

## Sample Answers State & Local Government Reading

### U.S. Constitution: The Tenth Amendment

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Directions:</b> Read the text of the 10th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, summarize the text in your own words.   |  |
| <b>What it says:</b><br>Tenth Amendment<br>The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. | <b>What it means:</b><br>If a power isn't specifically given to the national government, it is set aside for the states. |

### Excerpts from the Florida Constitution

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Directions:</b> For each excerpt of the Florida Constitution, summarize the text in your own words.  |  |
| <b>What it says:</b><br>Preamble<br>We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution. | <b>What it means:</b><br>The State of Florida is obligated to maintain a working government, ensure peace and safety, take care of citizens basic needs, and pass laws to ensure the protection and guarantee of equal rights.           |
| <b>What it says:</b><br>Article II, Section 3<br>The powers of the state government shall be divided into legislative, executive and judicial branches. No person belonging to one branch shall exercise any powers appertaining to either of the other branches unless expressly provided herein.  | <b>What it means:</b><br>State power will be vested into three branches of government. Those branches are obligated to use that power within the confines of the state constitution and to ensure the goals of government are being met. |
| <b>What it says:</b><br>Article IX, Section 1<br>The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.  | <b>What it means:</b><br>The State of Florida is obligated to provide all kids an education/schooling.   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Article VIII, Section 1 (a)<br/>The state shall be divided by law into political subdivisions called counties. Counties may be created, abolished or changed by law, with provision for payment or apportionment of the public debt.</p>   | <p>Using their state power to establish local governments, Florida divides the state into counties.</p>   |
| <p>Article VIII, Section 1 (g)<br/>Counties operating under county charters shall have all powers of local self-government not inconsistent with general law, or with special law approved by vote of the electors. The governing body of a county operating under a charter may enact county ordinances not inconsistent with general law. The charter shall provide which shall prevail in the event of conflict between county and municipal ordinances.</p>   | <p>Local counties can have powers to govern local matters as long as those powers are established in a charter and do not conflict with any other laws.</p>   |
| <p>Article IV, Section 4<br/>(a) Each county shall constitute a school district; provided, two or more contiguous counties, upon vote of the electors of each county pursuant to law, may be combined into one school district. In each school district there shall be a school board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election for appropriately staggered terms of four years, as provided by law.<br/>(b) The school board shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district and determine the rate of school district taxes within the limits prescribed herein. Two or more school districts may operate and finance joint educational programs.</p> | <p>Each local government has the power and obligation to establish school districts and school boards.<br/>Local school boards have the power to control and run free public schools in their area.</p>   |
| <p>Article I, Section 1<br/>All political power is inherent in the people. The enunciation herein of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or impair others retained by the people.</p>   | <p>According to the state constitution, the citizens have Florida hold power to help determine the needs and services that the political/governmental bodies should be passing laws to address. The people can also establish services through constitutional amendments.</p> |

### Summary of Services:

How do the powers of these levels of government translate into services for the citizens of the state of Florida?  
The powers reserved to the states are not limited; states may do what they want as long as they are not forbidden from doing so by the national government. There are a lot of powers that the U.S. Constitution doesn't say anything about. State and local governments have broad powers to make rules about a lot of things. Local power is decided by the state.