



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Rhode Island cities and towns have many different forms of government, but most have someone in an executive branch role and groups of people who fill legislative roles. Together they make decisions about your community. Who makes up your local government?

EXECUTIVE

Depending on where you live, you might have a mayor, a town manager, or someone else who acts as the executive of your city or town.

Do you have a...

- Town Manager Mayor
- Town Administrator Other _____
- City Manager _____

Is this position...

- Elected
- Appointed

LEGISLATIVE

CITY/TOWN COUNCIL

In most municipalities, voters cast ballots for all of the council members, so a resident of a town with a five-person town council is allowed to vote for five people to fill those positions. In others, voters may only vote for one council member who will represent their neighborhood, or ward. In those instances, voters are sometimes also permitted to vote for additional council members who represent the entire municipality; they are called "at-large" council members.

How many people are on your town or city council?

How many council members do individual voters get to elect?

SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rhode Island cities and towns also have School Committees or Boards of Trustees. They vote on issues like school uniforms, have the power to dedicate money for playgrounds and special programs, and make other important decisions about schools. In some cities and towns these officials are elected; in others they're appointed.

How many members does your School Committee or Board of Trustees have?

Are they elected or appointed?

- Elected
- Appointed



Now that you've learned about your local government, summarize what you've learned.

In _____ (your city/town)

we have a _____ (executive)

who is _____ (elected or appointed)

by _____ (who does the electing or appointing?)

We have a _____ council. (city/town)

The council has _____ members. (number of members)

I will be able to vote for _____ (number of members) members when I turn 18.

Decisions about my school are made by a _____ (School Committee/Board of Trustees)

It has _____ members. (number of members)

They are _____ (elected/appointed)