

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3RD EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 22

Class Discussion

1. Do students see the need for other municipal officials?
2. Are there special needs or requirements that municipalities must provide for when they are located in different parts of the state? Connecticut is a diverse state with a variety of climates and sub-climates, topography, hydrology and geology? Identify some of these municipalities and discuss what special requirements might be required.
3. Connecticut is also a diverse state with a variety of races, cultures, and demographics. Are there special municipal needs to service this diversity? Some municipalities house large universities, military bases, resort and entertainment businesses, medical complexes, and agricultural concentrations. There are municipalities with high densities of housing and others with low densities. Identify some of these municipalities and determine what types of special services might be required.

Class Assignments

1. Break the class down into different groups and assign a specific geographic region of the State of Connecticut to each group and ask them to determine if there might be any special need for additional staffing, or unique officials that may be needed.
2. Pick a diverse group of municipalities by size, location, population, demographic factors such as income, education, race or cultural diversity (the state of Ct. publishes this data through their EDRG – Educational District Reference Group listings – another source is the U.S. Census Bureau) and assign various municipalities to each group to research to determine if there is a need for special staffing or regulatory oversight.
3. Have students “inventory” their community and surrounding communities and compare the number and type of officials to determine why there may be differences and have them report to class.

Field Trips and Other Ideas

- Have some of the special or unique local officials (i.e. Harbor Master, Animal Control, Veteran's Agent, Housing Code Enforcement Officer) visit the class and describe what they do and why their position exists.