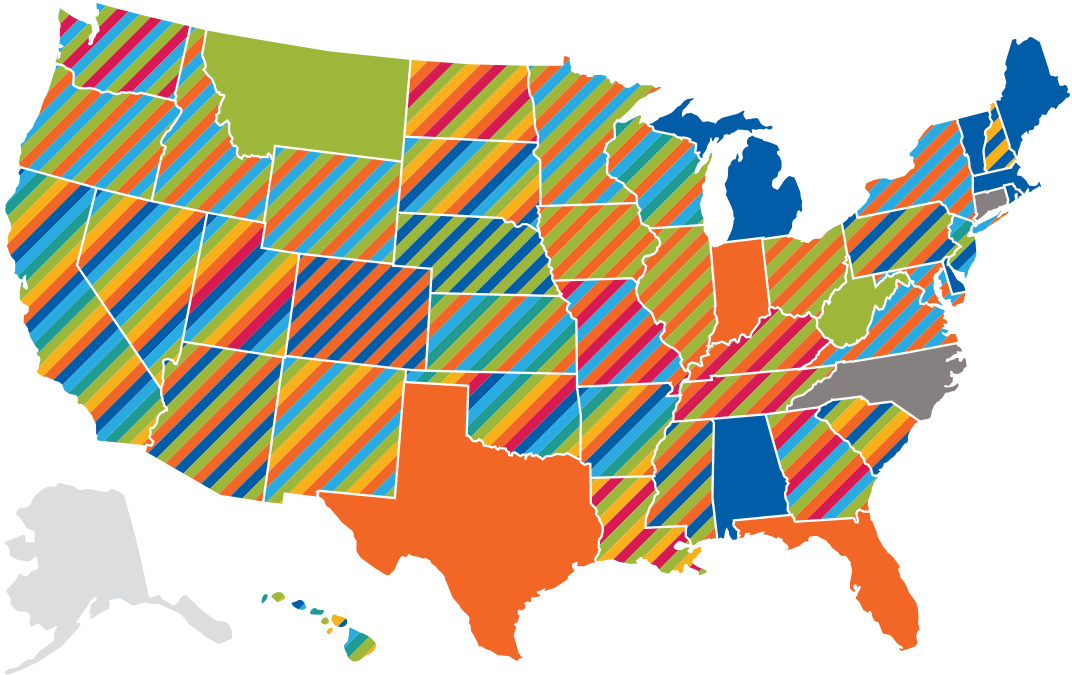


## Table 4.21 | Duties of Attorneys General

### 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.

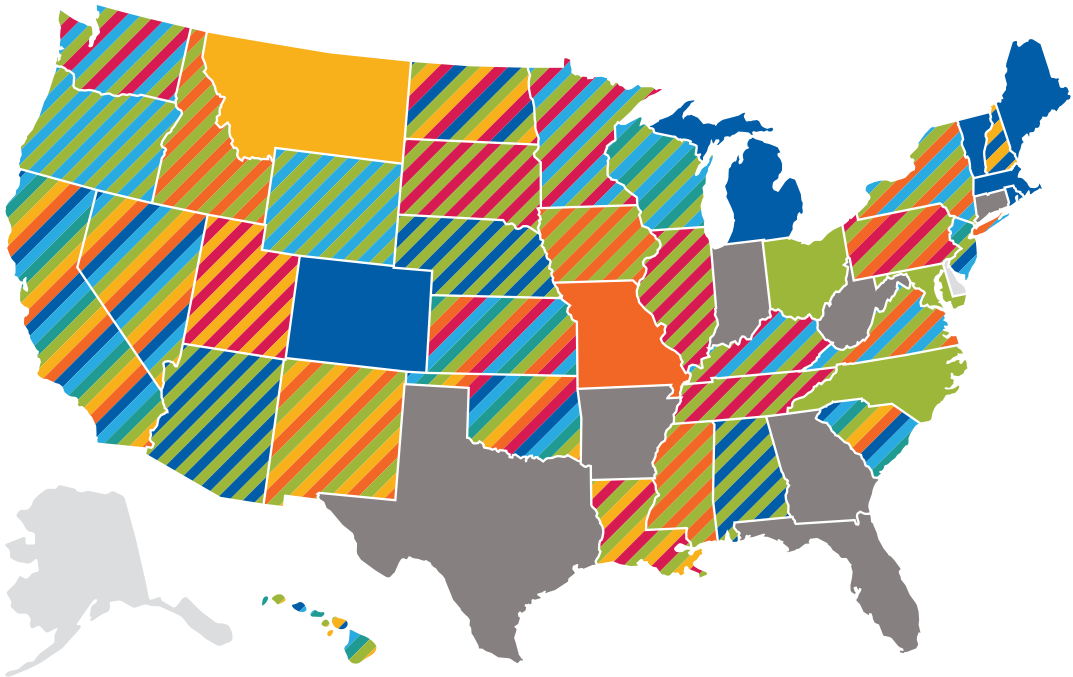
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Alaska, Hawaii, New  
Hampshire, New Jersey,  
Tennessee and Wyoming

**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.)**



- 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.

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

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In Vermont and Maine, the term is only two years.

In Tennessee, the length is eight years.

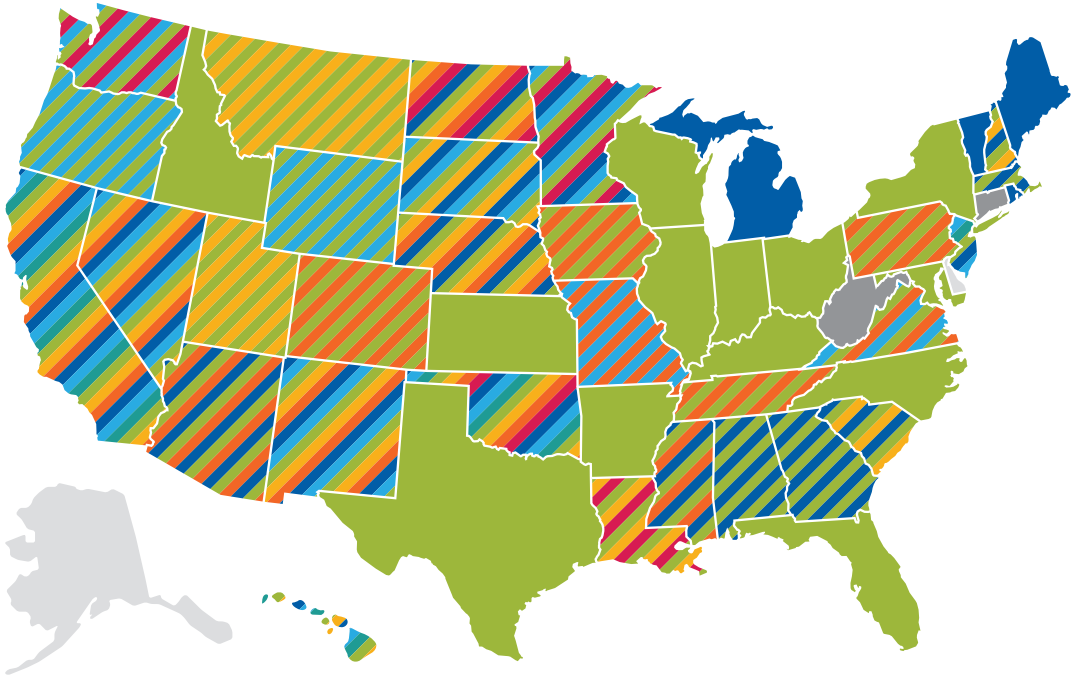
**Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller is the longest continuously serving state attorney general.**

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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.)*



- On own initiative.
- On request of governor.
- On request of legislature.
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- When in state's interest.
- Under certain statutes for specific crimes.
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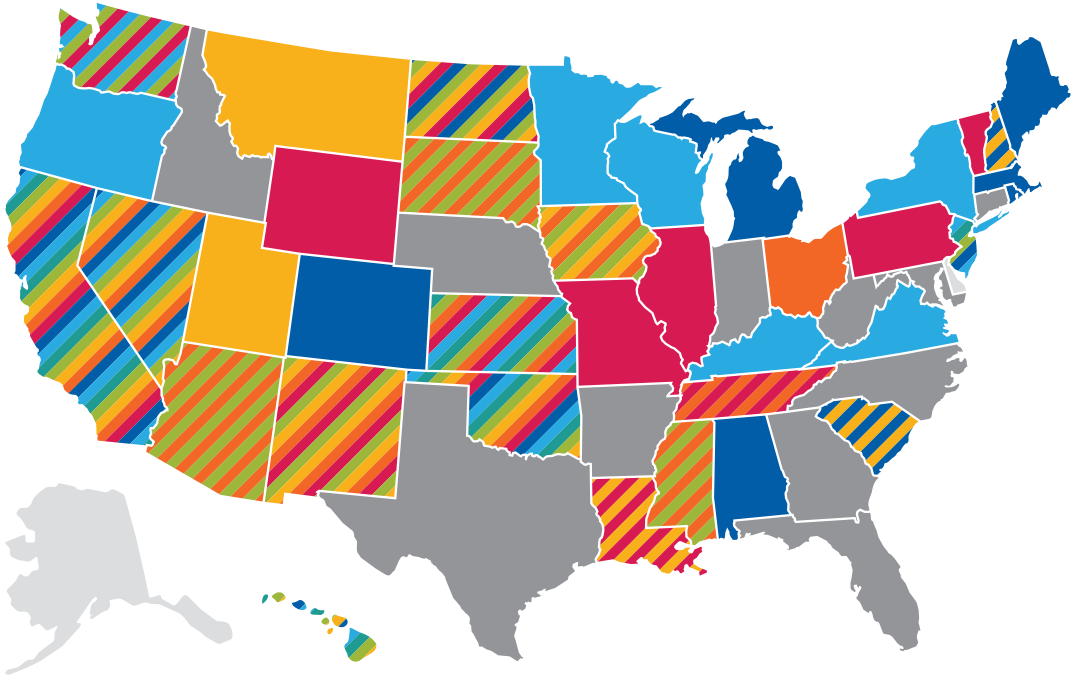
**In seven states, you have to be at least 30 years old to serve as attorney general** (Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia). In Oklahoma, you must be at least 31.

**In 31 states and territories, the attorney general is required to be a licensed attorney.**

**21%**  
of attorneys  
general  
currently in  
office are  
women.

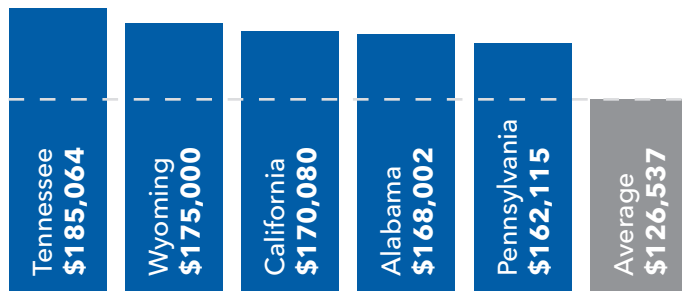
**Table 4.21 | Duties of Attorneys General (cont.)**

**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**



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