Sai Gatram sxg130831 **GOVT 2305.001**

Federalism affects me personally because many of the things that are part of my life are given by a governing entity. Whether it be my public education, the public goods I receive, or even the federal loans that I have, the government plays a large role in all of this. Federalism allows the local and national governments to make sure my needs are met in a better way. Because of the powers delegated to Texas, the state of Texas can chose what is in my school curriculum and provide public goods to some extent. Federalism also affects the community around me. Not only do we have national elections, we also have local elections. These elections are integral in order to delegate who makes these choices that affect us all. Also most of the law enforcing goes on in a local level. This means that whenever people get speeding tickets they are being imposed a fine from a municipal council and not the federal government. Basically, federalism allows the local governments to take care of the more personal issues that need to be handled on a smaller scale. The federal government usually handles large issues such as the affordable healthcare act and providing funding for local projects. The local governments take care of things like deciding the curriculum, lawmaking and enforcing, and public good delivery. In the documentary, “The Storm” the local government was overwhelmed by the storm, so they insisted on getting help from the federal organization FEMA. Since the issue could not be handled by just the local governments, FEMA, had to come down and help with the aid process. This shows how the federal and local governments interact. Whenever the state governments need help, the national government usually has an institution created to help them out. This isn’t all though, the federal government also gives the local governments most of their funding. This funding is usually through grants. A good example of where the national government uses grants to get where they want can be seen though the national drinking age. By putting highway money on the line, the national government forced the state governments to change the drinking age to 21.