Who Does What?

Trace authority across Alabama government

SS24.AS.20 "Compare and contrast the roles of statewide elected officials, including the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general. 20a Describe the state court system in Alabama..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each statewide official and that official's job, circle how judges obtain office, and number the three types of bureaucratic bodies to track how Alabama divides public work.

After the Storm

1. When a severe storm blocks roads near polling places, Alabama's statewide officials have different jobs. The governor directs the executive branch and can declare a state of emergency. The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate, rather than running elections or directing state agencies. The secretary of state is Alabama's chief election official and works with county election officials, who manage polling places. The attorney general represents the state in legal matters and may defend state laws in court. All four are elected statewide, but sharing a ballot does not mean sharing authority.

2. If a dispute about a state election reaches court, it enters a different branch of government. Alabama district and circuit courts hear cases first; circuit courts handle major civil and criminal cases and appeals from district courts. The Court of Civil Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals review many decisions, and the Alabama Supreme Court is the state's highest court. Alabama voters elect judges to these courts, although a governor can appoint someone to fill a vacancy. Federal judges take a different route: the president nominates them, the U.S. Senate confirms them, and they generally serve during good behavior rather than facing regular elections.

3. A commission often has several members who regulate a specific field; Alabama's Public Service Commission regulates utilities. A board often sets policy or oversees an institution; the elected State Board of Education sets statewide education policy. An agency carries out programs and daily operations; the Alabama Emergency Management Agency coordinates disaster preparedness and response. These categories describe typical jobs, not a rule that every body works the same way. Government choices also reflect history. Alabama-born John Lewis organized for voting rights and later served in Congress. His leadership in the 1965 Selma voting rights campaign helped build support for the Voting Rights Act.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare the governor's and secretary of state's roles when a storm disrupts voting.

2. How could a state election dispute move through Alabama's courts, and how do Alabama judges obtain office differently from federal judges?

3. Compare the jobs of the commission, board, and agency named in the passage.

4. How did John Lewis work on voting access differently from Alabama's secretary of state?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A storm blocks access to polling places. Write a seven-sentence advisory note comparing what the governor and secretary of state could do, explaining how one named Alabama bureaucratic body could help, and contrasting how Alabama and federal judges get their positions. End by connecting your plan to John Lewis's work.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does What?

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.AS.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each statewide official and that official's job, circle how judges obtain office, and number the three types of bureaucratic bodies to track how Alabama divides public work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the governor's and secretary of state's roles when a storm disrupts voting.	**The governor directs the executive branch and can declare an emergency. The secretary of state is the chief election official and works with county officials who manage polling places.**
2	How could a state election dispute move through Alabama's courts, and how do Alabama judges obtain office differently from federal judges?	**A case may begin in a district or circuit court, move to an appeals court, and reach the Alabama Supreme Court. Alabama voters elect judges, though the governor can fill vacancies; the president nominates federal judges and the U.S. Senate confirms them.**
3	Compare the jobs of the commission, board, and agency named in the passage.	**The Public Service Commission regulates utilities. The State Board of Education sets education policy. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency coordinates disaster preparedness and response.**
4	How did John Lewis work on voting access differently from Alabama's secretary of state?	**Lewis organized for voting rights and helped build support for the Voting Rights Act. The secretary of state administers elections and works with county election officials.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the storm, voters need safe routes and reliable election information. The governor could direct state emergency efforts to help clear blocked roads. The secretary of state could share verified election information from county officials. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency could coordinate storm response with local officials. If an election dispute reaches an Alabama court, its judge was elected or appointed to fill a vacancy. A federal judge, by contrast, is nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. John Lewis's fight for voting rights suggests that officials should make lawful access a priority for voters affected by the storm.

Accept other accurate comparisons grounded in the passage. In the advisory note, students should not claim that a state official can independently change polling places or voting hours.