

IT'S OUR GOVERNMENT

Module I

A joint project by the League of Women Voters Jacksonville, Youth Leadership Jacksonville, Young Democrats, Young Republicans, Democratic Women Information Network, and Republican Women's Club of Duval Federated. The purpose of the project is to provide citizens an overview of governmental processes and to invigorate citizen deliberations and engagement in democratic processes.

An
Introduction
to Duval
County
Government

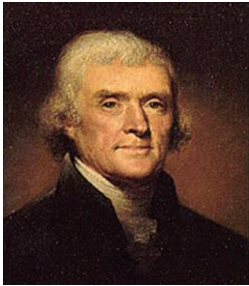
A study guide can be found at the end of Module I.

Introduction

A democratic system of government

A democratic system of government, be it national, state or local, relies for its health on a base of knowledgeable citizens who are involved in selecting those who lead and holding them accountable while in office. Such a citizenry must have a factual basis of knowledge about the government along with the ability to think critically and ethically.

Two quotations provide a sense of the importance of an educated citizenry to the health of our democratic system of government.



Thomas Jefferson (1820)

“I know of no safer depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control...the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.”

JCCI Jacksonville Community Council, Inc. Quality of Life Report

“Responsive Government evolves from informed citizens who actively participate in the democratic process and show that they care about the needs of our community.”

- Tom Van Berkel (Chairman, Main Street America Group)

Health of the political system - Troubling Indicators

Voting

The most basic form of political participation is voting, yet statistics from recent elections show low levels of participation. Even in the 2008 elections, which reflected massive efforts by both parties to get out the vote, the participation rate in Duval County was only 77.8 percent. The importance of that vote is reflected in the difference between the top candidates in Duval County – 48.63% for Obama; 50.53% for McCain.

Municipal government which is closest to us, providing many of our basic services, often has shockingly low turnout rates. In 2007, in the Jacksonville mayor’s race, turnout was 19.1%. Of that, Mayor Peyton received 76% -- still hardly a mandate from all the registered voters.

Lack of Information

Just as troubling as low turnout and probably a factor in turnout levels are the low levels of information the public has about politics and the political system. There are countless examples of this: in a 2002 survey few Americans could name the five freedoms named in the Constitution. In another survey only 26% of high school seniors demonstrated civic understanding. In another survey 41% were unaware that there are three branches of government; 33% could not name one. In a local survey for JCCI only 27% of the citizens could name two of the 19 members of city council.

Civic literacy is connected to a healthy democracy

You might say why does this matter? Most Americans are quite relaxed, confident that our republic will always be here. They do not connect civic literacy to the health of the democracy. But many scholars do, in fact, make this connection. They find civic knowledge provides meaningful understanding and support for a number of constitutional values, including compromise and tolerance. More civic understanding promotes meaningful political participation.

It has been said that ***“a better-informed citizenry places important limitations on the ability of public officials...to act in ways contrary to the public interest.”*** (Carpini and Keeter (1996))

Civic ignorance creates a situation whereby we measure government processes through our own self interests, not through what might be good for the larger community. The lack of civic literacy has led to an erosion of political consensus. The result is a government that can only make halting progress and one in which debate becomes more and more bitter and argumentative. As an example, see the 2009 debates on health care.

Critical Thinking

Essential for the process

It's Our Government is designed to help all voters become better participants in the democratic process. According to national standards for civics education, critical thinking is an essential part of this process. In this section we will talk about some concepts in critical thinking that are relevant to the political world.

Listening, analyzing, evaluating and understanding information is critical. Can that be done just by reading one newspaper, or listening to one news show, or getting information directly from candidates who are trying to win your vote, or elected officials who might have a vested

interest in an outcome? Perhaps not. Hopefully, the suggestions in this section will be of interest to you.

Make sure the data is accurate, up to date, credible, and relevant

Often this is not the case. Your personal observations, experiences and research can help. But to really determine accuracy, relevancy, and credibility, it's important to evaluate the reasons behind presented issues.

Examine the reasons that are used by a candidate, official, or the media to “prove” the issue. Critical thinking and thoughtful analysis can help. For example, consider the cause and effect of a candidate's position. How does it impact the candidate, you, and your community both in the short and long term?

Compare and contrast the position with similar and opposing ones. How is it different? How important or relevant are the differences? How will the impact differ? Research the facts presented on the internet. If you have a more critical approach to issues, it will help broaden your thinking. You will want to do further examination and understanding of issues to really assess what is at stake. It will also help you become more detached from persuasive arguments and more independent in your analysis.

Persuasion is often presented as logic and often based on assumptions, traditions, laws and comparisons. Therefore, it's important to ask thoughtful questions to maintain objectivity and offset any emotions that may come into play by aggressive persuasion. Logic is not always used in a balanced, or even accurate, manner. Therefore, it is important to examine it very carefully.

Politicians are usually skilled in relating to their audience and have effective ways of speaking and presenting their material. It's important to apply critical thinking and analysis to everything you read and hear. Delivery and substance, emotion and presence are all offered by candidates and politicians. The listener should separate these elements, and evaluate each one using the same principles discussed above.

BE CRITICAL

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

SPEND TIME WITH THE ISSUES

Florida Cities



In Florida, municipal governments are called “cities”. A municipal government is a public corporation. The City Council is the board of directors, elected by the stockholders, who are the citizens. The public corporation is formed to provide self-governance and a variety of services.

The charter, which is a city's constitution, is written to form the municipality and is similar to articles of incorporation. The charter sets up the rules of the city: its form of government, the size of the council and certain governmental processes. In Florida, the Legislature approves the incorporation through a special act, and the charter is approved by the citizens through a referendum. This was done in Jacksonville.

Besides being a public corporation however, a city also is an independent, general-purpose local government. General purpose means there is a wide range of services provided by the entity. In Florida, a city is recognized with certain rights and privileges. The most important of these rights is Home Rule. The state Constitution recognizes that cities may enact their own ordinances and self-govern, so long as the city's law does not conflict with the state and federal laws. This Home Rule power was repeatedly sought by early Florida city officials. It was placed into the state Constitution in 1968, and later ratified through legislation in 1973. “Municipal Home Rule” power does not extend to **fiscal** Home Rule, however, because the state reserves all taxing authority to itself.

One of the most fascinating things about the municipalities in Florida is the tremendous difference in them. There are 411 municipalities in the state and no two are alike. During the decade from 1950 to 1960, more than 100 cities in Florida were incorporated. More than 9.5 million Floridians reside in a city, town or village, equaling about 51 % of the state population. The majority of Floridians live in unincorporated county areas. City populations range from 8 (City of Weeki Wachee) to more than 800,000 (City of Jacksonville). Sixty percent of the 411 cities are under 10,000 in population. Florida is a state composed of mostly smaller cities, with the median city population of 5,510.

Florida's cities have a suburban flavor. None are as large as New York, Los Angeles or Chicago. Many of the cities were planned for retirees and do not have a central business area. A few are completely residential. Some grew up around military bases and popular tourist destinations. The fishing and agricultural industries have also caused the creation of coastal cities, towns and villages.

Just as no two city charters are alike, each city's menu of services is also different. Some Florida cities do **not** offer these services: paving streets, centralized water or sewage system, police, fire or parks and recreation services. Some cities offer each one of these services and also offer natural gas or electric utilities. For some cities, the most important service is “building code” standards and inspections, and planning and zoning.

So, cities are not counties. They are not school districts, and they are not special districts. Cities are publicly created, independent governments designed by their citizens, for their citizens. They are the only voluntary level of local government in the Sunshine State.

Cities require choice on the part of their residents, and with that choice comes the benefit of grass-roots democracy, true self-governance, and home rule.

City of Jacksonville



Jacksonville is the largest city (land mass) in the continental United States, covering approximately 841 square miles, and is situated in Duval County, Florida. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2007, Jacksonville’s population was estimated at 850,000 people, which represented a 9.0% population increase from 2000. In 2005, 39 people a day were calling Jacksonville and Duval County their new home, because we have one of the overall lowest costs of living in both Florida and in the U.S., with an average household income of \$50,475 (median income around \$41,000). Florida has no state income tax.

Jacksonville has ranked three times as the number one “Hottest City in America”, and consistently been in the Top 10 for six straight years. *Money* magazine has also named Jacksonville as one of the “top ten best places to live”, due to its location, mild climate, low cost of living, and high quality of life.

In 1822, the city was named in honor of Andrew Jackson, who never visited the City, but was the first military governor of Florida after the Spanish ceded Florida in 1819. The first city charter was subsequently published in 1832, establishing a town government that was a mayoral form of government. William Mills was Jacksonville’s first mayor.

Consolidation

In 1968 the governments of the city of Jacksonville and Duval County were merged into one, making Jacksonville unique among city governments in Florida. (Four small incorporated communities within Duval County—Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Baldwin—voted to retain their existing governments with Jacksonville serving as the equivalent of their county government.) The consolidation reduced duplication of services and increased governmental efficiency. The new charter provided for a strong mayor form of government with a nineteen-person city council, with five elected at large and 14 elected by geographic district. The mayor and the council members are limited to two consecutive terms in office.

ETHICS & ANTI-CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT

Nothing is more important to the understanding of government ethics than knowing the basic definitions in the area. When twenty people hear the word “ethics” they typically will give twenty different definitions of its meaning. Here are some of the basic words used in government ethics.

TRUST

A reliance (confidence based upon experience) on the **character** or **ability** ...of someone or something. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trust>

Example:

(Character) I trust him to treat the applicants politely. He can be trusted to tell us the truth on the project. I trust him to not write up the bid so only his brother's company gets the contract.

(Ability) I trust him to be able to design a bridge. I trust the Mayor to hire competent financial personnel.

You can trust a person to tell you the truth, (character) but maybe not to fix an electrical problem in your house (competence).

There is a breakdown in trust if the basic **character or competency** of government officials is in question.

Current Statistics on Trust

While 56% of Americans say they trust the U.S. government to do what is right (58% in July, 2009), a 56% majority continues to say things in the federal government are on the wrong track, and 66% say they do not trust the government to manage its finances responsibly. Source: Public Strategies Inc., Oct. 2009 <http://www.pstrategies.com/index.php/public-trust-monitor.htm>

PUBLIC TRUST

“The very essence of a free government consists in considering offices as public trusts, bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual.” John C. Calhoun (7th vice president, U.S.)

A common phrase is “a public office is a public trust”.

Definition: A Public Trust is that which is created for the promotion of public welfare and not for the benefit of one or more individuals. businessdictionary.com

This is the basis for “ethics” laws which attempt to regulate **conflicts** of a public official or employee who is looking out more for their own benefit than for the public interest. The conflict is between the official's personal interests and the public interest.

The public official or employee is expected to be focused 100% on the interests of the public, not on how they can use their position to help themselves (or family/friends/business associates).

Conflict issues: getting relatives high paying jobs in the government; bids and contracts going to friends of officials; lavish gifts given to those who decide zoning matters; hanging out with lobbyists at expensive restaurants; negotiating a contract with a vendor and then quitting a government job to go to work with that company; getting a second job with a vendor who does

business with the city. When a public employee or official is, **or appears to be**, acting more in their **own** interest instead of the public interest, citizens don't trust that person to be fair to the public.

ETHICS

Ethics is a major branch of philosophy that involves analysis of right and wrong conduct. It has also been described as "a discipline that deals with duties and obligations to others", Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

Ethos is the Greek word for character. As to character, the Josephson Institute lists universal ethics concepts: trustworthiness, fairness, respect, responsibility, caring and citizenship; calling them the "Six Pillars of Character". (www.josephsoninstitute.org)

In the context of government ethics, just because an act is **legal** does not mean that it is **ethical** or that it increases public trust.

PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICS

Michael Josephson, founder of Character Counts, attorney and author, lectures on five specific ethical values that apply to those in public service:

Public Interest—No personal Gain.

They should act in the public's interest, not their own. They should not use government property or employees for their own purposes; misuse time of employees; or misuse one's title to obtain benefits. They must be loyal to the broad public good.

Independent Objective Judgment—no conflicts.

Issues should be decided on their merits, free from either real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Transparency and Accountability.

There should be accountability for officials; oversight, openness of proceedings; whistleblower protection.

Democratic Leadership.

Those in public service should obey all laws and respect the democratic process.

Respectability and Fitness for Public Office

Officials should conduct their personal and professional lives so that they are worthy of honor and respect and are considered suitable for public office. (Honesty, following the law) This concept is interesting and can be the basis for lively discussions! If a governor has an extra-

marital affair and lies about it, can you still trust him to do a good job in his elected position? Does this automatically decrease public trust in him as a person, an elected official, or both? Several governors have been in the news or resigned over just such an issue. (Spitzer, N.Y; Sanford, S.C.; McGreevy, N.J.) “Preserving the Public Trust”, Michael Josephson, 1996-2004, www.josephsoninstitute.org

Conflict of Interest Laws - commonly referred to as “ethics laws”

There are many **ethics** related qualities that we expect of public officials and employees, as discussed above. We hope that they tell the truth, treat people with respect and work hard. If elected officials let us down, we can always exercise the ultimate power of the ballot box and not re-elect them. It is not possible to list the 100 qualities of a good public servant and turn it all into a **law**. So what are “ethics” laws?

What are commonly referred to as “ethics laws or codes” cover a very specific area. “Ethics Laws” are basically laws that govern certain conflicts of interest. These are laws that regulate situations where a public official or employee does not fully exercise his professional duties because he is focused more on his **personal interests**. So conflict of interest laws attempt to detect, regulate and punish some of these conflicts.

Note: for every 5 conflicts that are regulated by law, there can be 5 more that aren’t yet against the law. For example, a jurisdiction may ban a spouse from getting a no-bid government contract, but not an uncle. When the uncle gets the contract and the public is outraged, a new law is put on the books so it doesn’t happen again. That is why government ethics laws often are referred to as patchwork quilts—they are reactions to specific things that happened that caused an outcry from the citizens.

LAW

Definition: Rules established by a governing authority to institute and maintain orderly coexistence. <http://www.lectlaw.com> . Government officials/employees must not violate criminal laws or ethics laws. Examples of Criminal laws include: bribes, extortion, theft, kickbacks, and fraud. For the many forms of political corruption see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_corruption

CORRUPTION

“Corruption is an abuse of public power for private gain that goes against the public interest. Corruption entails a confusion of the private with the public sphere or an illicit exchange between the two spheres. **In essence, corrupt practices involve public officials acting in the**

best interest of private concerns (their own or those of others) regardless of, or against, the public interest”. (United Nations definition)

The most interesting aspect of this definition is that the common usage of the term does not require that an **actual law** be broken. In other words, one can comply with existing laws, even get legal advice on how to not break any laws, and if people think that it is being done to further a private interest of the government official, they will most likely label it “corrupt”. Just a mere compliance with the law is not enough these days. An analysis of how the public will evaluate the act only **starts** with whether or not the law was complied with.

[Origin of the word corrupt: 1300–50; Latin: corruptus broken in pieces.]

NATIONAL TRENDS

The Ethics Resource Center, www.ethics.org, published a national study on government ethics in 2008. http://www.ethics.org/files/u5/The_National_Government_Ethics_Survey.pdf

Significant Findings:

Levels of misconduct in local government are “**alarmingly high**” and local officials are the least likely to know about ethics risks the strength of ethical culture is decreasing and the pressure to commit misconduct is growing.

Misconduct that is **clearly illegal** is on the decline but conflicts and abuse of power and position are on the increase (Note: definition of corruption, above. If an act is technically legal, but still done to benefit an official/employee’s personal interests, it risks being labeled corrupt by many people.)

Absent effective ethics programs, misconduct will rise in the future. The good news is that if there is a “**well implemented ethics and compliance program and a strong ethical culture, misconduct drops by 60%.**”

JACKSONVILLE ETHICS PROGRAM

There are several parts of Jacksonville’s ethics program: the Ethics Officer program, the Ethics Commission and the Inspector General.

- A) The Ethics Officer is a city employee who reports to the Mayor and the City Council President. This person is responsible for educational and compliance programs for ethics. Also, this person is in charge of the city’s confidential hotline. For more information on this office, go to www.coj.net search word “Ethics Office” and read the annual reports of the office.

- B) The Ethics Commission is a group of 9 citizen volunteers who give ethics advice and look into and discuss ethics issues. For their exact duties, go to their website at www.coj.net search word Ethics Commission.
- C) The Inspector General. This office does audits and investigations on Hotline matters and other issues concerning fraud, waste and abuse. Go to the city's website and use the search word "Inspector General" to see reports of audits done.

Corruption in government is the opposite of a fair and open system. If citizens believe that decisions are being made corruptly, to benefit a few, and that they have no power to change this, it lowers trust and lowers interest in participating in that government. The attitude becomes "Why bother? It's all fixed". When public trust is lost, there most likely is an impact on active involvement in our democracy.

"The trouble...is that we have taken our democracy for granted; we have thought and acted as if our forefathers had founded it once and for all. We have forgotten that it has to be enacted anew in every generation."

John Dewey

"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference and undernourishment."

Robert Hutchins

"Restoring trust ...is the great task of ethics, and understanding ethics..is the great task before humanity today". Gregory Foster: *Ethics, Time to Revisit the Basics*, *The Humanist*, vol.63, no.2 (2003):30-37



The word "democracy" is derived from the Greek: (dēmokratía) "the power of the people;" (dêmos) "people" and (krátos) "power". ([Demokratia](#), Henry George Liddell, Robert Scott, "A Greek-English Lexicon", at Perseus)

The origins of our democracy stem from ideals from Ancient Greece. Over 2500 years ago, if a young man wanted to become an official citizen in Athens, he would take the Athenian Oath. If one chose not to take this oath, he was called an “idiot”-- one who is not civic-minded. The Athenian Oath is a timeless inspiration for public service.

ATHENIAN OATH

We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will revere and obey the City’s laws, We will strive increasingly to quicken the public’s sense of civic duty. Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

"With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love." - John F. Kennedy

Ethics is at the center of public trust in our democracy. What we all do individually to preserve this trust is important. Your dedication and involvement in local government is appreciated.

Ethics Website for city: www.coj.net Search word: ETHICS
CITY HOTLINE TO REPORT ETHICS VIOLATIONS: (904) 630-1015

City Website Navigation

Objectives

Learn how to find out what is going on in City Hall

How to look up City Council Bills

How to view city meetings online

Go to the City of Jacksonville’s website: www.coj.net

Locate the orange ribbon of menu options at the top, right below the city logo. These are shortcuts to the areas most used by citizens. Briefly, look at the contents of each one of them.

Go to the section on the orange ribbon called "I want to." Go down to REQUEST PUBLIC RECORDS and click on it.

Read the section on how to request public records from the city.

Go back up to the orange ribbon and click on "About Jacksonville". Read "Welcome to Jacksonville. Look at the index on the left side: click on "Elected Officials". This is a complete list of your elected officials.

Go back to the orange ribbon, to the "I want to" section; click on "file a complaint". This is how you file a complaint on city services. It will be logged in and followed up on; you can check on the progress yourself online.

Go to the SEARCH button on the top right of the home page. Type in "ETHICS". Click on "City Ethics Office"; this will take you to the home page of the Ethics Officer for the city of Jacksonville.

On the Ethics webpage, go to the left side index (all pages on the city website have an index on the left side). Go to the section "Email List". Sign up to be put on the email list for updates from the Ethics Office.

Above the index (above where it says "Ethics Code") hit the HOME button. This take you back to the home page of the city's website.

On the index on the left side of the home page, go to the "OFFICE" section. Click on the "GO" button to see the section on BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

This is a list of all of the volunteer boards and commissions of the city. If you are interested in any of them, click on that link and find out more about that board. You can attend meetings and work on getting an appointment to that board.

Go back to the city HOME page (click "home" above the index)

Go back to the OFFICE section in the index. Click the down arrow to see what offices you can go to for more information.

Look at the index again on the home page. Go to the section that says: Scheduled Meetings and City Events Look at what is going on for the week. (Maybe plan to come to City Hall for one of

the meetings.) Before you come down to City Hall for any meeting, check this calendar. If there has been a last minute cancellation, it would be noticed here.

Go down the index on the home page to “WHAT’S NEW”. This is a bulletin board for announcements from the Mayor’s office.

Go down to where it says “Mayor’s Updates”; sign up to receive emails from the Mayor.

Go back to the index on the home web page. Go down to where it says “Ethics Office/Hotline”. Click on that. Go to the Ethics page, look at the index of items on that page; go back to the HOME page of the city website.

CITY COUNCIL. Go back up to the orange ribbon at the top of the web page. Go to the City Council Section. Click on that. This takes you to the web pages for City Council and all meeting information and legislation.

Look at the index on the left side; see what categories of information are in there.

Find out what voting precinct you are in and where it is located. Go to the Supervisor of Elections page: <http://duvalelections.com/precinctfinder.aspx>

Find out who your city council representative is. You may call the main City Council number at (904) 630-1377 (904) 630-1377 and give your home address. Or [use the My Neighborhood feature on JaxGIS](#) to locate your District Council Member. Also remember that the five at-large members represent all the residents of Jacksonville.

Go to the home page of CITY COUNCIL; look at the index.

Click on “City Council Meetings Online” for city council. When there is a meeting in that room, you can see it live, streaming on your computer. Go down lower on that page; you can pull up old meetings of City Council. So, if you missed a meeting, you can view it here.

Go back to the City Council index (left side of home page for City Council.)

Go to the “CALENDAR” section and see what is happening in City Council this week.

Go back to the index. Find the section that says “LEGISLATIVE BILL SEARCH”. Click on that. This is how you look up legislation of city council. You can do it by a word search or by a bill number.

On the BILL SEARCH section, type in bill 2009-362. Go to that bill. Look at the bill summary. What is that bill about? Do you find this easy to understand?

Go back to the BILL SEARCH section. In the "search box" put the word "batting". What do you get? Look at bill 2009-95. Is this a good idea? How would you find out more about this bill?

The last step in this course is to REGISTER TO VOTE, if you have not already done so. For complete information on how to register, paste the following link into your browser to go to the Supervisor of Elections website: <http://www.duvalelections.com> . On the Supervisor of Election's home page, find the link on the left, under "Voter Information."

If you are registering to vote by mail, you have never voted in Florida, and you have not been issued a Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, or Social Security number, you will be required to provide additional identification when submitting your application. You must provide a copy of one of the following photo identifications (ID) that includes your name and picture: US Passport, Military ID, Debit/Credit Card, Public Assistance ID, Retirement Center ID, Student ID, Neighborhood Association ID. Or, you may provide a copy of one of the following documents that contains your name and current residence address: Utility Bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck.

To ensure that your voter registration application can be processed by the State of Florida thereby placing you on the role within your county, lines 2 through 8 of the application must be completed and line 16 must contain an original signature. If you have a valid Florida driver's license or a Social Security card and provide the number on your application it is not necessary to send a copy.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider Module I.

If you would take a moment more, we would appreciate hearing from you. Use the study guide form to give us your feedback, and to let us know where you heard about "It's Our Government."

Mail: League of Women Voters Jacksonville, Box 41184, Jacksonville Florida 32203

Phone: Leave your message, along with your name and phone number . 904-359-9483

Email: league@lwvjacksonvilleleague.org

Facebook: LWV Jacksonville

IT'S OUR GOVERNMENT STUDY GUIDE - MODULE I

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Referring Organization: _____ Name of person: _____

Introduction to Jacksonville Legislative Government

As you read the **introduction**, think about how you would answer the following questions.

- Did you vote in the last election?
- On a scale of 1-10, how much are you involved in local government issues?
- Do you know who your City Council member is?
- Have you ever contacted a person in city government about any issue?
- What can you personally do to get more involved in local government?
- Will you do it?

As you read about **critical thinking**, think about how you would answer the following questions.

- When you are asked your opinion on local issues, do you do any personal research before you state your opinion?
- Where would you go to do research?

Read the next two sections.

- Make note of what interests you and in what area(s) you would like more information to be given in the next module.

As you read the section on **ethics** and anti-corruption, think about how you would answer the following questions.

- How much do you trust your local government to do the right thing on a scale of 1-10?
- What do you think needs to change in order for this number to improve?
- What would be the key to improving citizens' trust in local government? Could you have a part in making this happen?

Read the section on navigating the **City website** and note any problems or confusions you experienced.

Read the Conclusion.

Make sure you are registered to vote!