primary elections for other offices. In April, the voters elect the mayor, the city clerk, the city treasurer, and the remainder of the aldermen who did not have a majority in the February elections. There is also a primary election for mayor in February. A *primary* is an election where each party decides who its candidate for office will be.

The mayor is elected for a four-year term. The mayor directs the city departments, presides over the meetings of the city council, and has veto rights over measures passed in the city council. A two-thirds vote is necessary to override the mayor's veto.

Early in 2011, Mayor Richard J. Daley decided not to seek reelection in the April 2011 election. Mayor Daley had been elected in five mayoral elections (1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007), was the longest serving mayor in Chicago's history, and was a very popular mayor.

Rahm Emanuel, who had been President Obama's White House Chief of Staff, resigned and returned to Chicago to run for mayor. In February 2011, Rahm Emanuel was elected with 324,000 votes to second place candidate Gery Chico's 140,000 votes.

### CHICAGO CITY GOVERNMENT CHICAGO VOTERS ELECT



Running a city as large as Chicago is a serious and difficult responsibility. Mayor Emanuel began policy-making decisions and selecting candidates for his administration in the spring of 2011.

### The City Council

The city council is made up of 50 aldermen or alderwomen, one from each ward. They are elected for four-year terms. The city council is the legislative body for the city of Chicago. There are standing committees that help discharge the work of the city council. There are many boards, commissions, and agencies that work under the direction of the mayor and city council.

### QUESTIONS

#### SHORT ANSWER

- How many aldermen or alderwomen are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many wards are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the term of the mayor? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who presides over the city council? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the branches of government? \_\_\_\_\_
- What form of government does Chicago have? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name of the city's legislative body? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the population of the city? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who is mayor of Chicago? \_\_\_\_\_



Over \$1 trillion is spent by the state and local government in our country each year. The graph to the right will show you how the tax money is collected and spent in the state of Illinois each year.

Today's state and local governments provide such services as public schools, welfare, police, mass transit, public health programs, courts, and highway construction. The money to pay for these services comes from taxes and other sources, such as federal grants and revenue from business operated by the state and local governments. Most of the money, however, is provided by taxes.

### Limitations on State Taxation

The state's taxation power is limited by the federal Constitution, the state's own laws, and its own constitution. The federal Constitution, for instance, does not allow states to make import or export taxes, nor are states allowed to tax commerce between states. The U.S. Constitution prohibits states from taxing federal property, such as military bases. In addition, the 14th Amendment says that taxes must be administered fairly and for public purposes.

### Sales Taxes

Taxes on the sale of goods, called sales taxes, provide states with more than half of their incomes. Forty-five states, including Illinois, have a general sales tax.

### Income Taxes

Forty-three states, including Illinois, tax personal income. Forty-six states make corporations pay tax on their incomes, as well. Illinois has a corporate income tax also. Over one-third of states' tax revenues are provided by income tax. Illinois' specific position is shown on the graph on this page.

### Property Taxes

The traditional source of tax money for state and local government has been the tax on property. While less important now on the state level, it currently provides most of the revenue for local government.

### State Budgets

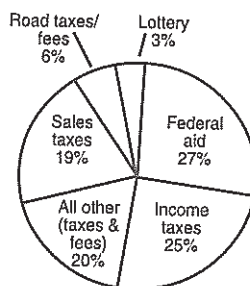
State budgets may be critical today, but until the 1920s, they were generally put together in a confused manner with each state department fighting for funds. Today's budgets must be carefully drawn. The four major areas to which most state budgets give money are education, highways, public welfare, and retirement and unemployment benefits.

Although it is the governor, in most states, who has the responsibility to make the budget, he or she usually has a professional budget director and staff. In Illinois, the governor presents the budget early in the year in a speech to the General Assembly in Springfield. They may make changes, but the completed budget must be ready by the first Wednesday in March.

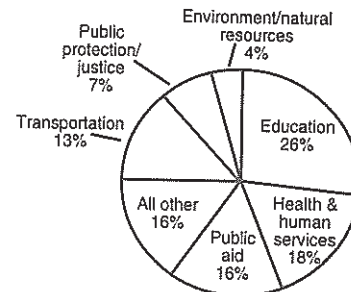
Annual tax revenues in Illinois now exceed \$51 billion. Collecting and spending such funds is indeed a tremendous responsibility for the governor and the General Assembly. If citizens want to see this money collected fairly, and spent wisely, they need to be involved and informed citizens. By participating in your current studies, you are beginning to meet your responsibility.

### Recent Typical Illinois Budget

#### WHERE IT COMES FROM



#### WHERE IT GOES



### Present Illinois Budget Crisis

Governor Pat Quinn has found that his biggest current challenge is the state budget crisis that Illinois is experiencing. There may be as much as a \$15 billion deficit facing Illinois in 2012-2013. That means that Illinois would be \$15 billion dollars short when it came to paying for bills.

In early 2011, Governor Quinn supported a temporary increase of the personal state income tax from 3 to 5 percent and an increase in some of the corporate taxes. The Illinois House and Senate approved these increases. These taxes are predicted to raise about \$7 billion in annual taxes for Illinois. State social service agencies have been hard hit by the financial problems of the state.

### QUESTIONS

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

- The annual Illinois budget is presented by the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The budget is presented to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The budget must be ready by \_\_\_\_\_.
- States are not allowed to make *i* \_\_\_\_\_ or *e* \_\_\_\_\_ taxes.
- Annual tax revenues in Illinois exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ billion.

#### TRUE OR FALSE? Write a *T* or *F* in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The U.S. Constitution puts some limitations on state taxation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Illinois does not receive any money from the federal government.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Illinois does not have a lottery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Education is the biggest item in Illinois spending.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Illinois gets very little money from income taxes.

- I. Illinois has had three capitals since it became a state in 1818: Kaskaskia, Vandalia, and now Springfield.
- II. There have been four constitutions: 1818, 1848, 1870, and the new Constitution of 1970, which provides the pattern for a more modern state government.

### The Three Branches of Illinois Constitutional Government

#### I. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- A. Main duty: make laws
- B. Main body is the General Assembly, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, selected from legislative districts in state.
  1. Members of the General Assembly must be 21 or older, residents of the district at least two years, and be citizens.
  2. Salaries (see Page 57)
  3. Duties of the General Assembly include making laws, conducting investigations, revising the constitution, and planning redistricting.
  4. Lawmaking process: bills must pass both houses and be sent to the governor;
    - a. if the governor signs, the bill is law; he or she has 60 days and if he or she doesn't act in 60 days the bill is law;
    - b. if the governor vetoes, the houses can try to pass by three-fifths vote, and if they do, bill is law over veto.
- C. Two houses
  1. The House of Representatives
    - a. 118 members, one from each of the 118 representative districts
    - b. Your local representative is \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Term: two years, election in even-numbered years
    - d. Powers: pass bills and send to Senate, start impeachment
    - e. Officers: speaker of the House, elected by House representatives
  2. The Senate
    - a. 59 members, one from each of the 59 senatorial districts
    - b. Your local state senator is \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Terms: four years, half selected every even-numbered year
    - d. Powers: pass bills and send to House, try impeachments, approve governor's appointments
    - e. Officers: president of Senate, elected by Senate

#### II. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- A. Main duty: enforce laws
- B. Officers
  1. The governor administers the laws, appoints and has other duties (Salary: see Page 59).
  2. The lieutenant governor assumes jobs assigned by the governor (Salary: see Page 59).
  3. The attorney general, the secretary of state, and the comptroller, all assume duties discussed on Page 60.
  4. Terms: four years
  5. Also, many Civil Administrative Code Departments, with department heads are appointed by the governor (see Page 60).
  6. Many independent boards and commissions are appointed by the governor (see Page 60).

#### III. JUDICIAL BRANCH

- A. Main duty: interpret laws, administer justice
- B. Court system is divided into three types of courts and the state is divided into five judicial districts:
  1. Supreme Court, original jurisdiction in some cases, final court of appeal in cases from circuit court, seven judges, 10-year elected terms;
  2. Appellate Court, hears appeals from circuit court; number fixed by law; 10-year terms for judges;
  3. Circuit courts, general trial courts, judges selected for six-year terms, number provided by law; associate judges are appointed by circuit court judges to four-year terms.

For voting and municipal government reviews, see Pages 62-64; for Chicago, see Page 66; for Illinois statistics and geography, see Page 55; for taxation and finance, see Page 67; for special-purpose districts, see Page 65.

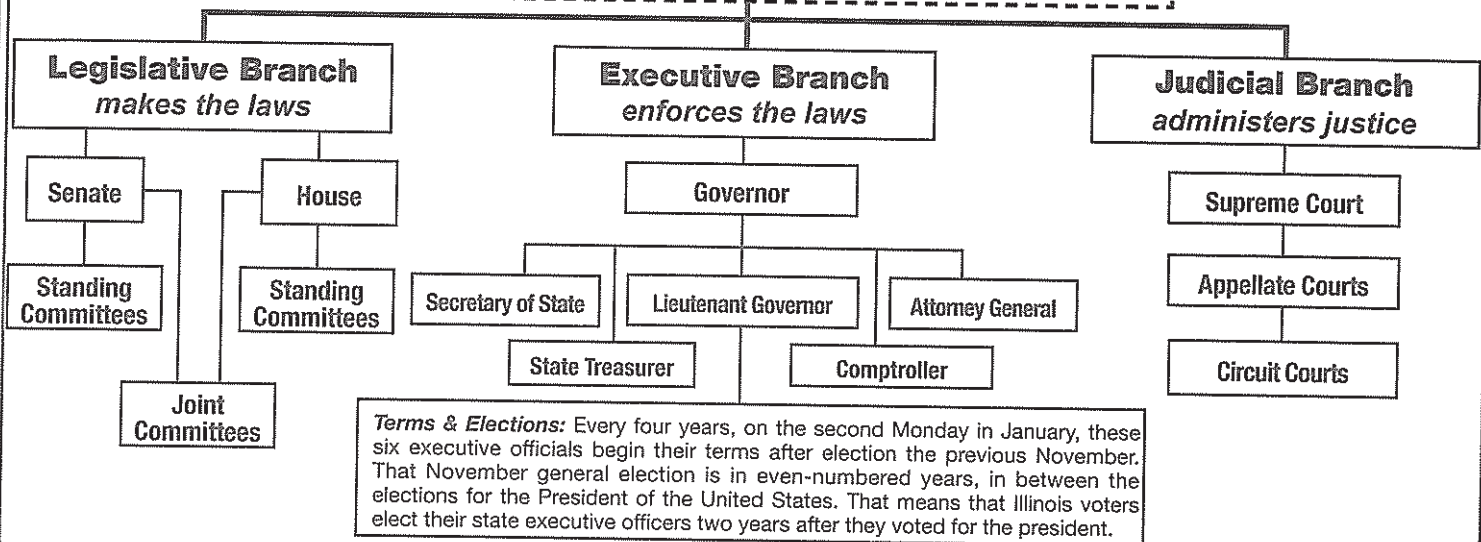


**ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION**

Illinois has had four Constitutions:  
1818, 1848, 1870, and the present one in 1970

**The Voters of Illinois**

Qualifications: at least 18 years old, live in district at least 30 days, must be a citizen, must be registered to vote

**Legislative Branch Quick Facts:**

The Illinois General Assembly is made up of the state Senate and state House of Representatives.

body	members	terms	qualifications	annual salary
Senate	59	4 years	Each member of the General Assembly, both Senate and House, must be 21 years old or older, a resident of the district for two years, and a citizen	\$67,836
House	118	2 years		\$67,836

\*General Assembly meets annually in Springfield beginning the second Wednesday in January.

**Executive Branch Quick Facts:**

The Illinois Constitution provides for six executive officers.

executive officer	terms	notes	annual salary
Governor	4 years	To be eligible for each of the executive offices of Illinois, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 25 years old, and a resident of the state for three years before the election.	\$170,804
Lieutenant Governor	4 years		\$139,200
Secretary of State	4 years		\$139,400
Attorney General	4 years		\$153,198
State Treasurer	4 years		\$120,800
Comptroller	4 years		\$120,800

**Judicial Branch Quick Facts - The Illinois Court System:**

Circuit Court	Appellate Court	Supreme Court
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organized within 22 judicial circuits</li> <li>divided into felony, misdemeanors, small claims, family, juvenile and other courts</li> <li>judges elected by the voters in each circuit to six-year terms</li> <li>associate judges are appointed to four-year terms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organized into five judicial districts</li> <li>three justices hear each appellate case</li> <li>judges elected by the voters in each district to 10-year terms</li> <li>a panel of three judges hears the appeals and makes a ruling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>final court of appeal for state matters</li> <li>seven Supreme Court judges, select one of their members to act as chief justice for a three-year term</li> <li>judges elected by the voters to 10-year terms</li> <li>all courts of the state are under the supervision of the chief justice</li> </ul>