

## Government Work

Government employs many people. Some are elected by voters. For example, the state representatives and senators make the laws of the state of Illinois. They are elected to do that work. Others are hired by government agencies to carry out the programs that the state legislators have decided to do. For example, there are workers at the local and state levels who work in law enforcement. Each year, the state legislators and governor decide on a budget. They use the tax funds that the state collects and funds that the state gets from the national government. They use those funds to pay for the programs of the state. So your family's tax dollars pay for the jobs done by state government workers.

### Discussion Points

- What kinds of jobs do you think are part of the work of state government
- What kinds of abilities do people need to have to get those jobs?

### Think It Through

Imagine you have been elected to the state legislature. You are able to vote on the budget for the state of Illinois. What kinds of work do you think the state government do should do more of this year?

### Get It Across

One representative does not decide on the whole budget. The budget must be approved by a majority of the representatives. One representative has only one vote. One representative can affect the vote of others. The representatives make speeches in the state capital. They present their ideas to the other representatives in those speeches. Make a list of the reasons why other representatives should support your position on the budget.

### Newspaper Connection

Write a letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune. In your letter, explain what you think the state government should do next year. You won't be able to get elected to the House of Representatives in Illinois this year. But you can influence your representative and others through that letter.

Ask three friends or relatives what they think the three most important kinds of work of government are. List the jobs they name. Ask them why they think each job is so important.

Person 1:

Kind of Work

Why It's Important

---

---

---

Person 2:

Kind of Work

Why It's Important

---

---

---

Person 3:

Kind of Work

Why It's Important

---

---

---

What do you think—what kinds of government work do you think are most important?

Kind of Work

Why It's Important

---

---

---