

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

## Instructor's Guide

### Chapter 5

#### **Class Discussion**

1. Are local governments mentioned in our Federal Constitution?
2. What role does Connecticut's Constitution play in local government?
3. How are regional problems resolved in Connecticut?
4. What functions are carried out by the State Government?
5. What functions are carried out by local governments?
6. How do citizens influence local and state governments?

#### **Class Assignments**

1. Identify what year the municipality you live in was incorporated or founded. Is it younger or older than the United States?
2. What are the names of the eight counties in Connecticut and what are their functions?
3. Who represents your municipality in the State Legislature and what political party do they belong to?
4. Who determines the schedule for the school year in your municipality?
5. Who recruits and hires the snow plow driver in your Town or City?
6. Describe the highway numbering system used by the State of Connecticut. Odd numbered highways travel in which direction? Even numbered highways travel in which direction?

#### **Field Trips and Other Ideas**

- Invite a local public official (Mayor, Town Manager, First Selectman) to visit the class and tell the class what they do.
- Schedule a visit to the local town or city hall for a tour.
- Invite a local State Senator or State Representative to the class for a discussion about what they do, how they are elected, what political party they belong to and why, and what committees they may serve on in the legislature.
- Divide the class into two or more groups, give them a budget and a list of projects important to the community which different citizen groups support but would require either prioritization, or a major tax increase or both and see what each group decides and why they would do what they are recommending.
- Divide the class into three different groups local, regional and state and have them decide how certain government services should be delivered and why.