

Democracy for Seniors Badge

Three Branches of Government

The United States government—and the government for all of the states—is broken into three parts, or branches. The Constitution of the United States divided the government in this way to make sure that no one person or group has too much power.

**Legislative—
makes laws**

**Executive—
enforces laws**

**Judicial—
evaluates laws**

A system of “checks and balances” helps to keep power evenly distributed between the three branches. Each branch “checks” the power of the other. For example, the legislative branch makes laws, but the president (or executive branch) can veto laws, and the judicial branch can declare a law unconstitutional.

