



GUIDE TO GIRL ADVOCACY

Resources & Appendices

Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms

Identity: An identity is the way in which a person sees him/herself. There are many pieces of an identity, including one's gender identity, ethnic identity, racial identity, religious identity, and more. Identity may also be defined by how someone looks (brunettes versus blondes, for example), the accent of their speech, the type of clothing they prefer, the type of music they enjoy, and more. Anything that helps a person self-identify is part of their identity.

Personal Values: Personal values are the deeds, thoughts and behaviors that individuals reference when making choices, influencing others, or existing as a part of society. Personal values are perceived as good, beneficial, important, desirable and constructive. Sometimes, personal values are influenced by social or cultural values, and sometimes they are not.

Community: A community is a group of individual living things in a specific area or virtual space. There are many ways to define a human community, including national, international, local and virtual spaces where people gather and have some type of connection.

Diversity: Diversity is a topic that may arise in your discussions of identity and community. Diversity identifies key differences in a community or group of people and, as an ideology, encourages respect and tolerance for people that are different within that group.

Inclusion: Often coupled with diversity, inclusion is the work that communities do to involve and empower all people to belong to and participate in that group. Inclusion works to eliminate discrimination and encourage diverse people to exist together.

Issue: An issue is an important topic or problem, often associated with debates or discussions. Both issues and causes may come up in discussions about advocacy.

Cause: A cause is a thing, a person, a principle or a movement that one may advocate for. Both issues and causes may come up in discussions about advocacy.

Advocacy: Advocacy is the activity that a group or person does to influence decision-makers to take action on a cause or issue. Advocacy has many forms, including the creation or use of media, speaking, polling, petitioning or lobbying. An advocate is someone who participates in advocacy activities to support a cause or issue.

Taking Action: In Girl Scouting, Taking Action is a project that Girl Scouts undertake to make a sustainable change in the world, either by making the change permanent, educating and inspiring others to participate in the change, or changing a rule or regulation. Taking Action can sometimes coincide with advocacy, but does not have to do so.

Editorials, Op-Eds, and Letters to the Editor: These three types of newspaper articles are all opinion-based, not fact-based pieces of journalism. Editorial articles are created by a specific body within the newspaper called the Editorial Board. Op-Eds, short for "opposite the editorial page," are editorials written by journalists that are not supported by the Editorial Board. Letters to the Editor are editorial articles written and submitted by readers of the newspaper.

Protest: A protest is a statement or action that disapproves or objects to something.

Demonstration: Demonstrations are a type of protest and come in both violent and nonviolent forms. For the purposes of this guide, nonviolent demonstrations are events where groups of people appear in support of a cause or issue. Often used as a form of advocacy, demonstrations like marches, rallies, sit-ins, walkouts and strikes are used to gain support for an issue or cause through mass groups of people participating in a shared experience.

Bill: A bill is a proposed legislation (a law, act or policy).

Law: A law is a rule created by legislators, approved or enacted by executives, and enforced by the justice system.

Policy: Policies are statements of intent, usually implemented by a protocol or procedure.

Legislative Branch: The legislative branch of government (federal, state and local) makes laws. In a democracy, legislators are elected through a popular vote.

Judicial Branch: The judicial branch of government (federal, state and local) interprets and applies laws. In a democracy, judges are appointed by the executive or legislative branches of governments, depending on the level of that government and its selection rules.

Executive Branch: The executive branch of government (federal, state and local) executes and enforces laws. In our federal system, the President is the nation's executive and is both the head of state and the head of government. In our state system, the Governor is head of a constituent state. In the local system, municipal executives can come in many forms, including mayors and city managers.

Representative: An elected official who represents a constituency (community) in a legislative body. Representatives are one of two types of legislators. In the federal system, representatives occupy the House of U.S. Representatives and serve for two years. In the state of Wisconsin, representatives occupy the State Assembly and serve for two years.

Senator: An elected official who represents a constituency (community) in a legislative body. Senators are one of two types of legislators. In the federal system and the state of Wisconsin system, senators sit in the Senate and serve for six years.

Appendix 3: Local Governments in Wisconsin

In this appendix, you'll find detailed resources on how best to navigate local governments that may be needed to support and enact legislation that supports a Girl Scout's issue or cause.

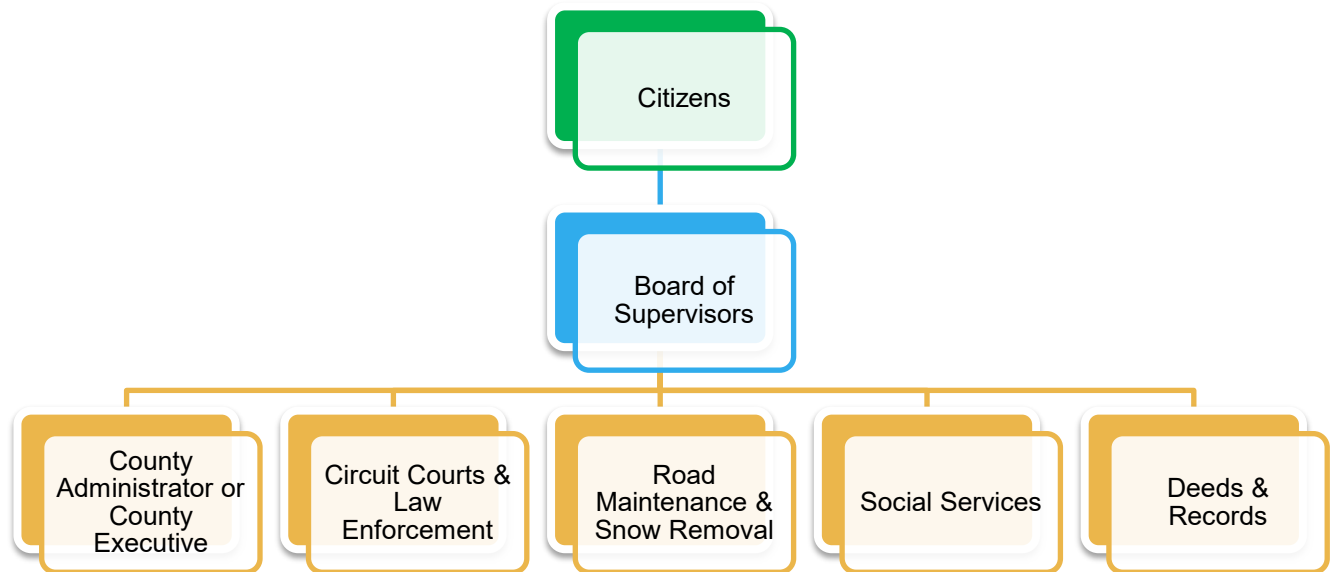
County Governments

The state of Wisconsin has 72 counties. Girl Scouts of Wisconsin – Badgerland’s region serves 24 counties in southwest and south central Wisconsin. Counties are governed by county boards, which are managed by the board chair. Counties with a population of 500,000 or more must also have a county executive. Smaller counties have either a county executive or a county administrator. The [Wisconsin Counties Association](#) exists to support and serve Wisconsin county officials by assisting with lobbying, education, research, grant development and consulting services to affect public policy and benefit county government.

Powers of the County Board of Supervisors

Operating similarly to a city council, the county board has the power to make, pass and repeal laws called *ordinances*, manage county departments and their budgets, and sometimes arbitrate decisions by commissions that they manage.

County Government Organizational Chart



City Governments

The state of Wisconsin has 190 cities. Cities are divided into classes based on their population (**1st class:** 150,000+; **2nd class:** 39,000-149,999; **3rd class:** 10,000-38,999; **4th class:** less than 10,000). Cities and villages in Wisconsin are both considered municipalities, meaning they have the power to provide a range of services to citizens, including road maintenance, utilities, parks and recreation services and experiences, planning, zoning, and transportation. Cities are governed by either a mayor-council structure or a council-manager structure. The majority of Wisconsin cities use the mayor-council form of government. In the mayor-council form of government, the council consists of alderpersons elected by districts within the city and the mayor, elected at large or appointed by the council, is the chief executive officer. In Wisconsin cities, the mayor, elected administrative officers, boards, commissions and appointed officials share the administrative responsibilities of city operations. The [League of Wisconsin Municipalities](#) was created to help Wisconsin cities and villages share ideas, learn from each other, provide trainings for elected officials, and advocate on their behalf to the Wisconsin state government.

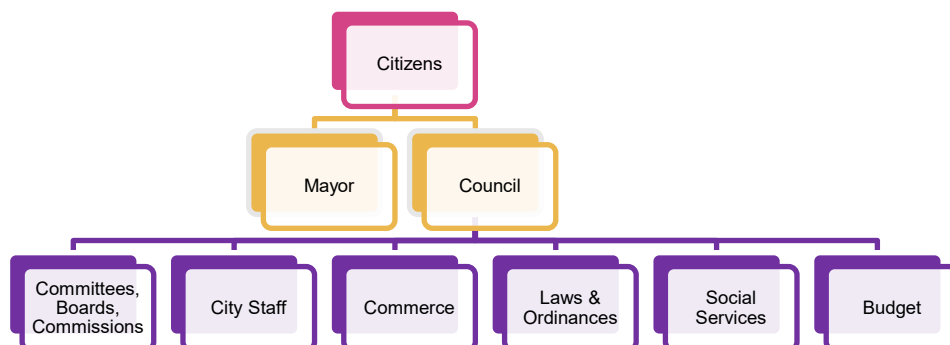
Powers of the Mayor

In Wisconsin, most cities using the mayor-council form of government use the weak-mayor form. In the weak-mayor form, the mayor has no official authority outside of the council. He cannot directly appoint or remove officials and cannot use veto power over the vote of the council.

Powers of the Council

In Wisconsin, the city council or common council manages the city budget, defines the powers, administrates the work and working conditions of city staff, imposes fines and penalties for violation of city ordinances, regulates property sale, ownership and acquisition, provides governmental, recreational, educational, cultural and social services, imposes local taxes, creates, enacts and repeals laws and policies, and licenses businesses.

City Government Organizational Chart



Village Governments

The state of Wisconsin has 407 villages. Village government consists of a village board made up of trustees and a village president, all of whom are elected officials. Villages and cities in Wisconsin are both considered municipalities, meaning they have the power to provide a range of services to citizens, including road maintenance, utilities, parks and recreation services and experiences, planning, zoning, and transportation. The [League of Wisconsin Municipalities](#) was created to help Wisconsin cities and villages share ideas, learn from each other, provide trainings for elected officials, and advocate on their behalf to the Wisconsin state government.

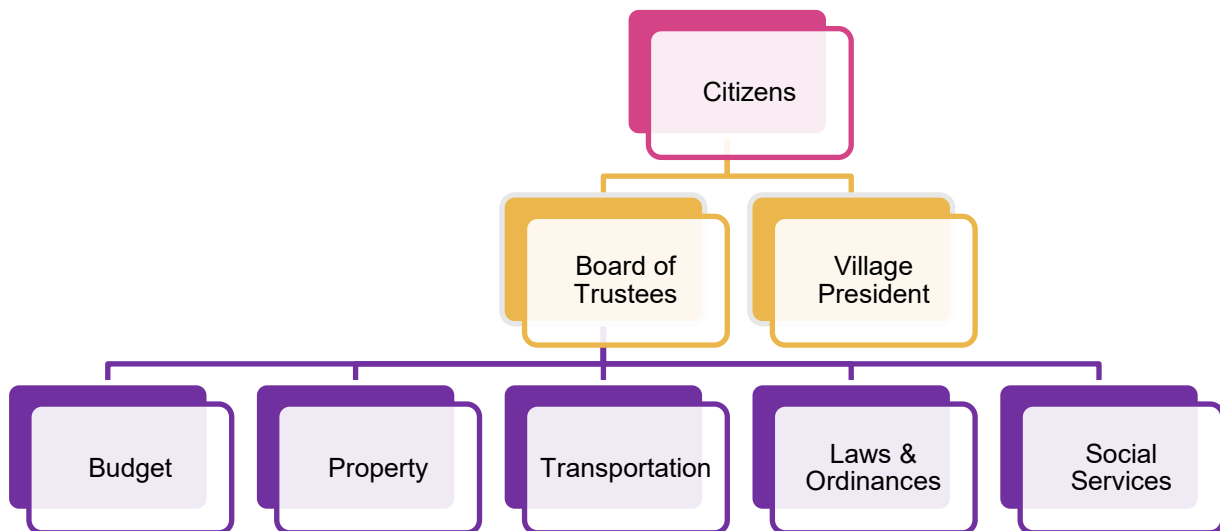
Powers of the Village President

In a village, the president has fewer powers than a mayor. He or she presides over village board meetings, but is not the chief executive officer of the village. The president does not have veto power, but participates with the board on voting on all measures.

Powers of the Board

The powers of the village board are similar to the city board. The difference is that the village board also has the powers of a mayor, since the board acts as both the legislative and executive branches of the local government. The board manages property, finance, roads, public service, ordinances and regulations, taxation, fines, and commissions.

Village Board Organizational Chart



Town Governments

The state of Wisconsin has 1259 towns. Town government consists of a town board of three to five members, all of whom are elected officials. They may also hire a clerk, treasurer and town administrator. According to state law, Wisconsin towns are required to hold town meetings, during which all eligible voters can discuss and vote on town matters, including the town's property tax levy. The [Wisconsin Towns Association](#) was created to support local control of government and protect the interests of Wisconsin towns.

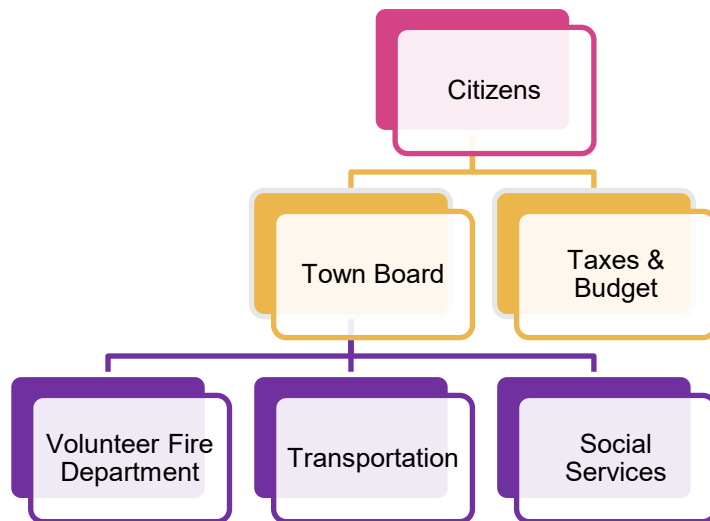
Powers of the Town Citizens

In a town, the citizens of the town (18+ and residents for at least 10 days) come together once a year for the town meeting in the beginning of April. At this time, the voters may authorize the town board to take specific actions or make changes to the wages of town supervisors or officers.

Powers of the Board

The powers of a town board are limited due to state statutes. Towns have the authority to maintain roads, operate a volunteer fire department, and operate a limited number of public services.

Town Board Organizational Chart



School Governments

Public school districts are special-purpose government bodies. Sometimes they are administered by city governments, sometimes by county governments, and sometimes independently of government. Not all schools operate using a district system. If your school operates outside of a district system, refer to your school superintendent for more information about governance. Typically, school government consists of a school board of elected officials and a superintendent, hired to work as the chief executive officer of the school district.

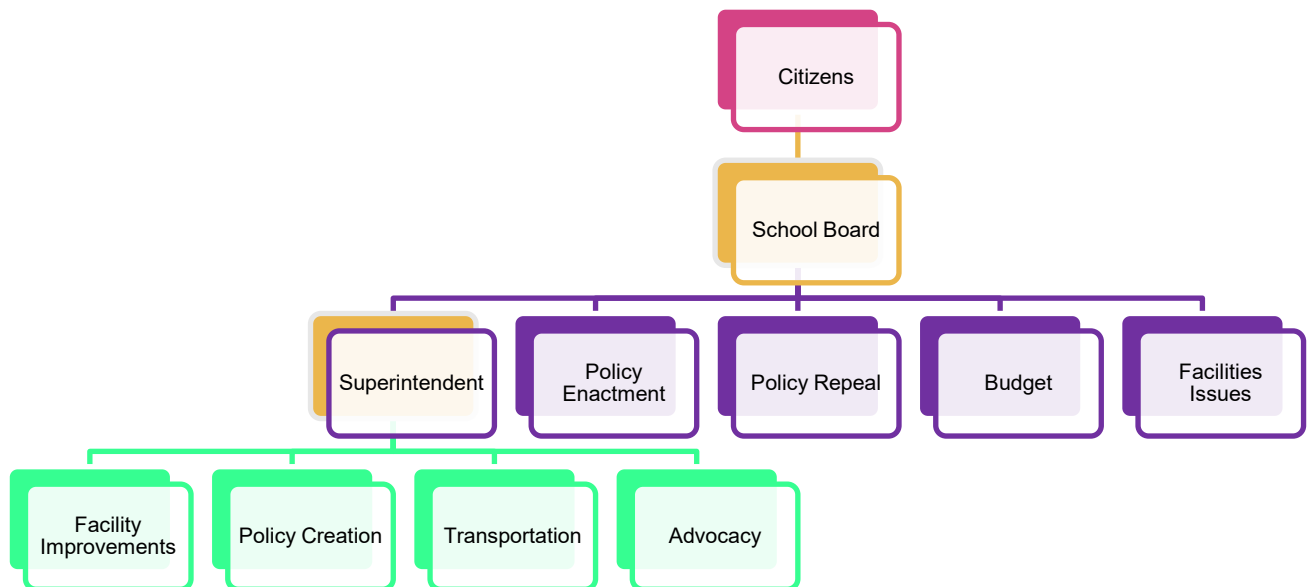
Powers of the Board

The school board is responsible for employing the superintendent, creating, enacting and repealing policies, developing and approving curriculum, creating and managing the budget, overseeing facilities issues, and adopting collective bargaining agreements.

Powers of the Superintendent

Unlike other governmental executive officers, the superintendent does not have the same powers or similar powers to the board. The superintendent is an employee of the board, not an elected official. The superintendent's role may include evaluating and recommending facility improvements, enforcing curriculum standards, evaluating district performance, writing and reviewing policies, transferring students, and transportation. The superintendent also acts as an advocate and lobbyist for the school district.

School Board Organizational Chart



Elected Officials

- Find My Elected Officials: <http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Wisconsin State Legislature: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- Wisconsin Elections Commission: <http://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/statistics>
- Wisconsin Election Results: <http://elections.wi.gov/elections-voting/results>

Local Governments

- Wisconsin Towns Association: <http://www.wisctowns.com/>
 - Town Websites: <http://www.wisctowns.com/town-web-sites>
- Wisconsin Counties Association: <http://www.wicounties.org/index.iml>
 - County Websites: <http://www.wicounties.org/counties.iml>
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities: <http://www.lwm-info.org/>
- Wisconsin Tribal Relations Initiative: <http://www.witribes.wisconsin.gov/>
- Local Government Institute of Wisconsin: <http://www.localgovinstitute.org/>

Laws & Courts

- Wisconsin Court System: <https://www.wicourts.gov/>
 - Supreme Court Opinions: <https://www.wicourts.gov/opinions/soralarguments.htm>
- Wisconsin State Law Library: <http://wilawlibrary.gov/>
- Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office: <http://wispd.org/>

Government Operations

- Wisconsin Agencies: <https://www.wisconsin.gov/Pages/AllAgencies.aspx>
 - Agency Performance Dashboards: <https://performance.wi.gov/>
- Wisconsin Constitution: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/constitution>
- Biennial Budget: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/StateFinances/CurrentBiennialBudget.aspx>
- Wisconsin Public Meeting Notices & Minutes: <https://publicmeetings.wi.gov/>