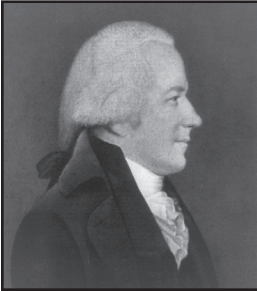


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- 1. Federalist, No. 17**, Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist Papers*, 1787  
According to Alexander Hamilton, a number of factors combine to make it highly unlikely that the ***national government*** will become too powerful in the ***federal system*** to be created by the constitution of 1787. 2
- 2. Federalist, No. 45**, James Madison, *The Federalist Papers*, 1788  
James Madison writes that the authority of the ***state governments*** will not be endangered by the central government in the proposed new ***federal system***. He argues that history, the nature and role of state governments, and the relatively few powers delegated to the national government in the proposed Constitution support his conclusion. 4
- 3. Nature of the American State**, James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, 1888  
After noting that there is considerable ***diversity*** among the states, James Bryce focuses on the factors that promote uniformity among them. He also discusses the constitutional and legal standing of the states in the American ***federal system***. 7
- 4. The American System of Townships . . .**, Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 1835  
Alexis de Tocqueville discusses the important role of ***local institutions*** in preserving the spirit of ***liberty***. He describes how New England townships are governed and how they contribute to American ***democracy***. 11
- 5. Local Government: Observations**, James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, 1888  
James Bryce identifies the origins of the three systems of rural ***local government*** in the United States and distinguishes the three systems according to the roles of ***towns*** and ***counties***. He discusses the absence of ***representative assemblies*** in local government, the chief functions of local government, and the roles that ***political parties*** play. 15

The concepts in bold italics are developed in the article. For further expansion, please refer to the Topic Guide.



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**6. Demographics and Destiny**, Joel Kotkin, *Governing*, May 2010

Joel Kotkin notes that the U.S. population is expected to grow by 100 million people in the next 40 years. In the context of **state and local governments**, he addresses the implications of Americans' preference for **decentralized governance structures** as well as **decentralized working and living environments**.

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**7. Taking Stock**, Alan Ehrenhalt, *Governing*, February 2010

Alan Ehrenhalt traces and explains changes in the **balance between state and local governments** over the preceding 22 years.

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**8. Eminent Domain—For the Greater Good?**, Garry Boulard, *State Legislatures*, January 2006

Garry Boulard reports the responses of **state legislatures** and the **U.S. Congress** to the **Supreme Court's** controversial **Kelo v. City of New London** ruling in 2005. In its 5–4 decision, the Court ruled that states can use the power of **eminent domain** to take over private property solely for the purpose of **economic development**.

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**9. Devolution's Double Standard**, Alan Ehrenhalt, *Governing*, April 2003

Alan Ehrenhalt discusses the marked difference between the principle and the practice of **devolution** among **national, state, and local governments** in the United States.

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**10. On the Oregon Trail**, Sam Rosenfeld, *The American Prospect*, May 2006

Sam Rosenfeld reports how several states have been following Oregon's **vote-by-mail** lead and how they have been making changes in their electoral procedures.

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**11. Caperton's Coal: The Battle Over an Appalachian Mine Exposes a Nasty Vein in Bench Politics**, John Gibeaut, *ABA Journal*, February 1, 2009

John Gibeaut reports how a **corporation** backing a West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals candidate for **election** was later rewarded in a pivotal court ruling. He also discusses the more general problem of **corruption, bias**, and the like among **judges**, especially elected ones.

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**12. The No-Tax Pledge**, Jonathan Walters, *Governing*, October 2010

Jonathan Walters discusses the powerful role of **anti-income tax fervor** in **election campaigns** in the nine states that do not collect an income tax.

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13. **California, Here We Come**, Peter Schrag, *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1998  
Peter Schrag argues that the non-deliberative nature of **initiatives** and other instruments of **direct democracy** threatens minority rights. 44
14. **Taking the Initiative**, Jennie Drage Bowser, *State Legislatures*, October/November 2010  
Jennie Drage Bowser describes an experiment called **Citizens Initiative Review**, which is aimed at making **Oregon voters** better informed before voting on **ballot initiatives**. 48
15. **Public Meetings and the Democratic Process**, Brian Adams, *Public Administration Review*, January/February 2004  
Brian Adams considers the role of **public meetings** in **local government decision-making**. He concludes that they seem to play a role different from that commonly attributed to them. 50
- Part B. Media**
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17. **Bloggers Press for Power**, Nicole Casal Moore, *State Legislatures*, January 2007  
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18. **Cities without Newspapers**, Rachel Smolkin, *American Journalism Review*, June/July 2009  
Rachel Smolkin addresses the role that **newspapers** play in **urban public life** and summarizes research on the negative impact of closing a major city newspaper. 72
19. **Cross Examination**, Steve Weinberg, *Quill Magazine*, January/February 2004  
Steve Weinberg argues that journalists have not adequately covered the activities of **local prosecutors**, despite the very important government powers they exercise. He also reports some interesting and important findings about prosecutors that resulted from the work of a few journalists who covered them seriously. 79
20. **A Shift of Substance**, Bonnie Bressers, *Quill Magazine*, May 2004  
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**22. Termed Out**, Russell Nichols, *Governing*, January 2011  
 Russell Nichols explores the **adverse impacts of term limits** on the functioning of **state legislatures** and suggests ways to counteract the effects of high turnover of lawmakers on the legislative process. 93

**23. What Legislatures Need Now**, Karl Kurtz and Brian Weberg, *State Legislatures*, July/August 2010  
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**24. Are City Councils a Relic of the Past?**, Rob Gurwitt, *Governing*, April 2003  
 Rob Gurwitt examines the way **city councils** in America's **major cities** are functioning today. He suggests that individual city council members have become increasingly parochial in their concerns and that city councils as a whole have become dysfunctional. 99

**25. First, Kill All the School Boards**, Matt Miller, *The Atlantic Monthly*, January/February 2008  
 Matt Miller argues that **local control** by more than 15,000 **school boards** has not been helpful to **American public education** and explains why he favors "nationalizing" school governance. 104

**26. The Private Life of E-mail**, Pam Greenberg, *State Legislatures*, January 2010  
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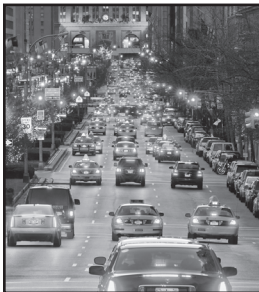
**27. When I Run Out of Fights to Have, I'll Stop Fighting**, Matt Bai, *New York Times Magazine*, February 24, 2011  
 Matt Bai describes and assesses the **political style** of prominent **New Jersey governor Chris Christie**. Bai addresses the difficult **financial straits** in which many state and local governments, their **public employees**, and **public sector labor unions** find themselves these days. 112

**28. The Badgered State: Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker Is the Left's Public Enemy No. 1**, Robert Costa, *National Review*, March 21, 2011  
 Robert Costa assesses the remarkable **controversy** that enveloped the **Wisconsin state legislature** in early 2011 and the role of **Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker** in the events. 119

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A former Philadelphia **judge** discusses **mandatory sentencing laws** and their negative effects on the criminal justice system and on her own career. 130
33. **Kids, Not Cases**, Susan Robison, *State Legislatures*, December 2007  
Susan Robison reports that **state courts** often make decisions about children’s custodial arrangements without providing for suitable legal representation for the children. In addition, affected children do not usually have the right to appear in court. She argues that **state legislatures** should try to ensure more appropriate judicial procedures and greater accountability. 135



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35. **The Big Apple: Urban Incubator**, Alan Greenblatt, *National Journal*, July 10, 2010  
Alan Greenblatt reports that **New York City** under **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** has been a **policy innovator** in such areas as health, public safety, housing, and the environment. 146
36. **Unscrambling the City**, Christopher Swope, *Governing*, June 2003  
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37. **The Sentient City**, Zach Patton, *Governing*, April 2010  
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38. **267 Years and Counting: The Town Hall Meeting Is Alive and Well in Pelham, Mass**, Tod Newcombe, *Governing*, December 2010  
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43. **Lacklu\$ter Lotterie\$**, *State Legislatures*, September 2010  
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45. <b>One Size Doesn't Fit All</b> , Steven M. Teles, <i>Washington Monthly</i> , March/April, 2011 Steven Teles reviews an important new book that critiques the way that <b>public education</b> is governed at the state and local government levels and suggests a new approach that favors <b>liberty</b> over <b>democracy</b> in governing schools.	188
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