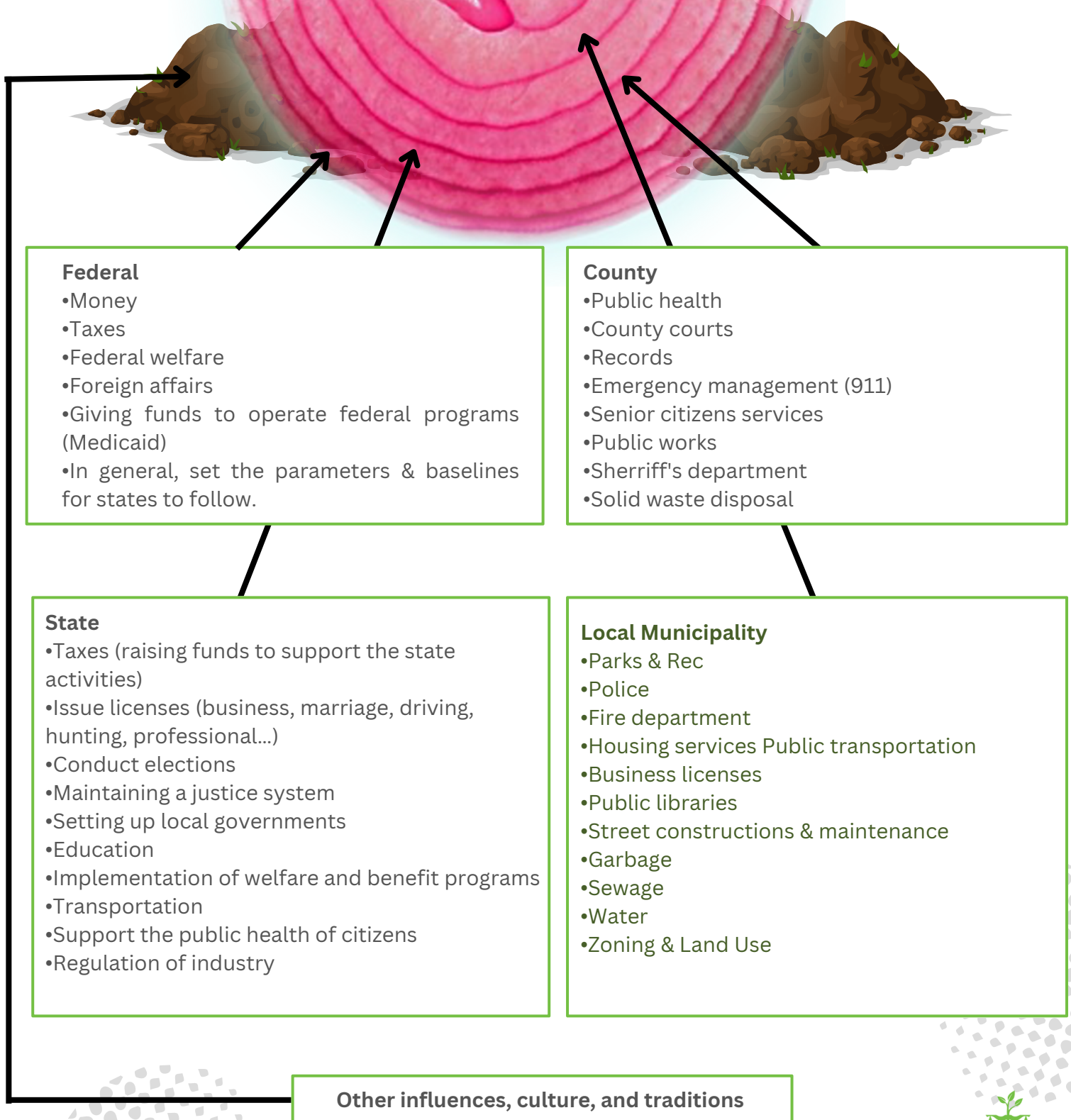


LAYERS OF DECISION-MAKING





How Local Decisions Are Made:

A Story

- **Community:** “So many of our kids have lead poisoning and peeling paint in their houses. There has to be a way for this city to do more to protect our kids from lead. I’m going to write a letter to my city councilperson to let them know that I want them to do something to make this better.”
- **City Council:** “I just spoke with one of my community members, and they are super passionate about lead-safe housing. I think we can do more to make sure rentals are lead-safe. I will talk with our committees about what we can do to create new ordinances (laws) or resolutions (positions) about lead safety.
- **Committee** - “We just received an ask from City Council to recommend new ordinances for lead safety. After research, other communities have passed an ordinance requiring all landlords with units built before 1978 to provide a lead-safe certification from a certified dust wipe technician prior to giving of a rental license or occupancy permit. This seems like something we can do, and I think could really help renters with children stay lead-safe. We will recommend that this practice here, too.”
- **City Council:** “Great! The Committee recommended that we not give a rental license to the landlord until the property is certified as lead-safe. I will draft this ordinance and get more community feedback on this during the neighborhood block party.”
- **Community:** “Well, I don’t know much about lead, but we do need to bring more good jobs to the area.”
- **City Council:** “Great feedback! I will update this ordinance to include language that priority will go to local contractors. I will also talk with the Mayor, who controls the budget, about paying for some training for local contractors to be certified in lead-safe practices.”

Two weeks later...

- **City Council:** “During tonight’s City Council meeting, we will review and discuss the new lead-safe rental ordinance. We will also hear public comment.”
- **Community:** “I think this is great! We know that people who have lower incomes and people of color are more likely to get lead poisoning from their homes. I support this ordinance because it will help keep my neighbors safe and healthy.”
- **City Council:** “Thank you. We will update this draft to its final version and vote on it next Council meeting.”

Two weeks later...

- **City Council:** “Welcome, everyone, to the City Council meeting. Last meeting we reviewed and heard public comment on the lead-safe rental ordinance. After voting – it passes! Now, we send this to the mayor’s desk for their signature.”
- **Mayor:** The lead-safe rental ordinance passed. I am signing and approving, and sending this to the department of public health to figure out how we are going to turn this ordinance into reality.
- **Department of Public Health:** “The lead-safe rental ordinance passed, and it gave our department the power to write the policies about how this will actually roll out and work! Let’s get to work...”

Six months later...

- **Community:** I feel way more comfortable moving into a new apartment with my kids because I know there is not lead dust and paint which could hurt them.