

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

## Instructor's Guide

### Chapter 29

#### **Class Discussion**

1. What political decision-making would qualify to be a “public policy”?
2. Are all major public policies considered, debated, and approved at public meetings?
3. Why would you expect public policy recommendations to be made by your city or town government’s professional staff?
4. Can you name some of the most influential special interest groups in your community?
5. Do you think that citizens should be involved in the public policy setting process?
6. Give some examples of distributive public policies. Regulatory policies. Constituent policies.
7. What two membership municipal organizations represent cities and towns at the State level of government? Do they try and influence public policy?

#### **Class Assignments**

1. Select a recent town or city public policy issue in your community and identify who was involved and why they were involved (budget, zoning approval, new school, all day kindergarten, security guards in school, etc.).
2. Do you think that your town or city adequately addresses public policy issues? Select a few and discuss with the class on their opinions.
3. Has any student ever attended a public meeting? What topic? What was the key public policy issue?
4. Pick a major public policy issue and have students debate if the local elected officials represent the citizens.
5. Has a member of any of any special interest groups ever knocked on the door to present their viewpoint? How about at a public venue with a table set up to distribute information?
6. Do you think that the local political process is much different than the state’s political process?

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

- Make arrangements for an elected or appointed official from your city or town government to explain the public policy process in your community? Have them identify who is involved, both overtly and covertly in the background.
- Attend at least one public meeting to gain insight into your local government’s public policy setting process. Students can go together and then make a report on the meeting.