



Official Poster Contest Guidelines

Thank you for your participation in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's 3rd Grade Poster Contest! The purpose of this contest is to raise public awareness, promote the attributes of good local government and encourage future leaders of Massachusetts to take an active interest in their community activities.

Students will create a poster showing a program of their local government. They will depict the program or service and select one (or multiple) theme(s): "Local government is **safe, clean, fun, helpful, and smart.**"

Judging will be based on whether the poster is informative, how well it connects to the theme, and visual presentation (neat, visually appealing). Cash prizes will be awarded to the first (\$250), second (\$100), and third (\$50) place winners.

Each poster entry must include:

1. The **name of a local government program or service**. Examples include: Police, Sanitation, Parks, Recycling, Elections, Libraries, Roads, Transportation, etc.
2. A **specific theme** the student associates with the program or service.
"Local Government is _____." (Safe, Clean, Fun, Helpful, or Smart).
3. Paper or posterboard accepted. Hand drawn, electronic, or a combination of images illustrating the program or service. Poster size may not exceed 22x28. No glitter please.
4. Include the **contest entry form** on the back of the poster to include the student's name and brief explanation (no more than 50 words) of the service depicted and how it connects to the theme.

3rd Grade Poster Contest Entry Form

Please complete and attach to the back of your poster.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS

Name:

School:

City/Town:

Teacher:

Parent/Guardian signature:

Please provide a few sentences (no more than 50 words) of the service you chose and how it connects to the theme (Local government is _____)

Local Government

Where is your city or town hall located?

Who is the leader of your community? They could have the job of Mayor, Town Administrator, or Town Manager?

Visit your local city or town hall to find out.

Leader's name, address and phone number:

Underline the facts of what a Mayor/Town Administrator/Manager does.

runs the city/town runs the police department cleans up the community
appoints others to city/town positions delivers mail promotes tourism
serves coffee walks your dog creates city/town taxes meets the people

What other actions do you think a Mayor/Town Administrator/Manager should perform? Use the back of the worksheet for more room.

Circle the facts about city or town hall.

government offices are located here official documents are housed here

bands play here the Mayor has meetings here you can go shopping here

strikes can happen here jury duty is served here the President lives here



Local Government: Municipality

In the United States, government is in three main levels: federal, state and local. One type of local government is a municipality. A municipality may be a city, or town.

Municipalities are usually led by a select board or city council, which is a group of elected officers. Cities have mayors, while towns often have a town manager or administrator who oversees day to day operations at city or town hall.

Municipalities provide services to the citizens, such as police protection, fire protection, and street management. The center of the municipal government is called city/town hall, which may be one building, or in large cities, many different buildings.

Q&A

Does your community have a select board or city council?

What is the center of municipal government?

What does economic development encourage?

What are the levels of government in the U.S.?

Typical Municipal Services:

Police

Fire

Emergency Services,
such as
ambulances

Emergency Management,
for storms, hurricanes and
earthquakes

Planning and Zoning,
which decides how and where the city/town
will grow

Transportation, such as buses and
subways

Parks and Recreation

Utilities, such as electricity and water

Municipal Court, which decides cases
based on the laws of the city

Public Works, which takes care of streets
and sewers, and collects trash

Economic Development, which
encourages tourism and business

Tax Collection

Library

Housing



For Fun: Municipal Word Search

Circle each of the words on the list in the puzzle.
Words can go up, down, backwards or diagonally.

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N F W R D U Q C C T U Z H V Y
P A R K S V T O D B Y T E R V
X L I Z G G U I O N A A C M O
Z A S I M N H T L S A D I K E
M U N I C I P A L I T K L U M
H Q D I P C V Z D O T K O R E
E W L Z T G S X J N B I P I R
G G F O D D U C E Y U B E Y G
R T A X D S C M L R S Q U S E
T O F L V I N I O D P L E Q N
A W N I L R F Y T J N M S Q C
U N S L E I A K A Y U A I K Y
J J I V O M V O Y R A R B I L
W R O B V C K Z Y I D V N R Z
Q G J N R L M Q C X A J A D T
  
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municipal
mayor
council
police

library
parks
government
utilities

emergency
city
town
village