



## West Virginia: Our Beautiful Home

*Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia*

*Section 3: County and Municipal Government*

### **Guided Reading**

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**Instructions:** Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ governments are based on the American notion that citizens are best able to manage their own \_\_\_\_\_ affairs.
2. The constitution provides guidelines for the establishment and administration of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and boards of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Nationally, there are over \_\_\_\_\_ counties; \_\_\_\_\_ of those counties are located in West Virginia.
4. When the state was admitted to the Union in \_\_\_\_\_, forty-four counties were created from territory taken from the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. A new county must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ square miles in size and have at least \_\_\_\_\_ residents.
6. Counties today are responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ and sewage systems, libraries, and recreation as well as \_\_\_\_\_ services such as law enforcement, medical emergencies, and fire protection.
7. Taxes on \_\_\_\_\_ property (land and permanent structures on land) and \_\_\_\_\_ property (movable items such as automobiles) generate much of the revenue counties need to pay for the services they provide.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important local political unit in the state.
9. County officials are also responsible for building and maintaining everything from \_\_\_\_\_ and stadiums to hospitals and \_\_\_\_\_ shelters.

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10. County governments perform such judicial functions as hearing \_\_\_\_\_ on tax assessments, employee complaints, and \_\_\_\_\_ decisions.
11. A county \_\_\_\_\_ presides over this level of government.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ must meet at least \_\_\_\_\_ times a year.
13. They establish the county \_\_\_\_\_; review property assessments and set the \_\_\_\_\_ tax rate; listen to taxpayer complaints; and approve funds for a variety of services.
14. The county \_\_\_\_\_ keeps the official records of the county, including the records of births, deaths, marriages, and divorces.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the only one of these officials to be limited by the state constitution to two consecutive terms.
16. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a political unit smaller than the county.
17. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest.
18. Municipalities not included in these classifications are called \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, with villages being the smaller of the two.
19. A \_\_\_\_\_ is created when a majority of its residents approve a charter of incorporation.
20. In West Virginia, the type of government a city may have is determined in part by its \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The oldest form of city government is the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ form.

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22. The council hires a professional city \_\_\_\_\_ who is in charge of the daily operation of city government, its agencies, and departments.

23. A \_\_\_\_\_ board, consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ members, is the governing body for the school district.