

How does the City of Snohomish government work?

When you hear the word “government”, you probably think of taxes or the president or Congress.

While the federal government is making big-picture decisions about the nation’s economy, international relations, and other aspects of our future, another branch of government is making choices that more immediately affect you: city government. From roads to water to parks to sewage to trees, the City of Snohomish works on many projects every day throughout the year that directly impact our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The residents of the City vote for Councilmembers. There are no districts in the City of Snohomish, so each Councilmember is “at large”, meaning they represent the entire City, not a specific geographic area in the City.

The role of the Council is to set policies and funding priorities. They decide what laws to pass or change, called “ordinances” and those ordinances are codified in the municipal code.

Snohomish residents also vote for the Mayor. The Mayor serves as the chief executive to administer the city government on a day-to-day basis. The Mayor has duties including the hiring and firing of staff, negotiating labor agreements, managing city finances, and developing proposed policies and future budgets for City Council approval.

The City Administrator is supervised by the Mayor and oversees City operations to ensure that City staff are meeting the goals and priorities of the Council and Mayor while being good stewards of taxpayers money.



2024 CITY COUNCIL

(l to r) Council President Tom Merrill, Karen Guzak, Lea Anne Burke, Mayor Linda Redmon, Maygen Heatherington, Judith Kuleta, Felix Neals, David Flynn



Mayor Linda Redmon

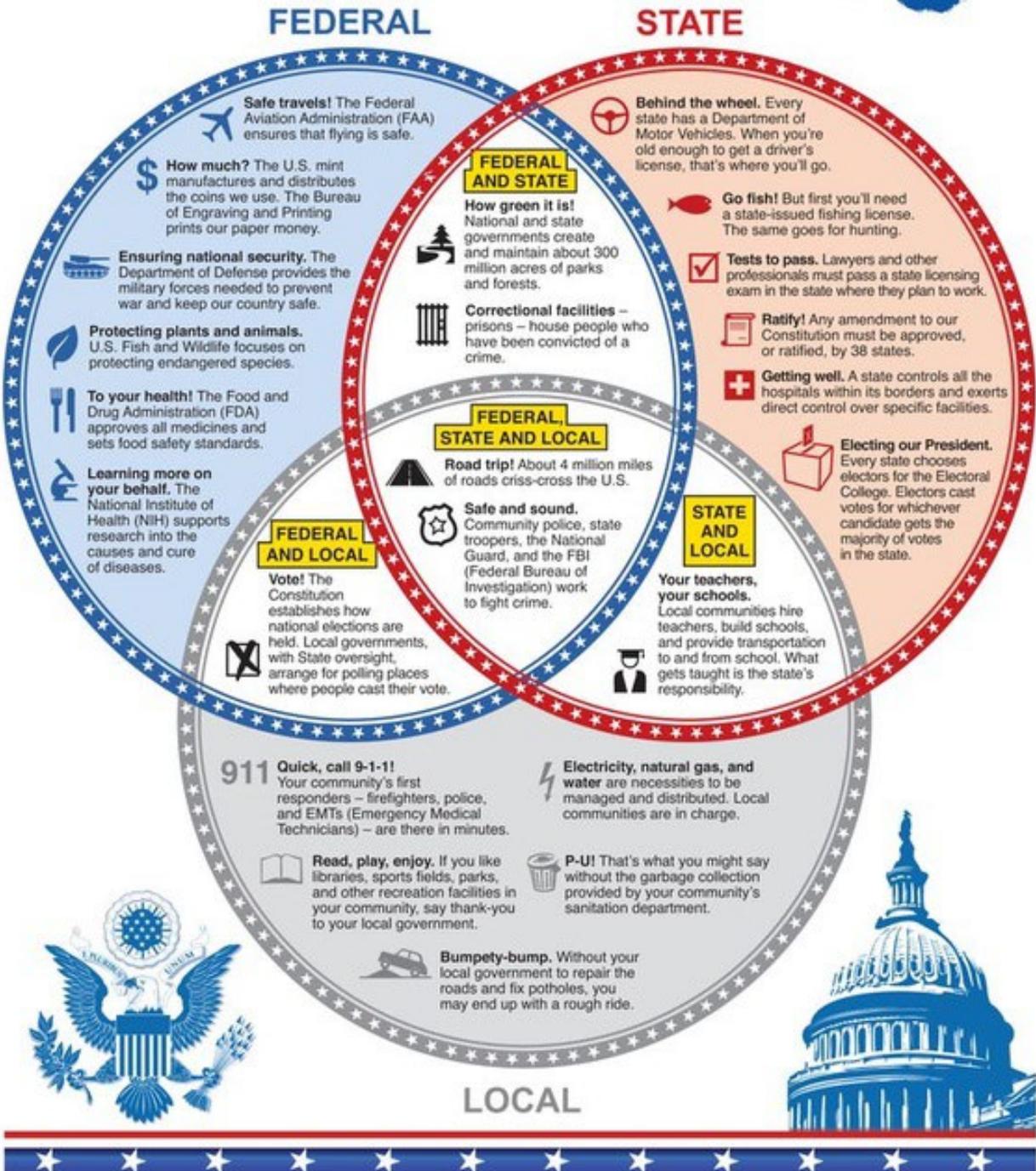


City Administrator Heather Thomas

GOVERNMENT

WHO TAKES CARE OF WHAT?

Your food is safe. Your state has roads and schools. Your community has parks and police. Government makes these things happen... and more.



Courtesy: Kids Discover, <https://kidsdiscover.com/about-us/>

EXAMPLE: MAKE ROOM FOR DOGS!

In this hypothetical example, let's say the Council sets out their priorities for the year, which includes "creating and sustaining a happy and healthy community".

A group of Snohomish residents get together and contacts the Council about the need for more amenities in the City for dogs, like dog parks and free veterinarian services. The residents come to a Council meeting to share their ideas and concerns.

The Council discusses at a Council meeting how having more dog parks and resources for dogs promotes a happy and healthy community. They ask City staff to bring forward recommendations about any code changes or projects that would support this initiative.

City staff research and put together options for different projects, which includes adding a dog park, that the Council may want to implement. Staff also suggest that Council will want to ensure that the needs of the *whole* community are represented, so they suggest to Council that they consider what resident cats, hamsters, rabbits, and birds may need, too.

The Council passes an ordinance that creates a new dog park in town and a fund that provides \$50 for free veterinarian care for every pet in town.

City staff from Public Works and Planning work on the plans and implementation of a dog park. Community Engagement and Finance staff create an application for a voucher for the free vet care. All staff involved ensure that all facilities and processes are in compliance with city, county, state and federal laws.

And that's how the government works!

