



Engaged Citizens:
 SS.7.CG.2.10
Public Policy Problem Solving
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.10 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will identify appropriate government agencies to address local or state problems..

This material is adapted from resources developed by the Center for Civic Education.

In the United States, the federal, state, and local governments agree that creating **public policy** helps them fulfill their responsibilities, such as protecting the rights of individuals and promoting the well-being of all people. Some public policies become laws passed in legislatures. Other policies can be found in rules and regulations created by the executive branches of government, which are responsible for carrying out and enforcing laws.

State and local governments are closer to the people than the federal government. Also, citizens are usually more affected in their daily lives by local public policies than they are by federal policies.

The following are examples of the appropriate government agencies to address state or local problems:

Florida Government

Problem	Citizen Policy Request	Responsible Agency
A voter tries to vote in an election after the election polling places have closed. The polls close at 7pm, but the voter arrived at the poll two hours late.	The voter writes to the state legislature asking that Election Day polling be extended by two hours on Election Day.	Florida Department of State Division of Elections
Two boats run into each other on the St. Johns River.	The sister of one of the boat operators writes to the state legislature asking that boaters be required to take a class on boat safety.	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
An orange grower is concerned that citrus sales are dropping every year.	The orange grower goes to a public meeting of the Florida Citrus Commission to ask that it fund a public information campaign about the health benefits of orange juice.	Florida Citrus Commission

Local Government

Problem	Citizen Policy Request	Responsible Agency
A homeowner is concerned that the neighbor's dog is barking at night.	The homeowner writes to the county commission asking that the commission pass an ordinance against dogs barking between 7pm and 7am.	County animal services office
A high school student is concerned that her fellow high school students are not doing well on the U.S. History End of Course Exam.	The student makes a formal request at the next local school board meeting to fund an after-school tutoring program to help students prepare for the U.S. History End of Course Exam.	Local school board
Someone who lives in an apartment is concerned that mice, rats, and cockroaches are getting into the trash bins and creating a health problem.	The apartment resident makes a formal request at the next city council meeting to add one more trash pickup per week at apartment complexes (groups of apartment buildings).	Local waste and sanitation department

polling place - voting location on Election Day

public policy - government actions in the form of laws, rules, or regulations

Sources

Birkland, Thomas A. "What is public policy?". *New.Civiced.org*. The Center for Civic Education, 2011. Web. 11 March 2014.

<<http://new.civiced.org/pc-program/instructional-component/public-policy>>

Project Citizen. *New.Civiced.org*. The Center for Civic Education, 2014. Web. 11 March 2014.

<<http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/lesson-plans/458-we-the-people-project-citizen>>