

Federalism

- Federalism - separation of powers between state and national governments
- States use Reserved Powers (reserved for the states) and Concurrent Powers (shared with the Federal Government)
- Supremacy Clause - if conflict exists between laws, national law is enforced (allegedly)
- State Constitutions are followed, NC Constitution is similar to the Federal Constitution. The US Constitution requires states to have a legislature (Article 4 Section 4)
- Federal-State Cooperation

State Executive Branch

-Governor-

4 year term,

2 consecutive term limit

30 years old



-Lieutenant Governor - kind of like a VP, but we elect them separately

State Executive Branch

-Governor has the same roles as the President

Executive - enforces the laws of the state

Legislative - decides what laws he wants passed

Commander of the national guard, especially in state emergencies

Party leader for the state

Judicial leader - governor can issue pardons or amnesties for state laws.

Head of State - ceremonial roles

State Executive Branch

-State Executive Departments and Agencies

-10 major Executive Departments(appointed, and similar to the cabinet)

-8 Council of State Departments(elected)

State Legislative Branch

-Very similar to Congress

(called General Assembly
in NC, abbreviated NCGA)

NC Senate-50 NC House 120

2 year Terms , no limits

-Legislatures can be based
only on Population

Reynolds v. Sims



State Legislative Branch

-State Congressmen

varying requirements for each state, some states are full time jobs, some are part time

NC House-21, NC Senate 25

-Law Passing Process very similar to Congress

-Budget Problems are greatest concerns



State Judicial Branch

-State Courts handle most cases, which are all cases not given to federal jurisdiction,

-Most state judges are elected officials

-elected in non-partisan elections (district level) and by party for appeals and state supreme court in NC

-there is debate over election process and if judges should be elected



State Judicial Branch

- Lower State Courts- misdemeanor cases, family law and small civil suits—judge only
- Higher State Courts- felony cases, large civil suits—jury trials
- trial courts, county court, district court
- Appellate Courts
- State Supreme Courts

County Government

-Largest level of local government

-County gets all authority from the State Government through a *Charter*

-Common Purposes

County Officials

-County Board

-Commissioners - make county laws (elected)

-Sheriff - chief law enforcement for a county (elected)

-Coroner

-Clerk

-Register of Deeds

-District Attorney - leading prosecutor for county (elected)

County Services

-Pass laws and regulations
ordinances

-law enforcement

-fire services

-recreation

-sanitation

-education

-planning

-transportation

-health

-welfare

City Governments

-get powers from a charter given by the state

-Incorporation

-Annexation

-Usually one of two major types of city governments

-Mayor-Council Form (less common)

-Strong Mayor System

-Weak Mayor System

-Council- Manager System

-elected Council hires professional to run gov' t

City Officials

- Mayor - executive for the city

- Council - legislative for a city

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- Manager - runs the day to day operations of city (which makes them a sort of executive)

City Services

-Can face more serious problems in urban areas

-Same types of services

-law enforcement

-fire services

-recreation

-sanitation

-education (in some districts)

-planning

-transportation

-health

-welfare

The Leandro Case (officially Leandro v. State, but usually referred to as the Leandro Case).

This is an NC Supreme Court decision!

Note: Schools in NC are funded by property taxes in local counties. Therefore, property value and tax rates are important to raising money for local governments

“Leandro” represented 5 counties that are in poor areas and claimed that their schools could not compete with wealthier areas because of their tax base. (this is the problem)

This “caused” poor counties to not be able to fund education as well as wealthy counties.

This caused the “effect” of bad schools in those counties.

The court did not say that equal funding was a constitutional right but did say that ALL STUDENTS IN NC ARE ENTITLED TO “RECEIVE A SOUND BASIC EDUCATION.”

State v. Mann (referred to as NC v. Mann in other states)
This is an NC Supreme Court decision!

Remember, think about this: what is the problem, cause, effect, and solution?

Problem: How does the law apply to slave/slave owner relationships?

Mann "rented" a slave from a lady named Elizabeth Jones. He became angry with the slave and shot and wounded her when she tried to escape a lashing.

Mann was found guilty of battery by an NC court, yet he felt this went against the relationship of slave/slaveowner

This decision was appealed to the NC Supreme Court, which said the authority of a slave owner must be "absolute" and therefore Mann could not be charged for assault.

This case became a "rally cry" for northern abolitionist and was referenced by Harriett Beecher Stowe when she wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Public Policy

-Public Policy

-response of the government
to an issue

-Sources of Ideas

-Planning Boards

-Zoning Boards

Public Planning

-County Boards and Planning Boards meet to make plans

have public hearings, usually once a month or so

Master Plans

-Short Term Plans (6 months to a year)

-Long Term Plans (5-10 year plan)

-Priorities and Resources

Financing Public Policy

-Property Taxes - main source of income for local governments, and pay for most local services

-Local Sales Tax may be added (i.e., 2.5% sales tax in Wake Co)

-Business licenses - all businesses must have permission to operate

-User fees - the people who use a service pay for it (ex. Bus, 540 toll road, etc.)

-Bonds - a type of loan for a county government, and is usually voted on