

THE GOVERNOR AND STATE ADMINISTRATION

TEXT SUMMARY

The chief executive officer in California is the governor. He or she is elected to a four-year term. The governor must be at least 18 years old, a qualified voter, and have been a citizen of the U.S. and resident of California for at least five years. As with the legislature, the informal requirements are more extensive, considering experience, qualifications, and the like.

If the governor resigns or dies in office, he or she is succeeded by the lieutenant governor. Governors may be removed from office by impeachment, in which the legislature charges and convicts the governor of a crime, or by **recall**. In a recall, voters attempt to remove the governor before the end of the term by signing a

petition. If enough voters sign, a special election is held to vote the governor out of office.

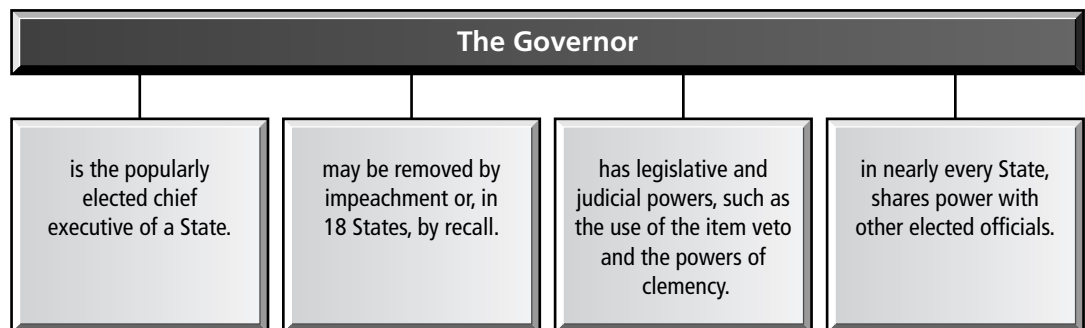
The governor has many roles. The governor has the power to appoint and remove a number of officers of government, as well as to oversee their work. The governor also has the duty of preparing state's annual budget. The governor can veto laws and has the power to grant **clemency** to people convicted of crimes. The governor can also influence legislation, to make policy, and to promote California's interests in the outside world.

Many of California's other executives are also chosen by the voters. These include the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, the Controller, the Treasurer, the Attorney General, and the Board of Equalization.

THE BIG IDEA

The governor, the chief executive of California, is popularly elected, as are many other important State executive officers.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: The Office of Governor



California's governor has many powers, some of which he or she shares with other elected officials.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. By what power may a governor reduce a person's sentence?

2. Diagram Skills What are two ways by which a governor may be removed from office?