**Chapter 16: State Government**

1. Legislative Branch

* **Bicameral –**
* Every state except Nebraska is bicameral
* **Unicameral –**

1. Equal Representation

* Until 1964, voting districts were based on area rather than population
* **Result:**
* ***Reynolds v. Sims* (1964)** –
* **Each House Member –**

1. Nebraska’s Unicameral

* **1867-1935 –**
* Unicameral – Product of the Great Depression and George Norris
* **George Norris –**
* Said that checks and balances did not require a two house legislature
* State supreme court and the governor would be able to rule against improper laws
* Two-houses wasted both time and money according to Norris
* **January 5, 1937 –**
* Reduced the price of running the legislator by over 50%
* Still the cheapest legislature to operate in the country
* Have discovered that the checks and balance system works well with only one-house

1. More Unique Nebraskan Ways

* Nebraska has 49 state senators
* **Nonpartisanship –**
* Nebraska is the only state to elect its state representatives this way

1. Executive Branch

* Governors head the executive branch in every state
* Seen as the leader of their political party within their state
* 4 out of the last 6 presidents were former governors
* **Item Veto –**
* Can save both time and money
* Problems?