

How America Works

bill

bīl

noun

How America Works

constitution

kŏn•stĭ•tōō'shən

noun

How America Works

budget

bŭj'ĭt

noun

How America Works

council

koun'səl

noun

How America Works

cabinet

kăb'ə•nĭt

noun

How America Works

county

koun'tē

noun

How America Works

checks and balances

chĕks ənd băl'əns•əz

noun

How America Works

county seat

koun'tē sēt

noun

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CONSTITUTION: A written set of laws that describe how a government will work.

*Everyone must obey the laws in the **Constitution**—leaders and citizens alike. (p. 2)*

BILL: A plan for a new law.

*Only members of the House can write **bills** about raising money through taxes. (p. 4)*

COUNCIL: A group of people chosen to make laws.

*In this kind of city government, voters elect a city **council**. (p. 14)*

BUDGET: A plan for spending and saving money.

*One of the president's jobs is to make a **budget** for the country. (p. 7)*

COUNTY: The largest division of government in most states.

*A **county** is the largest division of government in most states. (p. 14)*

CABINET: The group of the president's most important advisors.

*The executive branch also includes the vice president and the **cabinet**. (p. 6)*

COUNTY SEAT: The city or town in which the main government offices of the county are located.

*A **county seat** is the city or town where the main government offices of the county are located. (p. 15)*

CHECKS AND BALANCES: A system in which each branch of government can limit the power of the other two branches.

*This system is called **checks and balances**. (p. 3)*

How America Works

democracy

dĭ•mŏk'rə•sē

noun

How America Works

municipal

myŏŏ•nĭs'ə•pəl

adjective

How America Works

federal

fĕd'ər•əl

adjective

How America Works

tax

tăks

noun

How America Works

justices

jŭs'tĭs•ĭz

noun

How America Works

veto

vē'tō

verb

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MUNICIPAL: Having to do with a city or town.

*Local government includes **municipal**, or city, government and county government. (p. 14)*

DEMOCRACY: A form of government in which citizens vote to make decisions.

*That's how a **democracy** works: people decide matters by voting. (p. 2)*

TAX: Money that citizens pay to the government for goods and services.

*Only members of the House can write bills about raising money through **taxes**. (p. 4)*

FEDERAL: National, relating to the central government.

*This idea unites all Americans under one **federal** government today. (p. 2)*

VETO: To stop something, or say no to it.

*The president can **veto**, or say no to, the bill. (pp. 4–5, online)*

JUSTICES: Judges who decide what laws mean and how they should be followed.

*There are eight associate **justices** on the Supreme Court and one chief justice. (p. 8)*