

Module 10: State and Local Government

Topic 2 Content: Influencing State and Local Government

Introduction



Demi Tracy: Many Americans overlook the importance of the local government. Statistically speaking, local elections have the lowest voter turnout of any type of election. The irony of this situation is that average citizens can have the most significant impact on public policy at the local level. On today's episode, Glover will discuss how citizens may influence public policy at the local and state level.

Module 10: State and Local Government
Topic 2 Content: Influencing State and Local Government

National, State, and Local Citizenship

National, State, & Local Citizenship

- Citizens are guaranteed the right to participate in state and local government.
- You can vote for your representatives or even for public policy itself.
- You have the right to run for public office at the state and local level.
- Citizens on active military duty can maintain a residency while deployed.




Glover Mint: You are not only a citizen of the United States, you are also a citizen of the state of Virginia, and a citizen of your community. As a citizen, you are guaranteed the right to participate in the government of the state and locality you reside in. This includes the right to vote for representatives, or in the cases of referendums, on public policy itself. It is important to note that some of these rights may be restricted if individuals are convicted of certain crimes.

As a citizen of your state and community, you also have the right to run for public office in your state or community. There are usually requirements to do so, such as living in the community you wish to represent for a certain period of time. Some individuals, like those on active military duty, may be able to officially maintain their local residency even if they don't currently live in their community.

Module 10: State and Local Government
Topic 2 Content: Influencing State and Local Government




Individual Influence on Regional Public Policy

Influence on Regional Public Policy



Influencing regional public policy

1. Actively participate in politics
2. Express political opinions

Meet with your representatives	
Serve on a commission or board	
Attend public hearings	

Glover Mint: Individuals can influence state and local public policy using methods similar to those that influence national public policy. The only difference is these methods have a greater impact when they are used at the regional level. This is because, compared to the national government, your regional government has significantly fewer citizens. This means that each citizen has a greater individual influence over public policy. For example, to influence public policy in your community, you can vote, campaign, or run for office. You are also able to express your political opinions by demonstrating, petitioning, and contacting your representatives; however, in a regional government, you may be able to meet with your representatives personally, serve on a commission or board with them, or speak to them directly at a public hearing held in your community.

Module 10: State and Local Government
Topic 2 Content: Influencing State and Local Government

Group Influence on Regional Public Policy

Influence on Regional Public Policy

Influencing regional public policy

1. Actively participate in politics
2. Express political opinions
3. Join an interest group

Interest groups have greater impact on regional public policy

Easier to lobby regional policymakers

Easier to stimulate public interest on a local level

Next

The infographic features a dark blue background with a white map of a region on the left. A central column of 12 yellow human icons is arranged in a 3x4 grid. To the right of the icons is a large yellow arrow pointing right with the word 'Next' inside it.

Glover Mint: Individuals can also join an interest group, in order to influence public policy in regional government. Again, since local and state governments are smaller, the impact of an interest group on public policy is much greater. It is easier for an interest group to lobby regional policymakers and provide them with information. It is also easier for interest groups working on a local level to identify and stimulate public interest on important issues, while organizing individuals who share similar points of view.

Module 10: State and Local Government
Topic 2 Content: Influencing State and Local Government

Ending of Episode



Demi Tracy: Individuals, working in the government or simply participating in the political process, can have a major impact on public policy at state and local level. Thanks for joining us today at WUSG News.