



L I F E S K I L L S
H A N D B O O K S

Community *Resources*

- Your Taxes at Work
- Emergency Assistance
- Services for Workers
- Services for Citizens

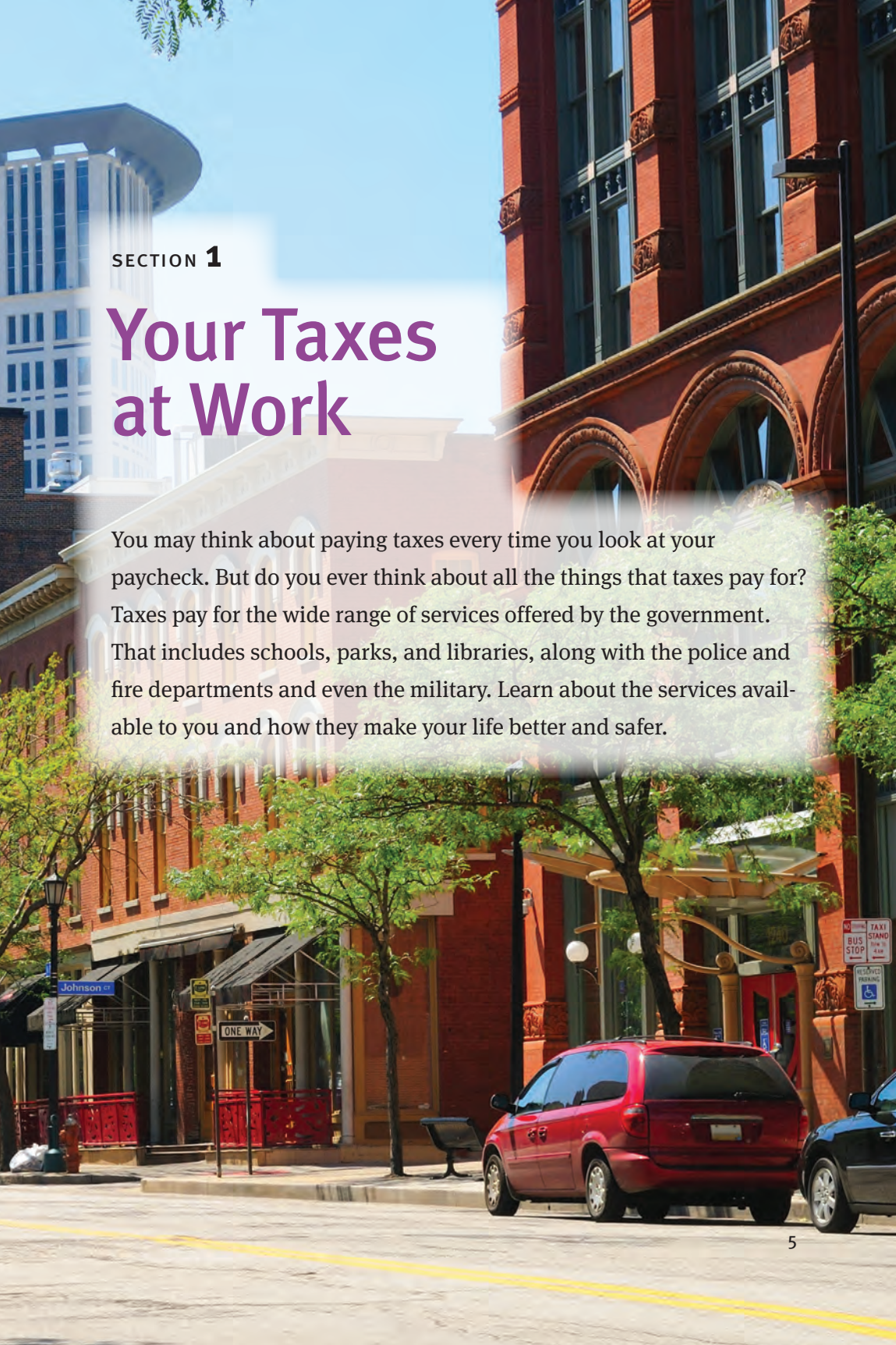
**PRIMARY
ELECTION**
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER



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SECTION 1

Your Taxes at Work

You may think about paying taxes every time you look at your paycheck. But do you ever think about all the things that taxes pay for? Taxes pay for the wide range of services offered by the government. That includes schools, parks, and libraries, along with the police and fire departments and even the military. Learn about the services available to you and how they make your life better and safer.



Spending Less While Doing More

Malea was happy to be going back to college. She'd dropped out two years ago. At that time, she'd felt as though she didn't really know what she wanted to do.

Now, Malea knew she wanted to be a pharmacy assistant. It would take two years to get her degree. But after that, she was sure to get a good job, her instructors told her.

While going to school, Malea would have to cut back her hours at work. And working fewer hours would mean earning less money. She'd saved enough to pay for college. Even so, she'd have to cut back her spending a lot.

One of the ways Malea planned to cut back was in buying books.

She loved to read! Buying new books was expensive, though. Also, no one but her read most of the books she bought. That made buying them seem wasteful, in a way.

Malea decided to visit the public library. She learned she could check out books for free. She'd have to sign up on a waiting list to get the newest and most popular books. But the wait time wasn't usually more than a week or so.





During one of her trips to the library, Malea saw a poster about activities at a local park. There were concerts throughout the summer—all of them free. There were also other free events, including an art fair, a food festival, and a farmers’ market.

Malea had never known there were so many things to do in her community—so many free things, especially.





CHAPTER 1

Public Resources



City, county, state, and **federal** governments provide a range of services for their citizens. Do you know about what services are available in your community?

One of the best ways to locate public **resources** is to look in the local phone book or online directory. Usually, special pages provide phone numbers for government **agencies**. In the phone book, these pages are usually blue.

Federal

The national level of government.

Resource

Something that can be used for information or support.

Agency

A business or organization that provides a service to another business or organization.



A Range of Public Services

The following sections show some of the public services you'll probably see listed. Be sure to check for the same services under city, county, state, and federal governments.

Armed Services

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Air Force/Department of | Marine Corps |
| Air National Guard | National Guard |
| Army/Department of Coast Guard | Navy |

The National Guard: Always Ready, Always There

The National Guard is a state-level, reserve military force. That means its members are available when called on to protect people and property. The National Guard provides help during emergencies, such as storms and floods. It responds when called to duty by the US president or the state governor.

National Guard units provide help locally in their own states, across the nation, and even around the world.

National Guard members are sometimes called “citizen soldiers.” They serve in the Guard part-time and also have full-time jobs. To join, you must be a US citizen and a legal, permanent resident. You must also be age 17 to 35 and meet physical and moral requirements. Training involves one weekend each month and one two-week session each year. Guard members are paid and have the opportunity to learn new skills.





Certificates, Licenses, and Permits

- Birth and death certificates
- Driver's licenses
- Fish and wildlife licenses
- Marriage licenses
- Motor vehicle plates and registrations
- Passports



Community Services

- Abuse and assault hotlines
- Airports
- Animal control
- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- Chamber of Commerce
- Employment assistance
- Fire department
- Food stamps program
- Garbage collection
- Handicapped services
- Highways
- Housing
- Neighborhood associations
- Parks and recreation
- Public libraries
- Public transportation
- Recycling
- Senior citizen services
- Unemployment
- Veterans' services



Government

- City hall
- Courts
- Drug enforcement
- Governor's office
- Post office
- Social Security office
- Voter registration/information



[FACT]

Chambers of Commerce

- Looking for business opportunities or connections in your area?
- Want to help at a community event?
- Concerned about challenges facing businesses in your neighborhood?
- Interested in improving local schools and other institutions?
- Moving to a new city or town?
- Planning a trip to a place you've never visited before?

Chambers of Commerce connect people in these and many other situations. Chambers exist at the local, regional, state, national, and even international levels. Any time you have a question about a place, it's a good idea to start with the area Chamber of Commerce. And if it can't help you, it probably will know who can.

Education

City, county, and state colleges and universities

Community education programs

Public kindergartens and elementary schools

Public middle schools and high schools





Health and Human Services

- Aging and disability
- Communicable disease control
- Emergency medical services
- Environmental health
- Food handlers' programs
- Health care provider licensing boards
- Medicare
- Neighborhood health clinics
- Travelers' clinics



Hotlines for these services:
mental health, poison control, alcohol information, communicable diseases, teen health, and suicide prevention

Law Enforcement

- City police department
- County sheriff's office
- State patrol

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Crime prevention agency





Weather

Weather service

Road and weather conditions



Outdoor Sirens

Outdoor sirens warn people to find shelter immediately. The three signals that can be used mean these things:

1. A **single tone** that lasts three to five minutes is used for severe weather, such as a tornado. The siren may mean that a storm is occurring or that one is likely to occur. This signal is also used in case a chemical or other dangerous material is spilled.
2. A **two-toned siren** warns of an attack, as in a war.
3. A **faster two-toned siren** alternates between high and low pitches. Communities that have volunteer firefighters use this signal to call firefighters to fires.

