

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government is the county, city, town, or village government. Many people (called civil servants) work for local government. Government workers are elected by the people who live in the city, town, or county. For example, a person running for mayor of Cleveland would be voted into office by people who live in Cleveland.

This list shows some of the more well-known local government titles:

- Mayor (leader of a city)
- Justice of the Peace
- Town Supervisor (leader of a town board)
- Town Board Member/ City Council Member
- County Commissioner (head of a county)

Local governments do many important jobs. Here are some examples:

- make laws
- make decisions
- have a budget
- take care of roads
- protect the environment
- take care of parks
- provide public transportation (buses, trains, subways)
- give out marriage licenses, birth certificates, parking permits, etc.



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All of these services cost money. The money to pay for these services comes from local taxes.

Local government is much like federal government, **with three branches**. This table shows who the major leader or group is for each branch of government.

Local	Federal
Mayor (<i>executive branch</i>)	President (<i>executive branch</i>)
City Council (<i>legislative branch</i>)	Congress (<i>legislative branch</i>)
City Court (<i>judicial branch</i>)	Supreme Court (<i>judicial branch</i>)

Citizens can be involved in local government. A citizen can write letters or make phone calls to local leaders to tell them what they think about an issue. A citizen can run for office. All citizens need to obey the laws of their town or city.

Try This!

How is local government like the federal government?

- A] 5 branches of government
- B] both have presidents
- C] 3 branches of government
- D] both have city courts

Cross out

Mayor

City Court

ent.

Senator

President



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