

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Local, State, and Federal Government

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

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## Local Government

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Local governments are responsible for making laws and managing public services in counties, cities, and towns. Citizens usually elect a mayor to run the local government. Members of a city or town council are also elected. A city or town council discusses and makes decisions about laws and policies. Local governments keep parks clean and run libraries and schools. They also make sure public transportation runs and trash is picked up. Services like fire and police departments are also managed by local government.

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## State Government

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Each state in the United States has a state government. They are run by governors and elected representatives. Representatives from around the state gather in the state capital to vote on laws. There are also state judges who decide whether laws are allowed under the state constitution. State governments are responsible for lawmaking in their state and managing services for residents. State governments decide how to spend state money, build roads, and protect wildlife. They also run state colleges and hospitals and decide what is taught in public schools.

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**Federal Government**

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The federal government is the national government of the United States. It serves the whole country. The federal government is made up of three branches that handle different responsibilities. The three branches are the legislative branch, executive branch, and judicial branch. The legislative branch, known as Congress, is responsible for writing and voting on laws. Congress has two chambers: the Senate and House of Representatives. The executive branch is responsible for approving and putting laws into action. The president is the head of the executive branch as well as the whole federal government. The judicial branch is made up of the courts. This branch decides whether laws are allowed under the US Constitution. The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts.

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