

# Oregon and California Law Basics

## Oregon Law Basics

- Law and Legal Sources: The Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), and case law.
- How Laws Are Made: Bills pass the Oregon House and Senate, then go to the governor for approval.
- Branches of Government: Legislative (makes laws), Executive (enforces laws), Judicial (interprets laws).
- Courts: Circuit courts (trial), Court of Appeals, Oregon Supreme Court.
- Public Legal Guides: Consumer legal guides and self-help court materials.
- Example Legal Topics: Oregon Equality Act prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

## California Law Basics

- Law and Legal Sources: California Constitution, statutory codes, case law, and administrative regulations.
- State Government Structure: Legislative (Senate and Assembly), Executive (Governor), Judicial (Courts).
- Court System: Superior courts, Courts of Appeal, California Supreme Court.
- State Constitutional Features: Voter initiatives can directly amend the Constitution; broader protections than federal law.
- Daily Life Impact: Laws affect criminal law, family law, employment, property, and consumer protections.

## Comparative Notes (Oregon vs California)

- Legislative Process: Similar, but California has direct democracy mechanisms.
- Court Leadership: Both have supreme courts interpreting laws and constitutions.
- Legal Culture: California leads in expansive rights, environmental, tech sector, and consumer protections.

## Where to Read More (Free Resources)

- Oregon: Oregon State Bar public legal info ([osbar.org](http://osbar.org)), Oregon Revised Statutes ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon\\_Revised\\_Statutes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Revised_Statutes)).
- California: California Legislative Information ([leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)), California court self-help resources ([selfhelp.courts.ca.gov](http://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov)).