

**TABLE 6.1** Texas's Plural Executive

### Governor of Texas

- Acts as chief executive of the state; is elected by the voters every four years; no term limits
- Makes policy recommendations to state lawmakers
- Appoints the secretary of state and members of the state bureaucracy. The governor also appoints individuals to fill vacancies in elected offices between elections.
- Exercises constitutional and statutory duties of the governor, including the following:
  - signing or vetoing bills passed by the legislature
  - serving as commander in chief of the state's military forces
  - convening special sessions of the legislature
  - delivering a state of the state address
  - proposing a biennial budget
  - executing line-item veto on budget approved by the legislature
  - granting reprieves and commutations of punishment and pardons upon the recommendation of the Board of Pardons and Paroles
  - declaring special elections to fill vacancies in certain elected offices
  - coordinating policy and resources during a crisis

### Lieutenant Governor

- Acts as presiding officer of the Texas Senate; elected by voters statewide every four years; no term limits
- Acts as governor temporarily when the governor is out of the state or assumes the governorship if the governor is impeached, resigns, or dies in office
- Cochairs the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) (with the Speaker of the Texas House) and appoints the senatorial members of that board

### Attorney General

- Serves as legal representation for the state in court; elected by voters statewide every four years; no term limits
- Ensures that corporations in Texas comply with state and federal laws

- Collects unpaid child support and delinquent state taxes
- Issues advisory opinions to the governor's office, the legislature, or other state agencies

### Comptroller of Public Accounts

- Collects a variety of state taxes and fees; elected for four-year terms as the state's accountant, auditor, and tax collector
- Manages and invests state funds
- Estimates the amount of revenue the state will generate each year

### Agriculture Commissioner

- Heads the Texas Department of Agriculture and implements all agriculture law; elected by voters statewide every four years; no term limits
- Inspects the accuracy of market scales and gas pumps, regulates the use of pesticides, and regulates the quality of agriculture products
- Promotes agriculture throughout the state

### Land Commissioner

- Heads the General Land Office and administers the state's public lands
- Makes low-interest loans available to veterans
- Oversees the Permanent School Fund (PSF), a major source of revenue for the state

### Secretary of State

- Serves as state record keeper; appointed by the governor, with Texas Senate confirmation, to a four-year term
- Maintains a list of lobbyist and campaign contributions, issues corporate charters, certifies notaries public, and keeps the official state seal
- Administers elections, including conducting voter registration drives and certifying election results
- Acts as chief administrator for the Texas Border and Mexican Affairs Division
- Designated as the chief international protocol officer who receives international delegations