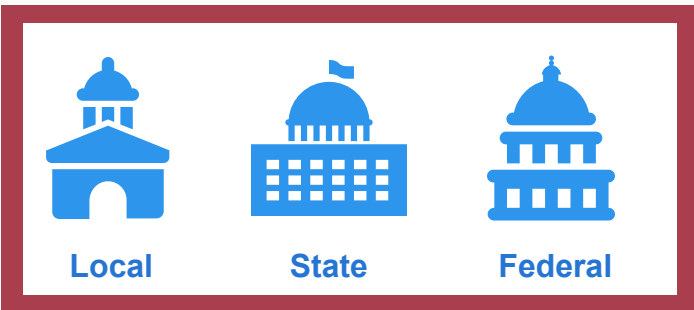




Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.

Who has the power to make decisions that will impact the nation, individual states and local communities? Who decides when businesses or schools may open and close? Who decides which services are essential for the public? These are some of the questions about the powers of government that are being addressed during the COVID19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic.



As the federal, state and local governments work to minimize the impact of the pandemic, understanding different types of government power helps to clarify which level of government has the power to do certain things. The U.S. Constitution identifies three types of powers given to the federal and state governments. These are called enumerated, concurrent, and reserved.

Type of Power	Definition	Examples
Enumerated or Delegated Powers	powers specifically listed in the U.S. Constitution for the federal (national) government only	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power to raise and support an army and navy 2. The power to coin money 3. The power to declare war 4. The power to conduct foreign policy 5. The power to regulate trade between states and between the United States and other nations
Reserved Powers	powers that are given to the states by the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power to manage elections 2. The power to set up and manage schools 3. The power to establish local governments 4. The power to regulate business in the state
Concurrent Powers	powers shared by the federal and state governments <i>*Some powers are concurrent because the U. S. has a federal system</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power to levy taxes (tax the people) 2. The power to establish courts 3. The ability to borrow money
Local Government Powers	powers given to towns, cities and counties by the individual state constitutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power to establish speed limits 2. The power to protect citizens from crime 3. The power to provide services related to garbage, sewage, fire protection, and traffic control 4. The power to issue business, zoning, and health permits

To Do and To Think: Examine the Government Powers table. Think about the powers granted specifically to the federal government and the state governments, as well as the powers of your local government. What conclusions can you make about the decision-making responsibilities of each level of government?

Learn MORE about government powers. Free registration may be required.

- [Federalism](#), from Civics360
- [Federal Government Obligations & Services](#), from Civics360
- [State and Local Government Obligations & Services](#), from Civics360

