**CE 7 & 8 State/Local Government**

 **VA ~~state~~ Commonwealth Gov’t Structure**

Three Branches

1. Legislative Branch

 *General Assembly*

Bicameral Legislature (two houses)

 - House of Delegates

 - VA Senat**e**

1. Executive Branch

*Governor (4 year term)*

-Appoints Cabinet

 -oversee the functions of state Gov’t

 **Elected Executive Officers**

*-Lieutenant Governor*

 *-Attorney General*

1. Judicial Branch

VA Supreme Court

 -Court of Appeals

 -Circuit Courts (trial)

 -District Courts

 *-Small Claims Court*

 *-Traffic Court*

 *-Juvenile/Family Court*

**CE 7b) Federalism**

 **(diagrams here) (diagrams here) (diagrams here)**

 **Unitary Federal Confererate**

**Federalism**

 -Division of power between National & State Gov’ts

  *(Relationship – Like Mom & Dad)*

*- each with different responsibilities & powers*

*Which Gov’t is supreme? How do we Know?*

-**Federal Gov’t** (proper name for National Gov’t)is **Supreme**

 *Article #6 of US Constitution (the Supremacy clause)*

*How is this division of power created?*

1. U.S. Constitution denies certain powers (not the same ones)

 to BOTH the Federal and State Gov’ts

1. **The 10th Amendment**- All powers NOT given to the Federal Gov’t are reserved for the State Gov’ts

 **Federal Gov’t State Gov’t**

 - Provides for the

 Common Defense - Public Health

 -Foreign Policy - Public Safety

 -Regulates Commerce - Public Welfare

**When do tensions rise**

 *When do couples figh? (over money)*

 If Federal laws require state action (mandate)

 *Ex) Health Care Reform Act*

**CE 7c ) How a Bill becomes a Law (in VA)**

*(Bill = proposed legislation/law)*

 *Where do VA’s laws come from?*

***The General Assembly*** *(VA’s version of the U.S. Congress)*

 **The Lawmaking process**

1. *Bill introduced by Senator or Delegate* ***(only)***
2. *Bill discussed (worked) in Committee*
3. *Bill debated on the floor*
4. *Bill voted on in originating house*
5. *Bill sent to other house (steps 1-4 repeated)*
6. *Bill sent to Governor*

***Who can shape Legislation in VA?***

1. Special Interest Groups
2. Individuals

**Primary Concerns for State Legislatures**

1. **Education –** promote an informed & engaged citizen

*(ex) –minimum standards in schools* ***(SOL’s)***

1. **Public Health –**Protecting the health of its citizens

*(ex) –Funding of health benefits*

1. **Environment** – Protecting Natural Resources

*(ex) –Water & Air quality*

1. **State Budget** – Approve a Biennial (two year) Budget

*Prepared by the Governor*

1. **Revenue** – Levy & Collect Taxes

**CE 7d) Roles of the Governor**

 **Gubernatorial “Hats”**

 **Chief of State** – Ceremonial Head of the Gov’t

**Chief Administrator** – Head of the

Executive branch of Gov’t

**Chief Legislator** – Proposer of Legislative agenda

 *(can veto / approve legislation)*

**Commander-in-Chief** – Head of the Nation’s

 Armed Forces

**Chief of Party** – Leader of their own Political Party

**CE 8A,B,C) Local Gov’t**

 Counties, Cities, Towns

* Each locality has

*-Legislative powers*

*-Executive powers*

*-Judicial powers*

 **County Government**

 (in the Commonwealth of VA)

 **Board of Supervisors** *(Leg. Body)*

 -enact ordinances *(local laws)*

 -Annual Budget

 **School Board**

 *(elected or appointed)*

 -responsible for k-12 education

**City / Town Government**

 (in the Commonwealth of VA)

 **City Council / Town Council** *(Leg. Body)*

 -enact ordinances *(local laws)*

 -Annual Budget

 **Mayor or Manager**

 *(Mayor = elected or appointed)*

 *(Manger = hired)*

*Where do Local Gov’ts get their power (authority)?*

1. VA Constitution
2. General Assembly

**\*\*\*Citizens have the greatest impact on Gov’t at the Local Level\*\*\***

 **Judicial Power** *(at local level)*

 VA state court system in effect locally

 *-District (lowest courts) in small localities*

**VA Constitution requires all Localities to elect:**

1. Sheriff
2. Clerk of Courts
3. Commissioner of Revenue
4. Treasurer

**VA Local Gov’t Powers**

 -enforce state & Local Laws

 -Promote Public Health

 -Protect Public Safety

 -Protect the environment

 -Educate Children

 -Regulate Land Use

 -Levy & Collect Taxes