

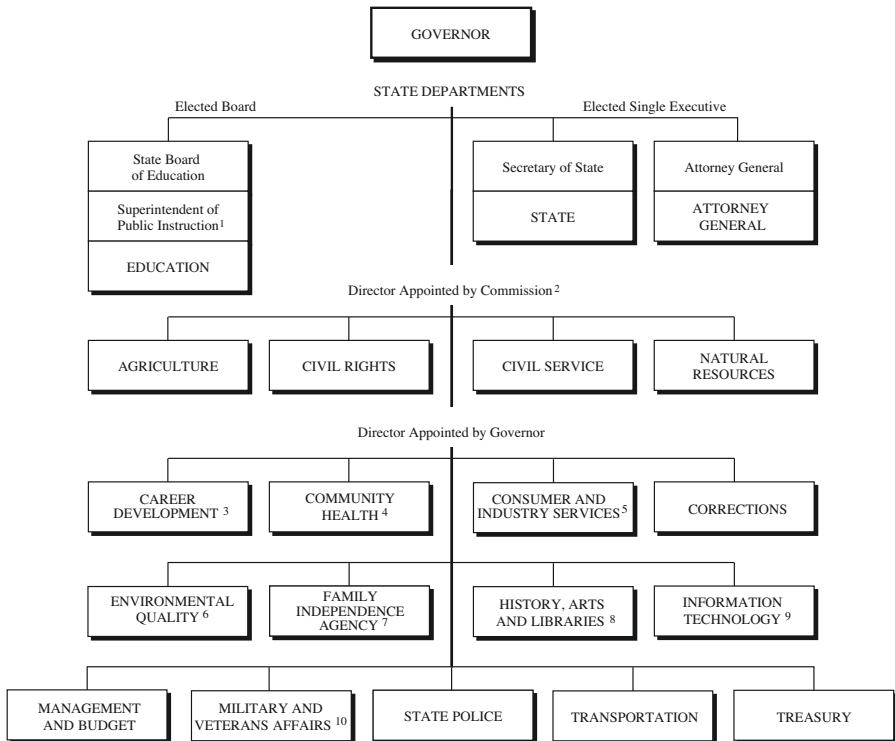
PROFILE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The executive power is vested in the governor, who is responsible for the faithful execution of the laws of the state. Elected by the people to a 4-year term, the **governor**:

- Supervises the principal departments of the executive branch and appoints members to state boards and commissions;
- May direct an investigation of any department of state government and may require written information from executive and administrative state officers on any subject relating to the performance of their duties;
- May remove elective and appointive officers of the executive branch for cause, as well as elective county, city, township, and village officers;
- Submits messages to the legislature and recommends measures considered necessary or desirable;
- Submits an annual state budget to the legislature, recommending sufficient revenues to meet proposed expenditures;
- May convene the legislature in extraordinary session;
- May call a special election to fill a vacancy in the legislature or the U.S. House of Representatives, and may fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate by appointment;
- May grant reprieves, commutations of sentences, and pardons;
- May seek extradition of fugitives from justice who have left the state and may issue warrants at the request of other governors for fugitives who may be found within this state;
- Signs all commissions, patents for state lands, and appoints notaries public and commissioners in other states to take acknowledgements of deeds for this state;
- Serves as chairperson of the State Administrative Board, which supervises and approves certain state expenditures, and has veto power over its actions; and
- Serves as commander-in-chief of the state's armed forces.

The **lieutenant governor** is nominated at party convention and elected with the governor. The term of office, beginning in 1966, changed from 2 years to 4 years. The lieutenant governor serves as President of the Michigan Senate, but may vote only in case of a tie. The lieutenant governor may perform duties requested by the governor, but no power vested in the governor by the Constitution of 1963 may be delegated to the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor is a member of the State Administrative Board and would succeed the governor in case of death, impeachment, removal from office, or resignation.

ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



NOTE: Section 2 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 provides that all executive offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch of state government and their respective functions, powers, and duties, except for the office of governor and lieutenant governor and the governing bodies of institutions of higher education, shall be “allocated by law among and within not more than 20 principal departments.” The initial allocation of departments “by law” was completed with the enactment of the Executive Organization Act of 1965, Act 380 of 1965, being 16.101 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws, which vested all executive and administrative powers, duties, and functions in 19 principal departments.

¹The Superintendent of Public Instruction is appointed by the State Board of Education pursuant to Const. 1963, art. VIII, sec. 3.

²The members of the Commission of Agriculture, Civil Rights Commission, Civil Service Commission, and Commission of Natural Resources are appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

³The Department of Career Development was created as a new principal department by Executive Order No. 1999-1. The Department of the Michigan Jobs Commission was abolished and certain of its authority, powers, duties, functions, responsibilities, and personnel were transferred to the Department of Career Development. The administrative unit and related administrative functions of the Department of Michigan Jobs Commission were separated and transferred to the Michigan Strategic Fund, an autonomous entity in the Department of Management and Budget.

⁴The Department of Mental Health was renamed the Department of Community Health by Executive Order No. 1996-1, effective April 1, 1996. The Department of Public Health was renamed the Community Public Health Agency by Executive Order No. 1, effective April 1, 1996, and then redesignated as a Type II agency in the Department of Community Health by Executive Order No. 1997-4, effective May 18, 1997.

⁵The Department of Commerce was renamed the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services by Executive Order No. 1996-2, effective May 15, 1996. The Department of Labor was abolished and its powers and duties transferred to the Department of Consumer and Industry Services by Executive Order No. 1996-2, effective May 15, 1996.

⁶Environmental protection was given cabinet-level priority by Executive Order No. 1995-18, which created the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as a new principal department, effective October 1, 1995.

⁷The Department of Social Services was changed to the Family Independence Agency by Act 223 of 1995.

⁸The Department of History, Arts and Libraries was created as a new principal department by Act 68 of 2001, effective August 6, 2001.

⁹The Department of Information Technology was created as a new principal department by Executive Order No. 2001-3, effective October 14, 2001.

¹⁰The Department of Military Affairs was renamed the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs by Executive Order No. 1997-7.