

GOVERNORS

TABLE 4.4
The Governors: Powers

State or other jurisdiction	Budget making power		Item veto power				Authorization for reorganization through executive order (a)	
	Full responsibility	Shares responsibility	Governor has item veto power on all bills	Governor has item veto power on appropriations only	Governor has no item veto power	Item veto—2/3 legislators present or 3/5 elected to override		Item veto—majority legislators elected to override
Alabama	★(b)	...	★	...	...	...	★	...
Alaska	★	...	...	★	...	★(v)	...	★
Arizona	★(b)	...	...	★	...	...	(c)	...
Arkansas	...	★	...	★	...	...	★	★
California	★(b)	...	...	★	...	★	...	★(d)
Colorado	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Connecticut	...	★	★	...	...	★	...	★(e)
Delaware	★(b)	...	★	...	...	★	...	★
Florida	...	★	...	★	...	...	...	★
Georgia	★	...	...	★	...	(c)	...	★
Hawaii	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Idaho	...	★	★	...	...	★	...	...
Illinois	...	★	★	...	...	★	...	★
Indiana	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	★
Iowa	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Kansas	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	★
Kentucky	★(b)	...	...	★	...	...	★	★
Louisiana	...	★	...	★	...	...	★(g)	★(h)
Maine	...	★	...	...	...	★	...	★
Maryland	★	...	★	...	...	★	...	★
Massachusetts	★	...	★	...	...	...	★(g)	★(d)
Michigan	★(i)	...	...	★(j)	...	★(g)	...	★
Minnesota	...	★	...	★	...	...	★(g)	★(l)
Mississippi	...	★(k)	...	★	...	...	...	★
Missouri	★(b)	...	...	★	...	★	...	★
Montana	★	...	...	★	...	★(g)	...	★(m)
Nebraska	...	★	...	★	...	★(n)	...	...
Nevada	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	★(o)
New Hampshire	★(b)	...	...	...	...	★	...	...
New Jersey	★(b)	...	...	★	...	...	★(g)	★(p)
New Mexico	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	...
New York	...	★	★	...	...	★	...	...
North Carolina	...	★	...	...	★	...	...	★(q)
North Dakota	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	★
Ohio	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	...
Oklahoma	...	★	...	★	...	...	★(g)	★(r)
Oregon	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	★
Pennsylvania	★	...	...	...	...	★	...	...
Rhode Island	...	★	...	...	★	...	...	★
South Carolina	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	...
South Dakota	★	...	...	★	...	★(s)	...	★
Tennessee	...	★	...	★	...	...	★	★
Texas	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	...
Utah	...	★	★	...	...	★	...	★
Vermont	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	★
Virginia	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	★(w)
Washington	★	...	★(t)	...	...	★	...	...
West Virginia	★	...	...	★	...	★(x)	...	...
Wisconsin	★(b)	...	...	★(u)	...	★	...	...
Wyoming	...	★	...	...	...	★(s)	...	...
American Samoa	...	★	...	...	...	...	...	★
Guam	★	...	★	...	...	★	...	★
CNMI*	...	★	...	...	...	★	...	★
Puerto Rico	...	★	...	★	...	★	...	★(f)
U.S. Virgin Islands	★	...	...	★	...	★	...	★

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 4.4

The Governors: Powers (continued)

Source: The Council of State Governments' survey of governors' offices, September 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

★—Yes; provision for.

...—No; not applicable.

(a) For additional information on executive orders, see Table 4.5.

(b) Full responsibility to propose; legislature adopts or revises and governor signs or vetoes.

(c) 2/3 of members to which each house is entitled are required to override veto.

(d) Authorization for reorganization provided for in state constitution.

(e) Governor cannot create a budgeted agency but may "direct such action by the several budgeted agencies as will, in his judgment, effect efficiency and economy in the conduct of the affairs of the state government."

(f) Only if it is not prohibited by law.

(g) 2/3 of elected legislators of each house to override.

(h) Only for agencies and offices within the Governor's Office.

(i) Governor has sole authority to propose annual budget. No money may be paid out of state treasury except in pursuance of appropriations made by law and passed by the legislature.

(j) Governor may veto any distinct item or items appropriating money in any appropriations bill.

(k) Governor has the responsibility of presenting a balanced budget. The budget is based on revenue estimated by the Governor's office and the Legislative Budget Committee.

(l) Statute provides for reorganization by the Commissioner of Administration with the approval of the governor.

(m) The office of the governor shall continuously study and evaluate the organizational structure, management practices, and functions of the executive branch and of each agency. The governor shall, by executive order or other means within the authority granted to him, take action to improve the manageability of the executive branch.

(n) 3/5 majority required to override line item veto.

(o) Only as to commissions, boards and councils.

(p) Executive reorganization plans can be disapproved by majority vote in both houses of the legislature.

(q) Executive Order must be approved by the legislature if changes affect existing law.

(r) The governor has the authority, through state statute, to enact executive orders that: create agencies, boards and commissions; and reassigns agencies, boards and commissions to different cabinet secretaries. However, in order for the continued operation of any agency created by executive order the state legislature must approve legislation that allows the agency to continue to operate, if not, the agency cannot continue operation beyond sine die adjournment of the legislature for the session.

(s) Requires 2/3 of legislators elected to override.

(t) Governor has veto power of selections for nonappropriations and item veto in appropriations.

(u) In Wisconsin, governor has "partial" veto over appropriation bills. The partial veto is broader than item veto.

(v) Three-fourths elected to override on revenue or appropriations bills. Two-thirds required to override on all other legislation.

(w) The governor submits a reorganization plan to the General Assembly which must approve the plan by a vote of a majority of the membership in each house.

(x) Two-thirds elected to override budget item veto.