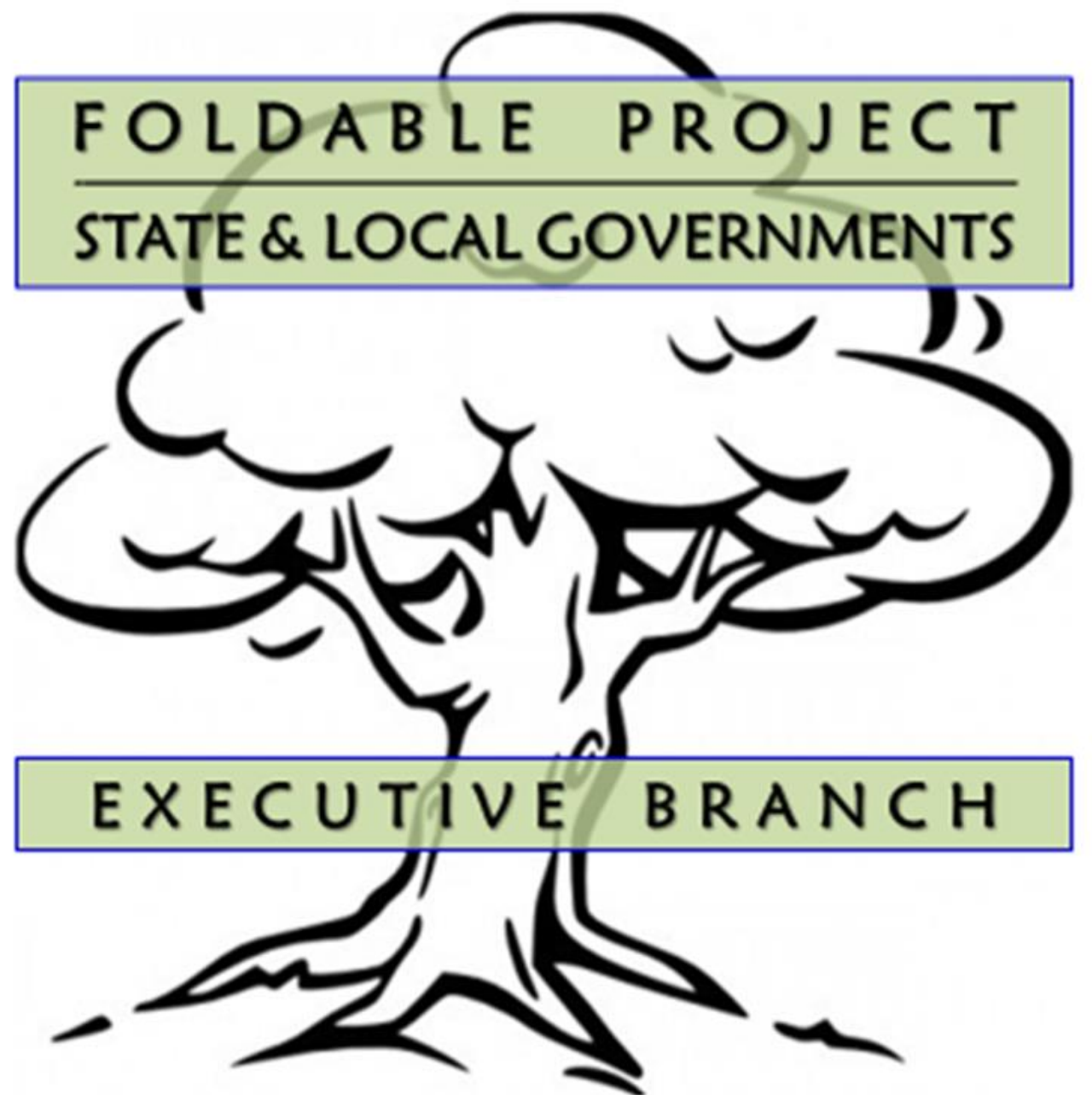


FOLDABLE PROJECT
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



EXECUTIVE BRANCH



Governor's Mansion | Austin, Texas

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. Main duty of the Executive Branch: **ENFORCE THE LAWS**

2. **VOCABULARY: Executive Branch.**

A. martial law: **rule by military authority.**

B. pardon: **an official release from punishment for a crime.**

3. **GOVERNOR.** [Length of term (as of 1972): **4 years**]

A. **Elected by the people—not by an electoral college**

B. **Must be: 30+ years old / U.S. citizen / TX resident for 5 years**

C. **Chief executive of the state**

D. Lives in the **Governor's Mansion** in Austin

[E. Most have been men trained as lawyers (2 women have served)]

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



Governor Greg Abbott

2015 - Present

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

4. Legislative Powers.

- A. Checks legislature with veto power (checks/balances)
 - B. Line-item veto on budget (his only power over budget matters)
 - C. Can call special sessions of the legislature (to influence legislation)
 - D. Gives annual 'state of the state' address (to influence public)
-

5. Executive Powers.

- A. Chief law enforcement officer
 - B. Commander in chief of Texas National Guard
 - C. Can declare martial law in extreme emergencies
 - D. Appoints individuals to various state boards and commissions
 - E. Appoints individuals to fill vacant offices
-

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED!

This town is declared under Martial Law. All citizens and soldiers except the guard, will retire to their quarters at 8 o'clock, P. M. A strong force will be stationed in the town. All persons found in the streets will be arrested.— Any one attempting to fire any building will be shot without trial.

Bowling-Green, Feb. 13th, 1862.

W. J. HARDEE,
Maj. Gen.

martial law

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

6. Judiciary Powers.

- A. Can grant a **pardon** for a criminal
 - B. Can **postpone** or reduce sentences of those convicted of crimes
 - BUT cannot commute a **death sentence** to life in prison
 - Can only **delay a scheduled execution for 30 days**
-

7. Attorney General. [Elected | 4-yr term]

- A. **State's chief lawyer—represents state in lawsuits (for/against)**
 - B. **Supports city and county law enforcement**
 - C. **Provides opinions on legality of bills & advises state agencies**
 - D. **Ensures child support payments are made**
-

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



State seal of the Attorney General of Texas

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

8. Comptroller (and Treasurer). [Elected | 4-yr term]

- A. Office of state treasurer abolished in 1996
 - B. Collects taxes and manages state accounts & funds
 - C. Estimates revenues to set spending cap for legislature
 - D. Oversees banks
 - E. Authorizes payment of state's bills
-

9. Commissioners of Land & Agriculture. [Elected | 4-yr terms]

- A. Oversee use of all state-owned land
 - B. Handle leasing of public land for oil/gas, ranching, other uses
 - C. Enforce all agriculture-related laws
 - D. Encourage other states & nations to buy Texas-produced goods
-

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

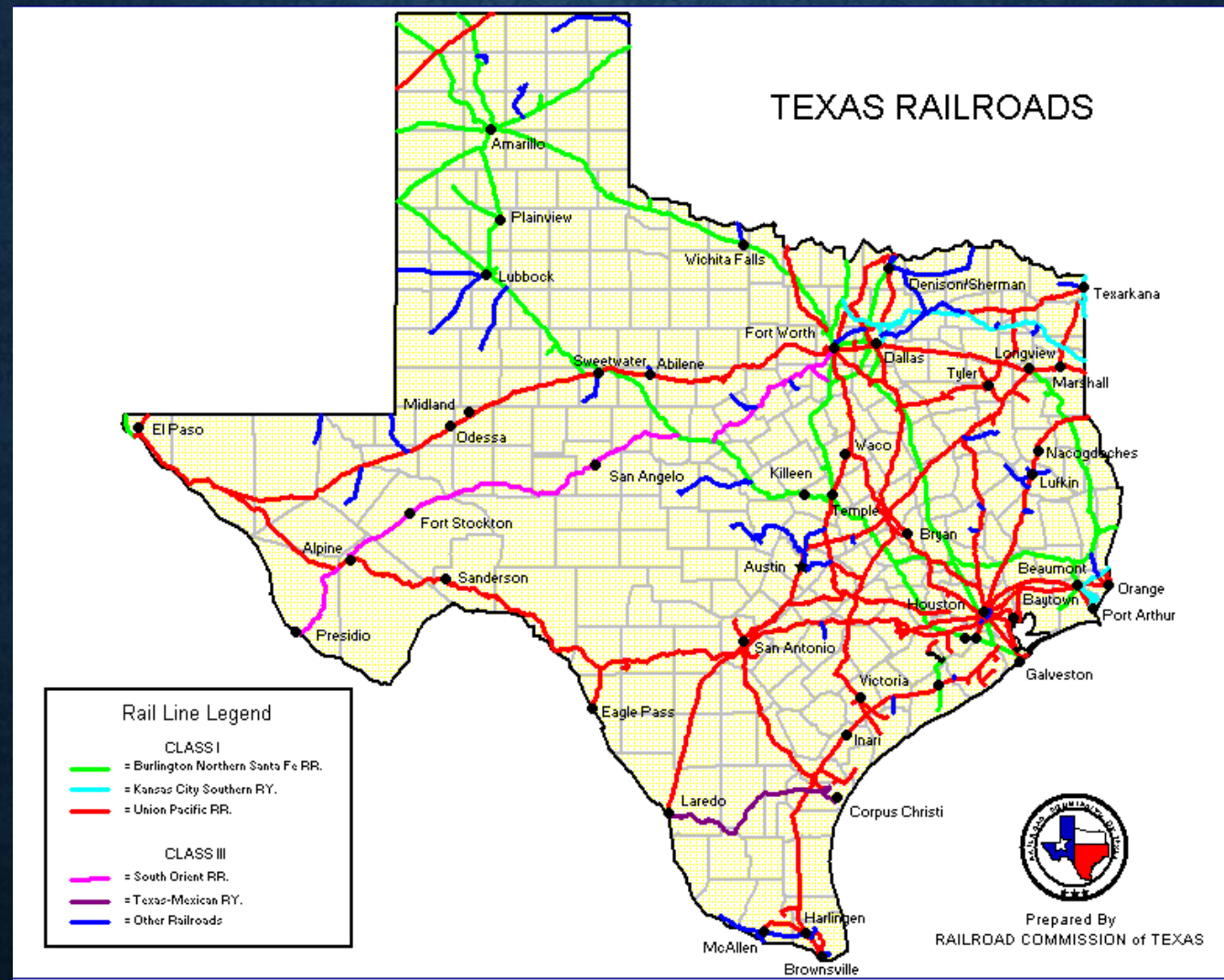
10. Secretary of State. [Appointed: Governor | Confirmed: Senate]

- A. Oversees election matters, incl. list of registered voters
 - B. Maintains records of all loans made in Texas
 - C. Maintains file on formal acts of governor/legislature
 - D. Publishes state laws and grant state charters
-

11. Railroad Commissioner. [Elected | 4-yr term]

- A. Regulates intrastate railroad, bus, and truck transportation
 - B. Oversees oil & natural gas pipelines and wells
 - C. Assists law enforcement with oil, gas, and drilling equipment theft
 - [D. Once influenced supply/price of oil & natural gas across the U.S.]
-

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

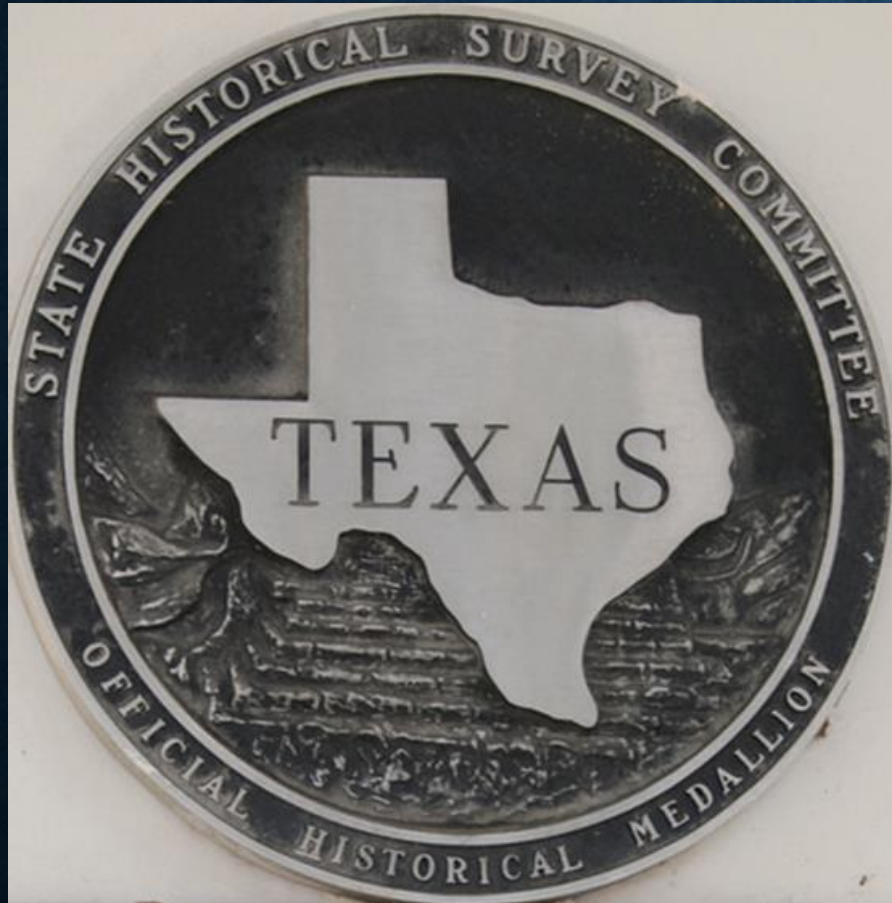


Railroads in Texas

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- 12. State Board of Education.** [Actually: Texas Education Agency]
- A. How chosen? Voters elect 15 members / 15 districts every 4 years
- B. Oversees public schools, which does 3 things:
- Distributes state funds to public schools
 - Sets curriculum standards and purchase textbooks
 - Evaluates and certifies public schools
-

EXECUTIVE BRANCH



SITE OF NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY, THE FIRST TAX-SUPPORTED TEXAS SCHOOL STILL EXISTENT. BY ACT OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE (WHERE IT WAS CALLED "A GREAT QUESTION OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY") THE ACADEMY WAS INCORPORATED IN 1858 -- 18 YEARS BEFORE THE 1876 TEXAS CONSTITUTION PROVIDED FOR LOCAL TAXATION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

ERECTED 1900, THIS BUILDING OF NEW BRAUNFELS ACADEMY NOW IS TAX OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1965

First Public School in Texas | New Braunfels Academy (1856)

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

[Almost Painless Guide | Executive Branch](#)

[Video Tour of the Texas Governor's Mansion](#)

End of Notes