



# Local Government: Municipality

In the United States, government is in three main levels: federal, state and local. One type of local government is a municipality. A municipality may be a city, town or village.

Municipalities are usually led by city council, which is a group of elected officers. The head of the city council is the mayor. Many municipalities also have a city manager, who is in charge of the daily operations of the city.

Municipalities provide services to the citizens, such as police protection, fire protection, and street management. The center of the municipal government is called city hall, which may be one building, or in large cities, many different buildings.

## Q&A

Who is the head of the city council?

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What is the center of municipal government?

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What does economic development encourage?

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What are the levels of government in the U.S.?

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### Typical Municipal Services:

**Police**

**Fire**

**Emergency Services,**  
such as  
ambulances

**Emergency Management,**  
for hurricanes and  
earthquakes

**Planning and Zoning,**  
which decides how and where the city  
will grow

**Transportation,** such as buses and  
subways

**Parks and Recreation**

**Utilities,** such as electricity and water

**Municipal Court,** which decides cases  
based on the laws of the city

**Public Works,** which takes care streets  
and sewers, and collects trash

**Economic Development,** which  
encourages tourism and business

**Tax Collection**

**Library**

**Housing**



### For Fun: Municipal Word Search

Circle each of the words on the list in the puzzle.  
Words can go up, down, backwards or diagonally.

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N F W R D U Q C C T U Z H V Y
P A R K S V T O D B Y T E R V
X L I Z G G U I O N A A C M O
Z A S I M N H T L S A D I K E
M U N I C I P A L I T K L U M
H Q D I P C V Z D O T K O R E
E W L Z T G S X J N B I P I R
G G F O D D U C E Y U B E Y G
R T A X D S C M L R S Q U S E
T O F L V I N I O D P L E Q N
A W N I L R F Y T J N M S Q C
U N S L E I A K A Y U A I K Y
J J I V O M V O Y R A R B I L
W R O B V C K Z Y I D V N R Z
Q G J N R L M Q C X A J A D T
  
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municipal  
mayor  
council  
police

library  
parks  
government  
utilities

emergency  
city  
town  
village