

General information about municipalities. Here are some examples.

- What is a municipality?
 - A municipality is the local level of government, commonly known as a city or town.
 - <https://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/girs/municipalgovt>
 - (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/municipality?show=0&t=1310881057>)
- Forms of Government in CT
 - Connecticut has three primary forms of government:
 - Selectmen/Town Meeting Form of Government- The legislative body is the town meeting. The town meeting is a public meeting where anyone can attend, but only residents of the town can vote. The board of selectmen is usually made up of three or five selectmen. These elected officials are responsible for the municipality's executive decision making and its overall operation. The town is managed day-to-day by the First Selectman.
 - Mayor/Council Form of Government- The mayor/council form of government involves a greater consolidation of power and authority. The mayor is the top elected official; there is a separate elected legislative body, called a legislative council or a board of aldermen. The mayor can be a "strong" or a "weak" mayor, depending upon the power given to the position by the charter. In the strong mayor form, the mayor has substantial power, including appointment authority, budget preparation, budget veto over the council, line-item transfers, hiring and firing, contract signing, and overall general management. In the weak mayor form, greater power rests with the council. The mayor is limited in his powers of appointment, requiring council approval for appointment of department heads.
 - Council/Manager Form of Government- The council/manager form of government involves a full-time paid professional called the town or city manager. The individual is hired by the council to be the municipality's chief executive officer. The manager reports to the town or city council on a regular basis.
 - CTCMA guide: <https://cttcmagovoffice3.com/vertical/sites/%7B5463D4E1-5CDA-4913-B0FD-1C467098117B%7D/uploads/%7B2BDC8C22-BEA9-49FB-902F-3FF205905147%7D.PDF>
 - CCM Fundamentals of Municipal Govt: https://www.ccm-ct.org/Portals/CCM/PDF/Workshops/2022/Fundamentals-of-Municipal-Government-January-2022.pdf?ver=0MYv_rg9tOLffHcVil_CZw%3D%3D

- Municipal Departments
 - Municipal departments are the various sections of the local government. They include:
 - Public Works/Highway: maintains local roads and bridges, solid waste management, and buildings and grounds.
 - Parks and Recreation: Responsible for youth and adult recreation programs and facilities.
 - Library
 - Education: Local public schools.
 - City or Town Clerk: this office retains all public documents (municipal board meeting minutes and agendas), vital statistics (birth, death and marriage records), and issues some licenses and permits (marriage licenses, etc).
 - Building: enforces building codes to ensure that any new construction or improvements are safe.
 - Public Health: enforces rules and regulations to maintain community health, including food safety inspections.

- Boards and Commissions
 - Municipal boards and commissions are elected or appointed to represent the residents of a municipality on a given issue. Elected boards include:
 - Board of Selectmen
 - Board of Finance
 - Planning and Zoning Board
 - Zoning Board of Appeals
 - Board of Assessment Appeals
 - Appointed Boards and Commissions often include:
 - Economic Development Commission
 - Recreation Commission
 - Library Board

- Elected vs. Appointed vs. Competitive Positions
 - Elected officials are those chosen by the voters every two or four years (depending on the municipality's charter). These positions

Information on working in local government. Here are some examples.

<https://icma.org/page/why-consider-career-local-government>

- Work Environment: Indeed article on public vs private sector:
<https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-private-versus-public-sector-employee-benefits.html>
- Collective Bargaining: Most positions in local government are unionized, meaning that employees are represented in negotiations regarding pay, benefits, and work conditions. Employees are no longer required to join the union and pay dues. Labor contracts (called “Collective Bargaining Agreements” are generally in effect for a few years at a time.
- Benefits: comparison of public and private sectors:
<https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-private-versus-public-sector-employee-benefits.html>
- Sample Job Descriptions: CRCOG job descriptions in folder