State governments have authority in areas not assigned to the Federal government. Main responsibilities are management of taxes, budget, and social programs.

The Federal legislature was established by Article I of the Constitution. It is granted sole authority to enact legislation, declare war, and confirm Presidential appointments.

The U.S. Congress consists of two co-equal chambers: The Senate and House of Representatives. There are 435 House members and 100 Senators. Both are required to pass laws.

Senators represent states whereas House members represent individual districts. Constitutionally, the House is responsible for tax and revenue bills, and the Senate has more influence in ratifying treaties and confirming presidential nominees.

Senators serve six-year terms, must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the state they represent, and have been a U.S. citizen for at least nine years. House members must be 25, been a US citizen for 7 years, and live in the state they represent.

All states except Nebraska have legislatures composed of two branches: a Senate and House of Representatives. Massachusetts has 40 Senators and 140 House members.

The Massachusetts State legislature is divided into House and Senate, mirroring the Federal system. MA Senators represent districts with about 164,000 constituents and House Members represent about 41,000 residents.

All Massachusetts Representatives serve two-year long terms. They must be at least 18 years old, a resident of their district, and a registered voter in Massachusetts.