

# Government in Action

Compare how four levels of government serve people and use power.

**CE.4.c** “comparing and contrasting powers and responsibilities of local, state, federal, and tribal governments including, but not limited to citizen engagement, how each is financed, and how they work together and independently.”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline every government power or responsibility and write L, S, F, or T in the margin to identify the level. Circle each source of money, and number each detail that shows governments working together.

### Four Levels, Shared Communities

- ① On a rainy Tuesday, a town council considers fixing a broken sidewalk near a school. Local governments, such as cities, towns, and counties, make decisions close to residents. People can attend meetings, contact officials, vote where elections are held, or serve on boards. Local governments often collect property taxes and fees for services. They may use that money for streets, parks, police, fire protection, libraries, and water systems. Their powers come mainly from state laws and local charters.
- ② Tribal governments govern their own tribal nations. Their authority comes from tribal sovereignty, the right of a tribe to govern itself, as well as federal law and court decisions. Tribal citizens may vote in tribal elections and take part in community meetings. Tribes can raise money through taxes, fees, businesses, and federal grants. State governments serve everyone in a state. State voters elect lawmakers and a governor. States use income, sales, and other taxes to fund statewide services, including highways, public colleges, and state courts.
- ③ The federal government has powers that affect the whole country. Congress can collect federal taxes and spend money on national defense, interstate commerce, and programs such as Social Security. Citizens engage by voting for national leaders, contacting representatives, and speaking at public meetings. Governments often work together. Federal grants may help states or tribes pay for projects, while state and local agencies carry out many programs. Still, each level can act independently within its powers. For example, a tribe can pass its own laws, and a city can set park rules.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

How do local and state governments differ in the taxes or fees they use to raise money?

2

What are two ways that citizens can engage with both tribal and federal governments?

3

How do federal grants and state or local agencies show governments working together?

4

How can a tribal government and a city government each act independently?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a safer road crossing that connects a town and a tribal nation. Complete the table to show one independent responsibility, one finance or citizen-engagement detail, and one way each level could work with another level.

| GOVERNMENT LEVEL | INDEPENDENT RESPONSIBILITY | FINANCE OR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT | HOW IT WORKS WITH ANOTHER LEVEL |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                  |                            |                               |                                 |
|                  |                            |                               |                                 |
|                  |                            |                               |                                 |
|                  |                            |                               |                                 |

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline every government power or responsibility and write L, S, F, or T in the margin to identify the level. Circle each source of money, and number each detail that shows governments working together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                    |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How do local and state governments differ in the taxes or fees they use to raise money? | <b>Local governments often collect property taxes and service fees. States use income, sales, and other taxes.</b>        |
| 2 | What are two ways that citizens can engage with both tribal and federal governments?    | <b>Citizens can vote and take part in meetings.</b>                                                                       |
| 3 | How do federal grants and state or local agencies show governments working together?    | <b>Federal grants may help states or tribes pay for projects, while state and local agencies carry out many programs.</b> |
| 4 | How can a tribal government and a city government each act independently?               | <b>A tribal government can pass its own laws, while a city can set park rules.</b>                                        |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

| GOVERNMENT LEVEL | INDEPENDENT RESPONSIBILITY      | FINANCE OR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT                 | HOW IT WORKS WITH ANOTHER LEVEL                  |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Local            | Build a town sidewalk           | Use property taxes and hold a council meeting | Connects the sidewalk to the state crossing      |
| State            | Improve the highway crossing    | Use state tax money                           | Plans the crossing with the town and tribe       |
| Federal          | Provide a project grant         | Uses money collected through federal taxes    | Gives grant money to help the project            |
| Tribal           | Set access rules on tribal land | Holds a tribal community meeting              | Approves the part of the crossing on tribal land |

Accept equivalent responses that accurately compare the levels named in the passage. For the table, accept reasonable, clearly labeled plans that include a distinct role, a finance or engagement detail, and cooperation for each level.