

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION**

## Instructor's Guide

### Chapter 11

#### **Class Discussion**

1. List the services that are provided by your municipality.
2. Prioritize these services giving reasons for why they are in the order they are recommended.
3. Discuss the ways these services are paid for and who pays for them.

#### **Class Assignments**

1. Have the class research their municipality's budget (most are on the local community website, or available in the annual town report) and determine where the money is spent.
2. Divide the class into groups and have them research the surrounding community's budgets and compare the dollars allocated for various services among the communities. Look for similarities and differences and why.
3. Have students ask their parents what they think are the most important services the local government provides and why.

#### **Field trips and Other Ideas**

- Invite local officials familiar with the local community budget to class and have them explain the budget, budget process, and the allocation of the budget for various services.
- Have students look at prior year budgets and see where the budget has changed from year to year in the allocation of dollars for specific services. Have them email town officials to ask why things may have changed or haven't changed.
- Have students visit the various town services such as the police department, fire department, public works department, school superintendent and interview the head of the service (Department Head, Director) and ask them their opinion of what town services they provide and report back to the class on their interview.