



Government & Public Policy

Speaking Up For Us

Advocacy Day 2021

Session 2

What is public policy?



- Broadly, we might say that a public policy is simply what government (any public official who influences or determines public policy, including school officials, city council members, county supervisors, etc.) does or does not do about a problem that comes before them for consideration and possible action.
- In this term Government means any public official who influences or determines public policy, including school officials, city council members, county supervisors, legislators, Congressional delegates, etc.

Let's Watch a Video and Learn More!



- [What is Public Policy? – YouTube](#)

General Government in USA

- Three Branches:
 - Executive Branch
 - Legislative Branch
 - Judicial Branch
- Different Levels:
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local
 - County
 - City
 - School





Executive Branch

- The executive branch carries out and enforces laws.
- It includes **the president, vice president, the Cabinet**, executive departments, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.
- American citizens have the right to vote for **the president** and **vice president** through free, confidential ballots.
- On a State level, the executive branch is our Governor.



Legislative Branch

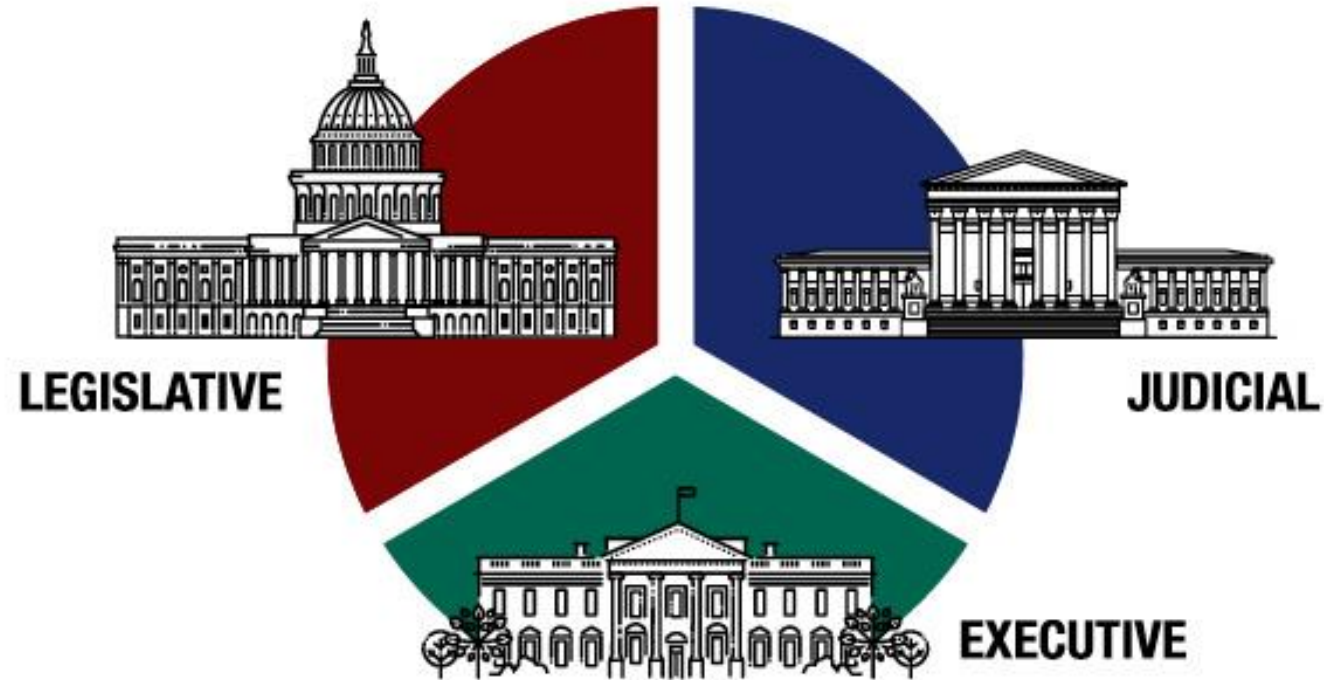
- The **legislative branch** is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress.
- Congress has the ability to:
 - Make laws.
 - Declare war.
 - Raise and provide public money and oversee its proper expenditure.
 - Impeach and try federal officers.
 - Approve presidential appointments.
 - Approve treaties negotiated by the executive **branch**.
 - Oversight and investigations.

Judicial Branch



- The **judicial branch** is in charge of deciding the meaning of laws, how to apply them to real situations, and whether a law breaks the rules of the Constitution.
- The Constitution is the highest law of our Nation.
- The U.S. Supreme Court, the highest court in the United States, is part of the **judicial branch**.
- The Judicial Branch also takes the following actions:
 - Interpreting state laws;
 - Settling legal disputes;
 - Punishing violators of the law;
 - Hearing civil cases;
 - Protecting individual rights granted by the state constitution;
 - Determining the guilt or innocence of those accused of violating the criminal laws of the state;
 - Acting as a check upon the legislative and executive branches of state government.

Separation of Powers



THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH enacts the laws of the country and raises and distributes the money necessary to operate the government, known as "The Power of the Purse."

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH interprets the U.S. Constitution and bylaws and rules on disputes brought before it by citizens, states, or other branches of government.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH implements and administers the laws and public policies enacted and funded by the Legislative Branch.



Policy is Problem Solving

- Policy is made in response to some sort of issue or problem that requires attention.
- Policy is what the government chooses to do (actual) or not do (implied) about a particular issue or problem.
- Policy might take the form of law, or regulation, or the set of all the laws and regulations that govern a particular issue or problem.
- Policy is made on behalf of the "public."
- Policy is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem.
- Policy is ultimately made by governments, even if the ideas come from outside government or through the interaction of government and the public.
- Policymaking is part of an ongoing process that does not always have a clear beginning or end, since decisions about who will benefit from policies and who will bear any burden resulting from the policy are continually reassessed, revisited and revised.

Self-Advocates and Policy Making

Over the years, self-advocates have participated in policy making.

- Removing the “R” word from state laws.
- Ending sheltered workshops.

Most recently:

- Subminimum Wage Bill
- Letter to governor at beginning of pandemic
- OADS Listening Sessions

