



ELECTED OFFICIALS: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

NATIONAL

President of the United States

The President of the United States serves as the chief executive of the federal government as well as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The President is elected every four years. The President appoints ambassadors, federal judges and heads of executive departments, and is responsible for enforcing the nation's laws.

Vice President of the United States

The Vice President of the United States assumes the Presidency if the President is unable to perform his/her duties. The Vice President also serves as the President of the Senate casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie. The Vice President is elected alongside the President every four years.

U.S. Senator

A U.S. Senator is an elected member of the United States Senate. The Senate is one of the chambers of the United States Congress, the nation's legislative body. Each state is represented by two senators who are elected every six years. The Senate proposes and considers new laws, approves or rejects presidential nominations, provides advice and consent on international treaties, and serves as the high court for impeachment trials.

Representative in Congress

A congressional representative (also known as a Congressman or Congresswoman) is an elected member of the House of Representatives, the other chamber of the United States Congress. Each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. The number of voting representatives in the House is fixed by law at no more than 435, proportionally representing the population of the 50 states. Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

STATE

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of a State. The Governor is elected for a term of four years. The Governor leads the implementation of state law, appoints state department/agency heads, and oversees the state executive branch.

LOCAL

Mayor/County Executive

The Mayor/County Executive is the chief executive officer of a City/County. The Mayor/County Executive is elected for a term of four years. The Mayor/County Executive has authority to veto ordinances, has power of appointment of most department heads and municipal officers.

Member of the City/County Council

The Council is the City/Counties legislative body, with the power to enact all ordinances and resolutions. The City Council is responsible for the appropriation and issuance of bonds. They adopt and may alter the annual budget and confirm the Mayor's appointments. Council members are elected every four years.

Black Girls Vote, Inc.—a grassroots, nonpartisan organization
created to inspire a community of women to use the democratic process to address issues that impact women of color.

Black Girls Vote, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) organization | www.blackgirlsvote.com