

# STATE GOVERNORS

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# Roles of the Governor

- Chief Administrator
- Chief Legislator
- Political Party Leader
- Ceremonial Head of State
- Chief Negotiator
- State Opinion Leader
- Crisis Manager

# Chief Administrator

- Coordinate state bureaucracy
- Supervise major state programs
- Oversee preparation of state budget
- Appoint major department heads
- Nominate appointments to boards and commissions

# Chief Legislator

- Initiate major legislative programs
- Navigate relationship with legislators as well as lobbyists
- Use or threat of veto power
- Can also call special sessions of the legislature

# Ceremonial Head of State

- Signing bills
- Welcoming delegations
- Holding conferences
- Welcoming school children, local groups, volunteers, etc.
- Representing the state at regional and national events

# Crisis Manager

- Natural disasters
- Collapsing Infrastructure
- Civil Disorder
- Governors are expected to handle, respond to, and manage all of these crises.

# Becoming and Remaining Governor

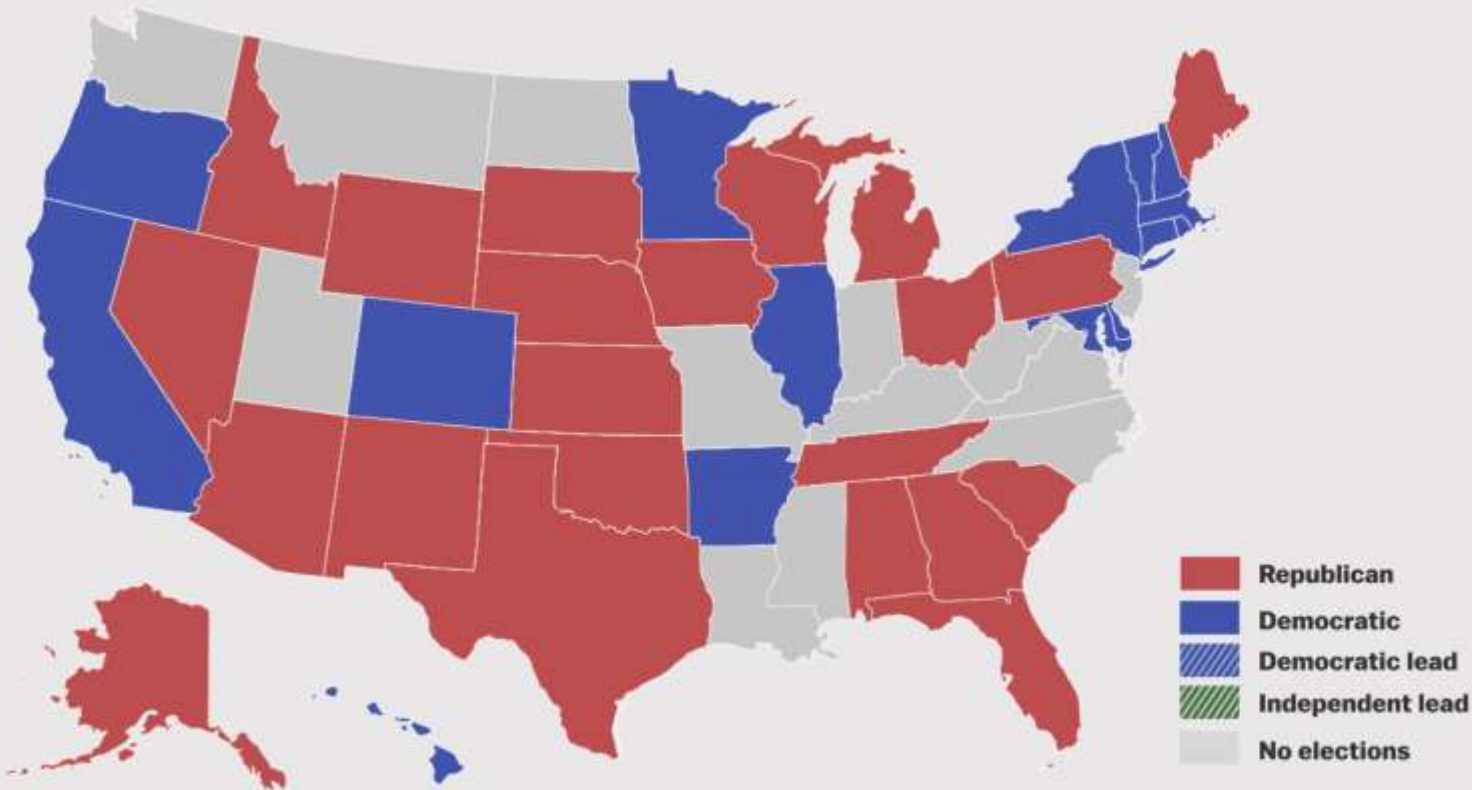
- Demographics
- Prior Experience
  - Ehrenhalt article
- Perks of the job

# Significance of 2014 Midterms

- State Legislatures
- Governorships
- Implications???



# 2014 Gubernatorial Election results



# A Governor's Formal and Informal Powers

- Make appointments
- Prepare the state budget
- Veto legislation
- Issue executive orders
- Command the state National Guard
- Pardon or grant clemency
- Help establish the legislature's agenda.

**TABLE****25-1****Rankings of States According to  
the Formal Powers of the Governor****STRONG**

Alaska  
Arkansas  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Iowa

Massachusetts  
Nebraska  
New York  
Ohio  
West Virginia

**MODERATELY STRONG**

Arizona  
California  
Florida  
Illinois  
Kansas  
Maryland  
Michigan  
Montana

New Jersey  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Tennessee  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wisconsin

**MODERATE**

Delaware  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Indiana  
Kentucky  
Minnesota

Mississippi  
Missouri  
New Hampshire  
North Dakota  
Pennsylvania  
South Dakota  
Texas

**WEAK**

Alabama  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Nevada  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma

Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wyoming

SOURCE: Thad Beyle and Margaret Ferguson, "Governors and the Executive Branch" in Virginia Gray and Russell L. Hanson, eds., *Politics in the American States: A Comparative Analysis*, 9th ed (2006).

# The Job of the Governor

## **Managing the State**

- Modernizing State Administrations
  - Strategic planning
  - Systems analysis
  - Performance measurement and management
  - Customer focus
  - Sophisticated information technology and budgeting systems

# Assisting the Governor

## **State Executive Officials**

- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Treasurer and Auditor

TABLE

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## State Executive Officials

Position	Role	Prominence	How Acquired
Lieutenant Governor	Second in command to the governor	Present in 42 states	By popular election in all states
Attorney General	Represents the state before the courts	Present in all 50 states	By appointment in 5 states By popular election in 43 states Elected by the legislature in 2 states
Secretary of State	Publishes the laws; oversees state elections	Present in 47 states	By appointment in 9 states By popular election in 35 states Elected by the legislature in 3 states
Treasurer	Guardian of the state's money	Present in 46 states	By appointment in 7 states By popular election in 35 states Elected by the legislature in 4 states

■ What is the most common means for selecting executive officials across the states? Why do you suppose that is?

# Governors Today: Challenges and Rewards

- Expectations
  - Chief policy maker
  - Shaper of state budget
  - Political party leader
  - Chief recruiter
- Going head-to-head with national government

# Local Governors: Terry McAuliffe (D-VA) and Larry Hogan (R-MD)

- Road to governor
- Role in political party
- Road to VP? White House?
- Recent legislative controversies
  - Medicaid Expansion
  - Education funding
  - Daycare regulations
  - Contraception access





## How Many Governors Later Became President?

President	State	Served as Governor
Thomas Jefferson	Virginia	1779–1781
James Monroe	Virginia	1799–1802
Martin Van Buren	New York	1828–1829
John Tyler	Virginia	1825–1827
James Polk	Tennessee	1839–1841
Andrew Johnson	Tennessee	1853–1857
Rutherford B. Hayes	Ohio	1867–1871, 1875–1877
Grover Cleveland	New York	1882–1884
William McKinley	Ohio	1892–1896
Theodore Roosevelt	New York	1898–1900
Woodrow Wilson	New Jersey	1911–1912
Calvin Coolidge	Massachusetts	1918–1920
Franklin D. Roosevelt	New York	1929–1933
Jimmy Carter	Georgia	1971–1975
Ronald Reagan	California	1967–1975
Bill Clinton	Arkansas	1979–1981, 1983–1992
George W. Bush	Texas	1994–2000