The Executive Branch: Governor

State & Local Ch.8
Qualifications

• US Citizenship & state residency
• Citizenship requirement; anywhere from no requirement to 20 years.
• Age too ranges from no requirement to 35 years of age
• Resident requirements: 0-7 years
Residency & Age Requirements: varies among states

- At least 35 states require candidates to be minimum of 30 years old
- Some states require candidates to be at least 18 years old
- Eg., California, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, & Wisconsin
- 28 states require candidates to have resident status in the state for at least 5 years
Gubernatorial Requirements & Powers

• Governors are the leaders of state government & can make huge changes in our states

• Very Influential office/person

• Governors serve as chief executives in all 50 states
Chief spokesperson of the state

- Recruits candidates for state office
- Supports and campaigns for candidates for state office
- Commander-in-chief of the National Guard
States grant varying powers to governors: Primary roles

- Governors as chief legislator & chief executive
- Chief of state
- Crisis manager
- Chief judge
- Chief of party, intergovernmental liaison
- Military chief
- Power to veto
- State of the state address
- Prepare & administer the budget
- Sets the agenda
• Executive orders
• Makes appointment
• Emergency powers.
Faithfully Executes laws

- Least politically rewarding for Governor
- Governors spend much time in this function
• Call special legislative sessions
• Agenda Setting
• Work with the state legislature to approve state budgets
• Enact state legislation
• Confirm executive & judicial appointments
• Nominates officials to be a part of the state executive branch & cabinet
• Cabinet is mostly made up of state departments heads & agencies
• Main role is to advise & guide the governor in policy making
• Legislative oversight
• Legislative reviews & approves all of the governors state budgets
Veto Powers

- Full Veto
- Line item veto
Executive Orders

- Many constitutions grant executive orders
- Emergency powers in times of crisis
  - hurricanes, floods, power outages, fires
Term Limits

• Serves a term of 4 years

• Vermont & New Hampshire re exceptions- only 2 years

• States grant varying powers to governors
Informal powers

- Popular support (Bully pulpit)
- Party support
- Ability to communicate
Pol Aspirations

- Incumbency
- Impeachment
- Recall election
- Resignation
- Term limits
Executive Offices

- Lieutenant governor
- State attorney general
- Secretary of state
Other executive offices

- Education superintendent
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Insurance Commissioner

- Pros and cons of electing dep’t heads
The Bureaucracy

- Bureaucracies consist thousands of people who have their own opinion
Public agencies that implement policy

- Enforce rules & regulations
- Manage public programs
- Challenges: Complex environment
  - Conflicting & competing demands of citizens
  - Unclear demands by government & its policies
Need for bureaucracy

• Birth certificate
• Social Security Number
• Driver’s license
• Death certificate
• Tree cutting pre/post hurricane
What does bureaucracy look like?

- Hierarchical
- Division of labor
- Formal rules & procedures
- Maintenance of files & records
- Professional staff
Old politics vs New style politics

- Patronage
- Political corruption
- Influencing pedaling
  vs.
- Performance competence
- Equity and fairness
- Affirmative action