

7-2 Local Government at Work Activities

A. *County Commissioners Budget Meeting Activity (Follow-Up Questions)*

1. What were the difficulties your group experienced while trying to come to a consensus on balancing the budget and whether or not to increase taxes to meet the needs of your citizens? _____
2. During the discussion, did you start out advocating for the funding issues that reflected your personal interests? If so, did you continue to do this or did others convince you that their needs were as or more important? _____
3. Is it appropriate for real public officials to be influenced by personal experiences or needs when making decisions? Why or why not? _____
4. How might a commissioner decide what is best for the county as a whole (the “common good”)? _____
5. How much of a role did the thoughts of winning reelection play in your decision to increase or not increase the property taxes of your constituents? _____
6. Would you want to be a county/city official who makes these kinds of decisions? Why or why not? _____

Question for your county commissioner: _____

Answer: _____

B. County Government Officials: Put the number slide next to the county official you believe is being described.

- ___ a. Board of Commissioners: elected or appointed? _____
- ___ b. County Manager: elected or appointed? _____
- ___ c. Coroner
- ___ d. Register of Deeds
- ___ e. Sheriff: elected or appointed? _____
- ___ f. Court clerk
- ___ g. District Attorney

C. Answer questions looking at the [Wilmington Progress Report from 2016-17](#)

A. Wilmington at a glance:

- 1) What was our population in 2016? _____
- 2) Where do we rank in terms of population size in NC? _____

B. Your City At Work: This count helps our local government generate approximate revenue (in taxes).

- 1) What are the sources of revenue listed in this section? _____
- 2) And just what are our tax dollars are being spent on? List 3 specific expenditures listed in this section. _____

C. Local governments must address many issues when it comes to providing for the general welfare and common good of its citizens. Write one thing the city of Wilmington is doing or is making plans to help provide services for people in the following categories:

- 1) Provide sufficient infrastructure (fundamental facilities to be able to provide more/better services to citizens): _____
- 2) Protect the environment: _____
- 3) Prevent crime: _____

- 4) Provide adequate housing: _____
- 5) Increase the standard of living: _____
- 6) Help the Economy (Businesses and Tourism): _____

D. Take a look at the [NHC Zoning Maps](#) and answer the questions below:

A. (Existing Zoning Districts tab) What is zoning? _____

B. (Future Land Use Map tab) Click on the following types of land uses on the map to answer the following questions:

- 1) If you were a contractor looking to buy up land to build houses in a neighborhood you would buy in... _____ areas.
- 2) If you worked for a steel company and you were looking for a location to build your next manufacturing plant you would be looking in... _____ areas.
- 3) If you were a strawberry farmer and looking to buy a home with large acreage you will look in _____ areas.
- 4) If you were an investor looking into putting up an outdoor shopping mall w/ residences above the shops you would look in _____ areas.
- 5) If you were looking to open up a club in a part of town that stays active into late night hours you would want to look in _____ areas.
- 6) You work for the county board and you are thinking of expanding a land preserve for to protect a specific kind of specie of animal you would be looking into which type of area? _____

E. Refer to the [NC forms of gov't charts](#) to answer questions about the following scenarios.

Scenario A: You live in a town in which a charter sets up your gov't with a **Mayor that can appoint department heads and veto ordinances.**

- a) Is the mayor an elected or appointed position? _____
- b) Who makes the ordinances? City _____ (made up of commissioners or aldermen)
- c) How do city councilmen and women get their positions? _____
- d) What form of local government is this scenario? _____

Scenario B: You live in a city in which a charter sets up your gov't with **an appointed official as an executive.**

- a) What is the appointed official's title? _____
- b) Who does the appointing (and makes ordinances)? _____
- c) What form of local government is this scenario? _____

Scenario C: You live in a village in which a charter sets up your gov't with **has a Mayor who simply presides over the local gov't.**

- a) Who actually has most of the power? _____
- b) What power do they have? _____
- c) What form of local government is this? _____

F. Answer the following miscellaneous questions about local gov't:

1. [Police Chief v. Sheriff](#) a) What is the police's jurisdiction? (geographical area of authority to enforce laws) _____ Sheriff? _____ b) How is police chief chosen? _____ sheriff? _____
2. [municipal and annexation information](#)
 - a. How can a municipal government become incorporated? _____ from the _____
 - b. What is the process of **adding onto a municipality** called? _____
 - c. In NC, how has the process changed in the last few years? _____

