

Introduction

State and Local Politics

Why Focus on State and Local Politics?

- The federal government receives the most attention (and scrutiny), but was actually developed many years after state and local governments
 - English Settlements
 - Mayflower Compact
- Why did the founders leave the multi-layered system intact when they wrote the Constitution?

Responsibilities of State Governments

- Constitution requires states to be republican in form and prohibits states from adopting laws that violate the U.S. Constitution, federal laws and treaties
- Matters within state borders
 - Regulations for property, business, industry and public utilities
 - Maintaining a justice system
 - Working conditions
 - Education
- Extensive overlap of responsibilities with federal government (e.g., transportation)

Organization of State Governments

- Three branches – executive, legislative, judicial
- Bicameral legislatures (except Nebraska)
- Constitutions are similar, although usually more detailed

Local Government

- We are a very urbanized country – 80% of citizens live in cities, towns or suburbs
- Local governments are creatures of state governments, but many large cities (NYC) function autonomously
- Local governments must cooperate with federal and state governments to function

Key Issues

- State and local issues often focus on topics that cause disagreement and conflict
- These problems are political in nature: the question is *what* should be done, *whether* it should be done, and *how* it should be done.
- Of interest is how these issues arise and how state and local governments resolve them.

Issue Conflicts in Virginia and Maryland

- Transportation – Purple line, Silver line
- Taxes
- Health Care – implementation of Obama care
- What else is “hot” in 2017?

Comparative Study of States and Communities

- Not only to *describe* politics and public policy, but to *explain* the differences from state to state and community to community
- How do socioeconomic and political factors help explain state policy decisions?

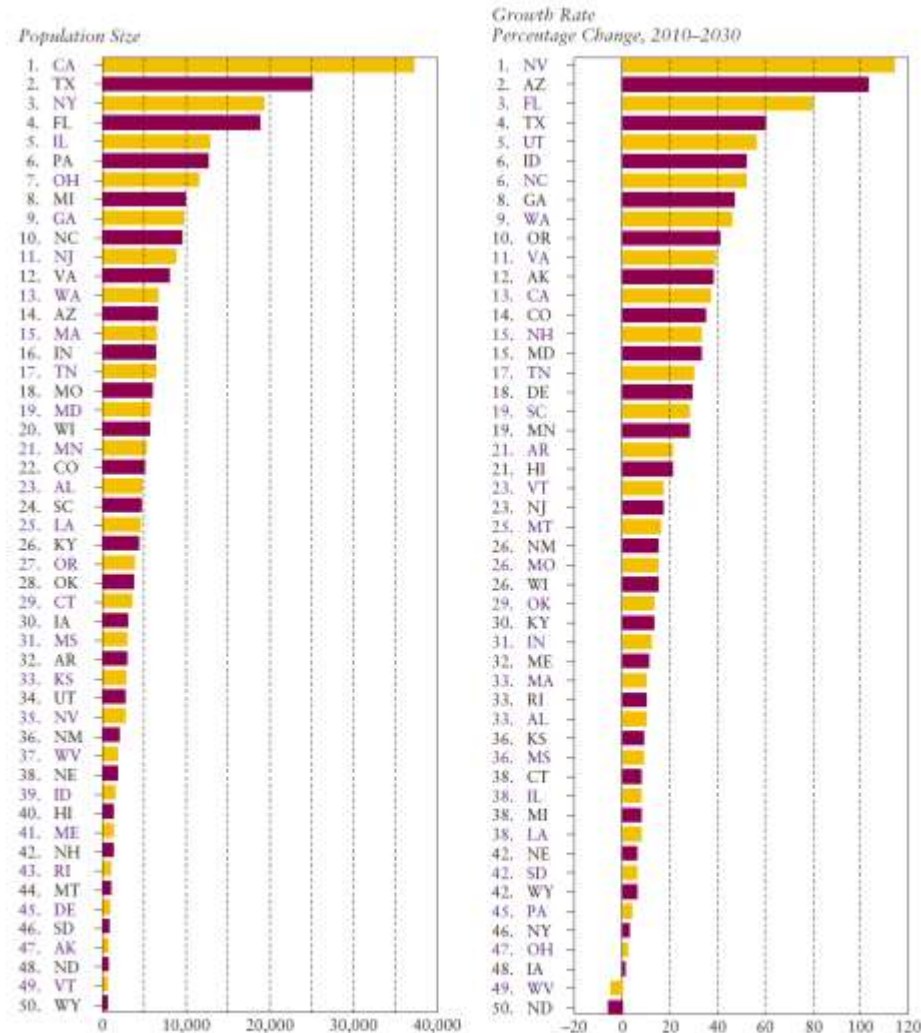
How Do We Distinguish Ourselves as Americans?

- Education
- Income
- Race
- Religion
- Age
- Historic Circumstances

Economic Growth

- Population Growth
- Income
- Education

Population Size and Projected Growth Rate. 2010–2030

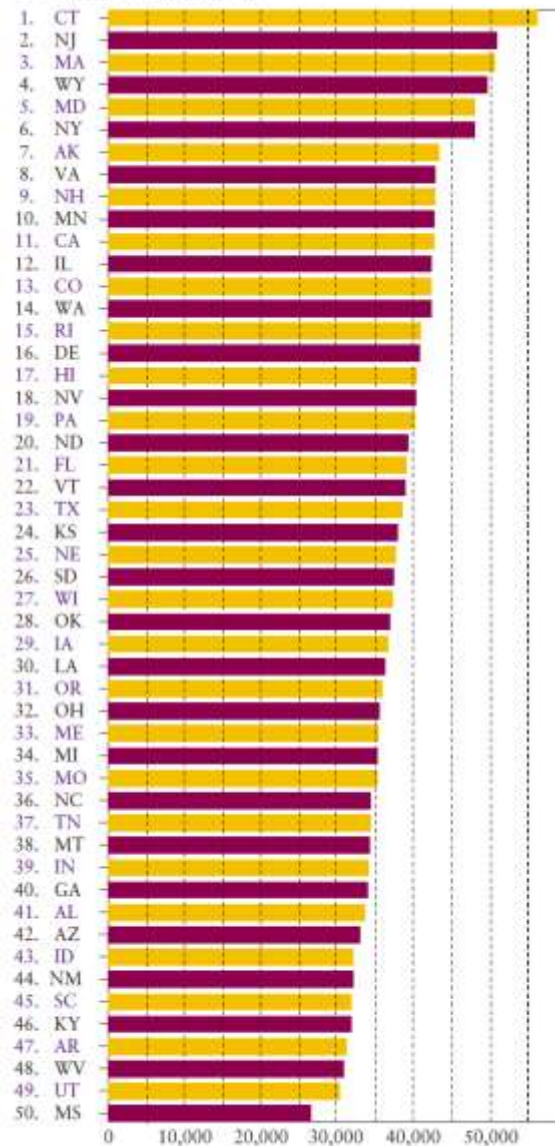


Note: Data are for 2010. In thousands.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010*, Table 1. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2010*, Table 14. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/10statab/pop.pdf>.

Income and Education

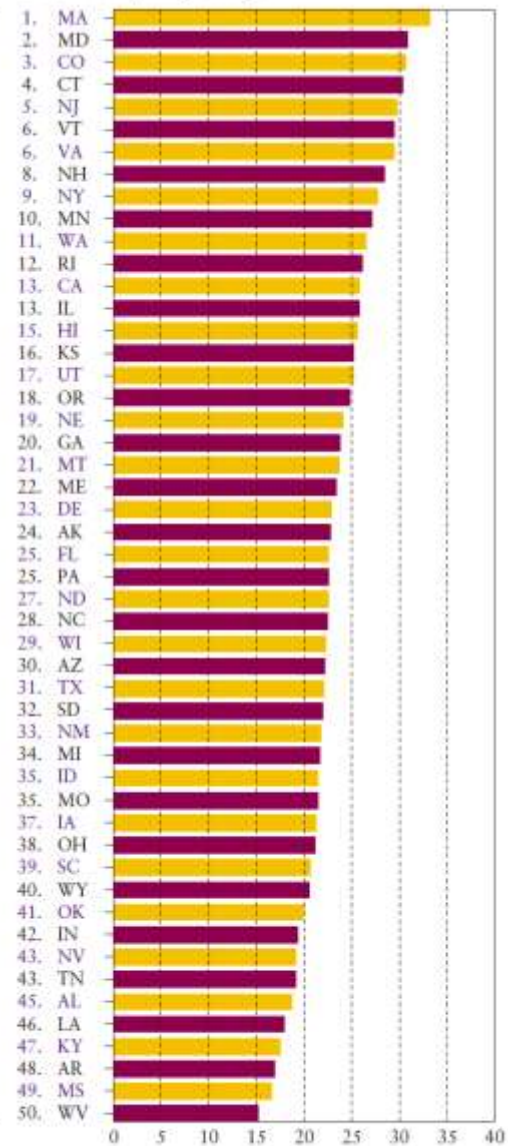
Per Capita Personal Income



Note: Data are for 2008. In current dollars.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 2010, Table 665. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/10statab/income.pdf>.

Percent Completing College



Note: Data are for 2007.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 2010, Table 228. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/10statab/educ.pdf>.

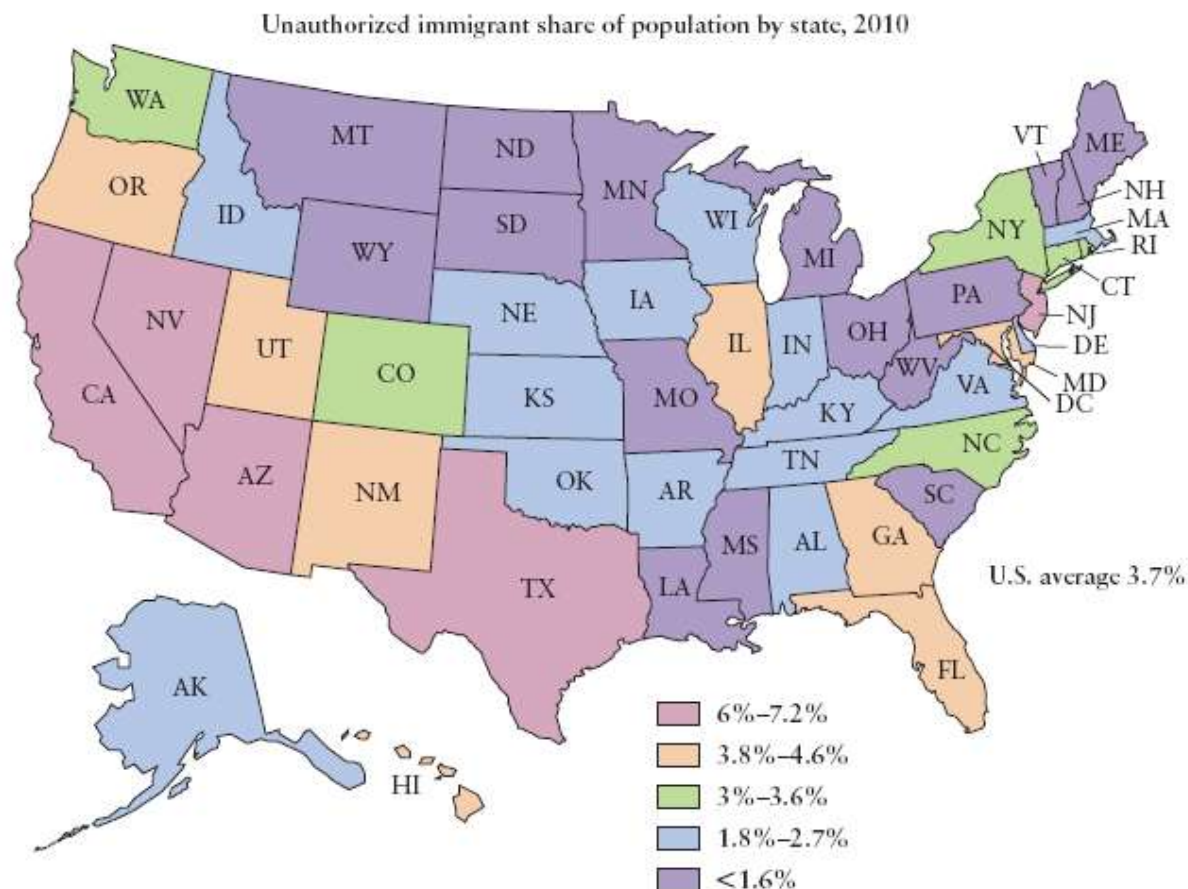
Race and Ethnicity

- Diversity = Political Impact
 - African Americans-40 million, 13% of U.S. population
 - Hispanics-largest minority group-1 in 7 of U.S. population
 - Asians and Pacific Islanders-14 million, 5% and fastest growing
 - Native Americans-3 million, 1%, over 562 Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native groups

Immigration

- National immigration policy: one million per year admitted legally as residents, another 36 million on temporary, legal visas
- Illegal immigration estimated at 2-3 million per year and 11+ million total
- Immigration and federalism – which level of government has power?

Illegal Immigrants by State



Note: Data are for 2010.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, "Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010," February 1, 2011. Available at <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2011/02/01/appendix-c-maps>.

State Ideology

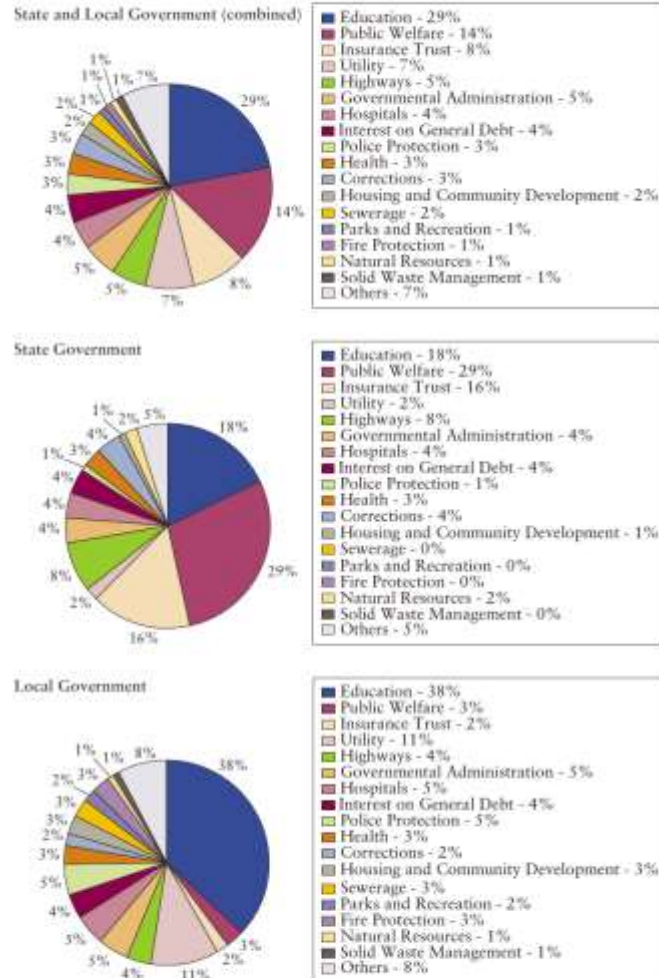
- Liberalism: generally use government to achieve social change
- Conservatism: generally place less reliance on government and more reliance on individuals and the marketplace to achieve social goals
- How do you measure state ideology?
- Where does Virginia fit?

Key Policy Areas for State and Local Governments

- Education
- Health and Welfare
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- Civil Rights
- Physical Environment
- Taxation

State & Local Government Spending

FIGURE I-4 How State and Local Governments Spend Their Money



Note: Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding. Data are for 2007. Amount in millions of dollars.

* Other expenditures include employment security administration, veterans' services, general expenditures, liquor stores, protective inspection and regulation, air transportation, parking, libraries, and sea and inland port facilities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "State and Local Government Finances by Level of Government and by State: 2006-7," Table 1. Available at <http://www2.census.gov/govs/estimate/07/slsstbl1a.xls>.