



Working With Your Local Government

Guest Speaker:

Lourdes Perez
Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children







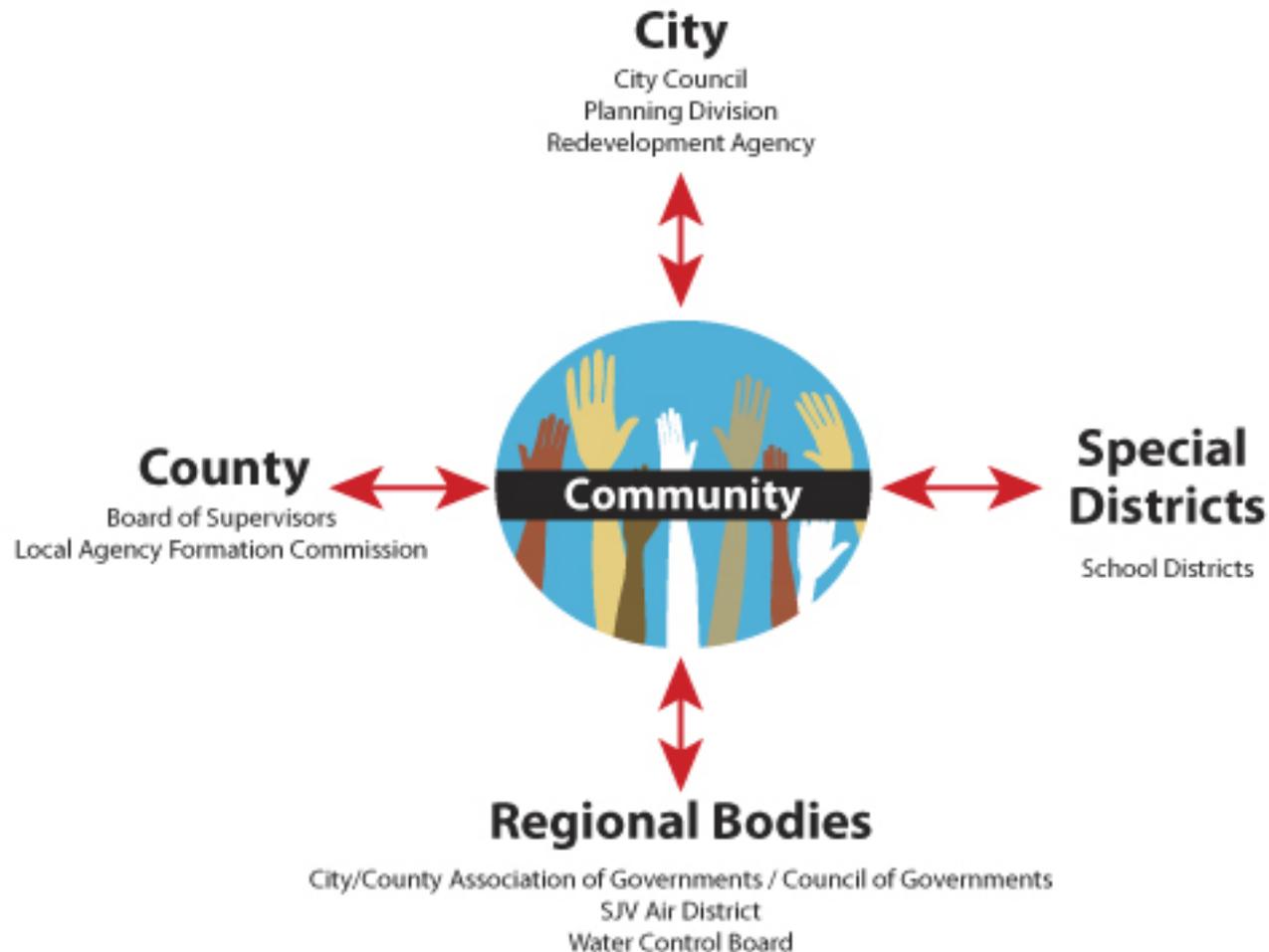
**What does “Local Government”
mean to you?**

Local Government Basics

*Local government
shapes most areas of
daily life...*



Overview of Local Government

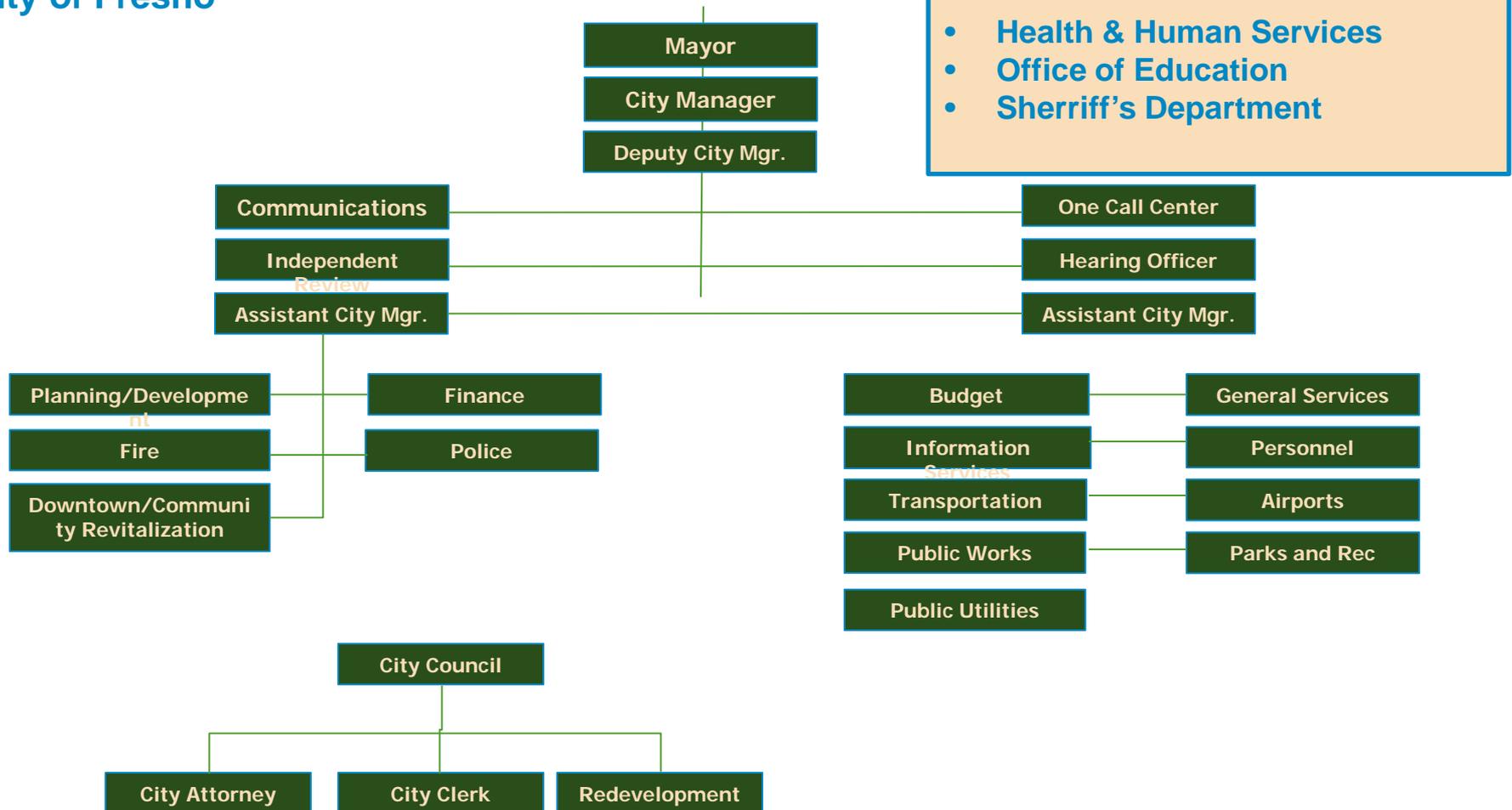


Which Government Body...

- **Builds and maintains parks?**
- **Decides what kids eat in schools?**
- **Builds and maintains streets and roads?**
- **Makes sure streets are safe for us to walk in?**
- **Decides what is built in our neighborhood (i.e. is there a supermarket, parks close by)?**
- **Brings in funds to revitalize (remodel) neglected neighborhoods or communities?**

City Flow Chart

City of Fresno



Areas covered only by county:

- Health & Human Services
- Office of Education
- Sherriff's Department

How Are Decisions Made In Local Government?

- **By a general vote (residents)**
- **Majority vote by elected officials (council)**
- **Majority vote by appointed officials (planning commission)**





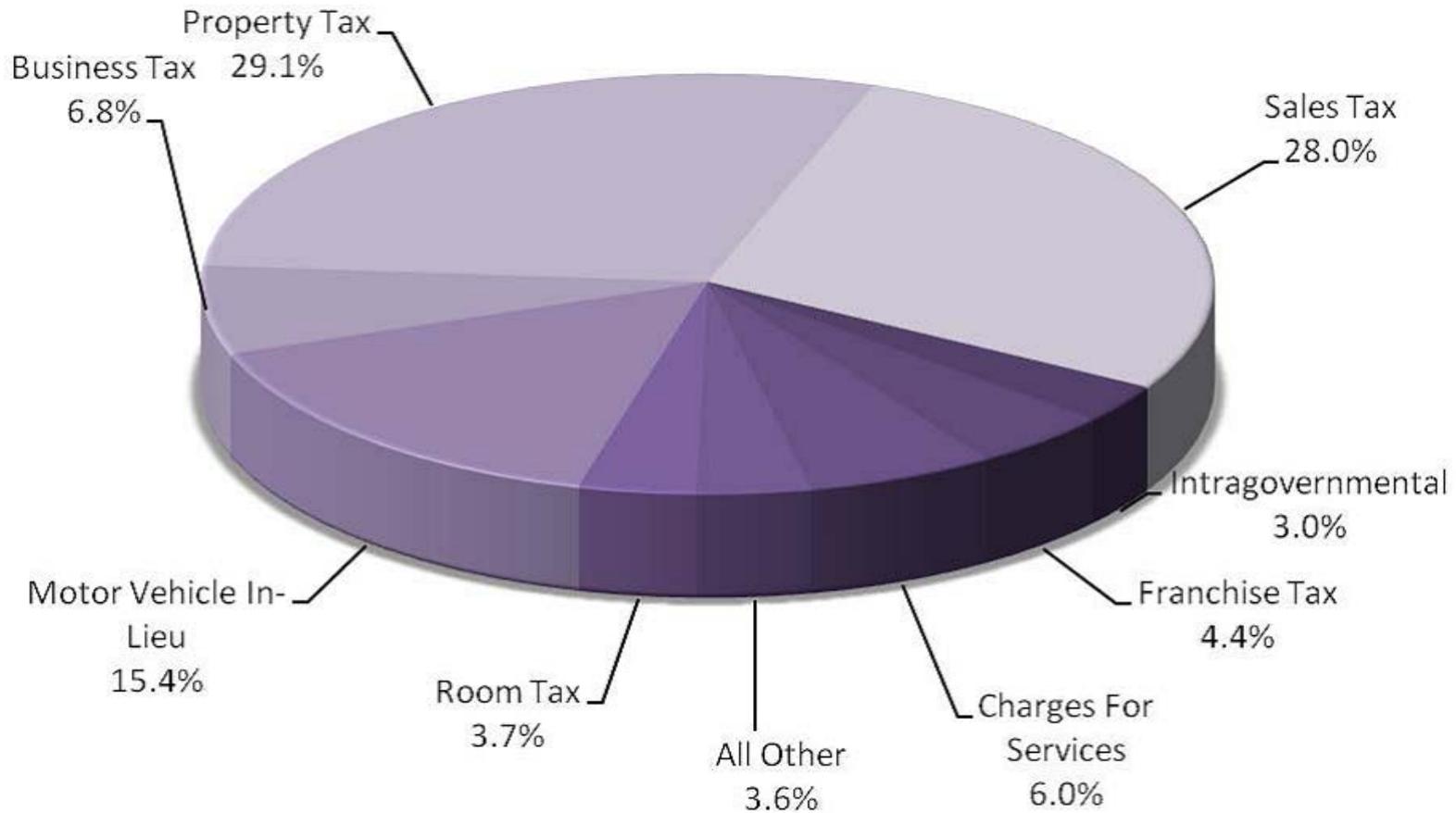
Major Players In Local Government

- **Residents**
- **Mayor/City Council**
- **City Manager**
- **Planning Commission**
- **Developers**
- **Business Owners**
- **Community Groups**
- **And...**



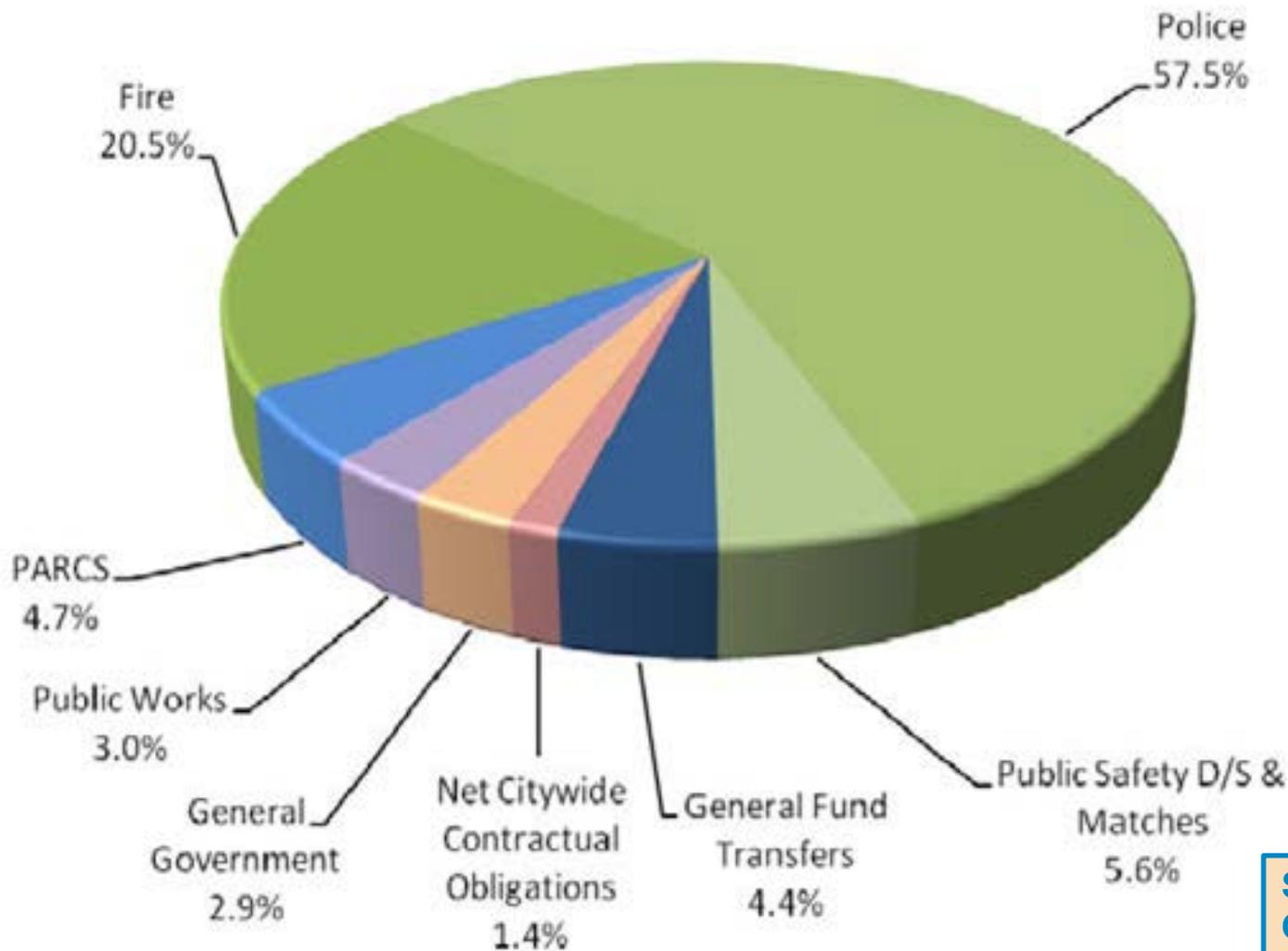
How is local government funded?

Where The Money Comes From...



Sample:
City of Fresno

Where The Money Is Spent..



Sample:
City of Fresno

What City Council and Board of Supervisors Do...

Short Term:

- City Budget
- Police/Sherriff and Fire Departments
- Transportation
- Parks
- Public Utilities
- Infrastructure (sidewalks, roads)
- Health and Human Services (county only)

Long Term:

- General Plan Updates
- Planning (managing growth)

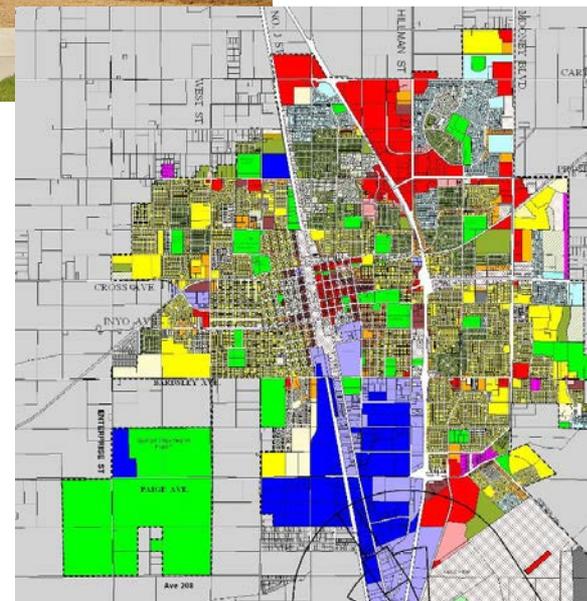
Council and Board considers input from Planning Commission, residents and Community Advisory committees



What This Means For Our Surroundings...

City Councils and Board of Supervisors both decide on:

- Where and how parks are built
- How often parks are maintained
- How many/type of markets in our neighborhood
- Permits for farmers markets and flea markets



Don't Forget Special Districts...

School Districts

- **Decide what students eat**
- **Decide what kinds of drinks students have access to**
- **Decide how much physical education is required**
- **Decide if school grounds are open for community use after school and on weekends**

Water Districts

- **Oversee the quality and availability of potable (tap) water**

Air Districts

- **Oversee the quality of the air we breathe (pollution)**

Transportation Districts

- **Oversee freeways, public transportation**

Other Groups To Know

- **Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)**
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (COG/CAG)**
- **Air District**
- **Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (COG/CAG)**
- **Regional Water Quality Control Board**

You Should Know...

Public Participation (Brown Act):

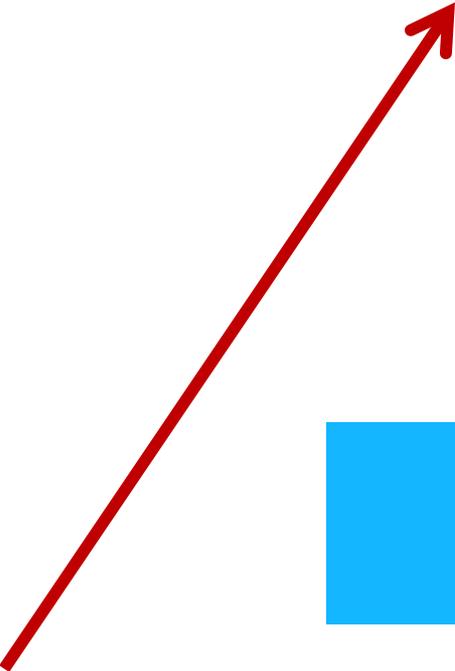
- Must be followed by all Public Boards and Councils.**
- All decisions must be made at public meetings with public notice.**



How You Can Become Involved...



How You Can Be Involved Long-Term



Get Appointed to or Run for a Local
Leadership Position

Build Strong Relationships with
Decision Makers

Increase
Voter Participation

Community Organizing/
Education

How others have become involved...

Local Examples



NEOP Success Story: Parlier drainage canal blossoms into a recreation area

Parlier Drainage Canal Blossoms into a Recreation Area

“These
improvements
have made Parlier
a safer, healthier
place to live.”

*Armando Lopez
Mayor, City of Parlier*

PROBLEM

A lack of safe routes and a pedestrian hazard hindered Parlier residents from walking throughout their community.

SOLUTION

Improve the ability of Parlier residents to walk in their community by filling an open drainage canal and turning it into a skate park for community recreation.

PARTNERS

- U-Save Market
- Mothers and families from Parlier
- Armando Lopez, Mayor of Parlier
- Ishmael Solis, Chief of the Parlier Police Department
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- U.C. Cooperative Extension, Fresno
- *Network for a Healthy California—Latino Campaign, Central Valley Region*
- *Network for a Healthy California—Children’s Power Play! Campaign, Central Valley Region*





“Who Represents You?”



“What Do You Want to Change?”

Contact



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