



## Local Government

Most states are divided into sections called *counties*, and each county has its own government. Within each county there are cities and towns, and each city and town has a government. These local governments often take care of the health, welfare, and education of their citizens, and manage local transportation and public utilities, such as water and electricity. They also protect their citizens with sheriff's offices, police forces, and fire departments. Local government is organized differently in each state. Most counties are governed by groups of people elected by the citizens. Most cities and towns are also governed by groups of people elected by the citizens, including mayors. A mayor's job for a city is like a governor's job for a state and the president's job for the country. Do you know who the mayor of your city or town is?

Choose the best answer for each question.

- The sections that states are divided into are usually called \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. towns      b. countries      c. governments      d. counties
- What do local governments take care of for their citizens?  
a. health      b. education      c. safety      d. all of the above
- Which of the following is a public utility?  
a. water      b. gasoline      c. grass      d. lightbulbs
- What group works to protect citizens?  
a. police force      b. fire department      c. sheriff's office      d. all of the above
- Most cities and towns have a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. president      b. mayor      c. governor      d. skyscraper
- A city's mayor is like a state's \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. president      b. county      c. governor      d. sheriff
- Most counties are run by groups that are \_\_\_\_\_ by the citizens.  
a. liked      b. managed      c. elected      d. hired

