

# Chapter 5



*Pat Quinn was sworn in as Illinois' 41st governor in 2009 and won election to a full term in 2010.*

## The Governor and the Executive Branch

by Judy Lee (Lewis) Uphoff

From reading the last chapter, you know that the main function of the legislative branch is to pass new laws. Executing those laws is the main function of the executive branch. The word “executing” in the government process means carrying out or seeing that laws are put into effect. Laws would only be words on a piece of paper if the executive branch did not see that they went into effect.

Here’s another way to understand executing: If you and your classmates decide to have a party, the party won’t happen unless someone takes charge to see that all the arrangements are made. And you would probably want that someone to make sure the party doesn’t cost more than you plan to spend.

## Inside

- I. Electing Illinois’ Six Executives
- II. The Office of Governor
  - A. The Governor’s Role in Lawmaking
  - B. The Governor’s Powers to Veto
  - C. The Governor’s Budget Powers
  - D. The Governor’s Other Powers
- III. Other Executive Officers
  - A. The Lieutenant Governor
  - B. The Attorney General
  - C. The Secretary of State
  - D. The State Comptroller
  - E. The State Treasurer
- IV. How the State’s Executives Work Together
- V. The Administrative Departments
- VI. The Code Departments
- VII. Executive Boards
- VIII. The Governor’s Office of Management and Budget

**Executive branch** One of the three branches of Illinois government. This branch is charged with carrying out laws approved by the legislative branch of government. There are six elected executive branch officers in Illinois: the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller, and treasurer.

**Primary election** An election in which members of the same party run in order to win their party's nomination for an elected office. Only party members may vote in a primary election.

**General election** An election in which the winners of the party primaries and perhaps independent candidates run for a public office. All eligible, registered voters may vote in a general election no matter what party they belong to.



Treasurer Dan Rutherford visits in Litchfield on his 100th day in office.

## Electing Illinois' Six Executives

For our national government, there are only two elected executive officials: the president and the vice president. But, in Illinois, voters elect six state government executive officials: the governor, the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the treasurer, and the comptroller. Each is elected in even-numbered years that are not presidential election years. They serve four-year terms. To be eligible for each of the executive offices of Illinois, candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 25 years old, and residents of Illinois for the three years before the election.

Election of the six **executive branch** officials is a two-step process, and in Illinois the elections are very political. First, there are **primary elections** held in mid-March of an election year by the Republican and Democratic parties. In 2007, the Illinois legislature changed the date from the third Tuesday in March to the third Tuesday in February. This change put the Illinois primary in the middle of the nation's primary election cycles. This makes considerable sense, particularly in presidential election years, as Illinois holds 21 electoral votes in the Electoral College. An earlier primary allows the states' voters to have more influence in the electoral process. In Illinois, it gave a boost to the campaign of favorite-son candidate Barack Obama in his bid for president. In 2010, the legislature moved the primary date back to the third Tuesday in March for the 2011 election.

The purpose of the primary elections is for each party to nominate its candidates for each office. Then, there is the **general election** in November when all voters choose between the Republican, Democratic, and any third-party candidates. Each of these executive officials is elected independently of the others, except that the governor and the lieutenant governor candidates of each party must run as a team in the general election. There is no such team requirement in the primaries. (For more information, see "Primary and General Elections.")

The team requirement prevents election of the governor from one party and the lieutenant governor from another. Because no other candidate for executive office is teamed with the governor, it is not only possible, but probable, that the state's other elected executive officers will be from different parties. For example, in 2010, the Democratic candidates won election to the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and secretary of state, while the Republican candidates won election to the offices of treasurer and comptroller. After the election, the two winners began their efforts to combine the two financial offices in the state to one office. Treasurer Dan Rutherford and Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka predicted a merger would save about \$12 million in rent and salary by eliminating duplication.

## The Office of Governor

Of all the officials in the Illinois executive branch, the governor is the most prestigious and most powerful. The governor is the chief executive

officer of the state of Illinois. Shadrach Bond was the first governor, chosen in 1818, when Illinois became a state. Because citizens in our state still feared rule by kings, early state constitutions would not allow the governor to run for two terms in a row. So, by 2010, Illinois had 41 governors. The current state Constitution allows governors to run for as many terms as they wish. The governor who has been elected the most times is James R. Thompson, who first took office in January 1977 after the 1976 election. He was elected four times.

But let's get back to the idea of executing the law. Once a bill becomes law, the governor must see that it is carried out. That is the governor's primary job. Of course, it would be impossible for one person to carry out all the laws of the state. There are 99 full-time employees in the governor's office, according to his website, who assist the governor with day-to-day operations. The other elected executive officials and their employees also help carry out some of the laws. Each of these executive offices has a special job to do and certain laws to enforce.

### **The Governor's Role in Lawmaking**

Besides carrying out the laws, the governor also plays a big role in making the laws and affecting public policy. The governor is not a member of the General Assembly, so the governor cannot directly introduce or vote on legislation. But the governor's executive powers and standing as a political leader give the governor much influence over which bills become laws.

Every year in January the

## **Primary and General Elections**

In most instances, each successful candidate for a state government office in Illinois — in both the legislative and executive branches — must win two elections. First, a candidate must win his or her party's nomination for the office. This is accomplished by winning a primary election.

In the March primary, each party picks its candidates for office. Usually the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the major political parties holding primaries.

Other parties — generically called “third parties” — can also nominate candidates to run in the general election.

Let's consider a typical Illinois primary. Let's say there are three Democrats who want to run for governor. They will run against each other in the Democratic primary election. On the same day at the same polling places throughout the state, Republicans who want to be governor will run against each other in the Republican Party primary election. In Illinois, voters must declare at the polling place which primary ballot they want — Republican, Democrat, or any third party that has candidates. The Democrat who wins the most votes for governor in the Democratic primary wins that party's nomination for governor and begins the campaign for the November general election against whoever wins the Republican Party nomination in the Republican primary and any third-party candidate who wins his or her party's nomination.

Sometimes there is no competition at the party primaries for one or more of the state offices. But there always is competition in the November election, called the general election.

In the general election, voters do not need to declare which party they support. All voters are given ballots that have the names of the Democratic, Republican, and third-party nominees for each office. Relatively few voters vote only for the nominees of just one party. Most often, voters split their tickets: voting for the Republican for governor but the Democrat for secretary of state, for example.

Historically, third-party candidates have had little chance of winning statewide elections, but if the election is close for one of the offices between the candidates from the Republican and Democratic parties, then a third-party candidate could draw just enough votes to have a major influence on which candidate wins the election and becomes our new state official.

In all Illinois elections, the candidate who gets the most votes is the winner. ■





**State of the State speech** The address that the governor gives at the opening of each session of the General Assembly. In this speech, the governor outlines the new laws he or she wants the legislature to pass that year.

**Veto** The word is Latin for “I forbid.” A veto is the means that the governor has of preventing legislation passed by the General Assembly from becoming law. The governor of Illinois has four types of vetoes: total, line-item, reduction, and amendatory.

**Appropriation bill** Legislative bill that permits spending of the state’s money.

**Line-item veto** A type of veto whereby the governor can say no to one or more lines listing spending amounts for specific programs or projects in an appropriations bill while still signing the remainder of the bill into law.

**Reduction veto** A type of veto whereby the governor can reduce the amount of money spent for specific programs or projects in an appropriations bill.

**Amendatory veto** A type of veto whereby the governor can write changes into bills that the General Assembly has passed.

**Override** The process that the General Assembly has in order to make a bill become a law after the governor has vetoed it. Overriding the governor’s veto requires a three-fifths majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

governor makes a speech to the General Assembly called the **State of the State**. In this speech, the governor suggests to the legislators what legislation to pass. The governor also persuades legislators to introduce bills. The governor has staff assistants who lobby the members of the General Assembly, trying to persuade them to approve the bills favored by the governor. When a bill is approved by the General Assembly, it goes to the governor, who may sign it into law or veto it.

## The Governor’s Powers to Veto

By using the governor’s power to veto bills passed by the General Assembly — or threatening to use it — the governor can often pressure the General Assembly to approve legislation in the form that the governor prefers.

The governor of Illinois has more kinds of veto powers than the president of the United States does. Both have the power to veto an entire bill, sending it back to the legislature. But the Illinois governor has three other kinds of vetoes. The Illinois governor has two ways to veto bills that authorize spending (called **appropriation bills**) and another veto power that allows the governor to write changes into bills.

The first veto power related to appropriations bills is the **line-item veto**, which is the power the governor has to veto one or more lines of spending amounts for specific programs or projects in one bill, yet the governor can sign the rest of the bill into law. The lines crossed out by the governor are considered vetoed, and that money cannot be spent unless the General Assembly repasses the bill with a three-fifths vote in both the Senate and the House.

The second veto power related to appropriation bills is called the **reduction veto**. With this power, the governor may reduce the amount of money to be spent for a specific program or project. Such a reduction cannot be restored to the amount approved by the General Assembly unless both the House and the Senate reapprove the original amount by a majority vote.

The other veto power allows the governor to write changes into the bills that passed the General Assembly. This power is called the **amendatory veto**. It allows the governor to write proposed amendments, but only to bills already approved by the General Assembly. This power adds a new dimension to the legislative game described in Chapter 4. To go back to the example in that chapter, what if the governor decided not to sign your bill allowing fourteen-year-olds to get driver’s licenses? Let’s say the governor decided to use the amendatory veto, returning your bill to the General Assembly with a suggested amendment to allow only fourteen-year-olds who are not failing any schoolwork to get a driver’s license.

Three things could happen when a bill is returned to the General Assembly with an amendatory veto:

1. The General Assembly could **override** the veto. To do this, the General Assembly must repass the original bill. But, a three-fifths vote of both houses is required for the original bill to become law. If the General Assembly does repass the bill under those conditions, the veto is overridden and the bill becomes law.

# Powers of the Governor

2. The General Assembly could approve the governor's changes to the bill. A majority vote, not the three-fifths, is needed in both houses for the bill as the governor amended it to become law.
3. The General Assembly could fail to vote either way, and the bill dies.

On the other hand, if the governor neither signs nor in any way amends or vetoes a bill, that bill will become law automatically sixty days after it was sent to the governor. The opposite is true if the president of the United States neither signs nor vetoes a bill passed by Congress: The bill is considered vetoed.

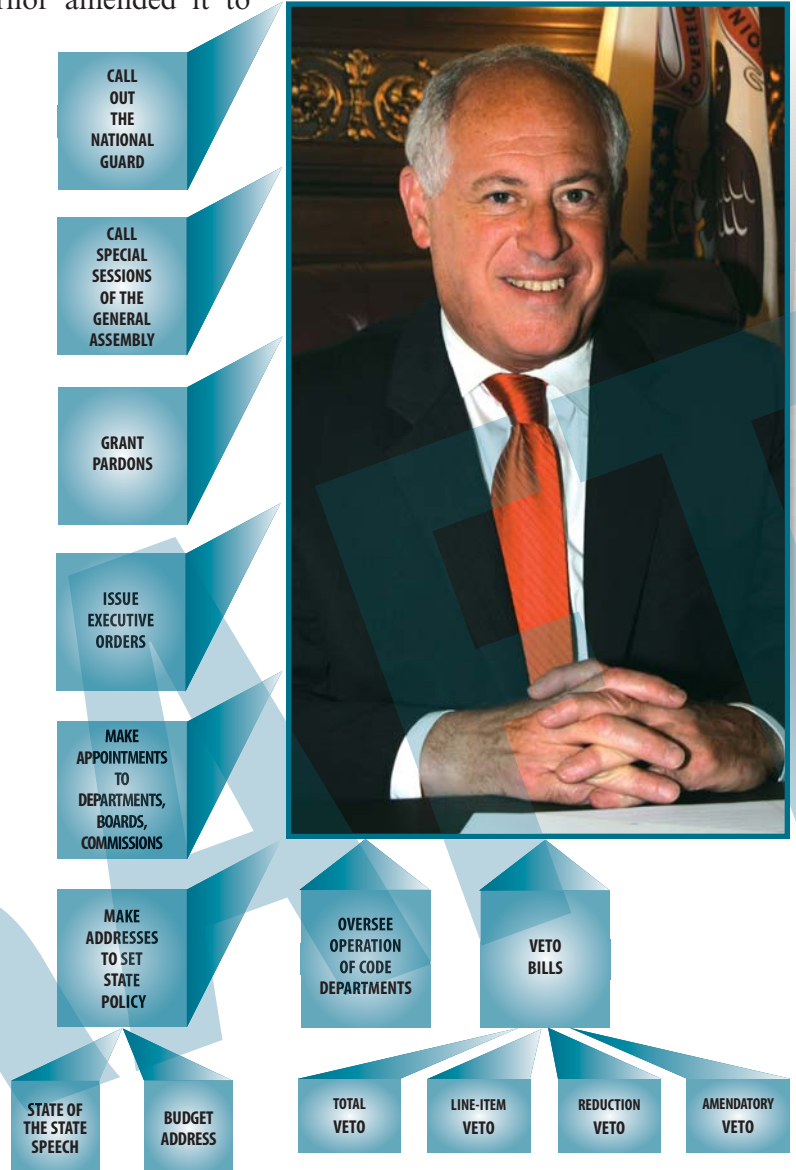
Some people believe that the veto powers, particularly the amendatory veto, give the Illinois governor too much power and influence over lawmaking. This, in fact, may contribute to the relatively high degree of corruption among Illinois governors. Others believe that these veto powers are necessary because the General Assembly passes so many bills in the last days of the annual spring session that it does make mistakes, and the governor can correct any mistakes with vetoes. More important to some is that these veto powers allow the governor to be a strong executive leader, providing a focus for state government decision-making.

## The Governor's Budget Powers

The governor also has important powers over the way the state spends its money. With these powers, the governor can influence and control the kinds of services that the residents of Illinois receive from the state. Only the General Assembly can authorize spending by its approval of appropriations bills, but the governor's line-item and reduction veto powers can make it harder for the General Assembly to reapprove the spending.

Each year, it is the governor who kicks off the process of deciding how much the state will spend on every program of the state government. In March or April each year, the governor presents a budget speech that outlines a plan for the state's public policy activities along with a plan for financing them. The plan is called the **state budget**, and the governor must balance spending against expected revenue or income. A **balanced budget** means the state will spend no more money in that year than the state expects to receive that year in revenues from taxes, license fees, and other revenue sources.

To prepare the budget, the governor must first figure out how much money the state of Illinois will receive. That's the total revenue. Then the



**State budget** The state's financial plan, it details the money that the state is expected to receive and the way the state expects to spend the money.

**Balanced budget** A budget in which the state plans to spend no more than it takes in.

**Allocation of funds** The process by which the state allows money to be spent by agencies.



*The Illinois Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Animal Welfare, administers regulations concerning the care and control of pets and livestock. Staff license and inspect pet shops, kennels, catteries, pounds, shelters, and guard dog services, as well as investigate complaints of abuse. The agriculture department, like all other state departments, relies on allocations from the state budget.*

governor divides up that amount for spending by all the state offices and agencies. Because the state is responsible for providing so many services to its citizens, the list for spending is extremely long. There is education in schools, the state colleges, and universities. There are roads and bridges to build or repair. There are prisons and mental health facilities. There are some people who need welfare programs for food, housing, clothes, and hospital bills. Workers want good benefits if they are hurt on the job or help if they lose their jobs. Children need help if someone abuses them. State police are needed to patrol highways. Local governments want financial help from the state, too.

Each agency in Illinois that is funded by the state of Illinois must persuade the governor to budget the money it thinks it needs to provide its services. Unless the governor asks for more taxes to increase the revenue side of the budget, there usually is not enough money to spend to satisfy everyone.

The governor sends his or her budget to the General Assembly, and the General Assembly must authorize all spending by passing appropriation bills. If taxes are proposed, only the General Assembly can approve them. The members of the General Assembly often disagree with the governor's plan for state spending; they also sometimes disagree with the governor's revenue predictions. Finally, the General Assembly passes appropriation bills authorizing spending for the year. If the

governor does not like the spending authorized by the General Assembly, the governor can veto appropriation bills (but he or she cannot increase them).

The governor still has one other important power over spending: the **allocation of funds**. This means that the governor can still cut back state spending authorized by the General Assembly if the state's income is less than predicted. In short, the governor can order agencies not to spend the money appropriated to them in the budget. This exact situation occurred in 2002, when the economy dipped, partially in response to the terrorist attacks in September 2001. In addition to asking agencies to curtail spending, Governor George Ryan initiated a hiring freeze at state agencies. In 2003, Governor Rod Blagojevich further reduced agency spending and proposed a budget aimed at making up a \$5 billion deficit.

### **The Governor's Other Powers**

The governor holds much power over state government. In addition to setting the policy direction of the state, proposing its budget, and using veto power, the governor can:

- make appointments
- issue pardons
- issue executive orders



- call out the National Guard
- call special sessions of the General Assembly

The governor appoints the people who run the executive administrative agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities — subject to approval by the Senate. We will talk further about these agencies and boards later in the chapter, but basically, the agencies, boards, and departments are the structures that help the governor execute the laws. If the governor wants to rearrange the powers of the executive agencies, the governor has the power to reorganize them — subject to the disapproval of either the Senate or the House.

The way the governor rearranges the departments or agencies is usually accomplished by issuing an **executive order**. An executive order looks very much like a legislative bill, only it does not have to pass through the General Assembly unless it conflicts with an existing law. Generally, you can think of executive orders as the way the governor tells employees how to get their jobs done, or how they must behave as the governor’s employees. For example, in 2010, Governor Pat Quinn issued an executive order creating the Governor’s Office of New Americans. This agency would coordinate policies to help newcomers to the state to better assimilate and to provide better services to immigrants.

The governor may also grant **pardons** to people who have been convicted of crimes in Illinois. Alternately, the governor can choose to alter the sentences of convicted criminals. Each state sets its own guidelines for how pardons are granted. Just before Governor George Ryan left office in 2003, he changed the sentences of all the inmates on Death Row, so that they would not face execution. In 2010, Governor Quinn granted pardons to more than 100 convicted criminals, but his office refused to release details about who was pardoned. The governor also serves as commander-in-chief of the state militia (the Illinois National Guard), which can be called out by the governor’s order to help if there is a disaster or emergency (or by the president if there is a national emergency and it is needed to help the U.S. Army). Also, if the General Assembly is in recess, the governor can call the legislature, or just the Senate, into a **special session** to deal with legislation on specific topics. For example, if there were to be a budget shortfall, the governor could call the General Assembly together to consider bills on reducing state spending or increasing taxes, but no other legislation could be brought forward in that special session.

## Other Executive Officers

Each of the other five elected executive officials has special duties. We will study these five in the order that their offices would appear on a general election ballot.

### The Lieutenant Governor

The lieutenant governor is assigned duties by the governor. Some governors expect the lieutenant governor to do lots of work, and others expect very little. The lieutenant governor’s job can best be described as an assis-

**Executive order** A power the governor uses to make rules for the agencies and people who work for the governor.

**Pardon** A power that allows the governor either (1) to excuse someone accused or convicted of a crime from legal responsibility for the criminal action, or (2) to reduce or eliminate the punishment the courts have imposed on someone convicted of a crime.

**Special session** An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly that the governor calls so that the legislature may consider action on certain, specific topics.



*Above: Sheila Simon, a Democrat, was elected lieutenant governor in 2010. Right: In 2002, Democrat Lisa Madigan became the first woman to be elected attorney general for the state of Illinois.*



*Above: Democrat Jesse White became secretary of state in 1999. Right: Republican Judy Baar Topinka was elected comptroller in 2010.*



*Above: Republican Dan Rutherford was elected treasurer in 2010 after 18 years a legislator.*

tant to the governor. The lieutenant governor takes over for the governor when the governor is unable to fulfill the duties, just as the vice president takes over for the president of the United States. Unlike the vice president, who presides over the U.S. Senate and has the power to vote in the Senate to break a tie vote, Illinois' lieutenant governor has no such role.

### The Attorney General

The attorney general is the chief legal officer for the state of Illinois. If Illinois is sued, the attorney general is the state's lawyer. If Illinois as a state must sue because someone did not fulfill a state contract or agreement, the attorney general is the state's lawyer. The attorney general also issues legal opinions for government officials who question new laws or conflicts between state laws. The attorney general keeps records of consumer fraud and helps citizens if they think they have been cheated by a business.

### The Secretary of State

The secretary of state keeps official records for the state of Illinois. Those records include all the proceedings and decisions of the General Assembly, as well as all the records on motor vehicle licenses and driver's licenses in Illinois. The secretary of state runs the offices where you go to take your driver's license test or to get a new driver's license. The secretary is the state archivist and the state librarian. The official state library is administered by the secretary of state, and its literacy programs are available throughout Illinois. The secretary of state also keeps the records of all rules and regulations that are made by executive branch agencies in carrying out the laws. These are called administrative rules.

The secretary of state's office has become one of the largest and most influential of all of the executive offices. With its obligation to keep the official records of the state, the office has expanded in duties and in prestige as the population of Illinois has grown. This office probably is the office that most people in the state have the most direct contact with. As a result, the office has recently become a stepping stone to greater things. For example, two of the state's last four governors served as secretary of state immediately before winning election to the governor's office. The duties of the secretary of state's office, while expanding, must comply with the framework intended by the authors of the Constitution.

### The State Comptroller

The office of comptroller is one of the newest and may be one of the shortest in existence. The office was established by the Constitution of 1970. It took the place of a former position called the auditor of public accounts. The intent was to create an additional **check and balance system** on our public treasury. Following some scandals involving state finances, the writers of the 1970 Constitution felt that all public spending required approval from the office of the comptroller before a check could be issued from the office of the treasurer. While this system, in the



ory, provides a good way to deter misspending, the extra layer of bureaucracy caused by having two state financial officers (the treasurer and comptroller) can slow down the bill-paying process. In 1998, both houses of the General Assembly passed legislation that would have combined the offices of comptroller and treasurer into one office. The General Assembly couldn't agree on a single bill, however, so the merger didn't happen. A constitutional amendment to combine the office of state treasurer and the office of state comptroller stalled in the Illinois House in June 2011 when Speaker Michael Madigan opposed it. But ideas to reform Illinois government hardly ever die, so the office of the comptroller may one day be history.

### The State Treasurer

In Illinois, the executive official who actually writes the checks that pay the state's bills is the treasurer. The treasurer also is responsible for the safekeeping and investment of state money.

### How the State's Executives Work Together

Consider how your bill that was passed into law in Chapter 4 would involve the executive branch officials. What would it take to carry out the law for fourteen-year-olds to get licenses to drive? The governor would have to provide funds in the budget to hire new driver's license examiners to test fourteen-year-olds. The secretary of state would have to hire people to fill these jobs, train them, and assign them to driver's license examining stations. The comptroller would check to be sure that these persons were officially on the job and review the vouchers from the secretary of state's office for paying their salaries. The comptroller would then tell the treasurer to issue a state check to pay them their salaries. The treasurer would write the checks (or would oversee the electronic writing of these checks) for these examiners. Meanwhile, the attorney general might be defending the new law in court because a fourteen-year-old Illinois driver sideswiped a fire truck in Missouri, where you have to be 16 to drive a car.

Even though the state executive officials might be from different political parties, once they are elected, they must work together to perform their different duties to see that all state laws are faithfully enforced.

**Check and balance system** A process by which one department or branch of the government must oversee and approve of the action of another department or branch of the government. Check and balance systems make sure that no person, agency, department, or branch of government has a monopoly of power or overreaches its mission.

## The Auditor General

Two of the state's financial officers are the treasurer and the comptroller. They are popularly elected officials in the executive branch of the state government. The state's third financial officer is the auditor general. The auditor general is an officer of the legislative branch and is appointed by the General Assembly for a ten-year term of office. The auditor general is not an executive branch officer.

The auditor general's job is to review the spending of all state funds to see that all money is spent in accordance with the law. The auditor general also reviews the performance of the executive branch — or how agencies carry out the laws of the state — to be sure that neither more nor less is done than the laws provide. The auditor general is like a watchdog for the General Assembly, checking especially whether the executive branch is doing its job and spending state funds according to the laws and the Constitution. ■

**Civil administrative code** A law passed in 1917 that first created state departments, each under the control of a director who is appointed by the governor. The code sets forth the rules that govern these departments, which are known as code departments.

**Civil service system** A system of rules controlling the employment and supervision of most state workers. The system is designed to assure that people hired by the state have the education, skill, and experience required for their jobs. The rules are also to protect state employees from partisan political influences and removal from office except for appropriate reasons.

**Code departments** Those departments that are governed by the civil administrative code.



High school students meet with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White.

## The Administrative Departments

So far we have discussed only the top state elected officials. All of the six elected executive officials have offices in Springfield and Chicago. The governor, as noted at the beginning of this chapter, has by far the most help. These are the 52,300 state employees who work in more than 50 executive departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities under the governor's control. Some of these offices are large and some are small. For example, the Department of Corrections, which administers state prisons, has about 11,600 employees; the Department of Revenue's Illinois Racing Board, which regulates horse racing in Illinois, has approximately 45 employees.

## The Code Departments

Employees in the state's code departments provide most of the state's services and programs to the people of Illinois. The departments are called code departments because each is created and its powers and duties are established by one set of state laws, called the **administrative code**. This code also includes some laws applying to all the departments. For example, it sets up the personnel code or **civil service system** under which most of the employees of these departments and others under the governor are supposed to be hired, retained, promoted, and dismissed.

The **code departments** are the agencies through which the state provides most of its services to its citizens. The code departments include, for example, the Department of Transportation, which builds and maintains state highways; the Department of Corrections, which manages the state's prison system; and the Department of Agriculture, which provides assistance to farmers and operates the state fairs in Springfield and DuQuoin. Each of these department directors is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The directors are similar to the president's Cabinet of the U.S. government. These individuals are known as political appointees or political executives.

## Executive Boards

Illinois has many boards and commissions, whose members are appointed by the governor, often with the consent of the Senate. The members of these boards make major decisions, and usually the board appoints a person as a director who is in charge of all the employees who work for the board.

Some of these boards are for education. One of the most important is the State Board of Education, which coordinates all public education from preschool through grade twelve. The board appoints the state super-



*The Illinois Department of Corrections is in charge of prisons and youth centers, including the Stateville Correctional Center.*

intendent of education, who administers all the programs and the employees of the State Board of Education.

There is a separate Illinois Board of Higher Education, which coordinates the state's higher education system. That system includes the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, which grants financial aid; the Illinois Community College Board, which assists all the local community colleges in the state; and the governing boards that run the state's nine public universities. Each of the university boards seeks approval for its budget and new programs through the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

## The Governor's Office of Management and Budget

An important state agency is the governor's Office of Management and Budget. This agency works directly for the governor, who gets to hire the director and staff. The office helps the governor prepare the state budget. Every other agency sends its budget requests to the budget office. This office helps the governor regulate state spending and check if revenues will be enough for the state to do all its business throughout the year. The director of the governor's Office of Management and Budget is one of the most important advisers working directly for the governor.

## Other Agencies, Boards, and Commissions

The importance of all the departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities to any one cit-

## Illinois' Code Departments

Department on Aging

Department of Agriculture

Department of Central Management Services

Department of Children and Family Services

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Department of Corrections

Department of Employment Security

Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Department of Human Rights

Department of Human Services

Department of Insurance

Department of Juvenile Justice

Department of Labor

Department of Military Affairs

Department of Natural Resources

Department of Public Health

Department of Revenue

Department of State Police

Department of Transportation

Department of Veterans' Affairs

For more information on the code departments and other state agencies, check the State of Illinois website at [www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov).



## Sum it up

The state's executive branch is made up of the state's elected executive branch officers and the agencies and departments that the governor oversees. The state's executive officers are the:

- governor
- lieutenant governor
- attorney general
- secretary of state
- comptroller
- treasurer

No executive officer or agency can make laws, but the governor has the power to shape laws by means of a veto. The governor has four veto powers:

1. total veto
2. line-item veto
3. reduction veto
4. amendatory veto

The job of the executive branch and its officers is to make sure that laws are put into practice. The job is accomplished not only by the six executive officers, but also by the offices, departments, agencies, boards, and commissions that are overseen by executive branch officers. ■



*The National Guard can be called out by the governor to help in case of floods or other emergencies. It can also be called out by the president to join the nation's regular armed forces. Immediately following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the country's National Guard was charged with security at airports nationwide and were called on to serve in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.*

izen may depend on his or her interests. In carrying out the laws, these departments and agencies also may make administrative rules. The rules help provide detailed guidelines for the laws passed by the legislature.

Another important board appointed by the governor is the State Board of Elections, which administers all of the election laws of the state. It keeps the official results of all state elections.

The Illinois National Guard is run by the Department of Military Affairs, which is headed by the state's adjutant general. The National Guard, as the state's militia, can be called out by the governor to help in case of severe floods or other emergencies. It can also be subject to order by the president, as commander-in-chief of the U.S. military, to be called out to join the nation's regular armed forces.

There are boards that regulate certain activities for the state: utility rates on electricity, banking, and real estate practices, for example.

There are agencies involved in public safety such as the state fire marshal and the Emergency Management Agency.

Interested in the arts or historic preservation? There is an Illinois Arts Council and a Historic Preservation Agency.

The operation of such a vast administrative organization in the Illinois executive branch is a big enterprise. Indeed, the state spends billions each year operating the state government and providing services to Illinois residents through these many agencies. Many state services are provided indirectly through local governments. Many of the programs from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, for example, are provided to the people from county offices. ■