

## *Federalism: Comparing California Counties*

**Directions:** You will explore how different counties in California handle policy issues under federalism. As a group, you will do research and provide answers to the questions below on Google slides (With an image of your county). Once this is done, you will then go around to other groups and see how similar or different their answers are. Then you will answer the questions focusing on comparing and contrasting other counties on a piece of paper.

### *1. Wildfires & Disasters*

Does your county have a high risk of wildfires, floods, or earthquakes? (Yes/No)

Who is most responsible for handling disasters in your county?

- County (local fire department, sheriff)
- State (CAL FIRE, Office of Emergency Services)
- Federal (FEMA, National Guard)

### *2. Housing & Homelessness*

Is housing in your county affordable or expensive? (Affordable / Expensive)

Who plays the biggest role in funding or managing homelessness solutions in your county?

- County (local shelters, services, policies)
- State (funding programs, housing laws)
- Federal (HUD, funding for housing programs like Section 8)

### *3. Roads & Public Transportation*

Does your county rely more on cars or public transportation? (Mostly Cars / Some Public Transit / Strong Public Transit)

Who is responsible for maintaining major roads and transportation in your county?

- County (local road repairs, bus systems, transit planning)
- State (highways, major funding, state transit systems)
- Federal (interstate highways, large infrastructure projects)

### *4. Law Enforcement & Crime*

Who primarily enforces laws in your county?

- County (Sheriff's Office, local police departments)
- State (California Highway Patrol, Attorney General)
- Federal (FBI, DEA, border patrol, federal courts)

Are there any major law enforcement challenges in your county?

- Drug issues, gang activity, border security, crime rates, or other concerns?

Comparison Questions

- 1) Which counties had similar answers to yours?
- 2) Which counties handled most issues on their own? Why do you think that is?
- 3) What problem seemed the hardest to solve for most counties?
- 4) How does geography and location change what a county needs?
- 5) How does federalism allow counties to handle issues differently?

