

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

## Instructor's Guide

### Chapter 2

#### **Class Discussion**

1. What are the three basic forms of government in Connecticut?
2. What form of government does your town have?
3. Can you identify who is the Mayor, or First Selectman, or Town Manager?
4. What is Home Rule? Why is it important?
5. Where is the State capitol located?
6. What makes a mayor strong? weak?
7. What is a town meeting?
8. How many towns and cities are there in Connecticut? Too few or too many?
9. What is the difference between a town and a city?

#### **Class Assignments**

1. Find out for next class who is the Mayor, First Selectman or Town Manager.
2. Is your town a charter or non-charter town?
3. Find out if there are any town meetings coming up in the next few months. What for?
4. Who is the chairman of the Board of Education?
5. Why did Connecticut abandon county government?
6. Prepare a list of Connecticut towns and cities that are based on Indian names.
7. Prepare a list of Connecticut's rivers that are based on Indian names.
8. Go on line ([www.ct.gov/sots](http://www.ct.gov/sots)) or obtain a copy of the Blue Book and then look up your town officials.
9. Find out what year their town was incorporated . What other national events were going on in that time frame? Did your town precede the start of the US Government?

#### **Field Trips-Other Ideas**

- Plan a trip to town hall and make prior arrangements with the Mayor, First Selectmen, or Town Manager.
- Plan a trip to the local police department. Depending upon the age of students, they love to see (and go inside) the local jail; find out how the prisoners obtain their meals.
- Invite local officials to class to talk about their jobs. Prepare ahead of time a list of questions on the town.