### Duties of Attorneys General

#### Authority to Initiate Local Prosecutions

- **On own initiative.**
- **On request of governor.**
- **On request of legislature.**
- **On request of local prosecutor.**
- **When in state’s interest.**
- **Under certain statutes for specific crimes.**
- **On authorization of court or other body.**
- **Does not have authority in area.**
- **Attorney general functions as local prosecutor.**

**IN SIX STATES,** attorneys general are appointed rather than elected.

Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Tennessee and Wyoming

**IN TENNESSEE,** the Supreme Court is responsible for the appointment as opposed to the governor.

**IN MAINE,** the attorney general is elected by the Legislature.
Table 4.21 | Duties of Attorneys General (cont.)

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The length of a regular term for most attorneys general is **FOUR YEARS.**

- In Vermont and Maine, the term is only two years.
- In Tennessee, the length is eight years.

**Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller is the longest continuously serving state attorney general.**

He has been in office since 1995. He also served from 1979–1991.

The average time in office for the current group of attorneys general is **5.1 YEARS.**
### Table 4.21 | Duties of Attorneys General (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorneys General currently in office are women.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In seven states, you have to be at least 30 years old to serve as attorney general (Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia). In Oklahoma, you must be at least 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 31 states and territories, the attorney general is required to be a licensed attorney.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Attorney general functions as local prosecutor.
Table 4.21 | Duties of Attorneys General (cont.)

**May Supersede Local Prosecutor**

- On own initiative.
- On request of governor.
- On request of legislature.
- On request of local prosecutor.
- When in state’s interest.
- Under certain statutes for specific crimes.
- On authorization of court or other body.
- Does not have authority in area.
- Attorney general functions as local prosecutor.

**Top 5 Salaries for Current Attorneys General**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>$185,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>$170,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$168,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>$162,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average salary for current attorneys general is **$126,537**.