

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3rd EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 10

Class Discussion

1. Why is the local budget important? What are some important items in the local budget?
2. How long does the budget process take? Why does it take so long? Can it be shortened up?
3. A house has a market value of \$300,000 (or any number) what is the assessed value of the house? If the mill rate is 30 mills, how much are the taxes?
4. Are the property taxes in town too high? Why or why not?

Class Assignments

1. Have students ask their parents/guardians if they have ever attended a budget meeting, and if so, on what topic? Did they speak at the meeting?
2. Have students ask their parents/guardians if they think local property taxes are too high. If yes, then what do they think should be cut.
3. Have students think about what car they want to buy, and then calculate the property taxes they have to pay on it. Also, have them calculate the sales tax on it.
4. What months are property taxes collected? (July, January). Have the students find out if this money is then invested since all of it is not needed right away.

Field Trips-Other Ideas

- Have students attend a budget meeting-public hearing, town meeting on the local budget and write a report on the type of meeting, number of people, tone of the meeting, and any observations on it. (good assignment in the spring)
- Invite CEO to class and have them speak on importance of the budget and what do they see as the major budgetary item coming up.
- Have some students interview the CEO on the budget and what the CEO wants to get done.