

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS TODAY 2015-2016 EDITION



Chapter Eighteen

State and Local Government

Learning Outcomes

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- 18.1 Discuss the relationship of state laws and constitutions to the U.S. Constitution and federal law.
- 18.2 Discuss the relationship between governors and state legislatures and the powers associated with each.
- 18.3 Explain why counties, cities, and other units of local government are limited in their power and their autonomy.
- 18.4 Describe the most important sources of revenue for states and local governments and their biggest expenditures, and contrast them with those of the federal government.

The U.S. Constitution and the State Governments

3

- Why Are State Constitutions So Long?
- The Constitutional Convention and the Constitutional Initiative

The State Executive Branch

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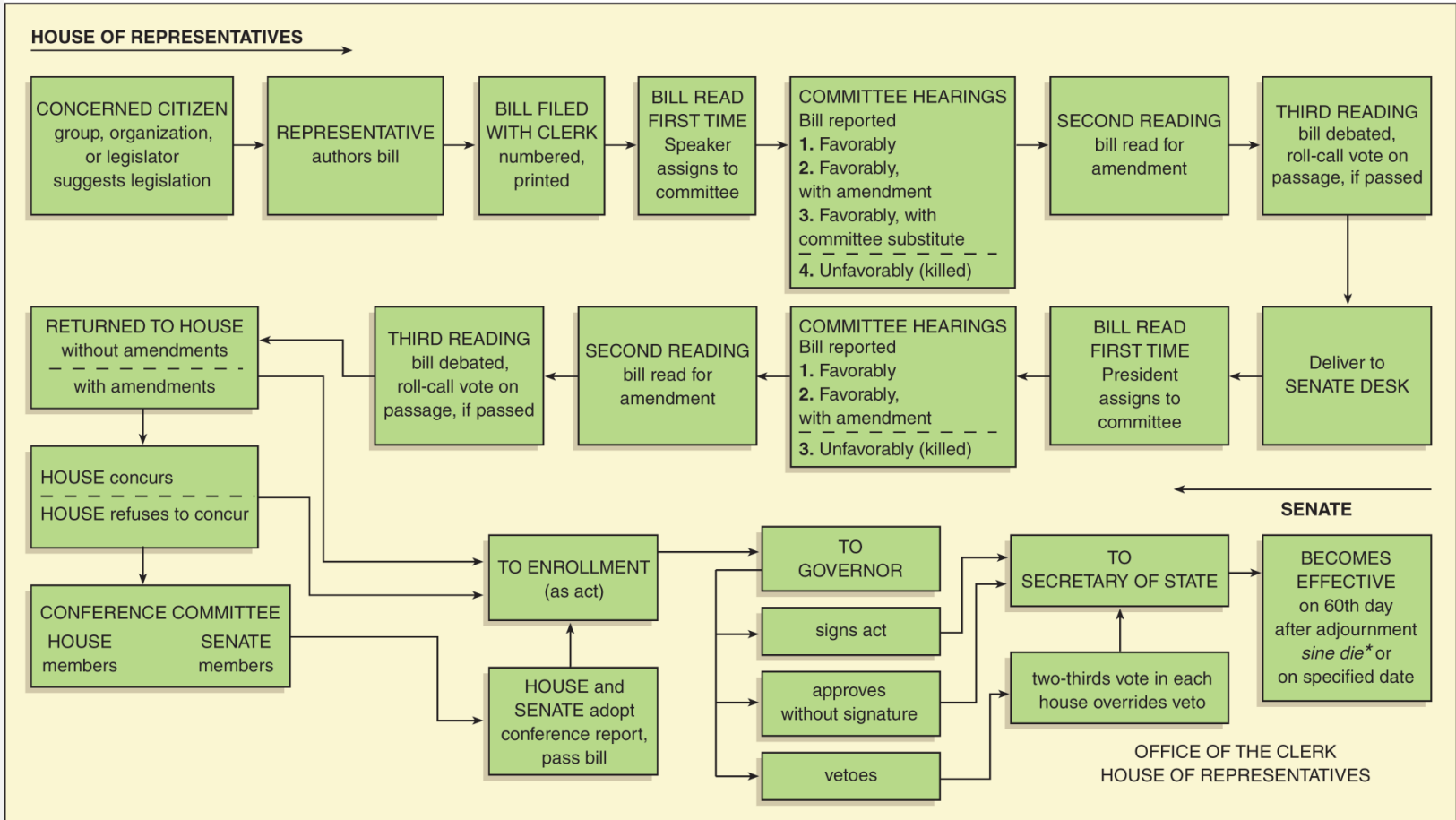
- A Weak Executive
- Increasing the Governor's Power
- The Governor's Veto Power
 - Item veto (43 states)

The State Legislature

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- Legislative Apportionment
 - Minority Representation
 - Political Gerrymandering
- Term Limits for State Legislators
 - Found in 15 states

How an Idea Becomes a Law



A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the Florida legislature. Bills may originate in either house.

The State Legislature

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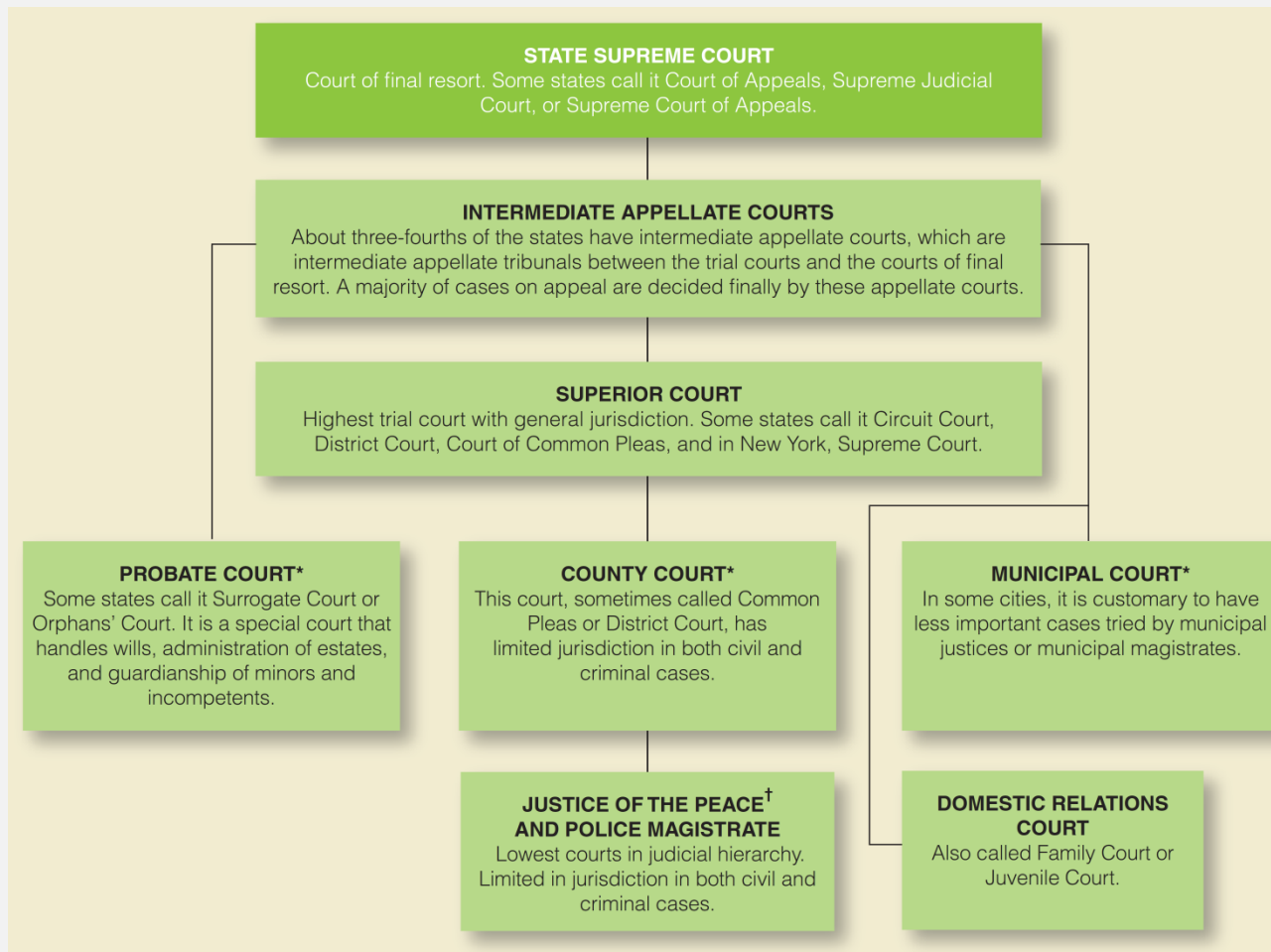
- Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform in the States
- Direct Democracy: The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall
 - The Initiative
 - The Referendum
 - The Recall

The State Judiciary

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- Trial Courts
- Appellate Courts
- Judicial Elections and Appointments
 - Elected in 38 states

A Sample State Court System



How Local Government Operates

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- The Legal Existence of Local Government
 - Dillon's Rule
 - Cooley's Rule
 - Home rule city or general law city

How Local Government Operates

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- Local Governmental Units
 - Municipalities
 - Counties
 - Towns and Townships
 - New England town
 - Special Districts and School Districts
- Consolidation of Governments
 - Council of governments

Local Governments in the United States

Counties	3,303
Municipalities (mainly cities and towns)	19,519
Townships (less extensive powers)	16,360
Special districts (water supply, fire protection, hospitals, libraries, parks and recreation, highways, sewers, and the like)	38,266
School districts	12,880
Total	90,056

How Local Government Operates

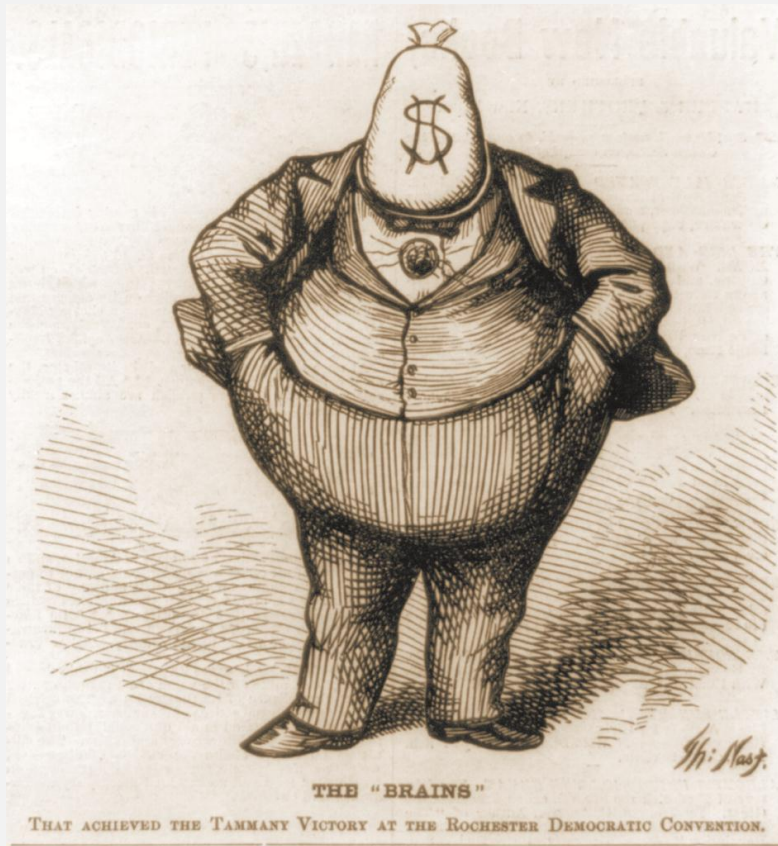
13

- How Municipalities Are Governed
 - The Commission Plan
 - The Council-Manager Plan
 - The Mayor-Administrator Plan
 - The Mayor-Council Plan
- Machine versus Reform in City Politics

How Local Government Operates

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Why are there no true big-city "machine" bosses anymore in the United States?

Paying for State and Local Government

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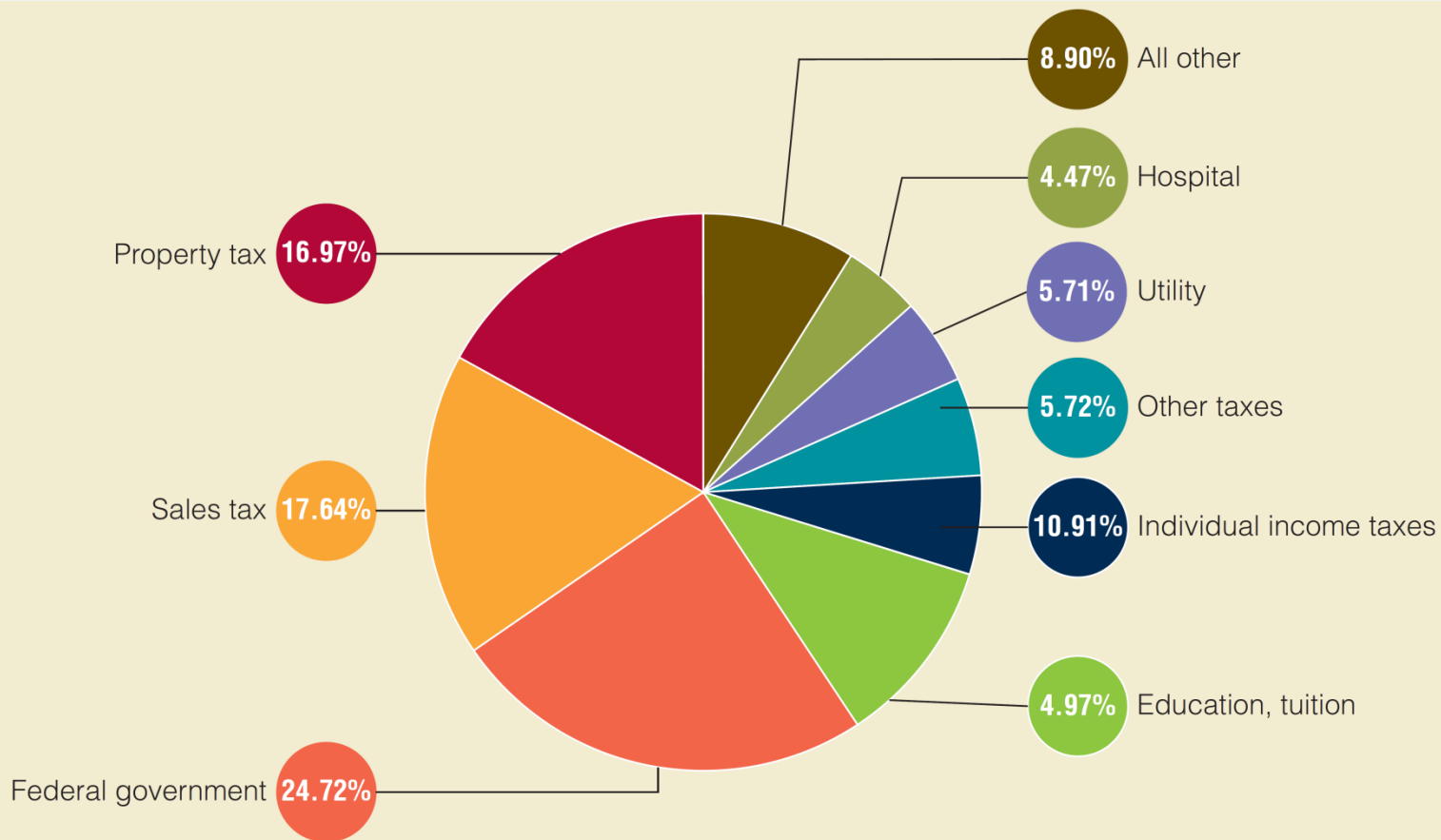
- State and Local Government Expenditures
- State and Local Government Revenues
 - General sales tax
 - Property tax

Paying for State and Local Government

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- The Struggle to Balance State Budgets
 - Getting into Trouble: Borrowing Too Much
 - Getting into Trouble: Poor Productivity
 - Getting into Trouble: Health Care Costs

State and Local Government Revenues



Paying for State and Local Government

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- States Recover from the Recession
 - States as Policy Pioneers

Nearly a Quarter of the Residents of Texas are Uninsured

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Video Discussion Questions

1. How do local economies affect access to health care?
2. Can the state of Texas better serve its residents without health insurance? How?
3. Is affordable medical care a policy priority for states? Why or why not?