

LESSON 30

Local Governments

- *Mayors and City Managers of Texas Cities*
- *Regional Councils of Government*
- *County Courts*
- *Wet-Dry Counties*
- *Texas County and District Officials*

SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

4 - 17, 18, 21, 22, 23

7 - 15, 17, 21, 22, 23

8 - 19, 22, 29, 30

STAAR

4, 7 - Writing - 1, 2, 3

4, 7, 8 - Reading - 1, 2, 3

8 - Social Studies - 3

INSTRUCTIONAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Students will read the “Local Governments” section and answer these questions.
 - a. There are _____ counties in Texas. The number has not changed since _____.
 - b. The least-populous county is _____.
 - c. The county with the most residents is _____.
 - d. Each county has a _____ court.
 - e. More than _____ percent of the state’s population lives in cities and towns.
2. Students will interview a city or county official as listed in “Mayors and City Managers of Texas Cities.” Questions might include educational background, qualifications for the office, selection process (appointment or election), term of office, job responsibilities, and job benefits. Students will present this information to the class from a first-person perspective.
3.
 - a. Students will attend a meeting of their local governmental body and take notes.
 - b. Using these notes, students will brainstorm ideas for local improvements such as new traffic lights, sidewalks, streets, etc. They will write a proposal addressing the problem and present it to their local governmental body.
4. Students will read the “Regional Councils of Government” section and locate the regional council for their area. They will write a prospectus to their regional council requesting the construction of a community swimming pool.
5. Students will make a visit to their county courthouse. They will sketch the courthouse and label any monuments, historical markers, and/or statues present.
6. Using the “Wet-Dry Counties” section, students will write an editorial supporting or opposing a county’s wet-or-dry election.
7. Using the “Texas County and District Officials” section, students will contact one or more of their county officials to determine the job description and qualifications for the position(s). They will report back to the class with this information.

