

GOVERNMENT

WHAT EACH LEVEL DOES

Federal

Serves people with powers given to it by the Constitution

Responsibilities

levy taxes...provide defense...raise Army and Navy...declare war...regulate foreign and interstate commerce...coin and regulate money...provide patents and copyrights...admit new states...borrow money...establish federal courts...enact and enforce laws...administer immigration...administer Social Security...provide Medicare program...protect states from foreign invasion and domestic violence...guarantee each state a Republican form of government.

State

Serves people in ways that do not conflict with the Constitution, acts of Congress, or treaties

Responsibilities

levy taxes...borrow money...enact and enforce laws...regulate intra-state commerce...establish local government systems...establish courts...administer education programs...provide support for higher education...administer elections...provide law and order...responsible for transportation highways...set up selective tax system...decide how political parties nominate candidates...responsible for food stamps...administer unemployment compensation program...administer Medicaid program.

Local

Serves people in counties, cities, townships, towns, as well as park and school districts.

Responsibilities

record deeds, mortgages, and other legal documents...record vital statistics, births, deaths, marriages...assess and levy property taxes...maintain local roads...administer elections and certify election results...provide law enforcement...maintain criminal court system...maintain local jail...administer state and social welfare programs...provide mass transport...conduct disaster preparedness exercises...handle voter registration and polling...responsible for environment

Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

