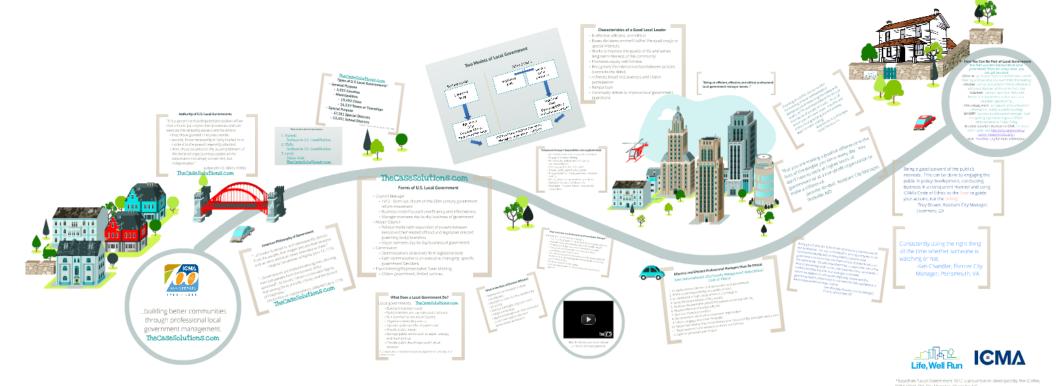
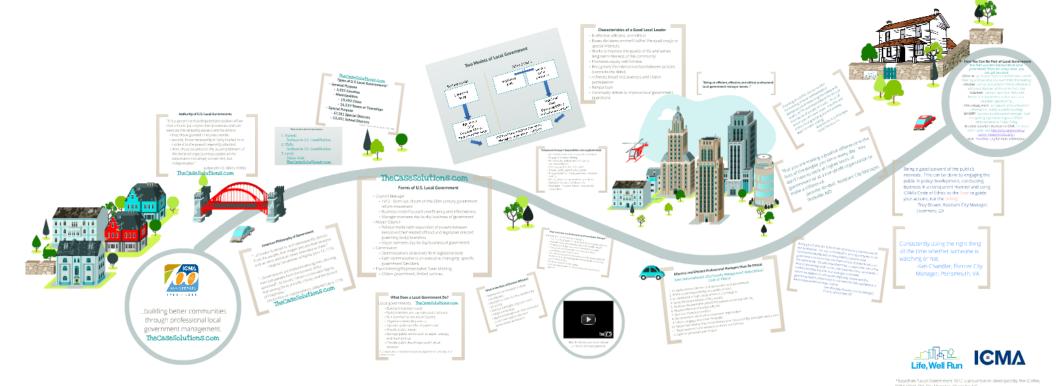
Town of Levinton

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American Philosophy of Government

"...all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them."

-Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 12, 1776

"...Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"...to secure "certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

-Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776

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There are three levels of government...

- 1. Federal
 - Defined in U.S. Constitution
- 2. State
 - Defined in U.S. Constitution
- 3. Local
 - Dillon Rule
 - The Case Solutions.com

Authority of U.S. Local Governments

"It is a general and undisputed proposition of law that a municipal corporation possesses and can exercise the following powers and no others:

- first, those granted in express words;
- second, those necessarily or fairly implied in or incident to the powers expressly granted;
- third, those essential to the accomplishment of the declared objects and purposes of the corporation-not simply convenient, but indispensable."

-Judge John G. Dillion (1868)

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The Case Solutions. Com Types of U.S Local Governments*

- General Purpose
 - 3,033 Counties
 - Municipalities
 - 19,492 Cities
 - 16,519 Towns or Townships
- Special Purpose
 - 37,381 Special Districts
 - 13,051 School Districts

*Source: Municipal Year Book 2013, ICMA



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Forms of U.S. Local Government

- Council-Manager
 - 1912 Born out of turn-of-the-20th-century government reform movement
 - Business model focused on efficiency and effectiveness
 - Manager oversees day-to-day business of government
- Mayor-Council
 - Political model with separation of powers between executive (chief elected official) and legislative (elected governing body) branches
 - Mayor oversees day-to-day business of government
- Commission
 - Commissioners collectively form legislative body
 - Each commissioner is an executive, managing specific government functions
- Town Meeting/Representative Town Meeting
 - Citizen government; limited services

What Does a Local Government Do?

Local governments TheCaseSolutionS.Com

- Build and maintain roads
- Build, maintain, and operate public schools
- Run community centers and parks
- Organize community events
- Operate police and fire departments
- Provide public transit
- Manage public works such as water, sewage, and trash pick up
- Provide public health care and human services

It is important to note that not every local government provides all of these services.