



Florida State and Local Government SS.7.CG.3.7
Legislative Branch
VIDEO SCRIPT



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. The United States has a federal system of government. This means that the national and state governments share some government powers and responsibilities. Lawmaking is one of those powers.
2. Federal, state and local governments are all able to make laws for the people they serve. This means that the federal government makes laws for the entire country. The state government makes laws for people within the state, and local governments make laws for people within the city or county.
3. After watching this video, you will be able to:
 - ◆ Understand how laws are made at the local level.Let's get started!
4. The phrase "local government" means municipal, or city, and county governments. Florida is divided into 67 counties. Everyone in Florida lives in a county. Cities, towns and villages exist within counties as well.
5. Depending on how the city and county governments are organized, lawmakers can be called city commissioners, city council members, county commissioners or mayors. The amount of commissioners or council members depends on how the city or county government is organized.
6. In cities, the mayor or city manager generally serve in an executive role. In some counties, the mayor serves in the executive role.
7. The job of local governments is to make communities better places to live. In order to do that job, local governments pass ordinances. Ordinances are laws that govern the county or municipality, such as the city, town or village. Ordinances cannot conflict with state laws or with federal laws.
8. Let's check in: What are local governments? What is an ordinance?
→ ANSWER TO QUESTIONS
9. So, how are laws made at the local level? Let's take a look at city governments.
10. Every city is governed or run by a group of people who make and change laws. The people elected to run the city and implement the laws are usually called mayor, councilmember or commissioner, and function as the 'executive branch'.
11. As you heard earlier, cities may create their own laws, called ordinances, as long as they do not conflict with state or federal law.

12. Although cities throughout Florida are different, Florida state law requires that there are some procedures for local lawmaking that every city must follow.
13. Proposed ordinances must be presented in writing and can only be about one subject. Communities must be made aware of the proposals through the local newspaper.
14. Required information includes date, time, and place of the meeting at which the proposed ordinance will be discussed and voted on.
16. In order to propose and vote on ordinances, city councils and commissions create a meeting schedule. Most councils or commissions meet once a month or once every two months.
17. During the meeting, only a majority of the city council or commission members are required to be present. In order for an ordinance to be passed, a majority of the city council members or county commissioners must vote in favor of it.
18. Let's check in- Can you describe the process for creating laws at the local level?
→ ANSWER TO QUESTION
Well done!
19. Now that you understand law making at the local level, you'll have no trouble examining lawmaking at all levels. We'll see you next time, thanks for watching!