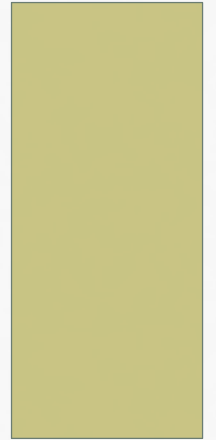


GOVERNANCE



ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

- Federal System
 - Federal Government
 - State Government
 - Local
 - County
 - Town
- Elected local officials
 - County Commissioners
 - Town Trustees, City Council

FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Control taxation to raise the resources needed to set an agenda and implement policies
- Local govts control planning and zoning

TYPES OF RURAL GOVERNMENTS

- General Purpose Government: Respond to the general needs of a county, city or town
- Special Purpose Government: Created to respond to specific community needs

LOCAL GOV'TS FISCAL RESOURCES

- Local gov'ts rely on 3 sources of money
 - Federal, state and local
 - 65% of budget is from local & rising
- Local gov't money comes from 2 sources
 - Property taxes
 - Sales taxes

CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL GOV'TS

- Decrease in revenue due to:
 - Population decline = less property taxes
 - Economic decline = lower value of property, less property taxes, less sales tax
- Face difficulty in providing services
 - Example: Negative Implications for Schools
 - Per pupil expenditure lower in rural schools

CHALLENGES FACED BY LOCAL GOV'TS

- Federal govt now plays smaller role in rural development
- States try to promote economic development
- Rural communities receive less than their share of state funds
 - Urban business interests dominate state economic development programs

STAFF OF RURAL GOVERNMENTS

- Fewer paid elected and appointed officials, work part-time, depend on volunteers
- Rural govts & technical training
- Paid technical staff w/ control & expertise may control decisions

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Collaborative
- Regional actors working together
- Broad community participation
- Arena for citizen participation