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.

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**

**Q&A**

Who is the head of the city council?

__________

What is the center of municipal government?

__________

What does economic development encourage?

__________

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

__________

For Fun: Municipal Word Search

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

- municipal
- mayor
- council
- police
- library
- parks
- government
- utilities
- emergency
- city
- town
- village

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