**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