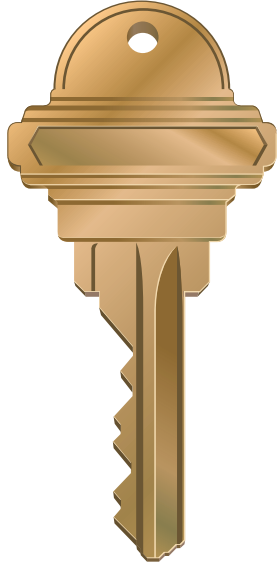


Chapter Two: Activities High School



Chapter Two: Vocabulary

Revenue—income

Economic—relating to business activities

Eminent domain—the taking of private or public land by a governmental entity for a public purpose

Environmental—relating to the natural world, especially to its conservation

Unincorporated—not organized into a corporation or municipality

Chapter Two: Notes and Review

1. List five services that may be provided by county governments:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2. The purpose of economic development corporations is to increase/decrease a county's tax base.

3. Name two new issues counties have to face as they become more urbanized.

- 1.
- 2.

4. A county parks and recreation program benefits citizens because it _____, _____, _____, and _____.

5. The two types of disasters are _____ and _____.

6. In some counties, the _____ supervises the roads in his or her precinct. In other counties, the county hires a _____ or _____ to plan, construct and maintain county roads.

7. In Texas you can dial _____ to find out about helpful services in your area.

Chapter Two: Notes and Review Key

1. The following services may be provided by county governments:

waste management, emergency management, animal control, veterans services, road and bridge maintenance and construction, economic development, health care, environmental regulations, parks and recreation

2. The purpose of economic development corporations is to **increase** a county's tax base.

3. Name two new issues that counties have to face as they become more urbanized.

1. **Environment regulation**

2. **Waste management**

4. A county parks and recreation program benefits citizens because it **preserves natural and historic resources, creates local parks, fosters commitment to environmental conservation, and promotes physical and mental health.**

5. The two types of disasters are **natural** and **man-made**.

6. In some counties, the **commissioner** supervises the roads in his or her precinct. In other counties, the county hires a **supervisor** or **engineer** to plan, construct and maintain county roads.

7. In Texas you can dial **211** to find out about helpful services in your area.

Chapter Two: Activity One

Supplies: copy of *Discretionary Services Worksheet*, pens or pencils

Directions: Explain that some of the services funded by counties are mandated by law, while other services are funded because the constituents want them. Pass out the copies of the worksheet and have students choose whether funding is mandatory, based on the Texas Constitution, or at the discretion of the county. Afterwards, discuss the students' answers.

Key:

Jails (mandatory)

EMS/Fire (discretionary)

Courts (mandatory)

Juvenile Probation (mandatory)

Future Tax Abatements (discretionary)

Family Services (discretionary)

Community Development (discretionary)

Adult Probation Facilities (mandatory)

Prosecution (mandatory)

Indigent Health (mandatory)

Parks/Community Centers (discretionary)

Elections (mandatory)

Roads (discretionary)

Senior Services (discretionary)

Employee Benefits (discretionary)

Health Insurance (discretionary)

County Auditor/Treasurer (mandatory)

Public Health (discretionary)

Debt Service (mandatory)

Records Management (mandatory)

Law Enforcement (discretionary)

Homeland Defense (mandatory)

Existing Tax Abatements (mandatory)

Economic Development (discretionary)

Libraries (discretionary)

Discretionary Services Worksheet

Name _____

Choose whether these services must be funded by a county (mandatory) or whether the county can choose to not fund these services (discretionary).

	MANDATORY	DISCRETIONARY
Jails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EMS/Fire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Juvenile Probation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future Tax Abatements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Probation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prosecution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indigent Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks/Community Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employee Benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health Insurance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County Auditor/Treasurer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Debt Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Records Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Law Enforcement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Homeland Defense	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing Tax Abatements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic Development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter Two: Activity Two

Supplies: Copies of *Non-Profit Organization Interview*, computer with Internet access, pens or pencils, telephone book, community resource list (usually available from the Chamber of Commerce or the Texas Agrilife Extension Service Office)

Directions: Explain to students that one way a county can provide services for its citizens is to partner with non-profit organizations such as the Red Cross or CASA (court appointed special advocates). The county provides either partial funding or in-kind services such as space in a building. The non-profit provides the service through its paid staff or volunteers.

Divide the class into small groups. Let the groups search for partnering organizations by looking on the Internet or by using a community resource list. Have each group interview one organization and complete the interview sheet. Afterward, have the groups report to the whole class. Discuss how these non-profit organizations benefit the county.

Non-Profit Organization Interview

Names of group members _____

Name of organization _____

Address of organization _____

Name of contact person (person interviewed) _____

Is your organization affiliated with a larger national organization? _____

If so, what is that organization? _____

What does the county provide for your organization? _____

What services do you provide for local citizens? _____

Is there a charge for these services? _____

Do you have paid staff who live in our community? _____

Does your organization use volunteers to provide services? _____

How are your volunteers screened before working with the public? _____

Do clients have to meet certain criteria before they can receive services? _____

If your organization ever stopped providing services in this county, is there currently another organization that could provide those services? _____

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your organization and its partnership with our county? _____

Chapter Two: Activity Three

Directions: Students should interview at least three adults about their involvement in local government. Questions to ask include:

- What are their views about citizen involvement in government?
- If they are involved, how did that happen?
- If they are not involved in their government, why?
- Why don't people get involved?

After the interview students should write about what they learned about citizen involvement in county government. They will develop ideas about the reasons people do not get involved in local government. Have students discuss some solutions to this problem. Finally, students will write about their own opinions concerning citizen involvement, as well as expectations for their personal future involvement in local government.