

GUIDED READING

South Carolina the Beautiful Palmetto State

Chapter 2: The Government of South Carolina

Section 1 South Carolina Government Today

Directions: Use the information from pages 41 - 52 to complete the following.

1. The chief function of the _____ in the Legislative Branch of the government is to make _____.
2. Also, it is the only state-level body that can levy taxes, fees, and fines to raise _____ (operating funds for the government) and can _____ the spending of that money.
3. To be elected to the House of _____ [a part of the General Assembly], one only has to be _____ years of age.
4. _____ [a part of the General Assembly] have to be _____ years of age.
5. The House has _____ member from each of the 124 districts across the state; the member represents for a _____-year term.
6. A senator is elected from 1 of 46 districts and _____ about 100,552 people for a _____-year term.
7. Both houses [in the General Assembly] do most of their work in _____.
8. _____ are chosen for committees largely on the basis of their choice, _____ (length of service), and political party.
9. The Senate also elects a _____ (president for the time being), usually the leader of the majority [political] party.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

10. The House of Representatives elects a _____, the leader of the majority party in that chamber.
11. When a legislator submits a _____ for consideration for it to become a law it may take as many as _____ steps before it can become a law (See Figure 3).
12. If both houses vote to accept the bill it goes to the _____ for his signature and a new law has been made.
13. The General Assembly elects most of the _____ in the state and it appoints hundreds of persons to boards and _____.
14. One of the key duties of the General Assembly is to follow up on the acts it has _____ to make sure state agencies are carrying out the intent of the law and _____ money properly.
15. The _____ role in the Executive Branch is to carry out the _____ passed by the General Assembly, to maintain _____, and to be the _____ for the state.
16. If for any reason the governor cannot perform the duties of office, the _____ becomes the governor.
17. The governor's formal powers include him/her being able to submit an executive _____ every year for consideration.
18. Another example of a formal power that has increased the governor's influence is in the area of _____ management.
19. The governor also has the formal power of _____ over acts passed by the General Assembly.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

20. The best known of the three " _____ " branches of our state government is the _____ branch.
21. The _____ **Courts** (the lowest level of county courts) handle over half of all the cases in the state.
22. A person accused of a serious _____ will be brought before a magistrate for a _____ hearing. The magistrate will decide whether there is _____ (a reasonable expectation that evidence will be found) to justify sending the accused before a grand _____, which will determine whether the person should go to _____.
23. _____ **Courts** are courts established by town and cities. Municipal judges deal with cases similar to the Magistrate Courts, except they do not try _____ cases.
24. _____ **Courts** are courts that deal primarily with _____ and estates.
25. _____ **Courts** deal with _____, child _____, visitation rights, alimony, property settlements, and termination of _____ rights.
26. The _____ Court hears both _____ and civil cases.
27. The South Carolina **Court of** _____ does not try cases but hears _____ from the decisions of the Circuit and Family Courts.
28. The _____ **Court** is the _____ appeals court in the state.

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Section 2 Local Government and You, the Citizen

Directions: Use the information from pages 54 - 61 to complete the following.

1. _____ governments provide _____ and fire protection, _____, libraries, parks, a pure _____ supply, sewer services, and _____ and trash collection.
2. They also provide many _____ and they issue _____ for businesses.
3. They plan for _____ growth and set up _____ regulations to keep growth from being haphazard.
4. They provide building _____ to ensure houses, _____, stores, and schools are safely _____.
5. Almost everyone lives in a _____, a school _____, perhaps a _____ or city, and a special purpose district that provides things like water, sewer, or _____ protection.
6. Counties assist in keeping _____ (births, marriages, deaths, property deeds, etc.); maintaining roads; _____ the law; and operating _____.
7. All counties elect county _____, which _____ within limits set by the _____ legislature.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

8. Our 269 towns and cities in South Carolina were _____
(recognized by the state as a legal governing body) to provide services more adequately for the residents of that area.
9. Most of these _____ (cities, towns, and villages) are governed by councils with a _____.
10. _____ districts provide administrative support for schools in the area.
11. Typically, districts will have an _____ school board, which hires the _____.
12. The state government has a great responsibility in this area as well; it spends nearly _____ of its yearly _____ on education.
13. The 498 special _____ governments were set up by the legislature to meet _____ needs in local communities.
14. These services usually include one, or possibly two, of the following:
_____, fire protection, conservation, water, _____
_____, airports, or _____ services.
15. Boards of _____ for each of the districts are _____, not elected, and have a great deal of independence.
16. A _____ **party** is a group of people with similar ideas on how government should run and which services it should _____.
17. For about a hundred years after the end of Reconstruction in 1877, South Carolina, like most southern states, was a one-party state — a _____ state.
18. The _____ Party was _____ in the south - being labeled as a northern party, the party of Abraham Lincoln.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

19. That _____ - _____ status began to change in the 1960s as the national Democratic Party adopted the cause of _____ for African American citizens.
20. _____ government officials are supposed to _____ the interest of all the people of the state.
21. A _____ group is a group concerned with one particular set of issues.
22. The special interest organizations hire _____ (people whose job is to try to influence legislators to vote for bills that would benefit the organizations they represent and to vote against bills that might harm them).
23. Because you were born human, you automatically possess certain _____.
24. Many of the **rights** we enjoy are listed in the U.S. _____, particularly in the first _____ amendments, called the _____.
25. There is no similar list of _____ in the Constitution; but citizens have many _____ responsibilities.
26. We must _____ the law and be _____ to the United States.
27. We have the responsibility, when _____, to _____, to serve on _____, and to serve in the armed services or an acceptable alternative service if _____ upon.
28. We also have the responsibility to pay _____ for the services government provides.