

State & Local Government Obligations & Services

The Florida state government has highest authority over local government affairs, as defined by the U.S. federal system. Local governments, counties and cities, are subdivisions of the state government and may not pass laws that conflict with state government laws.

State Government Obligations & Services

1. Public safety – the FL Department of Law Enforcement provides a police force and the State Fire Marshal regulates fire codes
2. Provides health and financial services
3. Provides public education and grants teaching certificates
4. Assistance and safety management during natural disasters
5. Approves and authorizes business licenses
6. Regulates interstate business
7. Regulates code enforcement
8. Oversees state transportation systems and growth plans
9. Creates safety regulations for utilities
10. Grants driver's licenses
11. Provides a state court system
12. Can tax and borrow money

Local Government - County Obligations & Services

1. Public safety – county sheriff and fire protection
2. Provides and maintains county jails
3. Regulates and maintains county roads
4. Provide a recycling program
5. Provides facilities for state courts and oversees county courts
6. Waste management and disposal
7. Animal control services
8. Manages voter registration and conduct elections
9. Issues marriage licenses
10. Issues vehicle registrations
11. Can tax and borrow money

Local Government - City Obligations & Services

1. Public safety – has a police force, fire protection, and fire-prevention codes
2. Enforces building safety codes, electrical codes and zoning regulations
3. Regulates and maintains city roads
4. Provides utilities - water, sewage system, and trash collection
5. Provides parks and recreational services
6. May create a public transit system (buses, trains, etc.) and an airport
7. May create and manage libraries and cemeteries
8. Can tax and borrow money

Sources:

Florida Municipal Officials' Manual:

<https://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/research-resources/florida-municipal-officials-manual>

Florida Association of Counties Fact Sheet: <https://www.fl-counties.com/about-floridas-counties/videos-psas/>

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids: <https://bensguide.gpo.gov/journeyperson-federal-versus-state-government>