

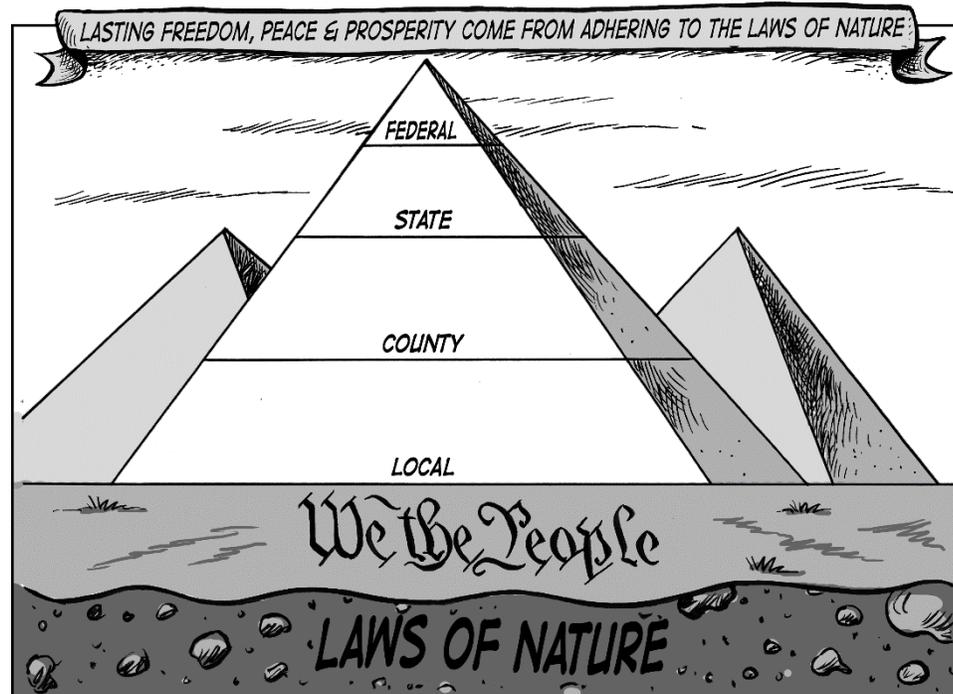


# Government at the Local Level



# Federalism

- Division of power between National, State, and Local Governments





# Federal Supremacy

- *McCulloch v. Maryland*
  - Federal Government is supreme
- No State's constitution or laws can conflict with any form of federal law
  - "Full Faith & Credit"
  - "Privileges & Immunities"
- States can change the US Constitution
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  states approve
  - $\frac{2}{3}$  state legislatures propose,  $\frac{3}{4}$  approve





# State Constitutions

- States' Supreme Law
  - Cannot conflict with US Constitution or Federal Law
- Similarities
  - Limited Government
  - Separation of Powers
  - Checks and Balances





# State Legislatures

- 49/50 are bicameral
  - Nebraska is unicameral
- Pretty much the same as Congress
- Exceptions
  - Easier for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Candidates
  - Direct Democracy
    - Initiative and Referendum





# Nebraska State Legislature

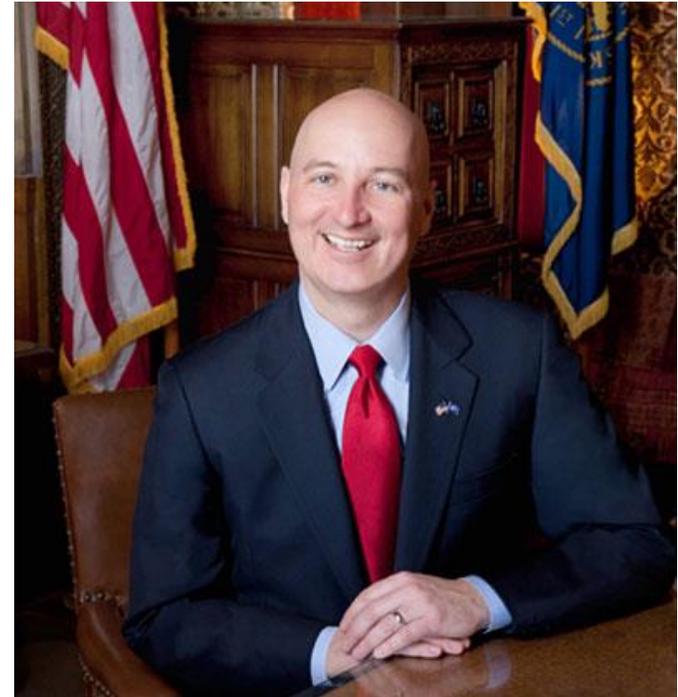
- Smallest Legislative branch in the country
  - Only 49 Senators
    - Each Senator represents about 35,000 people





# Governor

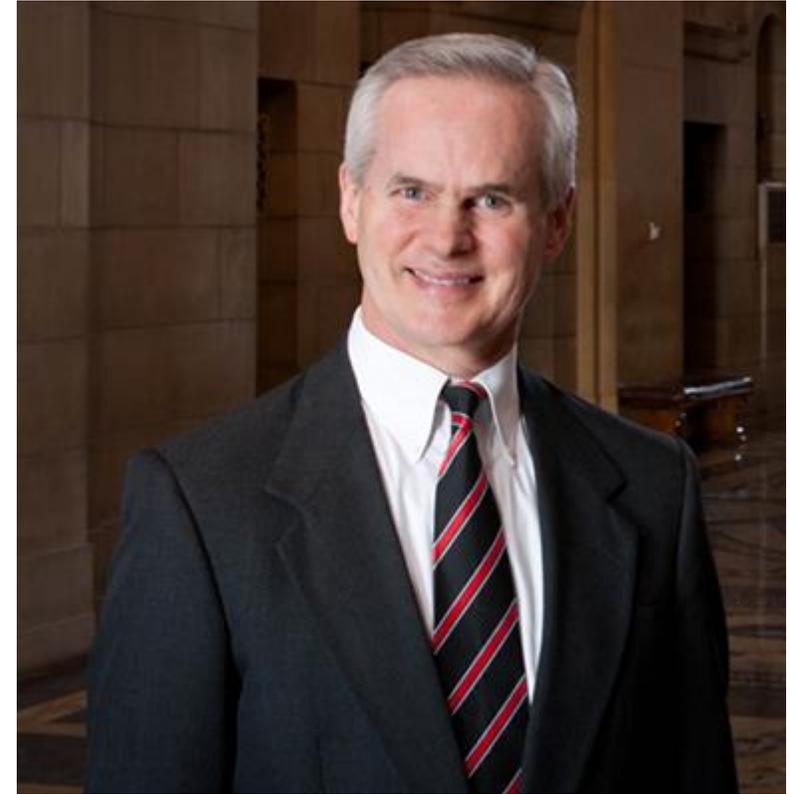
- Head Executive of States
- Differences
  - Direct Democracy → Recall Elections
  - Line Item Veto → All but 6 have this
  - No Debt → Must Balance the Budget
- Many “Hats”
  - Supervise State Bureaucracy, Make Appointments, Military – National Guard, Legislative, Judicial Powers – Pardons, Ceremonial – Visits & Addresses





# State Officers

- Lieutenant Governor
  - Similar to “Vice President”
- Secretary of State
- State Treasurer
- Attorney General





# State Courts

- General Trial Courts and District Courts
  - Handle Civil and Criminal Law
- Municipal Courts
  - Handle City & County Ordinances
- Juvenile Courts
  - Handle cases involving minors
- Appellate Courts
- State Supreme Court
  - Handle issues with state's constitution





# County Government

- Major unit of government below the state
- Structure of counties:
  - Governing Board
  - Elected Officials (Ex. Sheriff)
  - Various Committees & Bureaucracy
- County Board Responsibilities:
  - Levy Taxes
  - Appropriate Funds
  - Incur Limited Debts
  - Corrections
  - Road Management
  - Welfare Programs



# Township Government

- Subdivision of county
  - Usually Rural
- Structure
  - Similar to county but smaller
- Function
  - Handles roads, parks, zoning, services to people

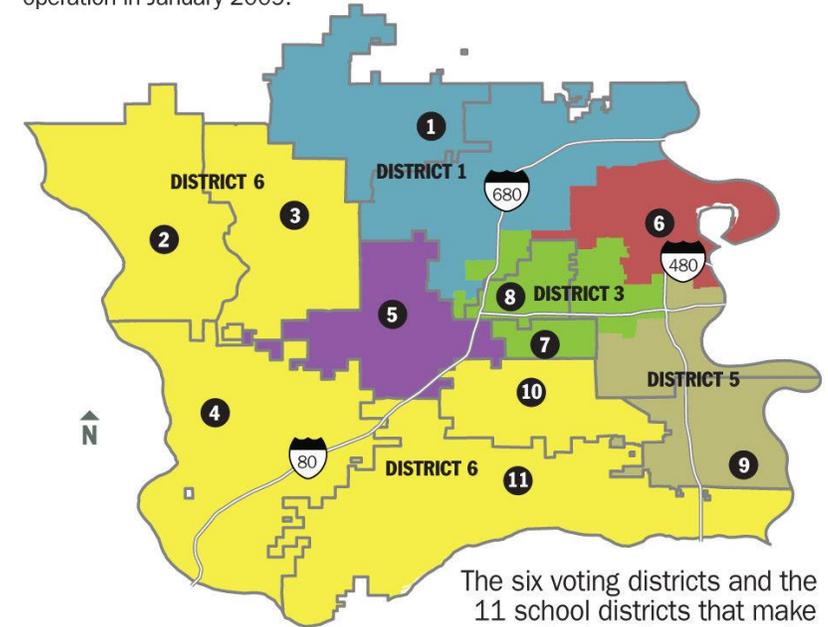


# Special Districts

- Independent units created to perform one job at the local level
  - Can cross county or city lines
- Examples:
  - School District
  - Water District

## LEARNING COMMUNITY DISTRICTS

The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties is a cooperative of 11 school districts created by the Nebraska Legislature to enhance the education of disadvantaged kids in the metro area. Governed by a council of 18 voting members, the government entity redistributes property tax dollars between districts to target disadvantaged students. It also administers a socioeconomic diversity plan and levies a property tax to provide programs and services to enhance education in high-poverty areas. The Learning Community began operation in January 2009.



The six voting districts and the 11 school districts that make up the learning community.

### School boundaries

- ① Bennington ② Douglas County West ③ Elkhorn ④ Gretna ⑤ Millard  
⑥ Omaha ⑦ Ralston ⑧ Westside ⑨ Bellevue ⑩ Papillion-La Vista ⑪ Springfield Platteview

SOURCE: Douglas County Election Commissioner's Office



# City Government

- Can have a strong mayor or weak mayor
  - Bigger cities prefer strong mayor with more power
- Provide Services
  - Police/Fire Protection
  - Street Maintenance
  - Sewer and Water
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Can own businesses
- Employ Millions throughout U.S.





# Financing State and Local

- Sales Taxes (Regressive Tax)
- Income Taxes (Progressive Tax)
- Property Taxes
- Inheritance or Estate Taxes
- Business Taxes
- License Fees
- Borrowing
  - Must “Balance the Books” unlike Congress

Cities with highest travel taxes in 2012*		Cities with lowest travel taxes in 2012*	
CITY	TAX AMOUNT	CITY	TAX AMOUNT
Chicago	\$98.87	Portland, Ore.	\$54.42
New York	\$95.19	Detroit	\$54.69
Minneapolis	\$89.08	Fort Lauderdale	\$55.26
Seattle	\$87.16	Fort Myers, Fla.	\$55.26
Kansas City, Mo.	\$86.35	West Palm Beach	\$55.26

\* Per-guest taxes paid on lodging, car rental and meals for a three-day, two-night stay in central city areas

Source: Global Business Travel Association