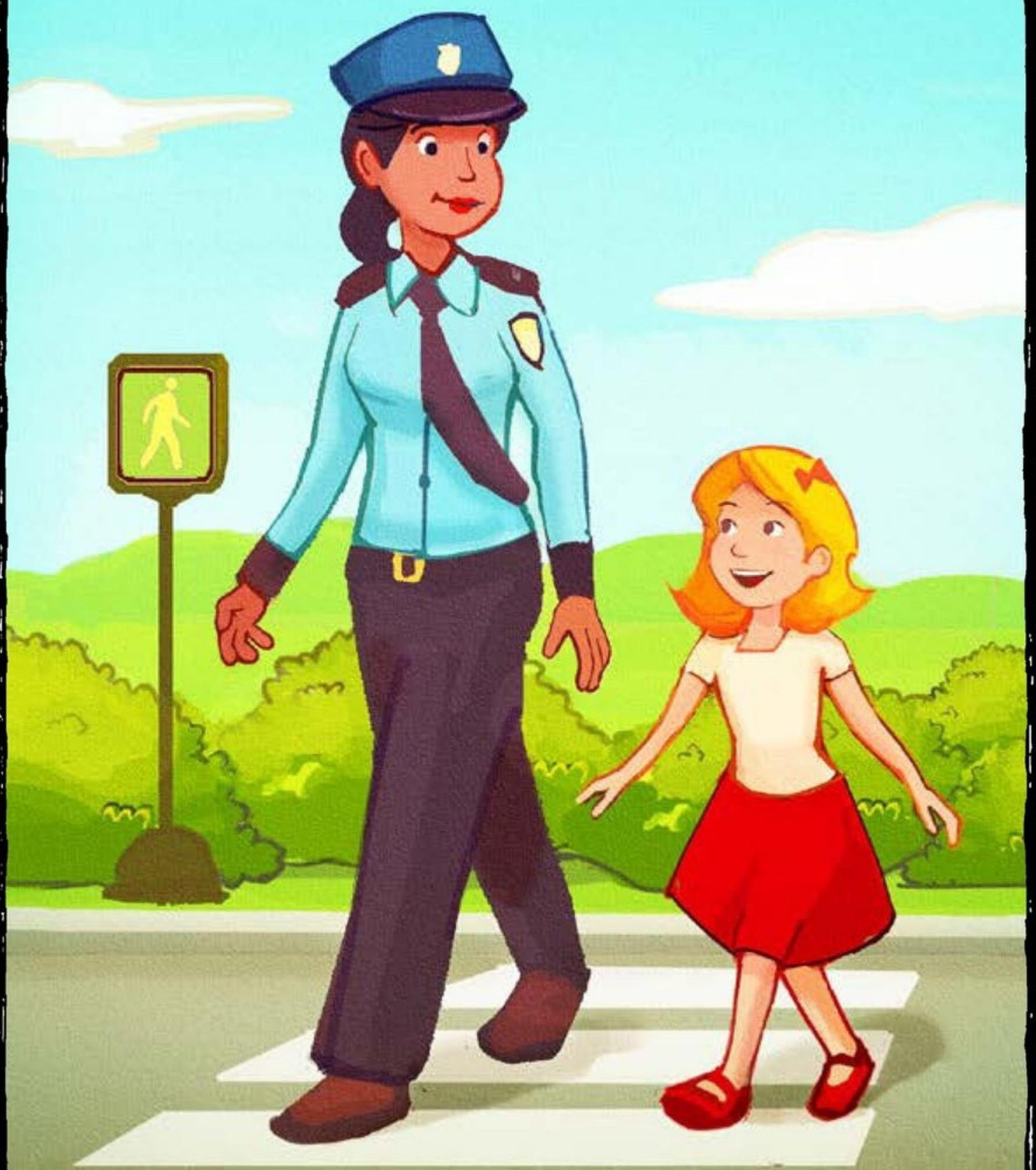


LEVELED Book • K

Community Government



Written by Marcie Aboff • Illustrated by Arthur Lin

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
City Government Leaders	5
Laws in a Community	9
Other Jobs in the Community ...	13
Conclusion	14
Glossary	16



Introduction

A **community** is a place where people live, work, and play. A community can be large, like a city, or small, like a town or village. People run their community with a **government**. The people in the government are part of the community.



City Government Leaders

The **mayor** is the leader of the community. If someone wants to be mayor, he or she runs in an **election**.



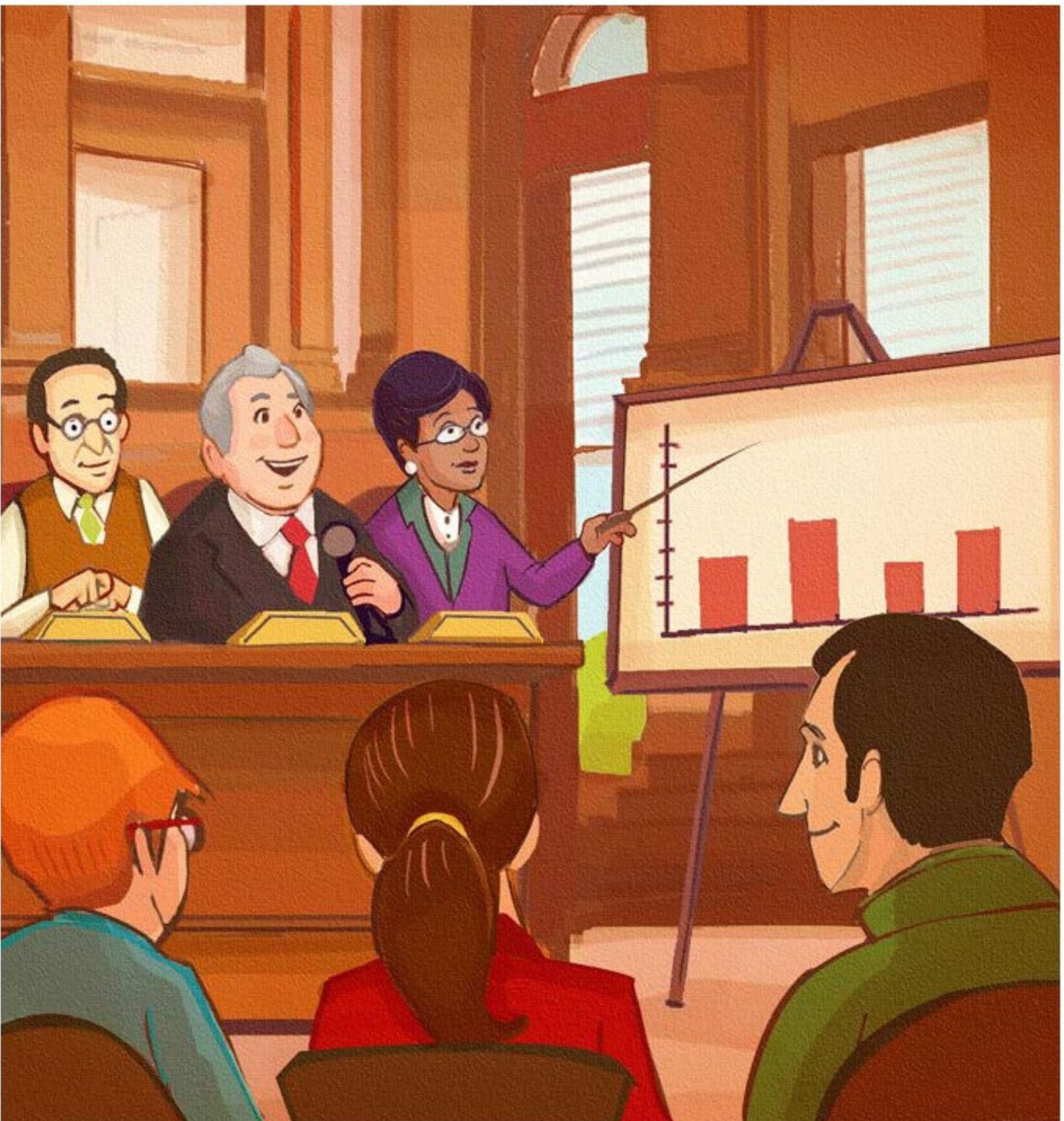
When people vote, they make a choice. People vote for a mayor in an election every two or four years. People vote for the person they think will be the best mayor. The person with the most votes becomes mayor.



More Community Departments

The Department of Public Works gets rid of garbage and keeps the city clean.

The mayor is in charge of many **departments**, such as the police department and the fire department.



The mayor is usually in charge of the town or city **council**. The council decides how money is spent in the community. It might spend money to build or fix roads, buildings, and parks. It has meetings for people to talk about ideas for the community.



More Community Departments

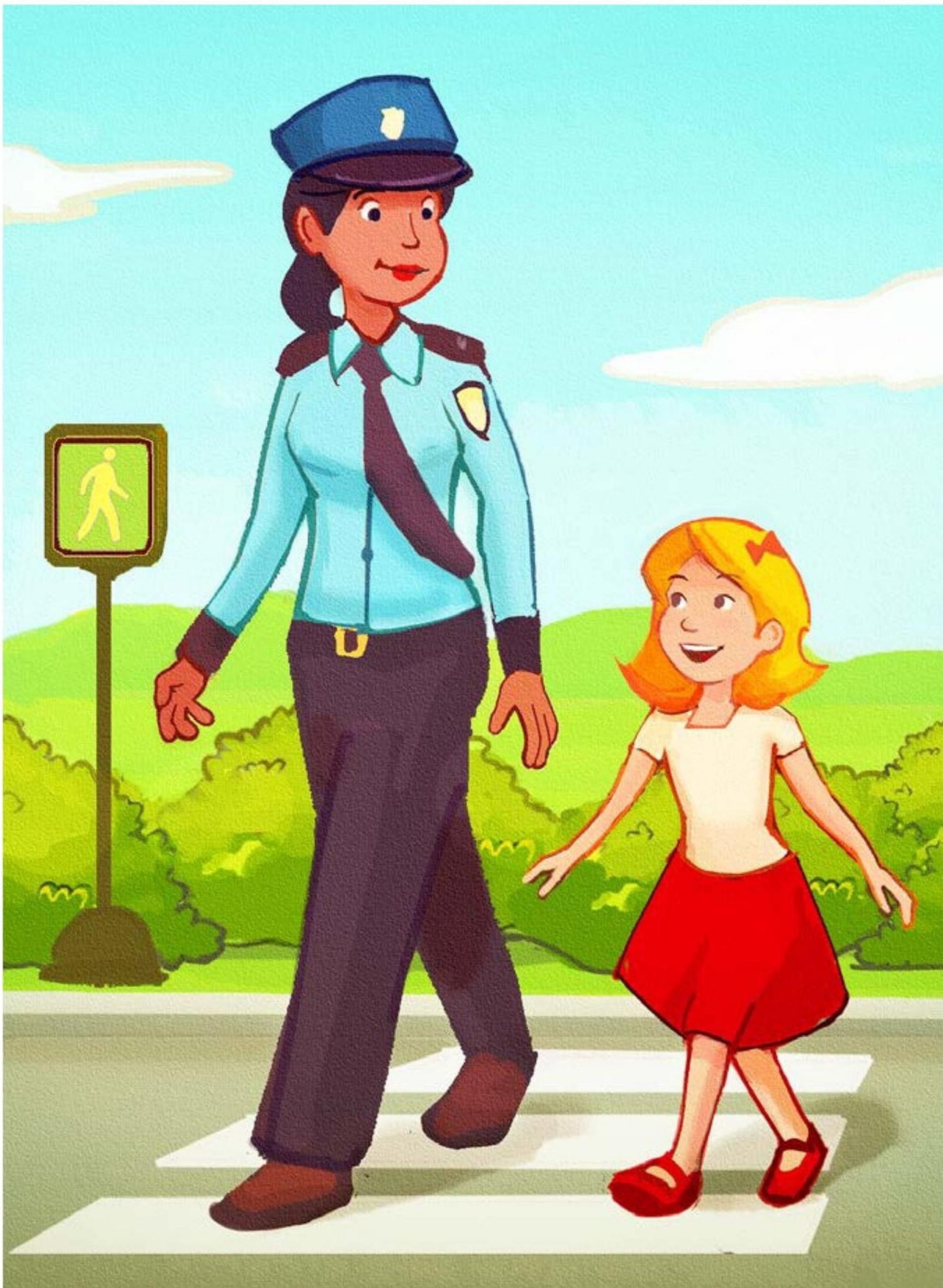
The Transportation Department keeps the roads clear. When roads are clear, drivers can travel safely.

Laws in a Community

The mayor and council also work together to make laws. Laws are important.



A community needs laws to keep people safe and keep the community clean. Some laws say how fast cars can go on the roads. Other laws say people must not throw their trash on the ground.



Police officers make sure people follow the laws. They also help people who are in trouble.



When people break the laws, they may go to court. In court, a judge or a jury decides whether someone broke the law. A judge is the head of the court. A jury is a group of people from the community. The jury listens to both sides and decides whether someone broke the law. Sometimes there is no jury, and the judge decides. If the judge or jury decides that someone broke the law, the judge decides the punishment.



Other Jobs in the Community

Other people in the government also help the community. Firefighters put out fires and help people get away from fires. Emergency workers help people who are sick or hurt. They may take people to a hospital.



Conclusion

The community government is important. It makes a difference in the lives of people every day. The government gives people in a community a good and safe place to live.



People can make a difference in their government, too. They can run in an election. They can vote. They can speak at community meetings. They can also offer to help in parks and other places.

What can you do to make a difference?

Glossary

community (n.)	a group of people who live in the same place or have similar qualities or interests (p. 4)
council (n.)	a group of people chosen to be in charge of something (p. 8)
departments (n.)	separate parts of a large organization, such as a business, government, or university (p. 7)
election (n.)	the act of selecting a person for government office by voting (p. 5)
government (n.)	a group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area (p. 4)
mayor (n.)	the leader of a city or town's government (p. 5)

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DRA	18