

# CHAPTER 29

# Texas State Government

## Why It Matters

The state legislature makes laws, and the governor administers them. This division of responsibilities is called "separation of powers."

## The Impact Today

The amount of money the state spends on services such as education, highways, parks, and health care is decided by the legislature with the approval of the governor.

**1991**

- ★ Ann Richards inaugurated as governor
- ★ Dan Morales, first Hispanic attorney general, sworn in



**1995**

- ★ George W. Bush inaugurated as governor

**1988**

- Benazir Bhutto became prime minister of Pakistan

**1990**

- Violetta de Chamorro became president of Nicaragua



**1993**

- Bill Clinton inaugurated as president of the United States



The dome of the Texas State Capitol is a well-known and inspiring landmark in Austin.

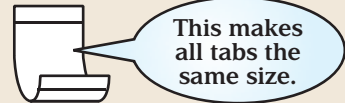
**Categorizing Information Study Foldable**

Make this foldable to categorize what you learn about the state government of Texas.

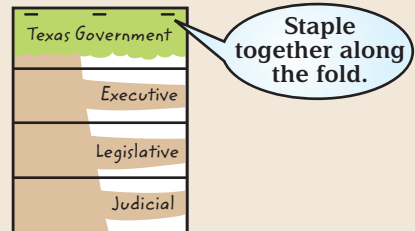
**Step 1** Collect two sheets of paper and place them about 2 inches apart.



**Step 2** Fold up the bottom edges of the paper to form 4 tabs.



**Step 3** When all the tabs are the same size, crease the paper to hold the tabs in place and staple the sheets together. Turn the paper and label each tab as shown.



**Reading and Writing** As you read about the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Texas state government, ask yourself what facts are important. Record these key facts under each appropriate tab of your foldable.



**2000**  
★ Rick Perry became governor



**Chapter Overview**  
Visit the [texans.glencoe.com](http://texans.glencoe.com) Web site and click on **Chapter 29—Chapter Overviews** to preview chapter information.



**1997**  
• Kofi Annan chosen as secretary general of the United Nations

**2000**  
• George W. Bush elected president of the United States

**2001**  
• Terrorists attacked the U.S. World Trade Center in New York

**2001**  
• Condoleezza Rice appointed head of the National Security Council



# The Texas Legislature

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The Texas legislature has the power to pass laws, review the work of the executive branch, and represent the views of the people.

### Key Terms

bicameral, oversight, redistricting, resolution

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown by answering the questions.

	House of Representatives	Senate
How many members?		
Meets how often?		
Who leads?		

### Read to Learn

- how the Texas legislature is organized.
- what duties belong to each house.
- how a bill becomes a law.

### Section Theme

**Government and Democracy** Much of the work of the legislature is accomplished in committee.

### Preview of Events



State Senator Rodney Ellis

## A Texas Story



State Senator Rodney Ellis represented one of the poorest Senate districts in the state, but that did not keep him from being an effective member of the legislature. After one legislative session, a reporter for *The Texas Observer* wrote the following about him. “[As] the driving force behind a package of criminal justice reform bills, Ellis has had a hand in most of the legislature’s major accomplishments.” Dedicated public servants like Rodney Ellis are one group of people who help create the laws to determine how we live.

## The Function of the Legislative Branch

Like the United States legislature, the Texas **bicameral** legislature is composed of a Senate and House of Representatives. *Bicameral* means having two rooms, or chambers. Several Senate committees oversee the affairs of the

state, including education, criminal justice, and health and human services. The House is concerned with many of the same matters as is the Senate. Its committees are responsible for agriculture and livestock, economic development, environmental regulation, higher education, natural resources, public health, and other matters.

Lawmakers from both chambers decide how much money should be spent on education, whether taxes should be raised or lowered, and how to help the economy.

## Duties

The Texas **legislature** makes the laws that govern Texas. Other duties include approving or rejecting the governor's appointments and using

the power of **oversight** to review the actions of other branches of government. The legislature also discusses how state monies should be spent and what to do about prison overcrowding, taxes, education, and the environment.

Because legislators represent the people of Texas, they listen to voters' concerns about current issues. For example, some members of the House met with hundreds of concerned Austin residents about the proposed use of a 50-year-old pipeline through which a private company wanted to pump gas. Because the pipeline ran near residential neighborhoods, the citizens expressed their concerns about potential hazards.

 **Reading Check** **Questioning** What is one way citizens share their concerns with their legislators?

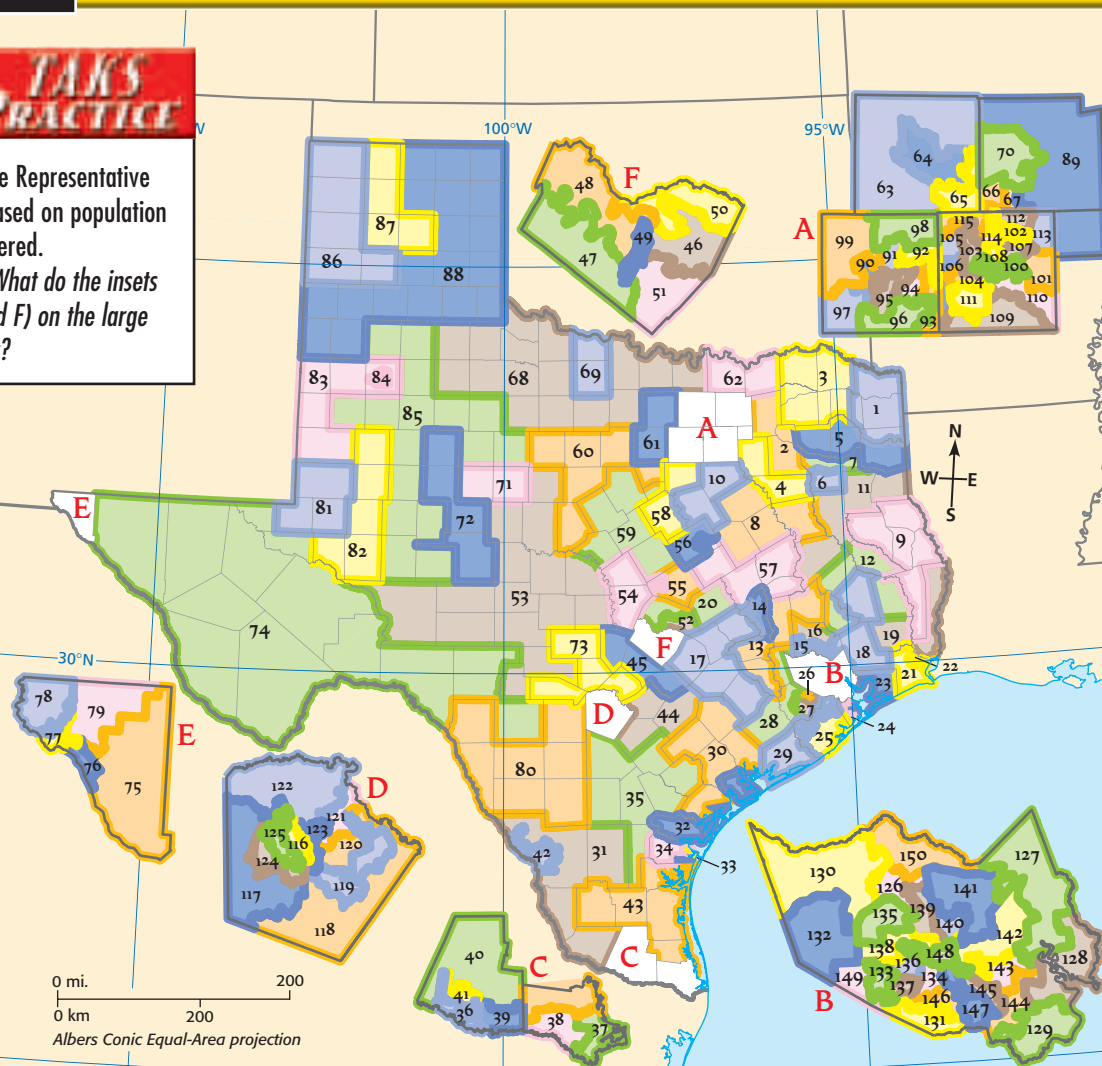
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## Texas State Representative Districts



The Texas State Representative Districts are based on population and are numbered.

**Evaluating** What do the insets (A, B, C, D, E, and F) on the large map represent?



0 mi. 200  
0 km 200  
Albers Conic Equal-Area projection

**CONTENTS**



## Running the State Government

The Texas legislature is composed of 31 members in the **Senate** and 150 members in the **House of Representatives**. It meets every two years. Sometimes special sessions are necessary to handle problems needing immediate solutions. The governor may call one or more special sessions when the legislature is not in regular session.

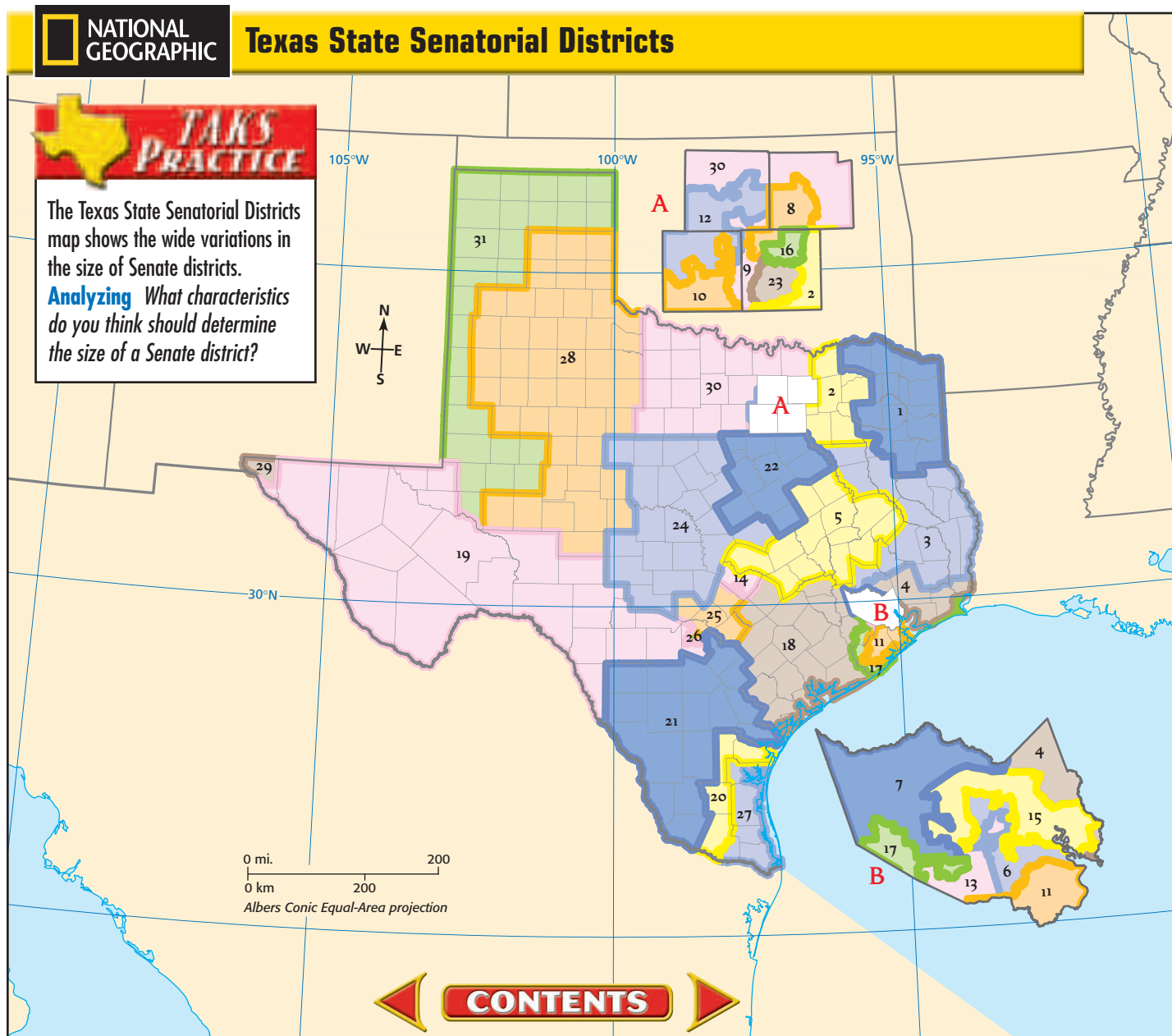
The **lieutenant governor**, elected by voters of the state, serves as the Senate's president. The House of Representatives elects a **Speaker of the House**. These leaders have a great deal of power.

Committees help the legislature carry out tasks such as studying problems and drafting bills. Appointing legislators to committees is an important responsibility for the Speaker and

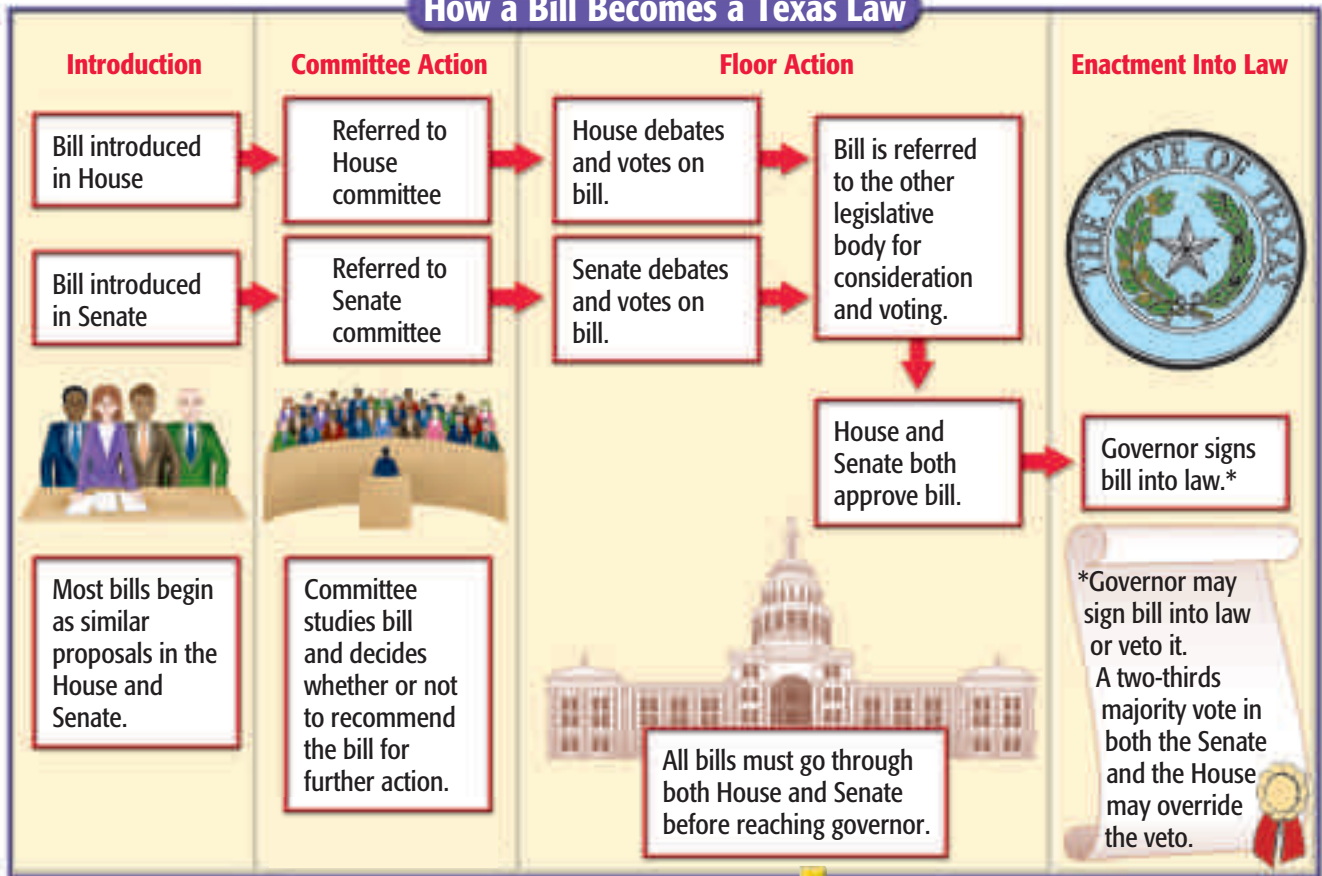
lieutenant governor. Committee chairpeople are powerful. They can "kill" any proposed law they do not agree with by not scheduling it for discussion in the House or Senate.

One important duty of the legislature is redrawing legislative and congressional districts as the population changes. This is known as **redistricting** and may determine which party controls the state legislature. Redistricting occurs after a census is completed. Redistricting creates many arguments in the Texas legislature because it changes the distribution of political power.

**✓ Reading Check Explaining** Why is redistricting important to political parties?



## How a Bill Becomes a Texas Law



## TAKS PRACTICE

**Evaluating** A bill goes through a specific process before becoming a law. *At what point do most bills “die” in the process?*

### How a Bill Becomes a Law

There are two major types of proposals that can be considered by the state legislature. The first of these is a **resolution**. A resolution officially expresses the legislature’s opinion about a subject. Resolutions are used to propose amendments to the Texas or U.S. Constitutions or to set rules of conduct. They might proclaim certain days to honor individuals or special groups, like veterans. For example, your school might be honored for a sport-related or academic achievement.

The second type of proposal is a “bill,” which is a proposed law. Thousands are considered each legislative session, but few become law. A bill that is approved by both the House and Senate and signed by the governor becomes a **law**.

A bill is first “read” before the entire House or Senate and assigned to a committee. Just a summary is read aloud. Committee members listen to testimony from people who favor the bill and from people who oppose it. Then the

committee members decide whether the rest of the House or the rest of the Senate should consider the bill. Most bills are not recommended for further consideration. Those bills are said to have “died in committee.”

A bill that is recommended for further consideration must be debated by the entire House or by the entire Senate. After a debate, the representatives or senators vote. If a majority votes in favor of the bill, then that bill usually will be considered by the legislators in the other house. The bill must be approved in the same form by a majority of the House and the Senate.

Sometimes the House and the Senate approve different forms of the same bill. Then the Speaker of the House and the lieutenant governor appoint a conference committee, made up of

## Causes and Effects of Redistricting

### Causes

- Census results show a shift in population to cities.
- U.S. Supreme Court ruled each senator or representative must represent the same number of voters.

### Effects

- Large cities and surrounding suburbs gain representation.
- State government now spends more money on urban areas.
- Minorities are more easily elected.



### Graphic Organizer Skills

Before the U.S. Supreme Court passed the “one-man, one-vote” ruling, Texas’s large cities were “underrepresented” in the legislature.

**Analyzing** How did minorities benefit from redistricting?

members from both houses, to work out the differences. Conference committees sometimes change a bill so thoroughly that the new version may not look very much like either bill when it arrived at the conference committee. After the committee members agree on the bill, it must then be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate another time.

Once a bill has been approved by both the House and the Senate, it goes to the governor. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes law. If the governor vetoes the bill, it does not become law

unless two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate vote to override the veto.

The legislature considers thousands of proposals each session, but few become law. One bill that passed during a recent legislative session was the **Hate Crimes Bill**. This bill increases penalties for crimes committed because of hatred or bias against personal characteristics of the victim, such as age, race, or gender.

**Reading Check Evaluating** What reasons might prevent a bill from reaching the governor’s desk?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

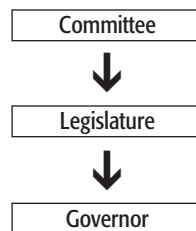
1. **Using Key Terms** Use the terms **bicameral**, **oversight**, **redistricting**, and **resolution** in sentences to demonstrate your understanding of the terms.
2. **Reviewing Facts** What is the difference between a bill and a resolution?

### Reviewing Themes

3. **Government and Democracy** Identify three main responsibilities of the Senate.

### Organizing to Learn

4. **Sequencing** Create a flow chart like the one shown here. For each stage shown, describe the steps a bill passes through to become a law.



### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing** How does a census influence the political makeup of the Texas legislature?



### Distinguishing Fact From Opinion

Imagine that you are writing a bill that would widen roads to add more bike lanes. Write two facts and two opinions that would attract support for your bill.

# The Executive Branch

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The executive branch carries out the laws. The governor is the state's chief executive.

### Key Terms

line-item veto  
commander in chief

### Reading Strategy

**Identifying** The governor appoints certain officials; others are elected. Create a chart like this one and place an X in the appropriate column.

	Appointed	Elected
Comptroller		
Judges		
Board of Pardons and Paroles		

### Read to Learn

- what the governor's powers are.
- about the duties of other officials.

### Section Theme

#### Government and Democracy

Though the governor is the chief executive of the state, the executive powers are checked and balanced by the legislative branch, and shared with other elected officials.

### Preview of Events



Sometime acting governor  
Rodney Ellis

## A Texas Story



When the governor is out of the state, the lieutenant governor is the acting governor. When both the governor and the lieutenant governor are out of the state at the same time, the president *pro tempore* of the Senate is the acting governor. In 1999–2000 Senator Rodney Ellis was acting governor of Texas for a total of 50 days.

## The Function of the Executive Branch

The **executive branch** of state government carries out the laws passed by the legislature. It also conducts the business of the state. Executive agencies account for 99 percent of the state's budget and are required to "execute," or carry out, policy set by the legislative branch. Executive power is shared by elected officials and those appointed by the governor.







# People of Texas

Elvira Reyna 1950-



Elvira Reyna (Dallas) has the distinction of being the first Hispanic American Republican to be elected to the state legislature. Prior to her election in 1992, Reyna participated in numerous civic groups such as the PTA, the local library board, and the school

board. As a state representative, Reyna has served on the Higher Education Committee and the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee.

Reyna has overcome many obstacles and challenges on her way to the State Capitol. She is proud

of her success, but she also wants to motivate others to excel. In a speech, she urged the audience to “find [their] own steps to success” and not to define themselves by another’s achievements. She also believes that education is fundamental to success.

## The Governor of Texas

The **governor** is the head of the executive branch of Texas government. Although elected to terms of four years, there is no limit to the number of terms a governor may serve. Prior to 1974, governors were elected to two-year terms. To qualify for the office, one must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Texas for at least five years before the election.

A campaign for governor is very expensive. Candidates for governor must raise large sums of money to pay for advertising and other expenses. Third-party candidates sometimes run for office, but campaign costs make their elections unlikely.

Two women have served as governors of Texas. The first was Miriam “Ma” Ferguson, elected in 1924 and 1932. Her husband, Governor Jim Ferguson, had served as governor between 1915 and 1917, but had been impeached and removed from office. Ann Richards, a Democrat, was elected to a four-year term in 1990.

Governors and their staffs have much work to do. By the end of 2001, **Governor Rick Perry** had received almost 1,500 bills for review by staff members. After review, senior staff members recommend that bills be signed or vetoed.

**Reading Check Identifying** How many years make up one term in office of a governor?

## Executive Powers of the Governor

One **executive power** is to make appointments to **boards** and **commissions**. In a four-year term, the governor may make more than 4,000 appointments, each of which must be approved by two-thirds of the Senate.

The governor also has the power to remove certain officials, such as a judge engaged in serious misconduct. With the approval of the Senate, the governor can remove anyone he or she has appointed to a board or commission.

*The governor’s residence in Austin*



## Legislative Powers of the Governor

In addition to executive powers, the governor of Texas holds three important **legislative powers**. One is the power to send messages to the legislature. The governor speaks to the legislature at the opening of each regular session. In addition, the governor may send messages throughout the session. These speeches or documents usually explain the governor’s policy goals. The legislature does not have to act on the governor’s recommendations, however.

The veto power is one of the governor’s legislative powers, providing an important check over the legislature. Just by threatening to veto a bill, the governor can influence the legislature to change a piece of legislation in a way that would make the governor’s approval of the final version more likely. An important part of the governor’s veto power is the **line-item veto**. This type of veto is allowed by the constitution and gives the governor the power to reject particular items in appropriations bills. Appropriations bills itemize how state money will be spent.

The governor also has the power to call special sessions of the legislature for emergency business. The governor decides what business needs to be done, and the legislature cannot consider any other topics unless the governor approves them. Because regular sessions are short and are held only every two years, a significant amount of business is completed during special sessions.



**Making Predictions** The top elected officials in Texas oversee the activities of numerous state agencies. *When might new state agencies be created?*

## Other Powers of the Governor

The governor has certain powers that influence the judicial system. The governor appoints the members of the **Board of Pardons and Paroles**, the **Board of Criminal Justice**, the **Texas Youth Commission**, and other commissions that deal with offenders. The governor also can delay the execution date of prisoners or grant pardons. He or she can appoint judges to fill vacancies until regular elections are held.

The governor also serves as the **commander in chief** of Texas. This means that the governor is in charge of the Texas Guard, except when units are called into action for the National Guard. The Texas Guard includes the Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard, and the Texas State Guard.

### Duties of Top Elected Officials of Texas

Official	Duties
<b>Governor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts as chief executive of Texas</li> <li>• Makes appointments to boards and commissions</li> <li>• Removes officials when necessary</li> <li>• Signs or vetoes bills</li> <li>• Calls special sessions of the legislature</li> <li>• Serves as commander in chief</li> <li>• Represents Texas</li> </ul>
<b>Lieutenant Governor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts as chief executive in governor’s absence</li> <li>• Carries out duties as requested by governor</li> <li>• Serves as president of Texas Senate</li> </ul>
<b>Attorney General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts as the state’s lawyer</li> <li>• Represents Texas or Texas agency in court</li> <li>• Advises the legislature</li> <li>• Explains regulations to agencies and local governments</li> </ul>
<b>Comptroller of Public Accounts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves as chief tax collector</li> <li>• Makes expenditures according to state regulations</li> <li>• Provides budget estimates to legislature</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioner of the General Land Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manages the land and mineral rights owned by Texas</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforces agricultural laws</li> <li>• Provides educational and research services to farmers, ranchers, and consumers</li> <li>• Promotes Texas products</li> <li>• Protects the environment</li> </ul>

CLICK HERE

## TEXAS HISTORY Online

**Student Web Activity** Visit the [texans.glencoe.com](http://texans.glencoe.com) Web site and click on **Chapter 29—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the duties of the governor.

Because the governor’s presence lends importance to an occasion, hundreds of requests are received every year for his or her attendance at various functions. The governor represents Texas at meetings, celebrations, and ceremonies.

The governor, for example, may attend the openings of new schools and present awards to honored citizens. With technology, the governor now can “attend” meetings without being present. In April 2001, Governor Rick Perry made history when his image was beamed from Austin to the University of Texas at Dallas using new “teleportation” technology. “I can’t shake your hand, but I’m there with you,” Perry told the audience.

### Other Elected Members

In addition to the governor, five other members of the executive branch are chosen in statewide elections. Being elected rather than appointed means these officials are not as dependent on the governor. They are directly responsible to the people who voted for them. This is one reason the office of the governor of Texas is weaker than in many other states.

Texas’s lieutenant governor is unique in that he or she is part of both the executive and the legislative branches of government. Unlike in most other states, he or she is elected separately from the governor and can belong to a different political party. The lieutenant governor assumes the powers and duties of the governor when the governor is not able to serve or is absent from the state. Most of the power of the lieutenant governor, however, comes from the fact that he or she is also president of the Texas Senate. In the Senate, the lieutenant governor can set state policy and influence the law-making process.

Other elected offices include the **attorney general**, the **comptroller of public accounts**, the **commissioner of the General Land Office**, and the **commissioner of agriculture**.

### Boards and Commissions

The heads of boards and commissions are appointed by the governor or elected. The **State Board of Insurance**, the **Texas Transportation Commission**, the **Business and Economic Development Council**, and the **Railroad Commission** are some of the larger agencies. The **State Board of Education** manages and invests the \$20 billion **Permanent School Fund** used to finance education in Texas public schools.

**Reading Check Analyzing** Why is the office of the governor of Texas weaker than in many other states?

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- Using Key Terms** Write a news brief, using the terms **commander in chief** and **line-item veto**.
- Reviewing Facts** List three requirements necessary to become governor of Texas.

### Reviewing Themes

- Government and Democracy** Name one reason why third-party candidates are usually not elected.

### Organizing to Learn

- Creating Charts** Create a chart like the one shown here. List three legislative powers of the governor and three powers of the governor that influence the judicial branch.

Legislative	Judicial

### Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** Why do some people say “the governor’s most important power is the power to persuade”?
- Analyzing** How does the State Board of Education help finance the education of Texas students?

## TAKS PRACTICE

**Summarizing** Make a list that summarizes the ways in which the governor represents the state.



# Social Studies

## TAKS Skillbuilder



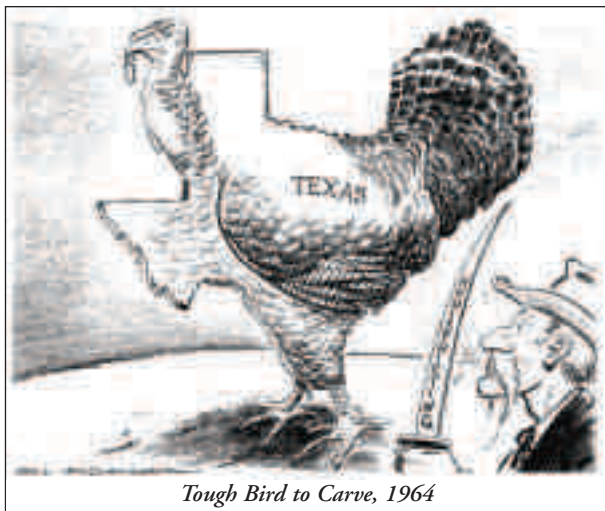
## Interpreting Political Cartoons

### Why Learn the Skill?

Unlike a block of text that may take several minutes to read, a cartoon has an immediate impact on the viewer. This is one reason why newspapers regularly use cartoons to support or criticize current issues and public figures.

In political cartoons, artists use humor and satire to express opinions about political issues. The purpose of most political cartoons is to inform and influence public opinion in an entertaining way. Political cartoons often appear on the editorial pages of newspapers.

To interpret the meaning of a political cartoon, study its pictures, words, and symbols to discover the main idea and point of view. Cartoonists often exaggerate their drawings to make their points more forcefully. Cartoonists also use symbols. The figure of Uncle Sam, for example, is a symbol for the United States government.



*Tough Bird to Carve, 1964*

### Learning the Skill

Here are some steps to follow in interpreting political cartoons.

- Read the title and information in the cartoon to identify the topic.
- Analyze the symbols in the cartoon.
- Identify the main idea and the cartoonist's point of view.

### Practicing the Skill

Study the cartoon on this page and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 How is Texas represented?
- 2 What is the title of the cartoon?
- 3 What is the man in the bottom right corner about to do?
- 4 How does the cartoonist portray the man?
- 5 What is the main point of this cartoon?
- 6 What is the cartoonist's point of view?



## TAKS PRACTICE

**Interpreting Political Cartoons** Look in your local newspaper to find a political cartoon. They are often located in the news or opinion (editorial) sections. Decide what the main point is of the cartoon. Summarize the main point in a paragraph. Explain any symbols or figures and what you think they represent.

Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook**, Level 1, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.





# Financing State Government

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

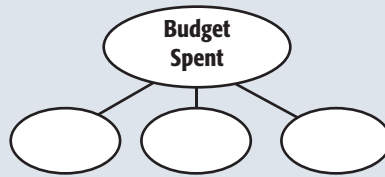
The government of Texas requires a network of officials to plan and carry out the state's budget policies.

### Key Terms

budget  
fiscal  
franchise tax  
windfall

### Reading Strategy

**Identifying** As you read this section, complete a web like the one shown here and indicate in which three areas most money is spent.



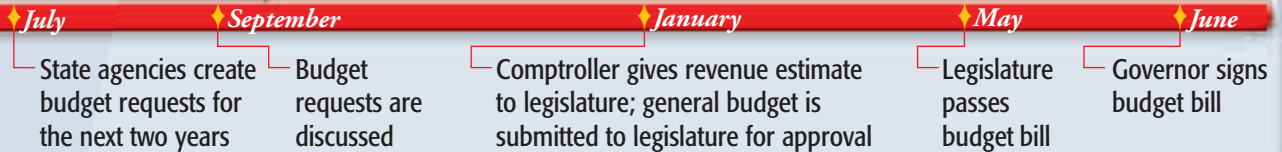
### Read to Learn

- what the state budget includes.
- which programs receive the largest share of the money.
- where the money comes from.

### Section Theme

**Government and Democracy** The state legislature decides what share of the budget various state programs will receive.

### Preview of Events



College students on graduation day

## A Texas Story



One of the most important decisions of the legislature is how to spend the money it collects in taxes. In the 77th Legislature, Senator Rodney Ellis used his power as chair of the Senate Finance Committee to “fund four priority items: a major Medicaid expansion, state employees’ pay raises, teacher health insurance, and financial aid for college students.”

—adapted from *The Texas Observer*, June 8, 2001

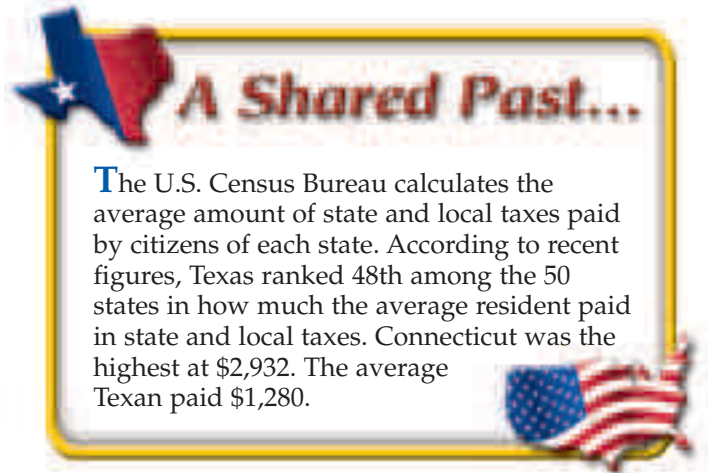
### Setting the State Budget

Running a state government as large as that of Texas requires careful planning and budgeting. The state’s budget sets economic and social priorities. It also estimates how much revenue the state expects to take in and how much it may spend. The budget determines which programs will grow, shrink, or be

eliminated. If the state does not manage its money wisely, services essential to the citizens of Texas may not get adequately funded. For example, roads and schools can deteriorate, neighborhoods can suffer the effects of decreased spending on law enforcement, and the economy can weaken.

## The Budget Process

A **budget** is a plan for how much one expects to earn and how one proposes to spend the earnings. In most states, the governor draws up the budget. In Texas, the governor shares this power with a legislative committee that has the job of proposing a budget to the legislature. Except in unusual circumstances, two-year budgets for Texas government are set during the regular session of the legislature. Budget planning begins long before that, however. Usually, 12 months before the legislature meets, every agency that spends state funds reports to the **Legislative Budget Board** and to the **Governor's Office of Budget and Planning**. The agencies list their past expenses and estimate what they will need for the next two years. This can be very difficult because the demand for government services may change over time. Agencies must anticipate those changes. After the agencies' requests have been



### A Shared Past...

The U.S. Census Bureau calculates the average amount of state and local taxes paid by citizens of each state. According to recent figures, Texas ranked 48th among the 50 states in how much the average resident paid in state and local taxes. Connecticut was the highest at \$2,932. The average Texan paid \$1,280.

studied and other groups have weighed in with their requests, a budget bill is submitted to the legislative committee for consideration. The bill then follows the legislative process.

## How the State Spends Money

In the 77th Legislature, a House–Senate budget committee created a 2002–2003 state budget of nearly \$114 billion that was 11.6 percent larger than the prior budget. For the 2002–2003 **fiscal** (financial) year, education accounted for 31 percent of the budget. This budget included money for state employees' raises, improving Medicaid



## People of Texas

**Rick Perry** 1950–



Former lieutenant governor Rick Perry became governor of Texas in 2000 when George W. Bush left the governor's office to become president. Elected to a full term as governor in 2002, Perry previously served in the Texas House of Representatives and as

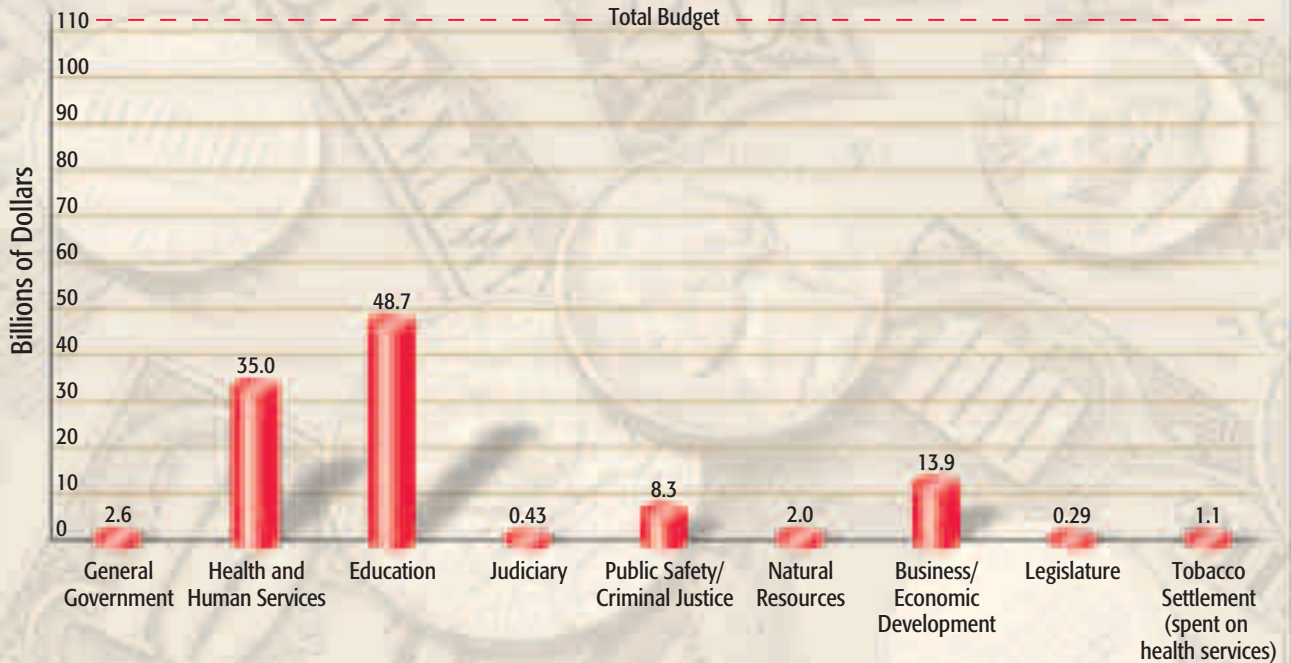
Texas commissioner of agriculture. Perry believes that he has achieved success in his life because of his education. As governor, he wants to expand educational opportunities for all school children in Texas.

Rick Perry did not start his career in politics. He

came from a ranching and farming family. He attended Texas A&M University and earned a degree in animal science. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot. After leaving the service, he worked on the family ranch near Abilene.

## Where State Money Goes

For the 2002–2003 budget, the State of Texas will spend money in the following areas. (Figures are in billions of dollars.)



Source: *Austin American-Statesman*, 5/25/01



## TAKS PRACTICE

**Drawing Inferences** After the two largest expenditures for Education and Health and Human Services, the budget allocates \$13.9 billion to Business/Economic Development and \$8.3 billion to Public Safety/Criminal Justice. The next highest figures are all \$2.6 billion or less. *What inferences can you make from this information about the priorities of the legislature?*

eligibility for children, and an insurance plan for some teachers. Funds for health, economic development, and criminal justice programs are also major expenses.

**Reading Check** **Describing** What are some of the items in the state budget?

## Where the State Gets Its Money

A general sales tax produces the most revenue. The amount of the tax varies with the price of the item or services sold. Food and medicine are not taxed. The tax on motor fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, makes up the second largest source of tax revenue. Taxes on the sale of motor vehicles and manufactured housing are third. Taxes on utility services, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products provide revenue as well.

The major tax on business in Texas is the **franchise tax**. This tax is based on the value of machinery and equipment that businesses use to produce income. Businesses that provide only services pay little or no franchise tax. Texas's change to a service economy has made the franchise tax less important.

Texas also receives money from sources other than taxes. A major source of revenue for education spending is the Texas Lottery. From the sale of the first ticket in May 1992 through the end of 2000, over \$8 billion in revenue was raised through the lottery. In addition, Texas receives many grants from the federal government. Revenue also comes from the sale, rental, and leasing of land and mineral rights. The investment of state funds yields additional revenue. Fees for state services and permits are another source.

Sometimes the state receives money from unexpected sources. A 1998 tobacco lawsuit settlement will give Texas millions of dollars over 25 years. This kind of **windfall**, though, does not happen every day.





# People of Texas

Bill Ratliff 1936-



Former state senator Bill Ratliff became lieutenant governor of Texas in 2000 when Rick Perry left the office to become the governor. It was the first time in Texas history that the state Senate elected one of its own members to become lieutenant

governor. As a state senator, Ratliff proposed the “Robin Hood” bill in 1993, which then became law. It forced the state’s wealthiest school districts to share their wealth with the poorest districts.

Bill Ratliff graduated from the University of

Texas with a degree in civil engineering. He has practiced as an engineer for over 35 years. After Ratliff decided not to seek a full term as lieutenant governor, Texas voters elected former Land Commissioner David Dewhurst to the post in 2002.

## Influences on the Process

Many people and factors influence the budget process. Federal decisions affect state budgets. For example, if the federal government set a water pollution standard different from the state standard, Texas may have to put more money into cleaning waterways than it would otherwise. Court decisions at the federal and state levels also may direct what the state can and cannot do. In a famous case, a federal judge required Texas to spend more money to

build more prisons after a Texas prisoner had filed suit protesting overcrowded prison cells. The state courts might say that the legislature may not use money in certain ways. In addition, individuals and groups through special lobby efforts work to promote their interests with legislators. They pressure budget officials on many important issues.

**Reading Check Identifying** List the major types of taxes that provide revenue for Texas.

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

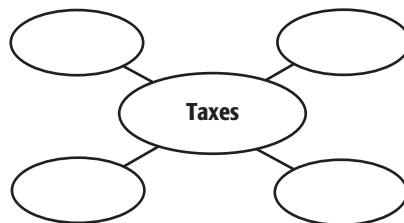
- Using Key Terms** Use the term **franchise tax** in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding of the term.
- Reviewing Facts** Identify the two principal items on which Texas spends the majority of its money.

### Reviewing Themes

- Government and Democracy** Identify three or more of the factors influencing the budget process.

### Organizing to Learn

- Identifying** Create a web like the one shown and identify which taxes bring in the largest amount of revenue.



### Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** Refer to the “Where State Money Goes” chart on page 648. If you wanted to increase the money given to education, explain whose budget you would decrease and why.



**Considering Options** The state budget is regularly reviewed and changed. If you could change amounts of money the budget allows next year, what would you change and why would you do so?



# Chapter Summary

## Texas State Government

### The Legislative Branch

#### Structure

- Made up of House of Representatives and Senate
- Speaker of the House heads the House of Representatives
- Lieutenant Governor heads the Senate
- Meets every two years

#### Function

- Approves or rejects governor's appointments
- Reviews actions of other branches of government
- Redraws legislative and congressional districts
- Considers resolutions and bills
- Estimates revenue and expenses for the state and creates budget
- Receives money from sales taxes, the federal government, land leases, and mineral rights

### The Executive Branch

#### Structure

- Governor is the head of the executive branch
- Serves for four years

#### Function

- Carries out approved legislation
- Conducts business of the state
- Appoints boards and commissions
- Serves as commander in chief
- May veto or line-item veto bills
- Calls special sessions of the legislature when necessary

### Reviewing Key Terms

Create a crossword puzzle, complete with numbered clues. Hint: start with the longest words.

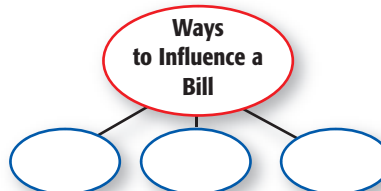
1. bicameral
2. commander in chief
3. franchise tax
4. line-item veto
5. oversight
6. redistricting
7. resolution

### Reviewing Key Facts

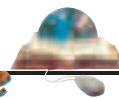
8. Identify the two governing bodies in the state legislature.
9. List three important state matters that are overseen by committees of the Texas Senate.
10. Why does redistricting cause so many arguments in the Texas legislature?
11. How many four-year terms of office may a governor serve?
12. When may the governor NOT command the Texas Guard?
13. What might happen if the state does not manage its money wisely?
14. What must state agencies submit as part of the budget process?

### Critical Thinking

15. **Evaluating** If you were developing a budget for Texas, what would be your number one budget concern? Why?
16. **Categorizing** Create a web like the one shown below. Describe three ways that the governor can influence a bill before it reaches a vote.



17. **Developing Citizenship Skills** Why is it important for each citizen to pay his or her share of taxes? Refer to the graph on page 648, "Where State Money Goes," to answer the following questions.
18. **Making Inferences** What departments might provide funds for protecting our water supply?
19. **Making Inferences** Which fund supplies money to support people in need?



**Self-Check Quiz**

Visit the [texans.glencoe.com](http://texans.glencoe.com) Web site and click on **Chapter 29—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.

CLICK HERE



**Geography and History Activity**

Research and answer the questions below about Texas legislative districts:

- 20. In what House and Senate legislative districts do you live?
- 21. Who are your representatives in the House and in the Senate?

**Portfolio/TAKS Writing Activity**

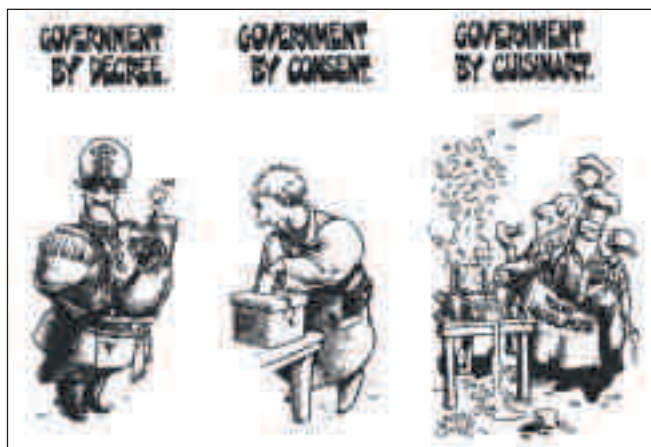
- 22. **Persuasive Writing** Politicians usually need to campaign during an election. Press releases, speeches, posters, brochures, and advertisements promote the politician as a worthy candidate. Choose a political position that interests you and, through a press release, poster, brochure, speech, or advertisement, explain how and why you would be an ideal candidate for that office.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

- 23. **Sequencing** Working in groups of two to four, create a board game to illustrate how a bill becomes a law. Hint: look at commercially prepared games for ideas.

**Practicing Skills**

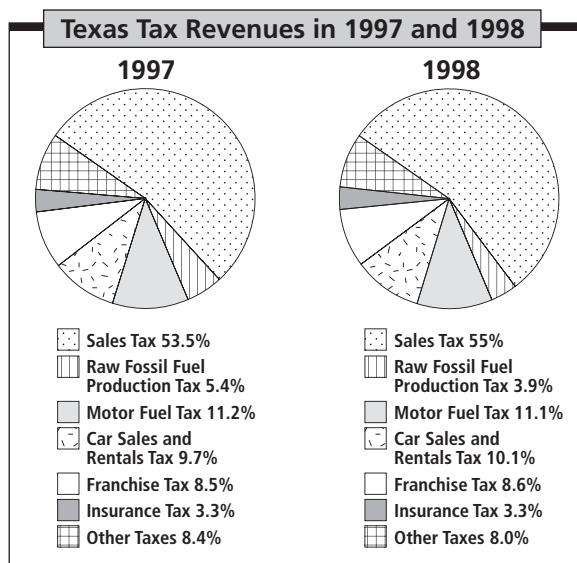
**Interpreting Political Cartoons** Study the political cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.



- 24. What do the figures in the cartoon represent?
- 25. What is the woman in the middle picture doing?
- 26. Are the cooks doing a good job? Explain.

**TAKS PRACTICE**

Use the chart below to answer the following question.



Which taxes raised a smaller portion of Texas's tax revenues in 1998 than they did in 1997?

- A Taxes on the sale of goods
- B Taxes on franchises
- C Taxes on insurance
- D Taxes on petroleum products

**Test-Taking Tip:**

Compare the 1997 tax percentage to the 1998 tax percentage for each answer choice. Eliminate answer choices in which the tax percentage was not lower in 1998 than it was in 1997. Make sure you consider all of the choices in order to avoid making a careless mistake. The answer choice that remains is the correct answer.

# Economics & History

## Preserving Our Past

**C**ity governments are responsible for a variety of services that affect people's daily lives. Law enforcement officials make sure that all laws are enforced. Transportation departments maintain city roads, traffic signals, and highway signs. In addition to many duties that meet the needs of its citizens, many city governments also raise funds to promote cultural life in their communities. Some, like the city government of San Angelo, Texas, become involved in preserving history.

In San Angelo, the current city council makes available more than \$300,000 for the upkeep of the buildings that are part of Fort Concho. The fort was established in 1867, even before the town existed. When the federal government closed the fort down in 1889, citizens of the town began to use the buildings for houses and businesses. In 1930, however, a local resident by the name of Ginevra Wood Carson opened a museum in one of the historic buildings.

### History Is Preserved

Five years later, the San Angelo city government decided to help Mrs. Carson preserve old Fort Concho. By then, the fort was located inside the city limits close to the downtown area. Over the years, through fundraisers and special events, private citizens of the town had raised money to buy the fort's original buildings. Finally, in 1967, the city council got involved. A staff of professional artists and historians was hired to see that the fort was restored to how it looked in the 1870s and 1880s.

Why would the San Angelo city government take an interest in something so old? Like Texans all over, San Angeloans have pride in their heritage. They believe in preserving their links with the past. Today, the fort is used for civic programs and local festivities. The city also uses the fort as a cultural center.

### Tourist Attraction

San Angelo sees the fort as a way to raise money for the town's citizens. Many tourists come to visit Fort Concho and spend money in the area. During the annual festival called "Christmas at Old Fort Concho," visitors stay at



Fort Concho is located in the town of San Angelo. The frontier fort is one of the best preserved in the United States.





Fort Concho was established before the town of San Angelo was founded.



Today, the preserved fort is a source of civic pride for citizens of San Angelo.

local hotels and eat at the city's many restaurants. The chamber of commerce proudly shows off Fort Concho to companies thinking of moving to San Angelo.

City employees run the fort. They perform many duties to ensure that it serves as a symbol of civic pride. They also work hard to see that the fort is profitable for the city. They prepare exhibits, organize special events throughout the year, and maintain the grounds and buildings in attractive condition. With money received from fundraisers, the staff sponsors education programs, including a living history program that features stories about the buffalo soldiers.

### Using What They Know

Many of those employed at the fort studied history in college and apply what they learned in school to the study and preservation of Texas's frontier heritage. Several people have the job of preserving original records and maintaining the fort library. They help researchers working on books about life in West Texas. They also assist those who cannot come to the fort in person but who want to access information through the Internet.

A city council can play a role in society besides governing. To undertake historic

preservation as San Angelo has, governments must use part of their budget for salaries for staff members. Fort Concho staff, for example, receives most of the benefits other city workers do, including health care and retirement benefits. Out-of-town travel expenses are also covered by the city when necessary. The real "pay off"—according to those who work there—is that Fort Concho professionals get paid while doing something they love.

## TAKS PRACTICE

- 1. Making Generalizations** What responsibility does city government have to preserve a city's history?
- 2. Making Inferences** What civic projects might your city consider?
- 3. Writing About Economics** Write a paragraph that develops one of the themes below. Use standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.
  - a.** Studying history can lead to an exciting present-day career.
  - b.** People go to school to learn a craft or a profession.
  - c.** City governments should spend money on cultural projects that involve preserving their cities' histories.