

## **Sample White Paper on Local Government**

### **Introduction**

In the United States, local government is the level of government below the state government. There are more than 90,000 local governments in the United States, including townships, villages, boroughs, cities, and counties. Local governments are responsible for providing a variety of services to their residents, including public safety, waste disposal, parks and recreation, and transportation.

### **Local Government in The United States**

Local governments in the United States are divided into four categories: townships, villages, boroughs, and cities. Townships are the most common type of local government in the United States. They are typically rural areas that provide services such as waste disposal and road maintenance. Villages are small municipalities that provide services such as police protection and street lighting. Boroughs are municipalities that are located in metropolitan areas and provide services such as waste disposal and parks and recreation. Cities are the most populous type of local government in the United States. They provide a wide range of services, including public safety, transportation, and waste disposal.

Counties are the second most common type of local government in the U.S. They are usually larger than townships and cities and provide a variety of services, including public safety, transportation, and waste disposal. Counties can be divided into two categories: urban counties and rural counties. Urban counties are counties that are located in metropolitan areas and provide services such as public safety and transportation. Rural counties are counties that are not located in metropolitan areas and provide services such as waste disposal and road maintenance.

In the United States, local governments are funded by a combination of property taxes and income taxes. The property tax is a tax on real estate, which funds local schools and transportation systems. In many areas of the country, counties collect all property taxes from residents within their borders and then distribute those collected taxes to other area municipalities. Local governments receive a large amount of funding from state governments as well. Most states require that an amount be given to townships, villages, boroughs, cities, counties, and school boards every year. The type of payment given to each level varies by state but can include general aid payments or revenue sharing payments .

Local government in the US differs from its counterparts in Europe because it is decentralized rather than being a part of a larger political unit. In Europe, local governments are usually a part of larger units, such as provinces or regions. This is unlike the US where there are more than 90,000 local governments in the United States alone.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, local government in the United States is responsible for a variety of services, including public safety, waste disposal, parks and recreation, and transportation. Funding for local governments comes from a combination of property taxes and income taxes. Local governments are divided into four categories: townships, villages, boroughs, and cities. Counties are the second most common type of local government in the United States. Local government in the US differs from its counterparts in Europe because it is decentralized rather than being a part of a larger political unit.