

Agenda

1. Warm Up! (free response question for state and federal government)
2. Notes on local government
3. Fun research activity!!

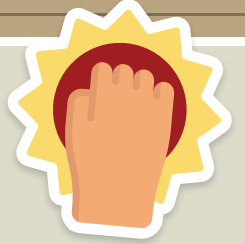
Warm Up!

Question: How are the structures and powers of the state government similar and different from the federal government?

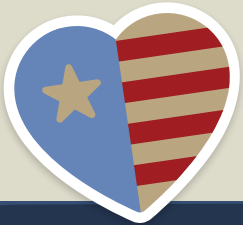
You must include:

- At least 3 vocab terms
- A response in 4-5 sentences
- 1 similarity between the state and federal government
- 1 difference between the state and federal government

When you're finished, work on vocab on pages 234 and 235



Local Government!



Local Government Vocab

A political division (area of land) within a state and acts as a local government. County

A smaller section of a county that has its own government.
Town(ship)

Document granting power to a city to run its own government.
City Charter

To allow a town within a county run its own government yet still be part of the county government. Incorporate

Local Government Vocab

Local law made to just a city or county. Ordinance

An elected legislative body for a county. Board of Supervisors

An elected legislative body for a city or town government.
City/Town Council

Leader of the executive branch for a town or city. Mayor

Person who manages the court system and court records of a town, city, or a county. Clerk of the Circuit Court

Local Government Vocab

Person responsible for collecting the tax money and using it to pay the expenses of a local government. Treasurer

Person that assigns the tax rates and grants any licenses within the county. Commissioner of Revenue

County police officer (often elected) who is in charge of making sure the people follow the laws and keeping the people safe. Sheriff

A group of elected people that set all the rules and regulation of the K-12 public schools. School board

Local Government Vocab

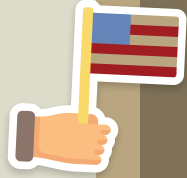
Official hired by a local government to take care of the day to day running of the government. Manager

A command: a government statement of order to do something. Mandate

A feeling of nervousness or strong anger. Tension

Use of violence or threats to force a government or political action. Terrorism

A disease that spreads rapidly over a large area. Pandemic



What are the structures and powers of local governments in Virginia?



Local Government in Virginia

1. Local governments in Virginia are political subdivisions or units created by the VA and the General Assembly Constitution
2. Local governments exercise Legislative, Executive, and Judicial powers
3. The powers of the local governments are limited
4. Local governments must adopt and enforce ordinances to provide services to their residents

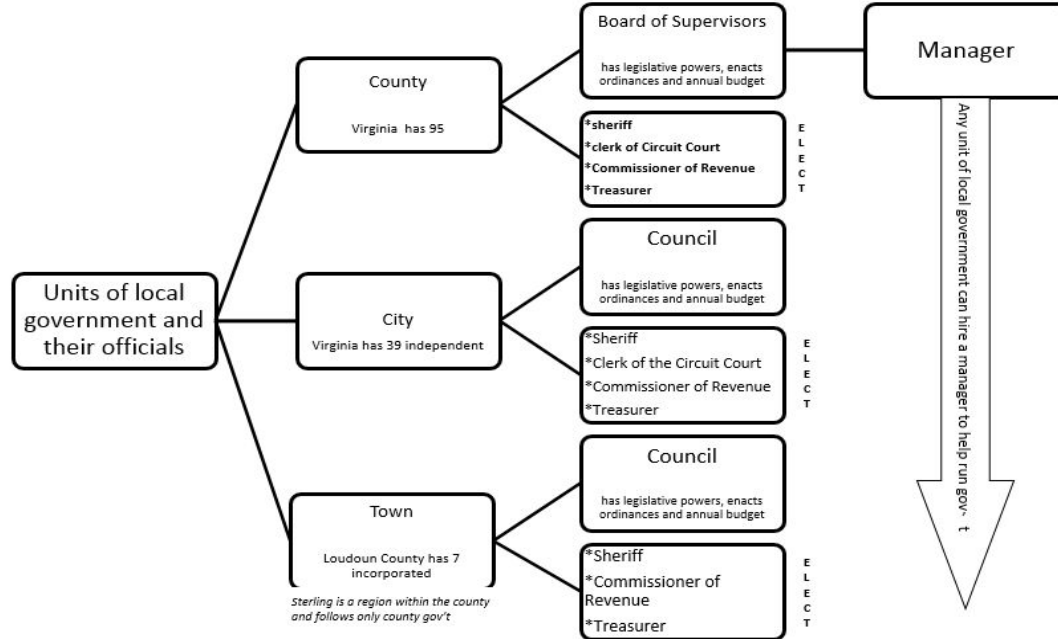
Local Government in Virginia

Local governments and their elected officials are responsible for the following actions:

- a. Enforce state and local laws by the sherif
- b. Promote public health by a council or board
- c. Protect the public safety, the responsibility of the sheriff
- d. Education the children is supervised by the school board
- e. Protect the environment by a council or board
- f. Regulat land use is the responsibility of a council or Board
- g. To levy and collect taxes is the responsibility of the treasure

Counties, Towns, and Cities

Some independent cities have a document called a city charter listing its powers, so it can operate separately from a country. Some towns within a county incorporate themselves in order to have their own government but must follow county guidelines.



Units of Local Government

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Unit of Government	Elected Officials	Powers
County (largest political subdivision) Virginia has 95 counties	Board of Supervisors	• Legislative powers • Enact ordinances • Adopt annual budget
	School Board	• Oversee operation of K-12 public schools
	Sheriff	• Oversee law enforcement
	Clerk of the Circuit Court	• Manages court system and records
	Commissioner of Revenue	• Assigns tax rate and grants licenses
	Treasurer	• Collects tax revenue and pay local expenses

City Virginia has 39 independent cities	City Council	• Has legislative powers for city government • Enact ordinances for the city • Adopt annual budget for the city
	School Board	• Oversees the <u>public school</u> system for the city
	Mayor	• Local executive leader of the city (only) • Elected by the voters or the city council
	Manager	• <u>May be</u> hired to oversee the operations of the local government
	*Some cities have a <u>city charter</u> (document granting the city the power to run its own government). This allows the city the power of <u>home rule</u> to govern themselves and follow the county govt.	

Town (smallest division) Loudoun County has 7 incorporated towns	Town Council (some towns may also hire a town manager)	• Legislative powers • Enact ordinances • Adopt annual budget • Assigns and collects taxes
	Mayor	• Local executive leader of a town • Elected by voters or a town council

Local Government in Virginia

1. State Government is broken down into political subdivisions or local governments called:
 - a. County - largest political subdivision within a state
 - b. Town - smaller area within a county; some may be incorporated but are not politically separate
 - c. City - larger area within a county and may or may not be independent from county government
2. Each unit of local government has legislative, executive and judicial powers.
3. The powers of the local government are given by the VA Constitution and acts of the General Assembly.
4. Not all counties and cities are given the same power. Independent cities must have a charter.

Research Activity!

We're going to split up into five groups. Each group will be assigned a place in the Loudoun County area. You will need to do some research to answer the following questions:

1. Is it a town, city or county?
2. Is the town or city independent or incorporated?
3. Does it have a manager and/or mayor?
4. What do they call their legislative branch?

Meet with your teammates and divide and conquer! You can either make and share a google doc or write your notes on a sheet of paper. At least one member of your group will need to present your information.

Town Assignments

Group 1 - Lovettsville

Group 2 - Leesburg

Group 3 - City of Winchester

Group 4 - Loudoun County

Group 5 - Hamilton

Local Government in Virginia

6. A local law is called an ordinance to provide services for the citizens.

7. All citizens can learn the importance of participation in the Political process through direct participation and stimulation

8. Citizens can have the greatest impact on the decisions made by local government. Why?

Powers of the local government

Enforce state and local laws. Who does this? sheriff

Promote public health. Who does this? Council and Board of Supervisors

Protect public safety. Who does this? sheriff

Educate children. Who does this? School board

Protect the environment. Who does this? Council and Board of Supervisors

Regulate land use. Who does this? Council and Board of Supervisors

Levy and collect taxes. Who does this? Commissioner and Treasurer

Local Government in Virginia

Local government may be required to formulate, adopt, and implement public policies in response to international issues and events.

Public health concerns in a pandemic (ex. Ebola or Zika virus)

Public safety during an act of terrorism

Economic development policies in response to a growing global economy (ex. Adapt 21st century technology to attract businesses)

Policies to protect the environment (ex. Wildlife and endangered species)

How is the structure and powers of the local government similar and different from the state and federal governments? Why?

