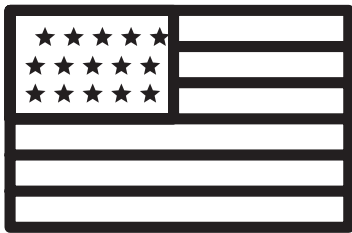




GOVERNMENT BRANCHES

The U.S. Constitution defines the structure and responsibilities of the federal government. The federal government consists of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Each of these branches has a specific responsibility, none more important than the other. By giving each branch an equal role, the framers of the Constitution tried to ensure that no single branch of government would become too powerful. This system is commonly called “checks and balances.” Rhode Island’s state government has a similar structure and division of responsibilities.



The Executive Branch is led by the **President** and is responsible for implementing laws.

The Legislative Branch, otherwise known as **Congress**, is responsible for making laws.

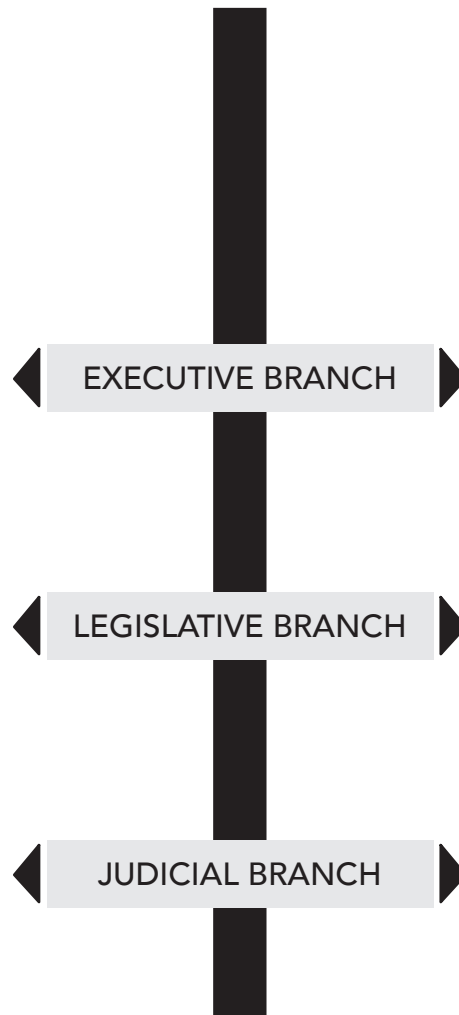
The Judicial Branch is responsible for interpreting laws and ensuring that people’s rights are protected.



The Executive Branch is led by the **Governor** and is responsible for implementing state laws.

The Legislative Branch in Rhode Island is known as the **General Assembly** and is responsible for making state laws.

The Judicial Branch is responsible for interpreting laws and ensuring that people’s rights are protected.



Presidents, Governors, Senators, Representatives, and many city and town officials are elected by the people. This means that all voters have a say in who will run their government. When you turn 18 make sure your voice is heard by **VOTING!**