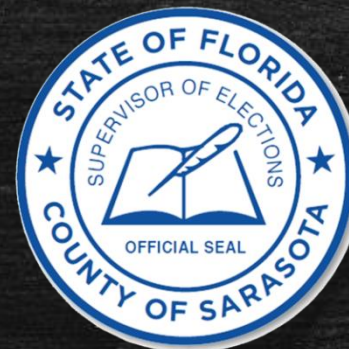




# Civics 101

*A Refresher*



Ron Turner  
Supervisor of Elections  
Sarasota County

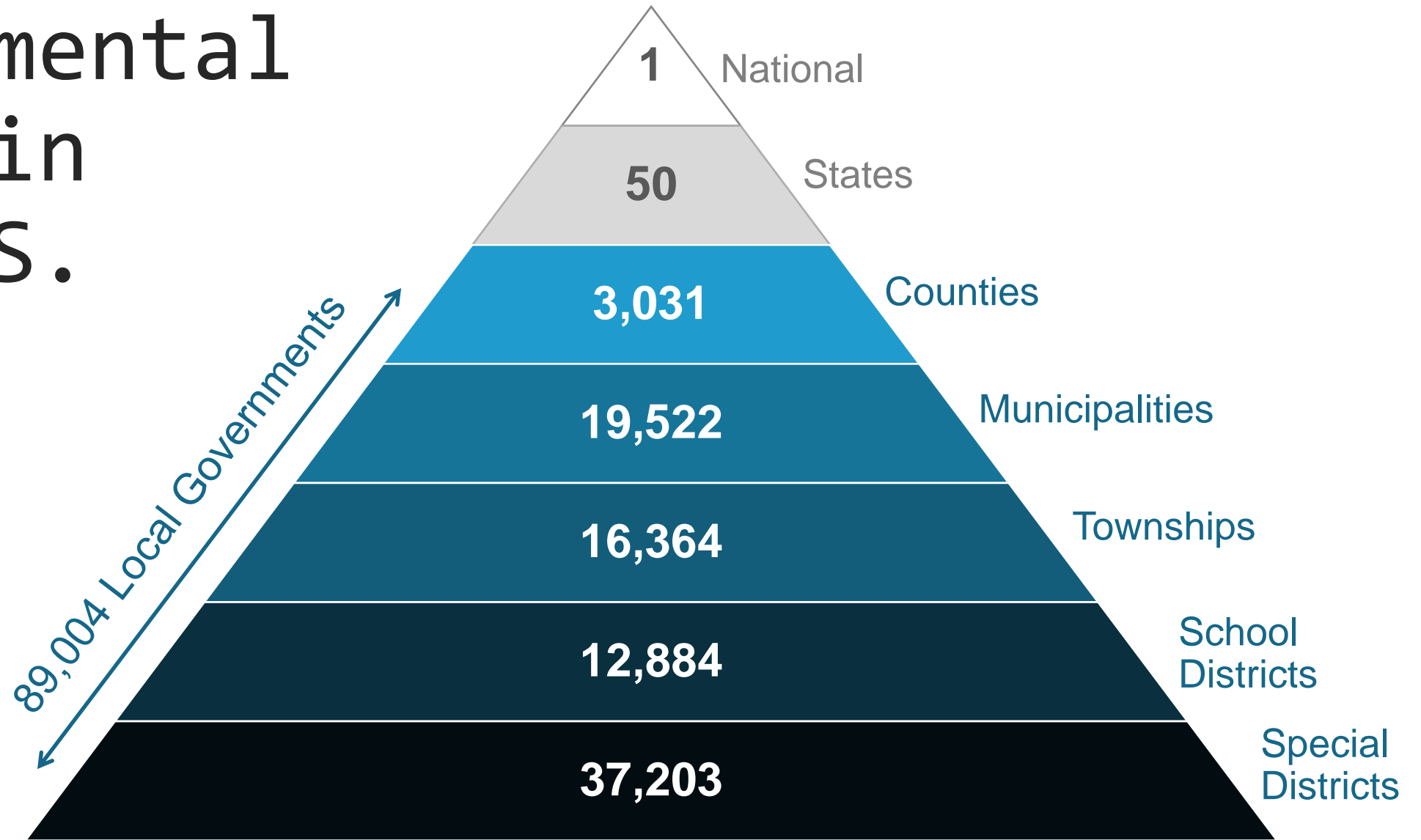
# What is Civics?

Definition of **CIVICS** (*Merriam-Webster* online dictionary)

:the study of the rights and **duties of citizens** and of **how government works.**



# Governmental Units in the U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments

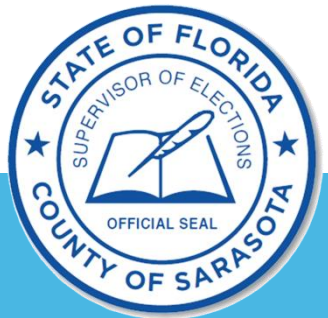
# Civics 101

- Founding Principles / Key Concepts
- Framework of Government (Federal, State, and Local Government)
- Responsibilities of Citizenship



# Founding Principles

- Consent of the Governed
- Separation of Powers
- Federalism





# Consent of the Governed

- Locke's Social Contract Theory
- Self-government (*We the People*)
- Will of the people is expressed through elections
- Government legitimacy

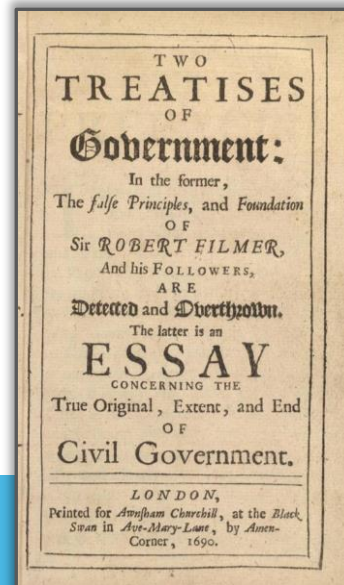
"[Humans] being, as has been said, by nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without . . . consent."

**John Locke**

***Second Treatise of Government (1689)***

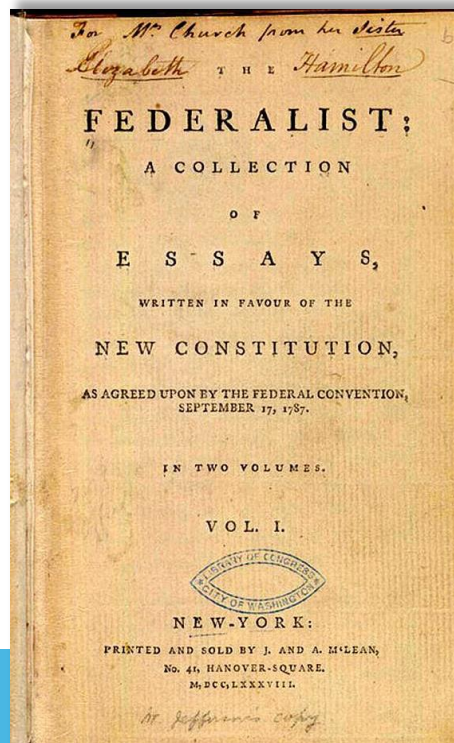
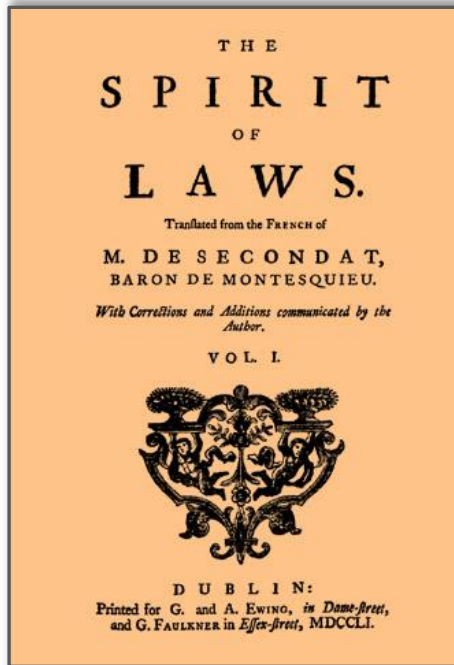
Governments... deriv[e] their just powers from the consent of the governed.

***Declaration of Independence (US 1776)***



# Separation of Powers

- Separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial

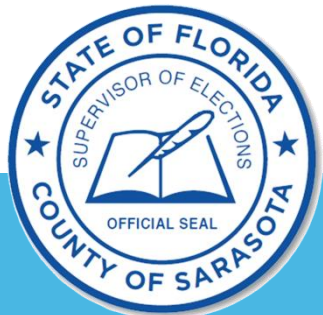


*"When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty... Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive."*

**Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu**  
*The Spirit of the Laws* (1748)

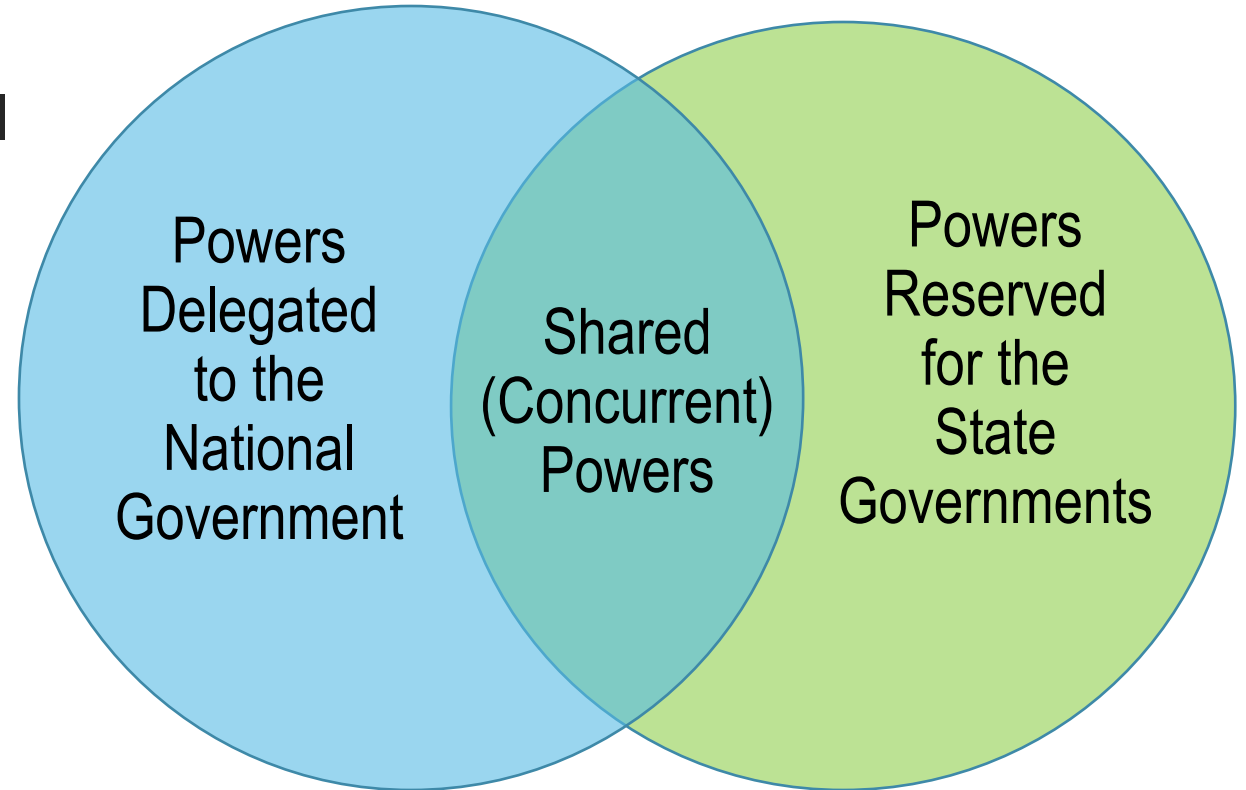
*"The great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same [branch], consists in giving to those who administer each [branch], the necessary constitutional means, and personal motives, to resist encroachments of the others...Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place"*

**James Madison**  
*Federalist No. 51* (1788)



# Federalism

- Division of powers between national and state governments





# United States Constitution



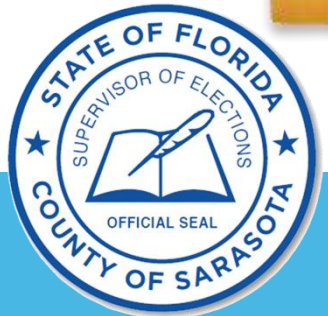
**Supreme Law of the United States**

**Provides the framework for the organization of the United States government**

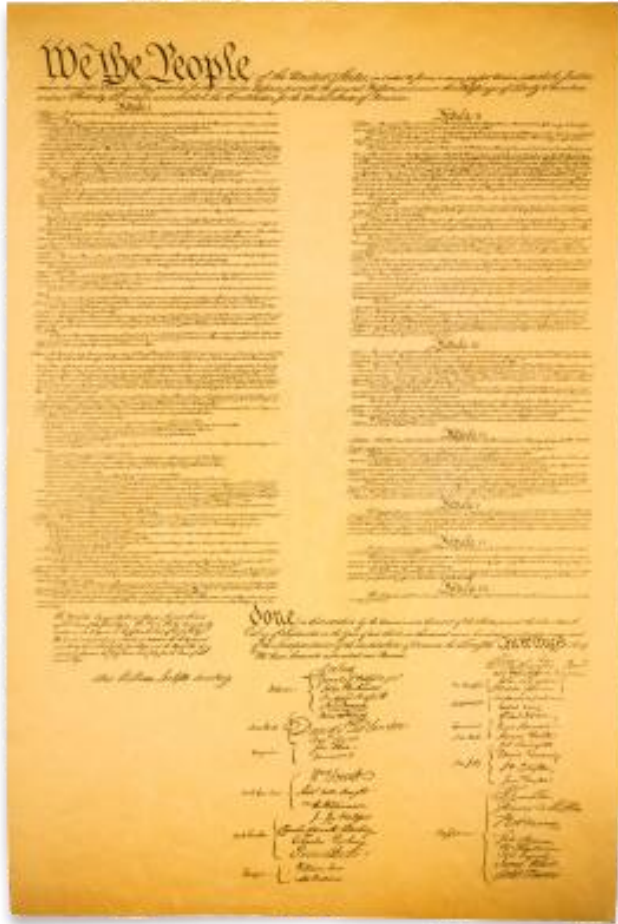
**Protects fundamental rights**

**Amendments**

- 27 amendments
- First ten amendments constitute the Bill of Rights



# United States Constitution



## **Legislative Branch (Article I)**

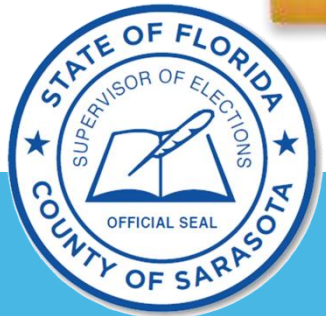
- U.S. Senate/House of Representatives
- Make laws

## **Executive Branch (Article II)**

- President/Executive Agencies
- Enforce laws

## **Judicial Branch (Article III)**

- Supreme Court/Federal Courts
- Interpret laws



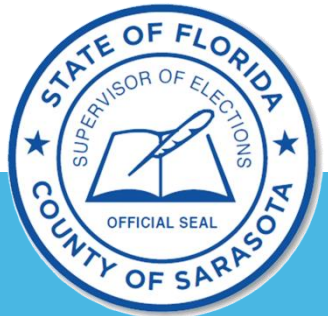
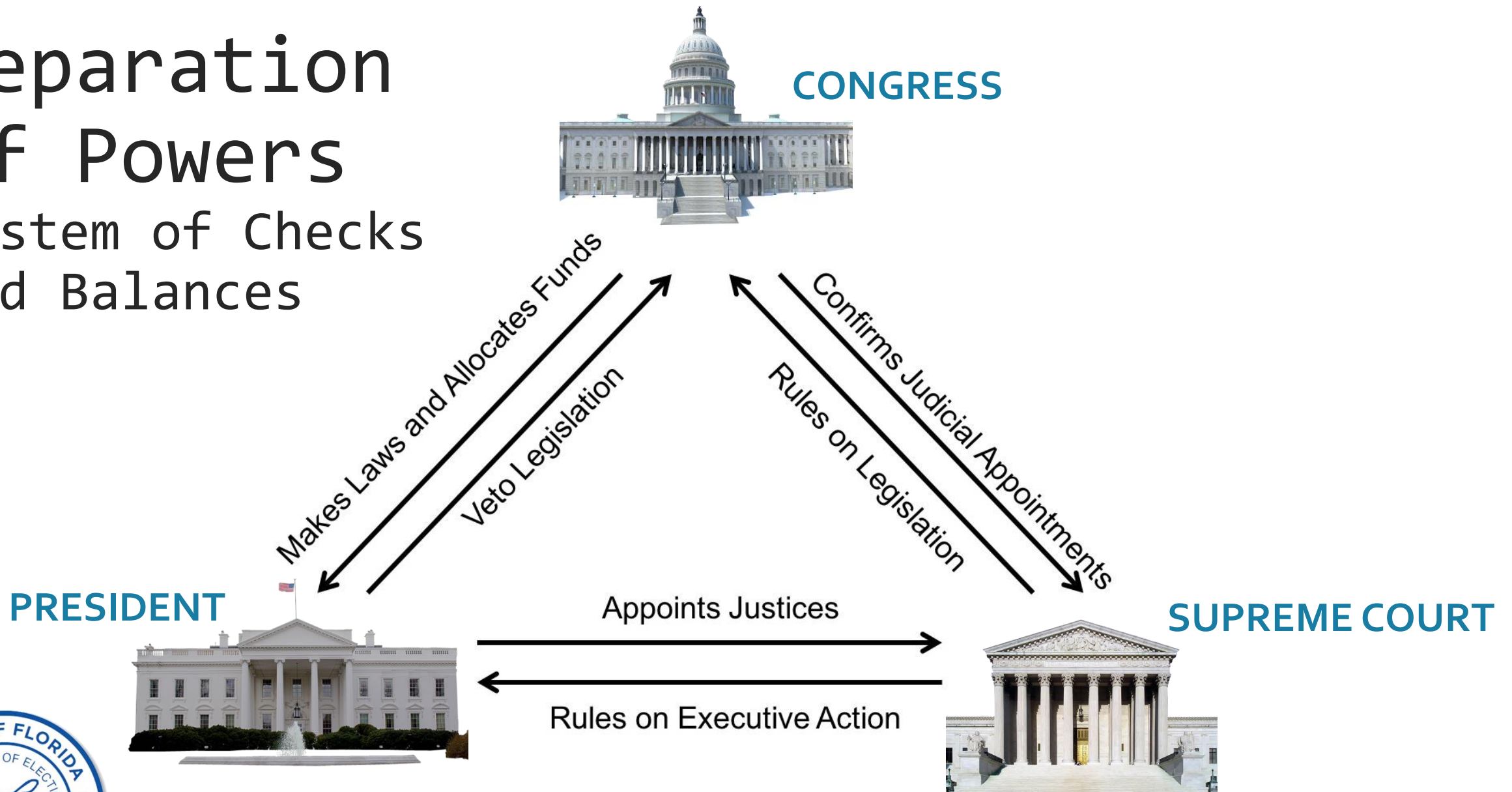


# Federal Government



# Separation of Powers

## System of Checks and Balances



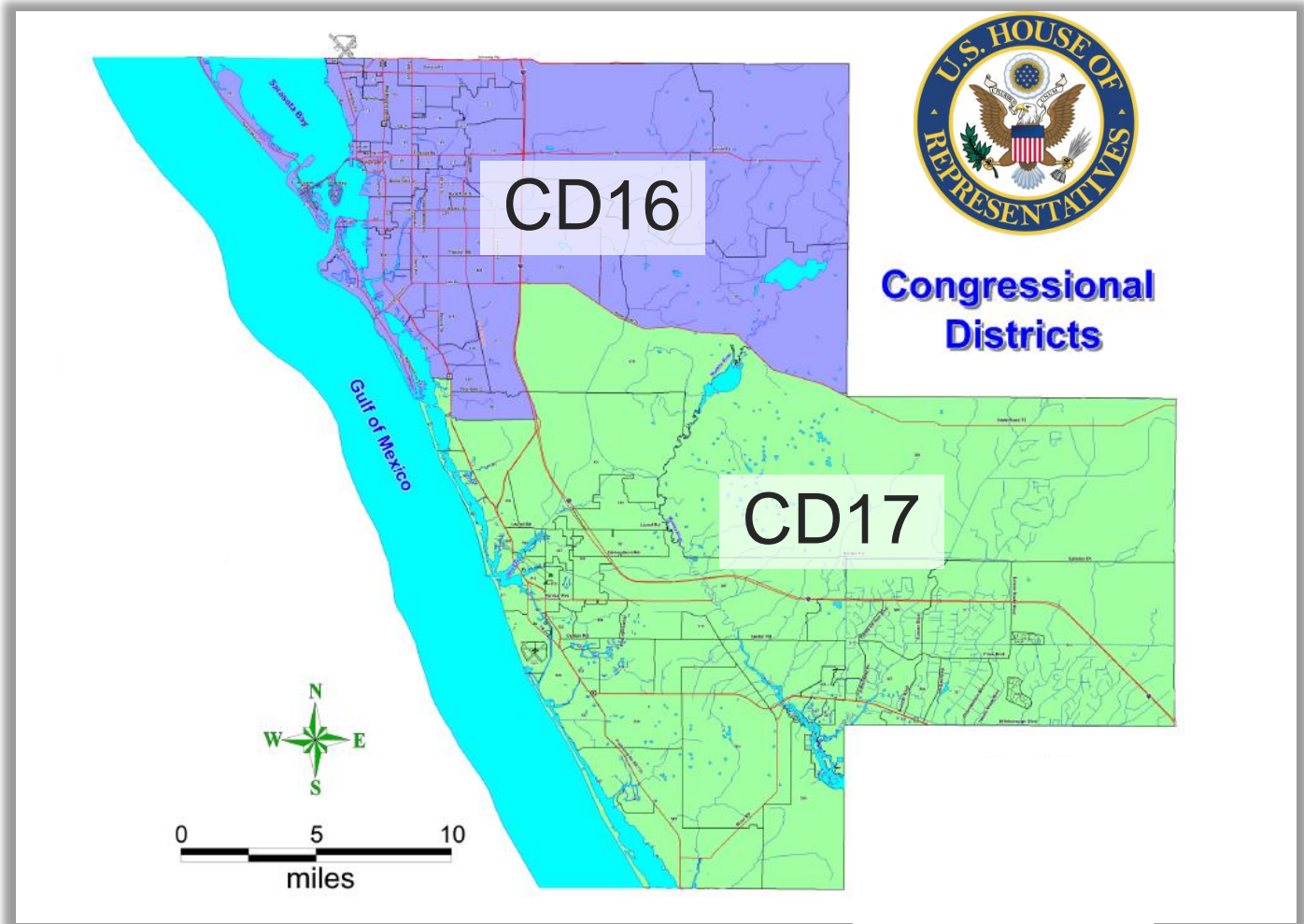


# Florida's Congressional Delegation

2 United States Senators

27 Members of the United States House of Representatives

2 Congressional Districts in Sarasota County – Districts 16 & 17

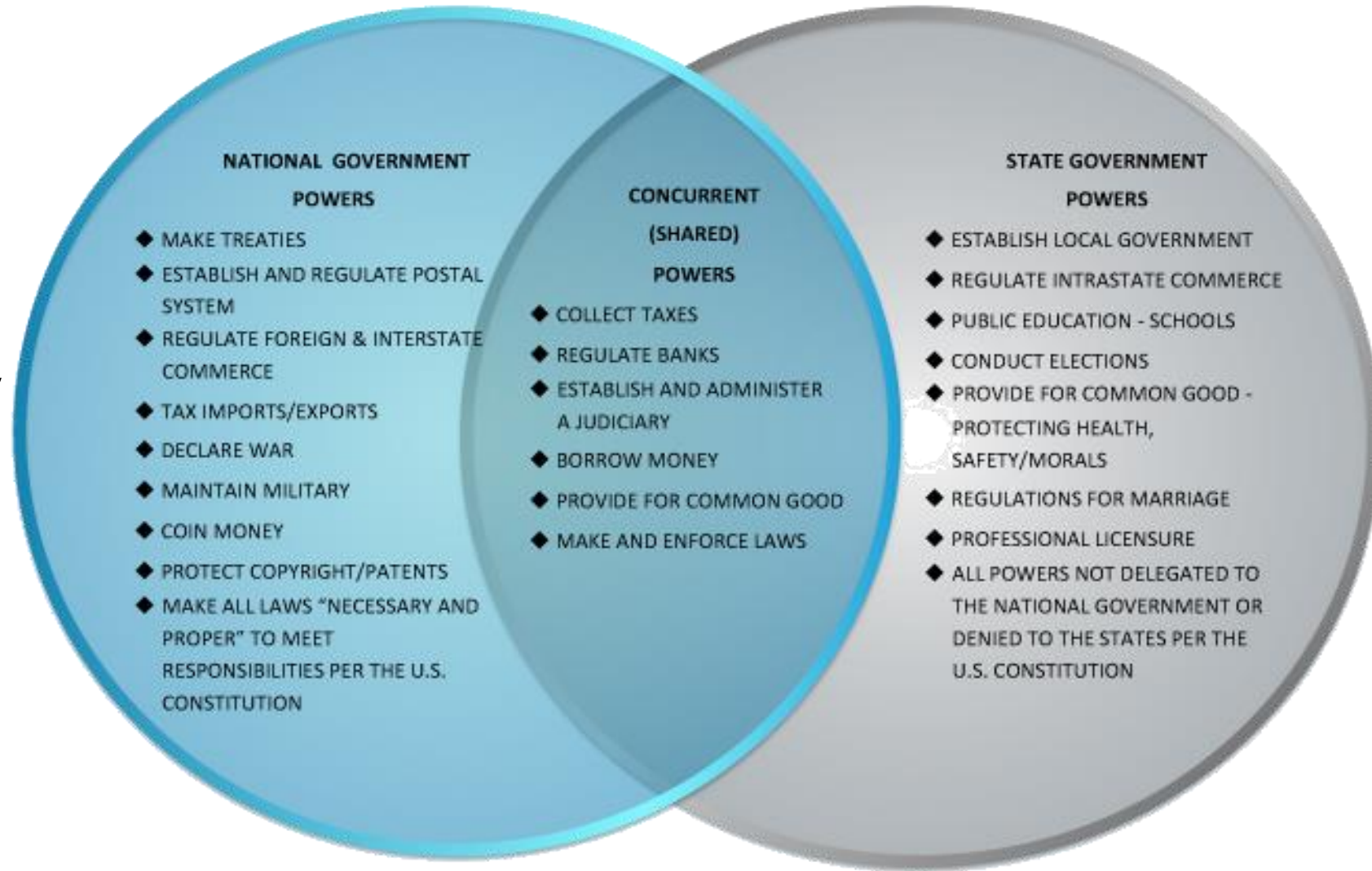




# Federalism in Practice

**“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”**

United States Constitution, Amendment X

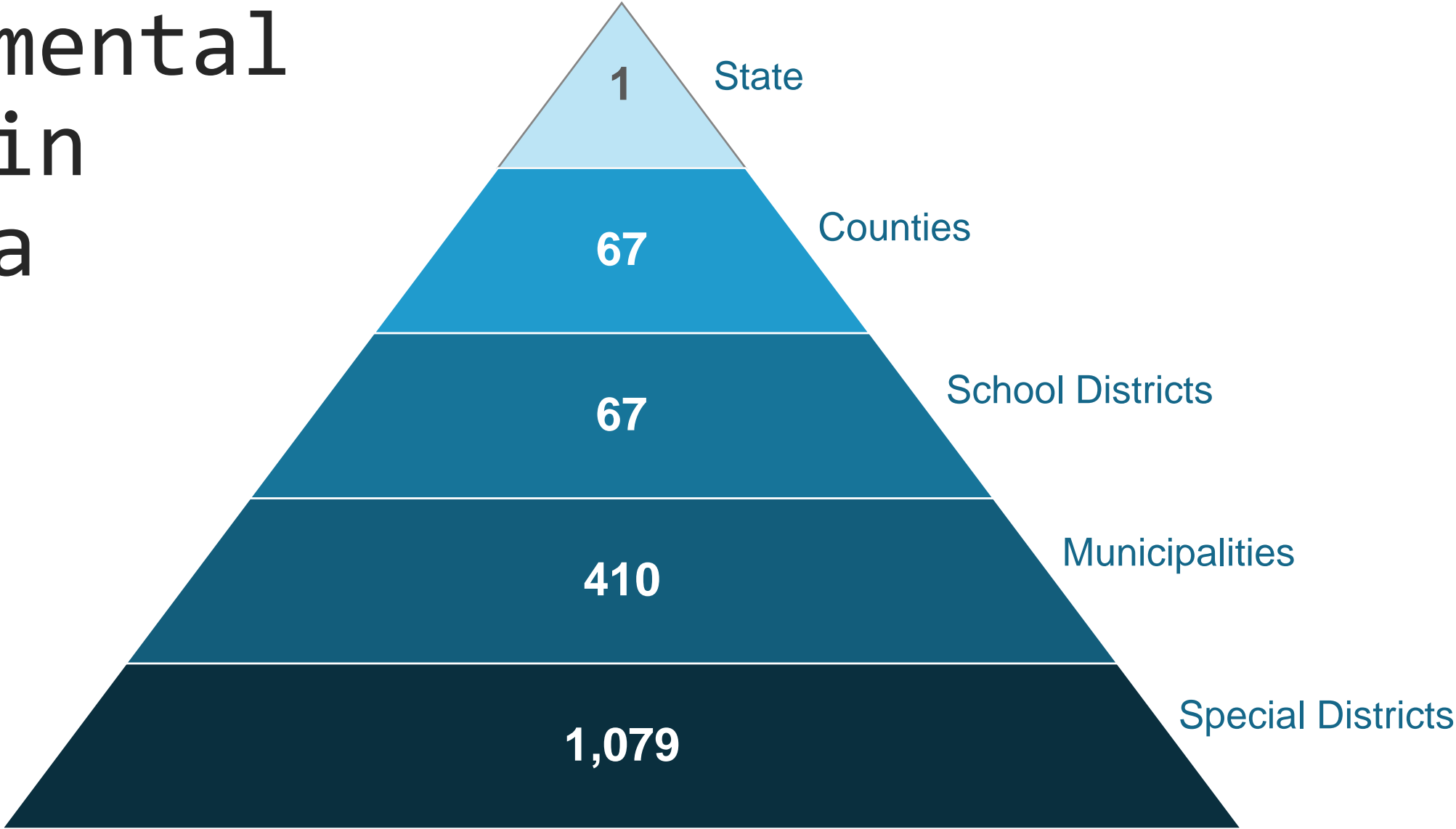




# State Government

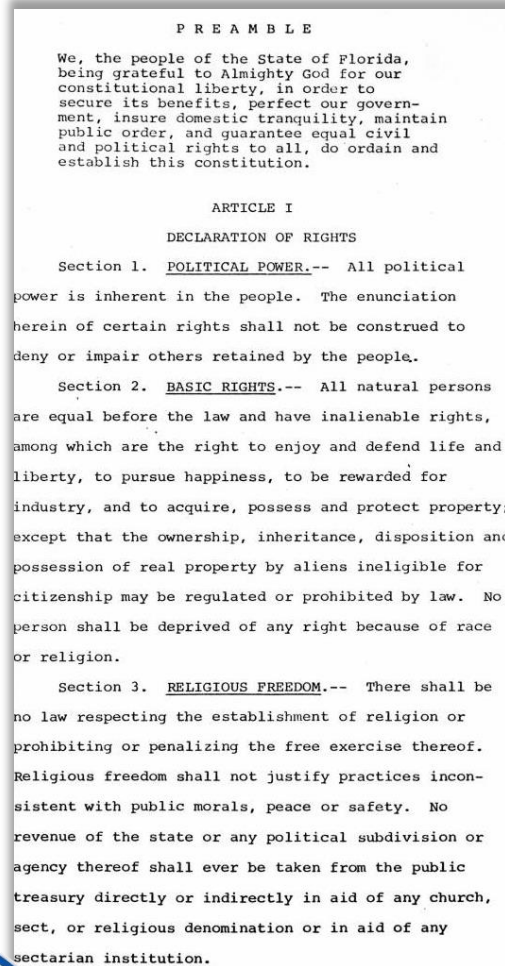


# Governmental Units in Florida



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments

# Florida's 1968 Constitution



## Three Branches of Government (Articles III, IV, & V)

Legislature, Executive, Judiciary

## Local Government (Article VIII)

Counties (Political Subdivisions)

Municipalities

## Education (Article IX)

School Districts; School Boards

Superintendent of Schools



# Three Branches of Florida Government

## **Executive**

Governor

Cabinet (Attorney General, CFO, and Commissioner of Agriculture)

## **Legislative**

Florida Legislature

Florida Senate (40 members)

Florida House of Representatives (120 members)

## **Judicial**

Supreme Court (7 Justices, including Chief Justice)

District Courts of Appeal (5 Appeals Courts)

20 Circuit Courts; 67 County Courts

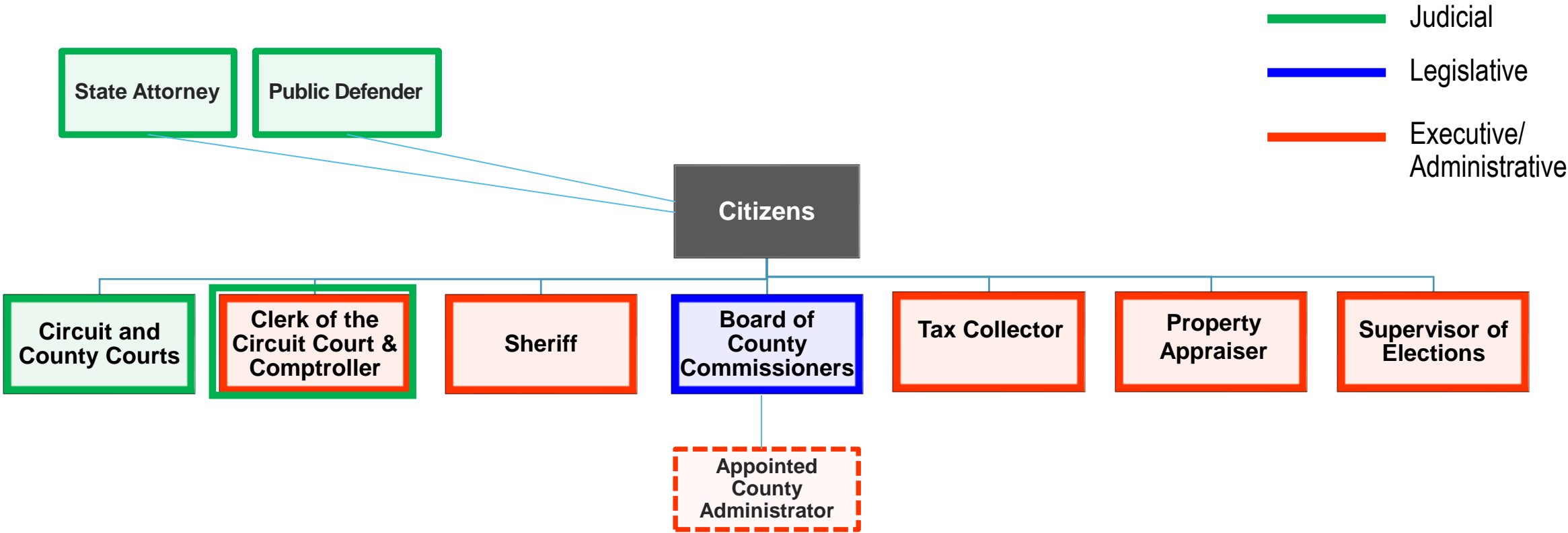




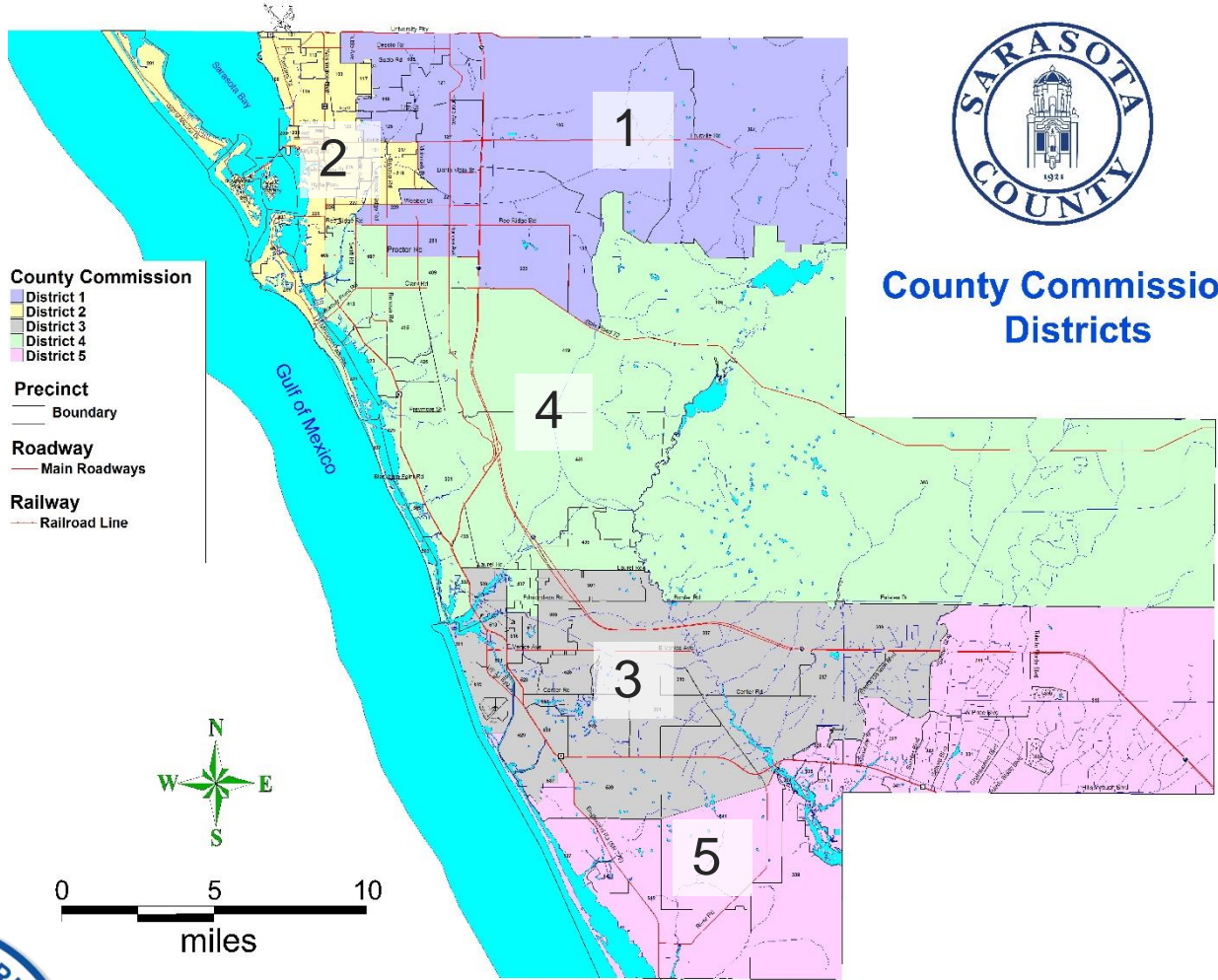
# Local Government



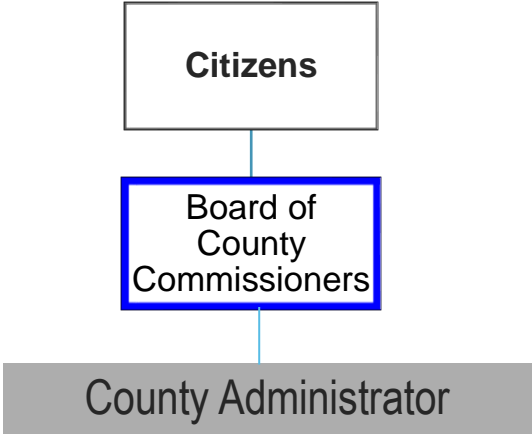
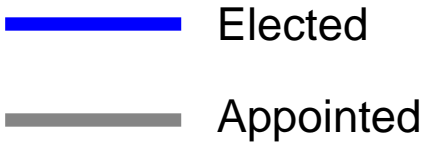
# Sarasota County Government/Elected Offices



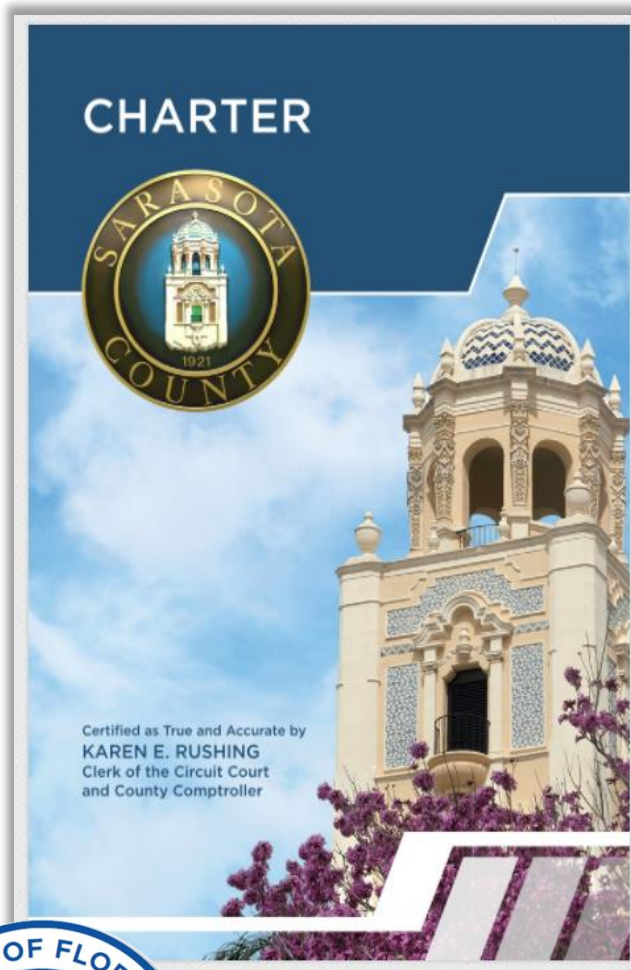
# Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners



County Commission Districts



# Sarasota County Charter



Sarasota County Charter adopted on November 3, 1971

Local self-government

Established organization of county government (Article II)

Set up an elected Charter Review Board

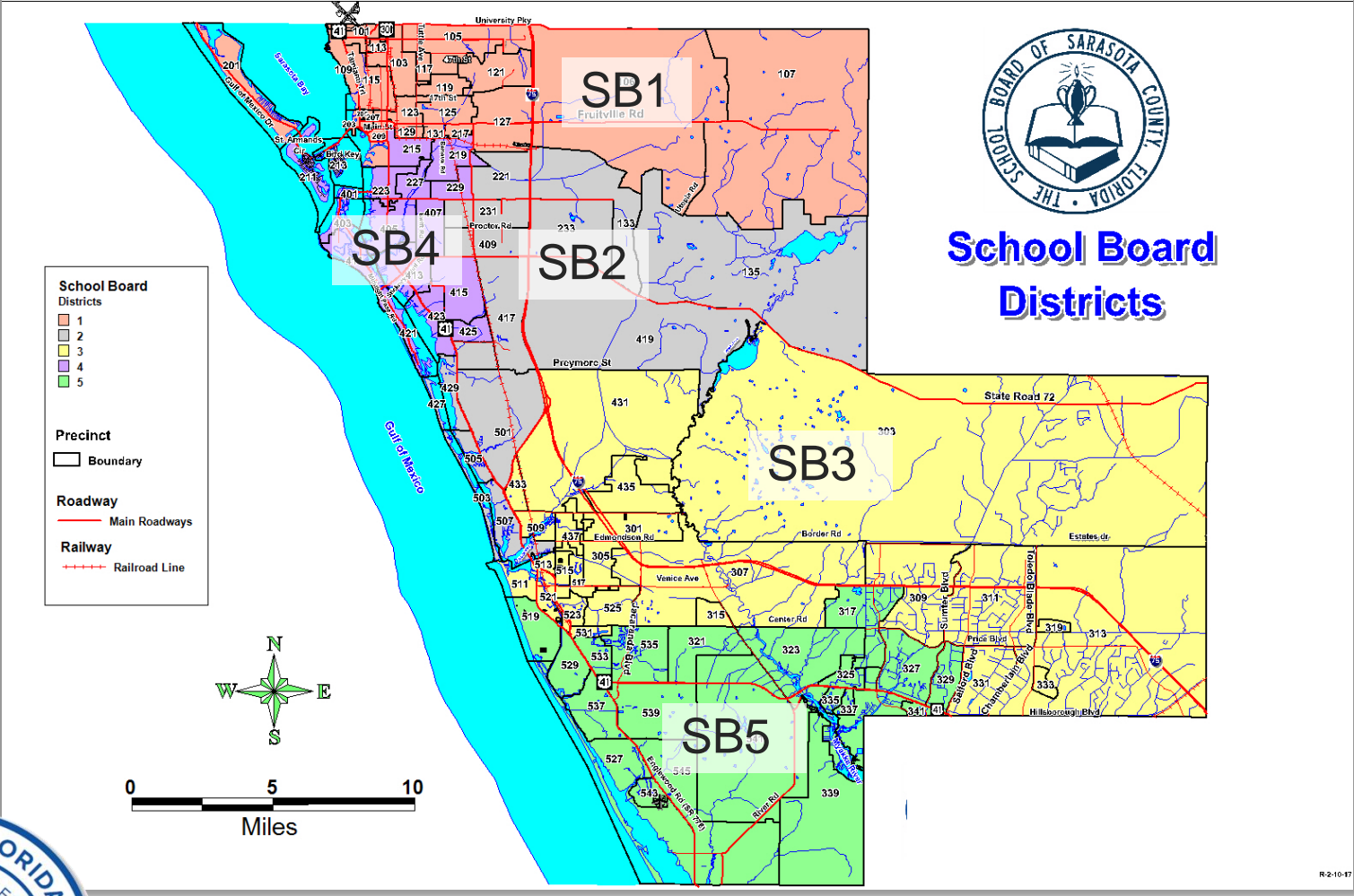
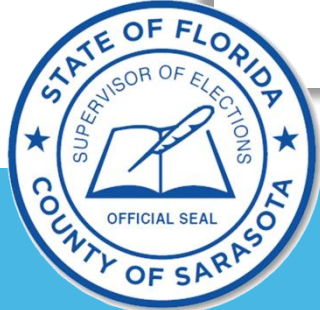
- 10 members; 2 in each commission district

Charter revision methods

- Petitions signed by 10% of registered voters
- Act of the Florida Legislature
- Ordinance by Board of County Commissioners
- Recommendation by Charter Review Board



# Sarasota County School District



**School Board  
Districts**

**Elected**  
**Appointed**

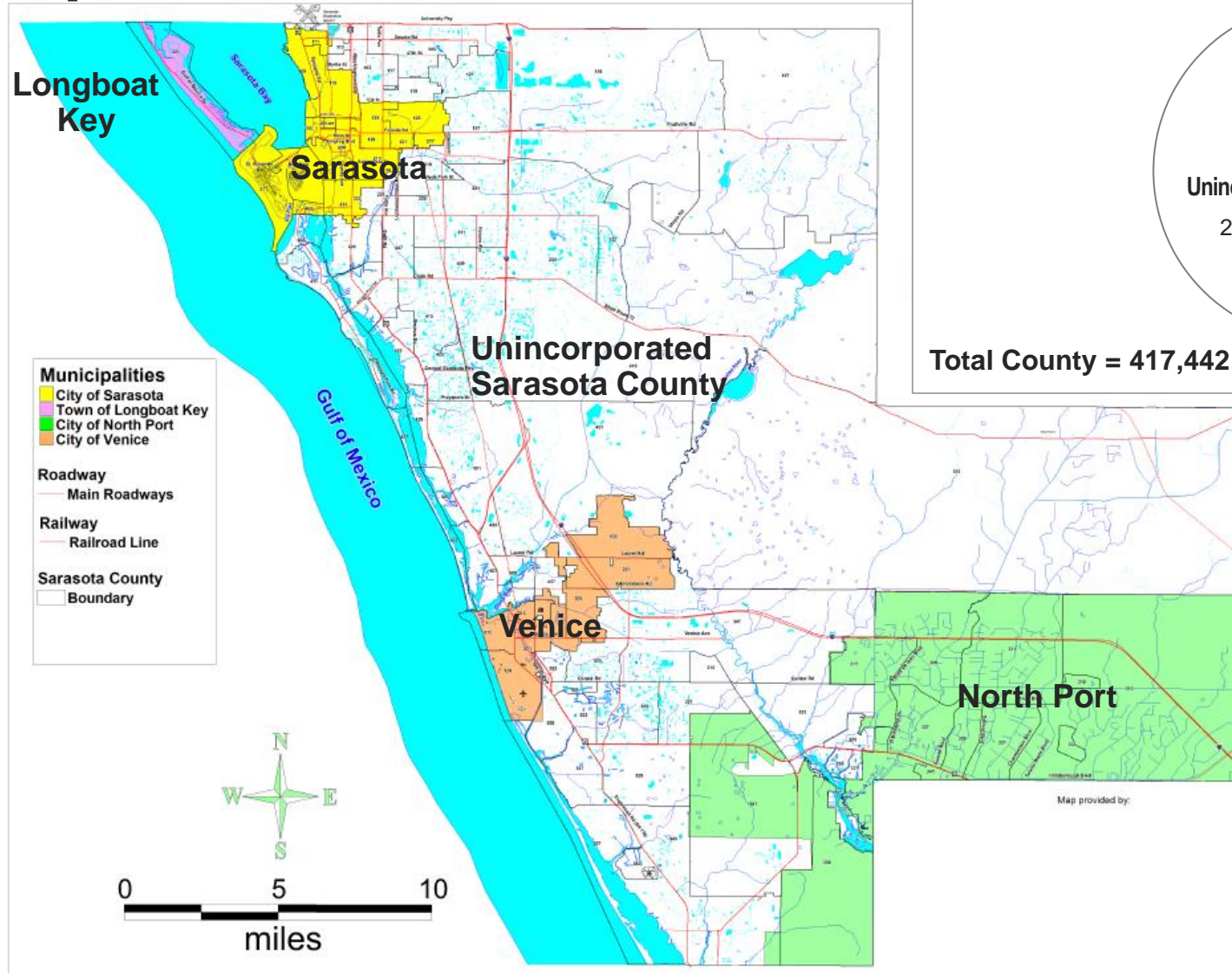
**Citizens**

**School  
Board**

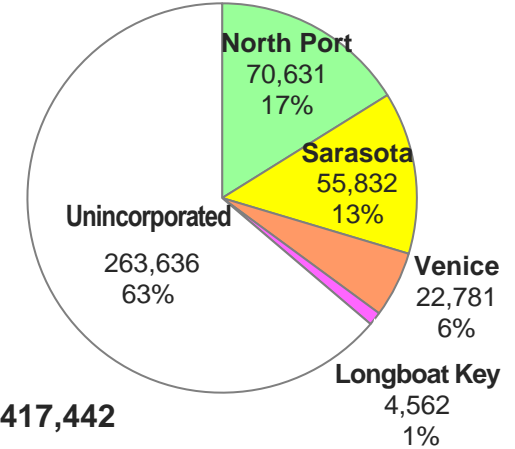
**Superintendent of Schools**



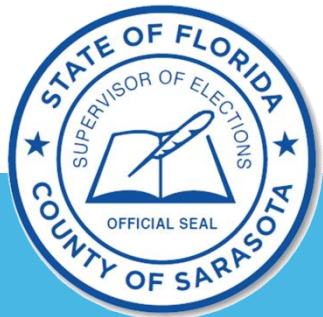
# Municipalities



**Sarasota County Population 2018\***



**Total County = 417,442**



\*Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

# Municipal Governments

## Town of Longboat Key (3 year terms)

- 7 Commissioners
- Elected at-large (5 district seats; 2 at-large seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

## City of North Port (4 year terms)

- 5 Commissioners
- Elected at-large (residential district seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

## City of Sarasota (4 years terms)

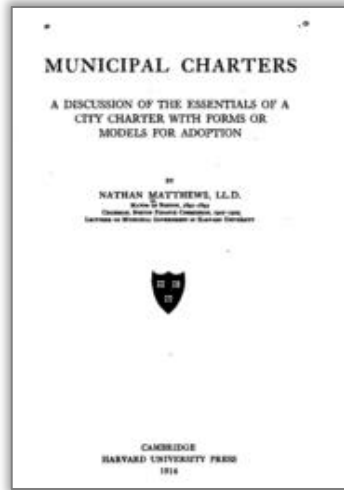
- 5 Commissioners
- Elected at-large and in districts (3 single-member district seats; 2 at-large seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

## City of Venice (3 year terms)

- 6 Council Members plus Mayor
- Elected at-large
- Elected Mayor



# Form & Function of Municipal Governments

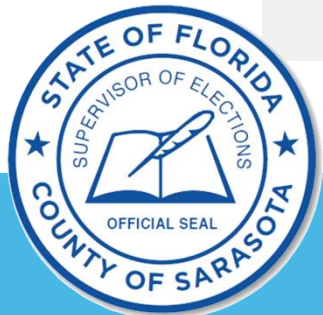


Voluntary government

Home rule (local self-government)

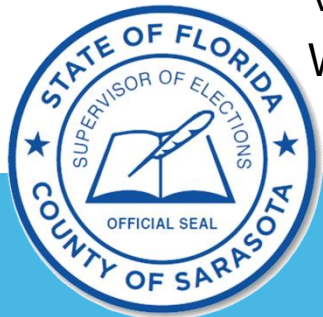
Florida Constitution & Municipal Home Rules Powers Act

## Council/Commission-Manager Form of Government



# Special Districts

Sarasota County Public Hospital District	(4 Year Term)
Blackburn Creek Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Bobcat Trail Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Englewood Area Fire Control District	(4 Year Term)
Englewood Water District	(4 Year Term)
Holiday Park - Park & Recreation District	(2 Year Term)
Lakeside Plantation Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Sarasota National Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Sarasota Soil & Water Conservation District	(4 Year Term)
Stoneybrook At Venice Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
The Woodlands Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Toscana Isles Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
Tri-Par Estates - Park & Recreation District	(3 Year Term)
Venetian Community Development District	(4 Year Term)
West Villages Improvement District	(4 Year Term)

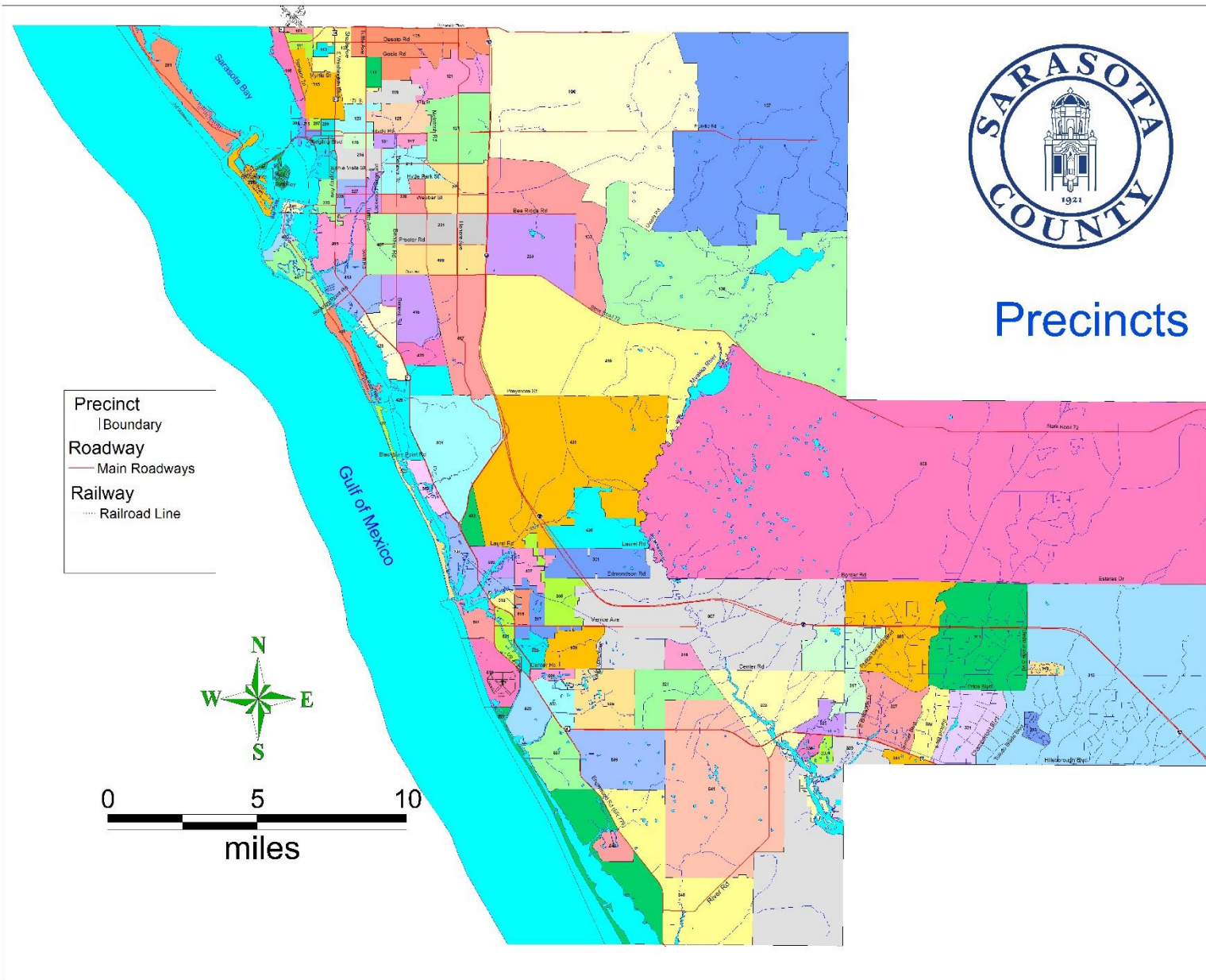




# Sarasota County Precincts



Precincts





# County Canvassing Boards



2000



2018

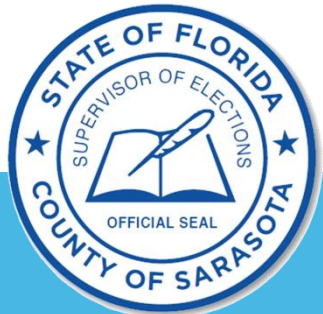


# County Canvassing Boards

Canvassing Board Members	Alternate Members*	Substitute Members**
County Court Judge (Canvassing Board Chair)	Alternate County Court Judge or Qualified Elector (appointed by Chief Judge)	Qualified Elector (appointed by Chief Judge)
Chair, Board of County Commissioners	Alternate County Commissioner or Qualified Elector (appointed by BCC Chair)	County Commissioner (appointed by BCC)
Supervisor of Elections	No Alternate for Supervisor of Elections	County Commissioner (appointed by BCC Chair)

\*If a canvassing board member is unable to participate in a meeting, the canvassing board chair shall designate which alternate member will serve. §102.141(1)(e) 3. Fla. Stat.

\*\*If a substitute or alternate canvassing board member cannot be appointed as provided, the chief judge shall appoint a substitute or alternate who is a qualified elector. § 102.141(1) (d) . Fla. Stat.



# Florida Elections

- Three Ways to Vote
  - Vote by Mail
  - Vote Early
  - Vote on Election Day
- Closed Primary
- Voter registration books close 29 days before each election
- Online Voter Registration - [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov)



# Sarasota County Voter Registration

as of 6/9/2021

POLITICAL PARTY	VOTERS
Florida Democratic Party	107,230
Republican Party of Florida	148,753
Other	95,308
<b>TOTAL REGISTERD VOTERS</b>	<b>350,841</b>



# Remember Franklin's Challenge

"A republic, if you can  
keep it."

Benjamin Franklin, 1787

