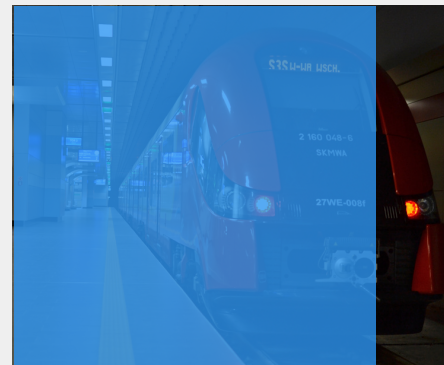


Aii Virtual Classroom

Grades 5-8

Are you ready to tackle the world's biggest challenges and make a difference? Equipped with the right knowledge and skills, there is nothing students can't do! Get started today learning all you need to know about technology, innovation, public policy, and infrastructure!

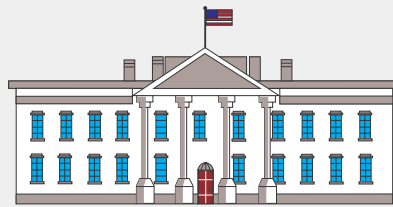


U.S. Policy & Regulation

What are the three branches of government and how do they work? Learn how law, regulation, and policy are made for infrastructure, transportation, and innovative technology!



The Legislative Branch



The Executive Branch



The Judicial Branch

Enforcement and Authority



The Executive is the **enforcer**. It cannot make law or adjudicate law.



Congress is the **legislator**. It cannot enforce law or adjudicate law.



The Judiciary is the **interpreter**. It cannot make law or enforce law.

The Legislative Branch

The United States has a bicameral legislature, with each chamber vested with certain powers and responsibilities.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>U.S. Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apportioned per state • 100 Senators • Six-year terms | <p>U.S. House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apportioned based on population • 435 Members • Two-year terms |
|---|--|

The Executive Branch

The executive power of the United States is vested in the President.

The President signs bills from Congress into law and ensures the laws of Congress are faithfully executed.

The Executive Branch also encompasses the various departments and agencies of the U.S. government. Sometimes called the administrative state or bureaucracy, the Executive Branch is the regulatory body of the U.S.

The Judicial Branch

The judicial power in the United States is vested in the Supreme Court.

The Court exists to interpret law and settle disputes in law and equity. Citizens, organizations, and governments with standing have recourse to address cases and controversies arising under laws and regulations of the United States through the courts.

The federal court system includes: Federal district courts, Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the United States Supreme Court

Laws and Regulations

- 1 Congress makes law, the President signs them into effect and enforces them, and the Judiciary interprets them and settles disputes.
- 2 Only Congress makes law. However, Congress does delegate some authority to the Executive to create regulations with the force of law.
- 3 The Judiciary interprets law and regulation to settle disputes, but Courts are not empowered to write or change law or regulation, nor enforce its rulings.

Documents to Know

The U.S. Constitution

This document created and describes the form of government in the U.S.

The Constitution lays out the form and structure of government in America; the number of House and Senate members and their terms; the tax, spending, war powers; and major functions of government.

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA)

This legislation describes how regulations are made in the U.S.

The APA sets forth the rules for how agencies create regulations. It requires public notice of new proposed rules, a period for public comment, and usually a delayed implementation date.

**A Problem
Exists**
and a law is
already in place

The Executive

May issue an Executive Order detailing how the executive branch will enforce the law to address the problem

The Legislature

May take no action;
Legislate a more specific law; or
Delegate authority to executive agencies

The Judiciary

May hear cases and controversies litigated before it to resolve the matter according to what the law says; but
Cannot issue statements to clarify law or rule on matters not brought before the court

**A Problem
Exists**
and no law is in
place

The Executive

May issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking;
A window for public comment opens;
The agency reviews comments and publishes a final rule, now with the force of law

The Legislature

May legislate a more specific law; or
Delegate authority to executive agencies

The Judiciary

Cannot hear a case unless the litigants have standing and cause of action;
May rule on a case if the issue is constitutional or if another law or rule already addresses the issue between the litigants

Times 50

This overview addresses how law and policy are created at the **federal level**.

The United States of America is a federal republic comprising **50 individual states** – each with their own executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

Every day, policy is being made, interpreted, litigated, repealed, and more across the country. **Federalism** mean each state can have different policies, often conflicting with other states, and sometimes with the federal law. But the Constitution and federal law supersede state law when in conflict.

Got questions?

If our primer missed something crucial or you just want to know more about law or policy, send us a note at info@aii.org.

And visit us on social media to ask more questions! Follow us across social media using the handle [@AiiNonProfit](https://www.instagram.com/AiiNonProfit)

