

GOVERNORS

Table 4.4
THE GOVERNORS: POWERS

State or other jurisdiction	Budget making power				Veto power (a)				Other statewide elected officials (c)	
	Full responsibility	Shares responsibility	No item veto	Item veto- 2/3 legislators present to override	Item veto- majority legislators elected to override	Item veto- 3/5 legislators elected to override	Item veto- legislators elected to override	Authorization for reorganization through executive order (b)	Number of officials	Number of agencies
Alabama	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	...	9	7
Alaska	C,S	...	...	...	...	...	...	C	1	0 (d)
Arizona	★(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	7
Arkansas	★	...	...	...	★	...	...	...	6	0
California	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	S	7	7
Colorado	...	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Connecticut	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Delaware	★	...	...	...	...	★	...	C	1	1
Florida	...	★	...	(l)	...	...	...	...	7	7
Georgia	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	S	12	8
Hawaii	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	2
Idaho	★	...	...	★	...	...	...	...	6	6
Illinois	★	...	...	...	...	C	...	C	5	5
Indiana	C,S	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Iowa	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
Kansas	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Kentucky	...	(n)	...	...	...	...	...	C	6	6
Louisiana	...	★(c)	...	...	...	...	...	S	7 (g)	20 (g)
Maine	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Maryland	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	C	3	8
Massachusetts	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	C	5	10
Michigan	★(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	C	36	7
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S	5	5
Mississippi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S	8	7
Missouri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S, Common Law	5	5
Montana	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	S	5	5
Nebraska	C(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Nevada	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
New Hampshire	★(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
New Jersey	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
New Mexico	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	7
New York	★	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	20
North Carolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	C	0	0
North Dakota	★(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	17
Ohio	★(f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5

See footnotes at end of table.

THE GOVERNORS: POWERS — Continued

State or other jurisdiction	Veto power (a)				Item veto- majority legislators elected to override	Item veto- 3/5 legislators elected to override	Item veto- at least 2/3 legislators elected to override	Authorization for reorganization through executive order (b)	Other statewide elected officials (c)	
	Budget making power		Shares responsibility						Number of officials	Number of agencies
	Full responsibility	No item veto	Item veto- 2/3 legislators present to override	Item veto- majority legislators elected to override						
Oklahoma	★ (f)	...	...	...	...	★	S	10	8
Oregon	5	5	
Pennsylvania	4	4	
Rhode Island	4	12	
South Carolina	8	4	
South Dakota	C	9	7	
Tennessee	S	0	0	
Texas	9	6	
Utah	5	17	
Vermont	S	5	5	
Virginia	S (j)	2	2	
Washington	8	8	
West Virginia	S; Common Law	10	6	
Wisconsin	5	5	
Wyoming	4	4	
American Samoa	S	1	1	
Guam*	0	0	
No. Mariana Islands	1	1	
Puerto Rico*	0	0	
U.S. Virgin Islands	1	1	

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002 and state constitutions and statutes. Information noted by an * is from *The Book of the States, 2000-2001*.

Key:
 ★ — Yes; provision for.
 ... — No; not applicable.
 C — Constitutional
 S — Statutory
 (a) In all states, except North Carolina, governor has the power to veto bills passed by the state legislature. The information presented here refers to the governor's power to item veto within a bill and the votes needed in the state legislature to override the item veto. For additional information on vetoes and veto overrides, as well as the number of days the governor is allowed to consider bills, see the table entitled, "Enacting Legislation: Veto, Veto Overrides and Effective Date."
 (b) For additional information on executive orders, see the table entitled, "Gubernatorial Executive Orders: Authorization, Provisions, Procedures."
 (c) Includes only executive branch officials who are popularly elected either on a constitutional or statutory basis (elected members of state boards of education, public utilities commissions, university regents, or other state boards or commissions are also included); the number of agencies involving these officials is also listed.
 (d) Lieutenant governor's office is part of governor's office.
 (e) In New York, governor has item veto over appropriations. In Louisiana, governor has item veto or may use means provided in the appropriations bill so that appropriations for the year do not exceed revenue for the year.

(f) Full responsibility to propose, legislature adopts or revises and governor signs or vetoes.
 (g) In January 2004, the number of statewide elected officials, in addition to the governor, will change to 6. Also the number of departments in the executive branch will change to 19.
 (h) Line item veto authority over the budget bill. Simple majority override. Veto authority over legislation. Simple majority override.
 (i) The governor has an item veto over appropriations only.
 (j) For shifting agencies between secretarial offices; all other reorganizations require legislative approval.
 (k) In Wisconsin, governor has "partial" veto over appropriation bills. The partial veto is broader than item veto.
 (l) Governor may only veto a specific appropriation within a general appropriation bill or an entire bill. 2/3 of both houses can override.
 (m) North Dakota has a governor's veto and a line item veto on appropriations bills.
 (n) Governor has veto power of sections for nonappropriations and item veto appropriations.

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