

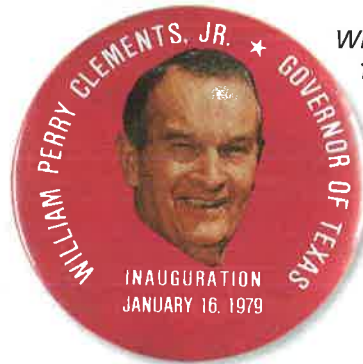
CHAPTER
31

Local Government and Citizenship

(1845–Present)



Recent technology has been used to make vote recorders that are very accurate.



With his election in 1978, Bill Clements became the first Republican governor in more than 100 years.



1848 Texans cast their first votes as U.S. citizens in a presidential election.

1869 Edmund J. Davis is elected governor, the last Republican to hold the office until Bill Clements was elected in 1978.

1918 After decades of fighting for the right to vote, women are allowed to vote in Texas primary elections.

U.S. and WORLD



1845

1848 The Seneca Falls Convention calls for equal rights for women, including the right to vote.

1865

1868 The Fourteenth Amendment, which expands and protects citizenship, is adopted.

1885

1892 A third party, the Populist Party, holds its first national convention.

1905

1920 The Nineteenth Amendment is adopted, giving women the right to vote.



ELLIS ISLAND - IMMIGRATION DEPOT, NEW YORK

Ellis Island was the nation's busiest immigration entry point during the early 1900s. Many immigrants have become naturalized citizens.



Build on What You Know

The Texas Constitution divided state government into three branches. Below the state government are many local governments. Texans make important contributions to their state by participating in elections and by fulfilling their many other civic responsibilities.



Texas teenagers participated in the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston.



The state government encourages citizens to vote.

1925 The legislature begins to allow Texans to vote early if they are unable to go to the polls on election day.

1972 Texan Barbara Jordan is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She is the first black woman from the South to serve in Congress.

1986 Raul Gonzalez is elected to the Texas Supreme Court. He is the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in Texas.

1925

1945

1965

1985

Present



Poll taxes prevented many poor and minority Americans from voting.

1965 Congress passes the Voting Rights Act to protect citizens' right to vote.

2000 Texan George W. Bush is elected president of the United States.

As a Texan . . .

How do you fulfill your civic responsibilities?

You Be the Historian



What's Your Opinion? Do you **agree** or **disagree** with the following statements? Support your point of view in your journal.

- **Constitutional Heritage** Free speech and press contribute little to democratic society.
- **Citizenship** Civic participation is important in a republic.
- **Government** In a democracy, citizens rarely express different political views.



Read to Discover

1. What are the structures and functions of local Texas governments?
2. How are local governments funded?

Why It Matters Today

Fire protection is just one example of a service provided by local governments. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information on local public services today. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- precincts
- commissioners' court
- mayor-council government
- council-manager government
- commission plan
- home-rule charters
- general-law cities
- special districts

The Story Continues

Texas citizens regularly attend local government meetings to present issues that are important to them.

Trucks rumbled up and down the neighborhood streets. More and more businesses had moved into the area. Their arrival meant that many of the neighborhood's residents would soon have new jobs. The job opportunities were made possible because citizens had urged the town's city council to allow the businesses to move to the neighborhood.

★ **County Governments**

Thousands of local governments throughout Texas provide police protection, roads, water, and other services to Texans. The state has 254 counties, each with its own government. Counties are divided into four **precincts**, or county subdivisions, and voters in each precinct elect a county commissioner. Voters countywide elect a county judge. These elected officials serve four-year terms and make up the **commissioners' court** that governs the county.

The judge directs the commissioners' meetings, in which they prepare the county budget and address local issues. The court also sets the county property tax rate. This is an important responsibility because property taxes are the major source of revenue for counties. If the voters approve, counties can also raise money by issuing bonds for the construction of buildings, roads, and other projects. Bonds are certificates that represent money the government has borrowed from citizens. Despite its name, the commissioners' court does not handle legal cases. However, in less populated counties the judge may hear certain cases.

Other officials also serve at the county level. The sheriff provides police protection and runs the county jail. The county attorney advises officials and prosecutes misdemeanor criminal cases. Each county has justices of the peace that hear minor criminal and civil cases. The county clerk keeps records of the commissioners' court and keeps deed records of all land in the county. The receiving and paying out of county funds is handled by the county treasurer. The county tax assessor-collector makes sure taxes are collected and issues vehicle titles. These and other officials work hard to keep counties running smoothly.

★ Reading Check Contrasting How do the duties of the commissioners' court and a regular court differ?

★ Municipal Governments and Special Districts

More than 85 percent of Texans live in urban areas run by municipal governments. There are several types of municipal governments. In a **mayor-council government**, voters elect a mayor and a city council to directly run the government. The mayor serves as the city's chief executive officer and directs the council meetings. Many cities have a **council-manager government** in which voters elect a mayor and members of a city council. These elected officials decide the city's policies. The council then chooses a city manager to carry out those policies and handle the city's day-to-day business. With a council-manager government, the city's administration rests in the hands of a hired professional.

The **commission plan**, also known as the Galveston Plan, was developed in 1901. Voters elect five to seven commissioners to serve as a city council. Each commissioner also supervises a city department. This

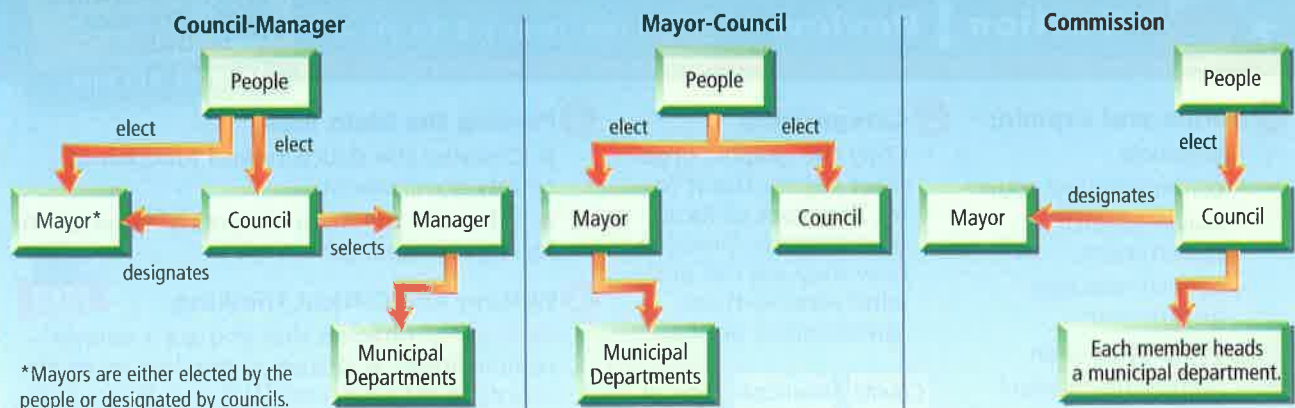
That's Interesting!

Texans on the Road

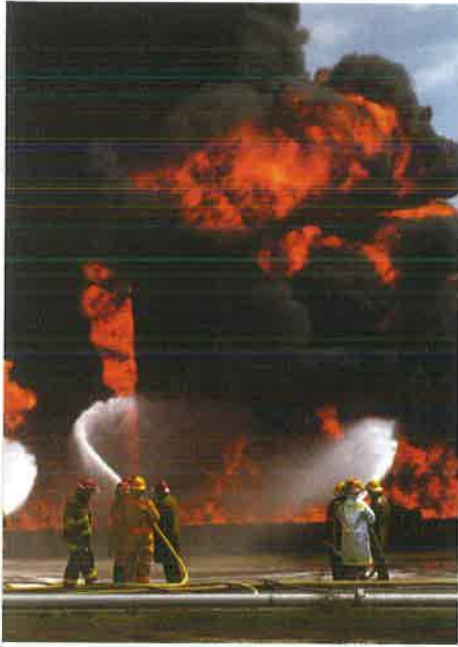
Maintaining the state's roads is an important function of local governments. The number of licensed drivers in Texas—more than 13 million—continues to grow each year. More than 14 million cars and trucks travel Texas highways, a number second in the nation only to California.



Forms of Municipal Government



TAKS Skills Interpreting Charts Municipal departments often include police, fire, roads, utilities, and parks. In which form of government does the mayor have the most power? **★ TEKS**



Interpreting the Visual Record

Municipal services. One of the most important city services is fire protection. How do you think these firefighters, who are receiving training, are important to Texas cities?

form of government worked well for a time, but commissioners had difficulty working together toward citywide goals. As problems arose, cities switched to mayor-council or council-manager governments. There are no true commission governments in Texas today.

There are two types of municipalities in Texas. Municipalities with populations of more than 5,000 qualify for **home-rule charters**. These charters allow citizens to choose among the three forms of municipal government. Cities draft and adopt these charters within guidelines set by the state legislature. The cities then pass ordinances, or local laws. Unless an ordinance conflicts with state law, the state will not interfere with the local law. Most small towns and villages are known as **general-law cities**. They operate under the general laws of the state. Some of these towns have a charter from the legislature outlining the form of government they can use.

City governments raise revenue, or money, from bonds and from property and sales taxes. The government uses this money to provide services such as police and fire protection, garbage collection, and utilities. Many cities have parks, swimming pools, and sports leagues for recreation.

Special districts—particularly school districts—are the most numerous form of local government in the state. These districts are formed for a particular purpose, often handling services that other local governments do not provide. Special districts might serve Texans living in several communities. For example, some special districts provide flood control across several cities in the same region, such as the Lower Colorado River Authority. Texas also has hospital districts and transportation districts. The people in charge of special districts may be either appointed or elected.

★ Reading Check Summarizing How are city governments run, and why do special districts exist?



Section 1 Review



Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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1 Define and explain:

- precincts
- commissioners' court
- mayor-council government
- council-manager government
- commission plan
- home-rule charters
- general-law cities
- special districts

2 Categorizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to list the types of local governments. Describe how they are run and what services these governments provide.

County	Municipal	Special District

3 Finding the Main Idea

- Describe the structure and function of county government.
- What are the major sources of revenue for local governments?

4 Writing and Critical Thinking



Evaluating Imagine that you are a county commissioner. A citizens group has asked the county to repair a road. Write a letter explaining why you will or will not agree to this.

Consider the following:

- the road's need for repair
- the county's budget

Section

2

The Bill of Rights

Read to Discover

1. What are the freedoms of speech, the press, and assembly, and why are they important?
2. What legal protections does the Bill of Rights give Texans?
3. What are the other major rights protected by the Bill of Rights?

Define

- slander
- libel
- due process
- bail
- eminent domain

Why It Matters Today

The Texas Bill of Rights guarantees the right to assemble. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information about a recent political meeting. Record your findings in your journal.

The Story Continues

For days a drama had unfolded on the sidewalk in front of the governor's mansion. Angry citizens were protesting some of the governor's environmental policies. The police had ordered the protesters to leave so that others could use the sidewalk. After several protesters were arrested, they went to court to defend their right to gather and protest. Their lawyer pointed to the Texas Bill of Rights and its protection of free speech and the right to assemble.

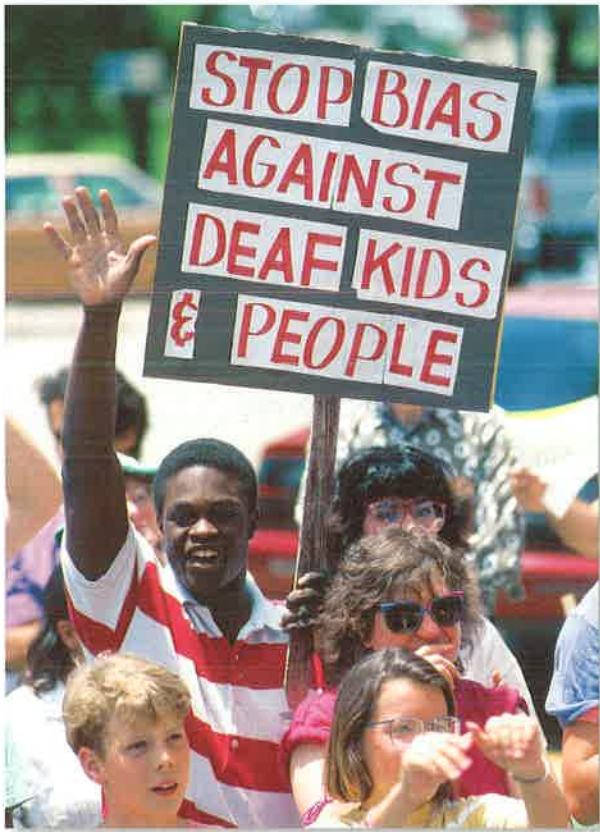


Some environmental activists exercise free speech by wearing pins that support their positions.

★ Basic Rights and Freedoms

The Texas Bill of Rights protects the individual liberties of Texans. Its placement at the front of the Texas Constitution emphasizes its importance. The Texas Bill of Rights begins by stating that Texas is an independent state, and it recognizes the U.S. Constitution as the only higher legal authority. Section 2 of the Texas Bill of Rights states that all political power stems from the people.

Sections 3 and 3a declare that Texans have equal rights under the law. This protects against laws that discriminate on the basis of gender, race, or national origin. Sections 4 through 7 protect Texans' freedom of worship. The government cannot support a religion or interfere with



Interpreting the Visual Record

Free speech and assembly. Occasionally, Texans have found it necessary to conduct public protests to make their opinions heard. **Why are these students protesting?**

anyone's decision to practice a religion or not. These sections bar the government from having an official religion or favoring any particular one.

Section 8 protects the freedoms of speech and of the press. These freedoms are crucial to democracy. For democracy to work, the people must be able to stay informed and to freely discuss issues. Texas media such as newspapers and magazines are published without the control of the government. These rights are not unlimited, however. **Slander**—a false statement made on purpose that damages another's reputation—is not protected. **Libel**, an intentionally false written statement, is not protected either. Nor does freedom of speech protect statements that seriously threaten the public's safety. For example, falsely shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theater is unprotected speech.

Section 27 of the Texas Bill of Rights ensures that Texans can freely assemble, or gather together. Generally, government officials cannot break up a meeting unless the people are disruptive or breaking the law. Texans can also petition, or make a request, for particular government action.

★ Reading Check Finding the Main Idea What rights are protected in Sections 3 through 8 of the Texas Bill of Rights?

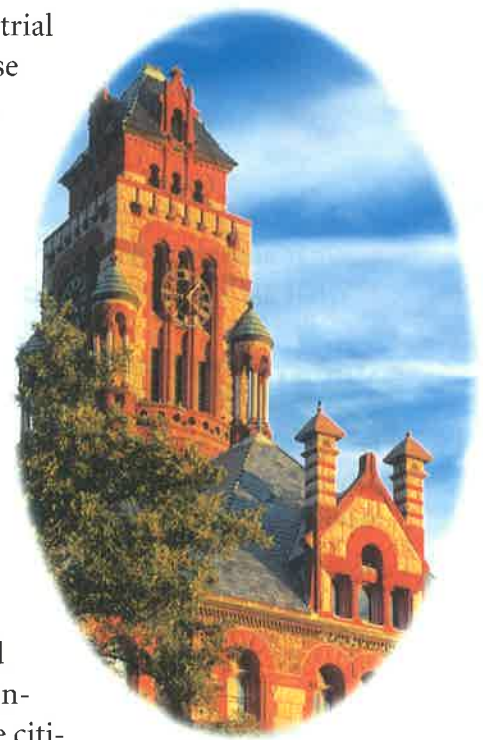
★ Protection of the Accused

The Texas Constitution includes safeguards that require the government to take certain legal actions before it can seize a person's property or punish a person. This is known as **due process**. Sections 9 through 16 of the Texas Bill of Rights deal with the rights of persons accused of a crime. Section 9 prohibits "unreasonable seizures or searches" of Texans' property. This means that, in most cases, a judge must approve a search before the police can carry it out.

Defendants in criminal cases have a number of protections. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. A person cannot be charged with a serious crime unless a grand jury decides that there is enough evidence. The defendant has the right to know the charge and to review the evidence. The accused must be allowed to question witnesses who testify for the government. The defendant is also entitled to a trial by jury. Convicted persons are guaranteed not to receive "cruel or unusual" punishment. If the person is found not guilty, he or she cannot be tried again for the same offense. In addition, the government cannot pass a law punishing someone for conduct that was lawful when committed.

Most people accused of a crime can get out of jail until their trial has ended by paying **bail**. This is money that defendants promise to pay to the court as a guarantee that they will show up for trial. Persons facing very serious criminal charges can be denied bail.

Reading Check Analyzing Information What are some of the rights protected by Sections 9 through 16 of the Texas Bill of Rights?



Many trials have been held in Texas courthouses such as the Ellis County courthouse in Waxahachie.

★ Other Rights

Texans benefit from other protections as well. The government can use **eminent domain**—taking land for public use. However, the property owner must be paid for the property. In addition, Texans cannot be jailed for unpaid debts.

Section 22 defines treason and the rights of persons accused of that charge. Under Section 23, Texans have the right to keep and bear arms. Section 24 places the state’s military forces under the control of the state’s civilian authorities. The government cannot force citizens to provide housing for soldiers in peacetime.

The Texas Bill of Rights protects a variety of other liberties. A citizen cannot be outlawed, or banished from the state. Section 28 limits the power to suspend state law to the legislature. Section 29 provides that the government cannot change the Texas Bill of Rights. In addition, laws that contradict the Bill of Rights will have no effect. Crime victims are given rights in Sections 30 and 31, including the right to be notified of court proceedings. These protections help ensure the freedom of all Texans.

Reading Check Summarizing What are some of the other rights guaranteed to Texans?

★ **Section 2 Review** TEKS Questions 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4

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- 1 Define and explain:**
- slander
 - libel
 - due process
 - bail
 - eminent domain

- 2 Analyzing Information** Copy the table below. Use it to describe the freedoms of speech, press, and assembly.

Freedom of Speech	
Freedom of the Press	
Freedom of Assembly	

- 3 Finding the Main Idea**

- a. Describe the rights that a person accused of a crime has under the Texas Bill of Rights.
- b. What other rights do Texans have under the Bill of Rights?

- 4 Writing and Critical Thinking**

Analyzing Information Write a paragraph explaining why freedoms of speech, the press, and assembly are important rights in a democracy.

Consider the following:

- where people get information about political issues
- how people can express their political views



Citizenship and Elections

Read to Discover

1. What are the responsibilities of citizenship?
2. What are the different types of Texas elections?

Why It Matters Today

Texans go to the polls regularly. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information on a recent election. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- primary elections
- runoff election
- general elections
- special election
- direct democracy
- referendum

The Story Continues



Texas teenagers have volunteered for many community service projects such as this Texas beach cleanup.

The Rio Grande needed help. Over time, littering and neglect had taken their toll. Citizens of El Paso saw this and started Dia del Rio—“Day of the River”—to clean up and beautify the river. Keith Floyd, a Dia del Rio volunteer, explained why he helped out. “Sometimes I think we take the Rio Grande for granted. I think people forget how beautiful it is.” Local teenagers also volunteered. They planted trees, built trails, and cleaned up along the river.

★ Rights and Responsibilities

Texans who participate in volunteer activities like Dia del Rio are fulfilling their civic responsibilities. Citizens have both rights and responsibilities. U.S. citizens have the right to vote in elections and to run for government office. People born in the United States or a U.S. territory are U.S. citizens. In most cases, persons who are born outside the United States to a U.S. citizen are citizens. Those who are born in foreign countries to people who are not U.S. citizens can become naturalized citizens. Adult legal immigrants can apply for citizenship after meeting certain requirements, including tests of the applicants’ understanding of the English language, U.S. history, and government. After passing the tests, immigrants take an oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution and become naturalized citizens.

Texans also have civic responsibilities such as obeying the law. Citizens must know what the laws are in order to obey them. The government can punish a lawbreaker even if the person is unaware of the

law. If Texans disagree with a law, they can try to change it by speaking to their local representative or by challenging the law in court. They can also petition the government or vote for officials who oppose the law.

An important part of citizenship is public service. Serving in the military is one form of public service. Citizens can also participate in projects that help the community. Leading citizens have set an example of public service. Sam Rayburn recalled his years of public service.

Texas Voices

“When I was a boy . . . I made up my mind that I was going to make politics and public affairs my life’s work. I have never regretted that decision for a moment. . . . It has been interesting and satisfying all the way.”

—Sam Rayburn

Paying taxes is another important civic responsibility. The government needs taxes to pay for important public services. Without taxes, the government could not provide schools, roads, and police and fire protection. Texans pay several state taxes, including sales and property taxes, as well as federal income taxes. Citizenship also requires people to serve on juries when called to do so. For the right to trial by jury in the Texas Bill of Rights to have any meaning, citizens must serve when called.

Voting is the basic way for citizens to participate in government. Texans cast their votes for or against particular candidates and issues. Because these votes affect government policy, citizens have a duty to stay informed about political issues and leaders. By staying informed, citizens can better judge the quality of the leadership. Citizens can then voice their approval or disapproval of the leaders’ positions.

★ Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions Why is political participation important in a republic?

★ Elections

A voter must be a U.S. citizen and 18 years old. Texas voters must also have lived in the state for at least 30 days before the election. Citizens must register before they can vote. Registration ensures that a person’s qualifications to vote have been checked before election day. To register, a potential voter fills out a simple form and sends it to the voter registrar—a county official. Within 30 days, the voter receives a registration certificate to present when it is time to vote. Citizens vote in the area where they live, either in person or by mail. The secretary of state supervises Texas elections. Most of the hands-on work of carrying out elections is handled by county officials. Local officials print ballots and provide voting equipment. Volunteers also help the process run smoothly.

There are many elections in Texas. Political parties hold **primary elections** at all levels of government to decide who will represent the party in later elections. The candidate who receives more than 50 percent

Analyzing Primary Sources

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions How did Sam Rayburn fulfill a civic responsibility?



Citizenship and You

Public Service

There are many ways people of all ages can contribute to their communities and be good citizens. Many Texas teenagers have donated their time to library reading programs for young children. Others volunteer with church groups, community centers, and hospitals. **In what ways can Texans fulfill their civic responsibilities?**



One way Texans meet their civic responsibilities is by registering to vote and taking part in elections.



Biography



Phil Gramm
(1942–)

William Philip Gramm was born in Georgia. After earning a Ph.D. in economics, he started teaching at Texas A&M University in 1967. In 1978 Gramm was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he won two more terms as a Democrat. He then resigned to run as a Republican in a special election. In 1984 Gramm won John Tower's U.S. Senate seat when Tower declined to run for reelection. Gramm was re-elected in 1990 and 1996. He has served as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. **How has Gramm served the people of Texas?** **TEKS**

of the votes wins. If no one receives more than 50 percent, the top vote getters compete in a **runoff election**. Voters can only participate in one party primary. For example, someone who voted in the Democratic primary cannot vote in the Republican primary that same year. Primary elections are held in March of even-numbered years. Runoff elections, if needed, are held in April.

When the primary elections are over, the parties are ready to compete directly. **General elections** decide who wins a particular state or local office. The voters may also be asked to decide certain issues, such as constitutional amendments. All registered voters may participate in general elections. General elections for statewide office are held in November of even-numbered years when there is no presidential race. General elections at the local level are usually held in odd-numbered years. A vacancy may occur in an office before the next general election is held. When this happens, voters return to the polls for a **special election** held to fill the vacancy. For example, when Phil Gramm decided to switch parties he resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives. He ran as a Republican during a special election to fill this vacancy. Special elections can also be held for constitutional amendments and local bond issues.

In a representative democracy like Texas, elected officials represent the people. Texas also has **direct democracy**—voters decide issues directly rather than going through their representatives. Direct democracy takes several forms in Texas. A **referendum** allows citizens to vote on public issues such as constitutional amendments. A referendum can also be used to repeal, or do away with, a law. Initiatives allow voters to propose local laws and then require a vote on the measure. Citizens can propose initiatives if a given percentage of the voters sign petitions for the measure. The final example of direct democracy in Texas is the recall. This election gives voters the chance to remove a local official from office.

Reading Check Analyzing Information In what types of elections can Texas citizens vote?



Section 3 Review

TEKS Questions 3a, 4

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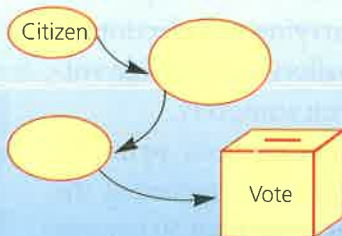
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1 Define and explain:

- primary elections
- runoff election
- general elections
- special election
- direct democracy
- referendum

2 Sequencing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show in order the steps that a citizen must take before voting.



3 Finding the Main Idea

- a. Why should citizens participate in elections?
- b. What types of elections are held in Texas?

4 Writing and Critical Thinking

Evaluating Write a paragraph about the two civic responsibilities that you believe are most important.

Consider the following:

- benefits of civic responsibilities
- civic responsibility and democracy



Political Parties and Interest Groups

Read to Discover

1. What are political parties, and why are they formed?
2. How do interest groups and political action committees participate in the political process?

Why It Matters Today

Political races—whether for national or local office—are exciting events. Use CNNfyi.com or other **current events** sources to find information on a recent political campaign. Record your findings in your journal.

Define

- platform
- interest groups
- lobby
- political action committees



The Story Continues

Molly Beth Malcolm's parents taught her about the importance of voting. Voting, she learned, was a key way to participate in the political process. She carried this belief into adulthood, becoming chairperson of the Texas Democratic Party. She enjoys competing with the Republican Party. "I'm glad Texas is a two-party state. That's how democracy should be."




Joining political parties is one way of taking part in the political process.

★ Political Parties

Political participation is an important duty of citizens in a democracy. Political parties are one way for citizens to participate. Political parties organize to nominate and elect government officials and to shape government policy. Delegates are elected or appointed to attend their party's convention, where they decide the party's **platform**, or stated goals. Delegates also nominate candidates for office and elect party officers.

The two major political parties in Texas—and the United States—are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Democratic Party dominated Texas politics for about 100 years after Reconstruction. Texas was virtually a one-party state during this time. Since the late 1970s the Republicans have held many statewide political offices, and Texas has become a two-party state. Although third parties sometimes

Interpreting the Visual Record

Learning about government. Many Texas teens have participated in mock government sessions such as this one held in the Capitol. How do you think these students will benefit from their experience? 



have influenced Texas politics in different eras, they have not greatly affected state politics in recent years.


Parties tend to disagree with one another on political issues. For example, although Democrats and Republicans agree that education is important, the parties disagree on the best way to pay for good schools. Republicans argue that all school taxes collected within a district should pay for schools within that district. Democrats have argued that taxes from wealthier school districts should be used to help poorer districts. Environmental issues highlight another difference. Republicans generally believe that individuals, not the government, can best protect the environment. Democrats argue that the government should take the lead in protecting the environment. Democrats and Republicans want Texas to have a strong economy, but they differ on the role government should play in reaching that goal. Both parties work hard to win the support of Texans on these and other issues.

That's

Interesting!

Every Vote Counts

Whether you are a voter or an elected government official, voting is crucial. In 1845 Texas became the 28th state by a very slender margin. The final vote in the U.S. Senate was 27 to 25. In 1912 Woodrow Wilson was elected president by less than one vote per precinct in one state. In the 2000 presidential election Texan George W. Bush won the electoral college vote by receiving 537 more popular votes than Vice President Al Gore in Florida.

 **Reading Check Identifying Points of View** How are Democrats' and Republicans' views on some issues similar and different?

Interest Groups and Political Action Committees

Many Texans take part in the political process by forming or joining **interest groups**. These groups try to affect decisions made by those in government. They **lobby**, or try to persuade, public officials to support the group's goals. Interest groups hire lobbyists to meet with public officials. Lobbyists are often former government officials such as legislators.

Many interest groups direct their lobbying efforts on the state's legislators. Business groups such as the Texas Mortgage Bankers Association focus on economic issues. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) works to protect the civil rights of the state's Hispanics. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supports the passage of laws designed to prevent drunk driving.

Interest groups have different points of view on important Texas issues. For example, a group called Texans for Lawsuit Reform organized to try to change how civil lawsuits are handled. They believe that the large amounts of money that Texas juries sometimes award are harming the state's businesses. The Texas Trial Lawyers Association believes that the Texas justice system should not be changed significantly. Each of these interest groups has lobbied the Texas legislature to support its point of view.

Fund-raising is also an important part of the political process. Contributions to political candidates can be made directly or through **political action committees** (PACs). PACs are groups that raise and spend money for a candidate. Contributions are important to political campaigns, particularly in races for statewide office. One political consultant noted the expense of these campaigns.

Texas Voices

“[Texas has] grown to be a very big state, and, when you have state senatorial districts that rival the size of congressional districts, you are trying to reach an awful lot of people and it costs a lot of money to run. . . . Television costs continue to escalate [rise] year after year.”

—Karl Rove, quoted in *The World of Texas Politics*, edited by George Christian

The money pays for advertisements on radio, television, and in the newspapers. Texas sets no limit on how much money a PAC can accept or spend. But PACs must report information about their contributors and how the money is spent. PACs provide another way for Texans to participate in the political process.

Reading Check Identifying Points of View Describe the different points of view two interest groups have on how civil lawsuits should be handled.

Daily Life

A Lobbyist's Day

A lobbyist's daily calendar might look like this.

8:00 A.M. Read newspapers for latest political news.

9:00 A.M. Attend legislative committee meetings at the Capitol.

11:45 A.M. Talk to a legislator's staff member about your concerns.

12:00 P.M. Have lunch with the interest group that hired you. Update them on the latest news.

1:30 P.M. Attend a senator's fund-raiser.

4:00 P.M. Write to officials.

How do lobbyists try to influence government officials?



MADD employs a lobbyist to support strengthening drunk-driving laws.



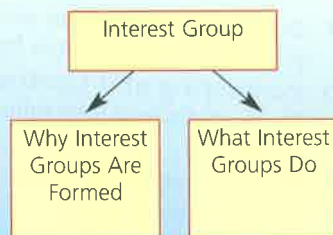
Section 4 Review

TEKS Questions 3a, 4

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- 1 Define and explain:**
- platform
 - interest groups
 - lobby
 - political action committees

- 2 Evaluating**
- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show why interest groups form and the activities in which they engage.




- 3 Finding the Main Idea**
- What are political parties, and how do they give Texans a way to participate in the political process?
 - What role do political action committees play in Texas politics?

- 4 Writing and Critical Thinking**
- Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you are running for governor. Write an e-mail to an interest group explaining why it should support you.
- Consider the following:
- the interest group's positions
 - why you support these positions

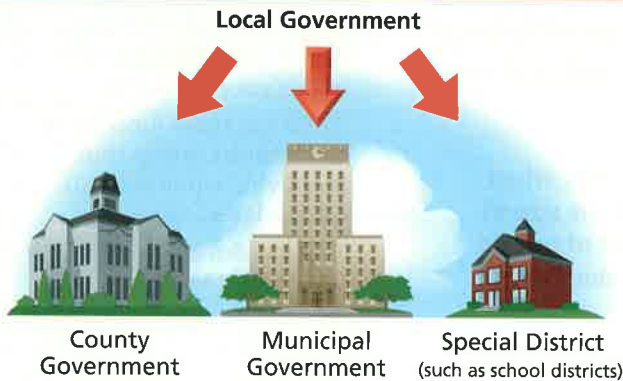


CHAPTER 31 REVIEW

The Chapter at a Glance

Examine the following visual summary of the chapter. Then use the visual to create an outline about local government and citizenship that you could use as a study guide. 

Local Government



Rights and Responsibilities

Rights



The Texas Bill of Rights ensures that each citizen has the rights to freedom of press, speech, and religion as well as a trial by jury.

Responsibilities



Texas citizens have responsibilities such as obeying the law, paying taxes, and public service. A responsible citizen is also an educated voter.

Politics

Political Parties



Texas politics is dominated by two political parties, the Democratic and Republican Parties. These parties create platforms and raise funds for their candidates.

Interest Groups



Interest groups and political action committees lobby the legislature to pass laws.

Identifying People and Ideas

Use the following terms or individuals in sentences.

1. commissioners' court
2. special districts
3. due process
4. eminent domain
5. primary election
6. general elections
7. special election
8. referendum
9. interest group
10. lobby

Understanding Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 662–664)

1. Describe the structure and function of local governments.
2. Describe the major sources of revenue for local governments.

Section 2 (pp. 665–667)

3. What rights are guaranteed in the Texas Bill of Rights?
4. How did the Texas Bill of Rights help protect Texans' freedom of speech and their right to assemble?

Section 3 (pp. 668–670)

5. What are the civic responsibilities of Texas citizens?
6. Describe the different elections in Texas, and explain why they are held.

Section 4 (pp. 671–673)

7. How do political parties and interest groups try to influence government policy?

You Be the Historian

Reviewing Themes

1. **Constitutional Heritage** Describe the importance of freedoms of speech and the press in a democratic society.
2. **Citizenship** What are the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, and why are they important?
3. **Government** How does the Texas Bill of Rights allow Texans and political parties to debate important issues?



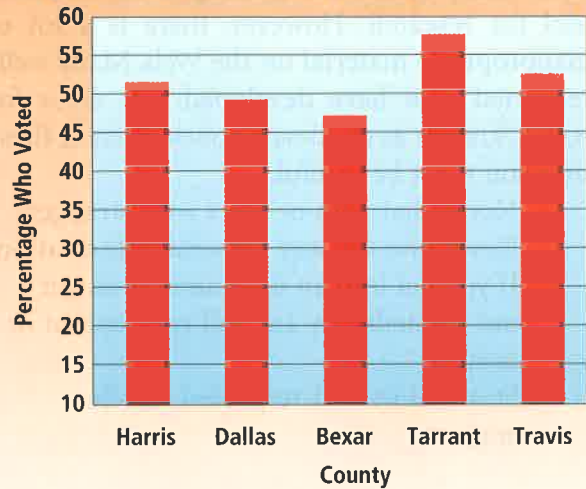
Practice: Thinking Critically

1. **Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Why do you think many Texans form interest groups?
2. **Comparing and Contrasting** How are the Democratic and Republican Parties similar and different?
3. **Evaluating** Explain how being informed on political issues is an important civic responsibility in a representative democracy.

Interpreting Graphs ★TEKS

Study the graph below. Use it to answer the following questions.

Voter Turnout in the Most Populated Counties, 2000



Source: Texas Secretary of State Web site

- Which Texas county had the highest voter turnout, and what was the difference between the next highest county?
 - Tarrant; 57.5 percent
 - Travis; 5 percent
 - Tarrant; 5 percent
 - Bexar; 10 percent

- What was the average voter turnout in these counties? Why might some people argue that more people should vote?

Analyzing Primary Sources ★TEKS

Read the following quote by former governor Bill Clements. Then answer the questions.

“You too have a responsibility to help achieve good government, and that responsibility goes beyond voting on election day. When we as individuals, and as a state are silent—when we let others make decisions for us without stating our beliefs—we forfeit [give up] our freedom. When we stand up and speak out, when we express our desires and concerns, then and only then, will we have effective government.”

- Which of the following statements best describes the author’s point of view?
 - Voting is the only way for people to express their points of view.
 - Speaking out rarely results in better government.
 - Only governmental leaders can bring about good government.
 - People can best protect their freedom by speaking out.
- What does Clements believe the people of Texas should do to create more effective government?

Alternative Assessment

Interdisciplinary Connection to the Arts

Imagine that you and several of your classmates belong to a political party and are delegates to your party’s convention. Create a platform for your party, describing the issues that are most important to you and considering the rights and civic responsibilities of Texans. You might want to research the platforms of the Democratic and Republican Parties for ideas and to learn their points of view on issues that are important to Texans. Work as a group to write a catchy song that expresses your party’s stance on an issue.



Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: ST3 TX1 ★TEKS

Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to research and analyze the contributions of one of the following Texas leaders: Henry B. Gonzáles, Phil Gramm, Barbara Jordan, Sam Rayburn, President George Bush, President George W. Bush, or President Lyndon B. Johnson. Then write a biography in which you focus on the person’s accomplishments and his or her leadership skills.

