

Virginia local governments vary in type, form of organization, and responsibilities. Regional authorities are political subdivisions of the state and address needs that cross local government boundaries. Responsible citizens can exert influence on the policymaking process at the local level.

**Counties, independent cities, and incorporated towns** are the three types of local government in Virginia.

**Independent cities** are separate governmental entities independent of the authority and taxing power of adjoining counties.

**Incorporated towns** are governmentally part of the county in which they are located.

**Counties and independent cities**, as units of local government, adopt and enforce ordinances and provide services for their residents.

An elected **board of supervisors** is generally responsible for the legislative and administrative affairs of the county.

An elected **council** is the local legislative body in independent cities and incorporated towns.

**Regional authorities** are created by the General Assembly to serve one or more special functions such as planning, land use, developing regional transportation facilities, and maintaining water and waste disposal systems.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the state and local governments described in the Constitution by

b) examining the structure and powers of local governments; county, city, and town