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| **Levels**  | **Branches** (EQUAL = Sep of Power/Checks & Balances) |
| **Legislative**(Makes laws) | **Executive**(Carries out/Enforces laws) | **Judicial**(Interprets laws) |
| **Federal**(Highest level)FederalismSupremacy ClauseExpressed (ex. military)and concurrent powers(ex. taxes) | U.S. Congress: bicameralSenate: Upper House, VP/Pro temp, Approves treaties/appointmentsHouse of Representatives: Speaker, Census, districts, starts money billsPowers: regulate trade, declare war, approve long-term troop use, make tax laws, approve budget, impeachment, veto override, approve appointments/treatiesImplied powers from Elastic clauseLimits: Veto, judicial review, shares powers of war/budget with PresidentPros/Cons: seniority system, pork-barrel projects | President: Chief Executive, Chief Diplomat, Chief of State, Commander-in-Chief, Legislative/Judicial/Economic/Party LeaderCabinet –Secretaries of Departments Executive Office of the President (EOP): White House Office, Office of Management and Budget, National Security CouncilBureaucracy – Civil Service workers in Departments and AgenciesForeign Policy Goals: National Security (executive orders), Trade (embargo), Peace (treaties), Democracy (UN)Limits: Judicial review, Approvals by Congress, veto override, impeachment | U.S. Supreme Court: sets precedents for lower courts, judicial reviewCourt of AppealsDistrict Courts: hears testimony, jury decidesJustices are appointed by president and approved by Senate, have lifetime appointment, and can be impeached by CongressExclusive jurisdiction: between states, constitutional questions, federal crimesLimits: Amendments, can be impeached, Exec. enforcement |
| **State**(North Carolina)Reserved(ex. education)andconcurrent powers (ex. taxes) | N.C. General AssemblyBicameral (Senate/House of Rep)Organized like CongressStatutes: state laws about state taxes, education, business, elections, etc.Creates/regulates local governmentsLimits: judicial review, must work with State Exec branch on budget | GovernorAppoints CabinetCouncil of State, Lt. Gov.Elected independentlyDivided executive branchPro: Sep of Power/checks & balancesCon: Inefficient, power strugglesDepartments and agencies deal with law enforcement, public education, elections, etc. | N.C. Supreme Court: final say unless challenged in federal court as unconstitutional, automatic appeals of death penalty casesCourts of AppealsSuperior Courts Major lawsuits and crimesDistrict CourtsMinor lawsuits and crimesAll state judges elected |
| **Local**(in N.C.)County: (ex. Wake)Municipal: City/town(ex. Raleigh) | Ordinances: local laws about local taxes, education, roads, etc.County: Board of CommissionersMunicipal (city/town): CouncilWeak mayor system: Mayor chairperson of council | Top executive is a professional Manager hired by the board/councilCounty: Manager and Sheriff (elected)Municipality: City/Town Manager and Police Chief (hired) Runs fire/police departments and jails, manages traffic, inspects facilities | *Run at the local level on behalf of the state…*District AttorneysMagistratesPublic defendersSearch/arrest warrants |

Current Events: Patriot Act, Federal Government Shutdown, Hurricane Katrina

Court Cases: *Marbury v. Madison, Korematsu v. U.S., Nixon v. U.S., Leandro v. State*