



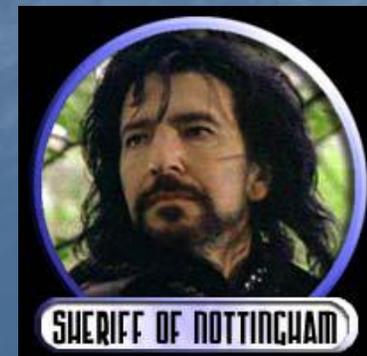
Larimer County and YOU!

HISTORY OF COUNTIES



A Very Brief History of County Government

- Counties trace their roots to the English shire of a thousand years ago.
- The shire-reeve was accepted as the governmental authority in the Shire.





- Each court was placed under an Earl or Count -thus the term County.
- The County form of government is the oldest form of government in the US, other than the governing structures of the native Americans.

This will be on the test

- The state with the most counties is Texas with 254; while the state with fewest is Delaware with three

Authority of Counties

"Dillion's Rule" This was first espoused by the Chief Judge of the Iowa Supreme Court, John F. Dillion in 1868.

Counties can only wield those legislative powers which are specifically granted by the state legislature, and those which are implied or reasonably necessary to carry out their duties.

A County is....

- A subdivision of the state
- Not formed by citizens
- Constitutionally created

City vs. County

- Cities have a **Mayor and council** which number seven or nine. Counties have a **Board of Commissioners** which number three or five.
- Cities have **annexation** powers. Counties do not have annexation powers.

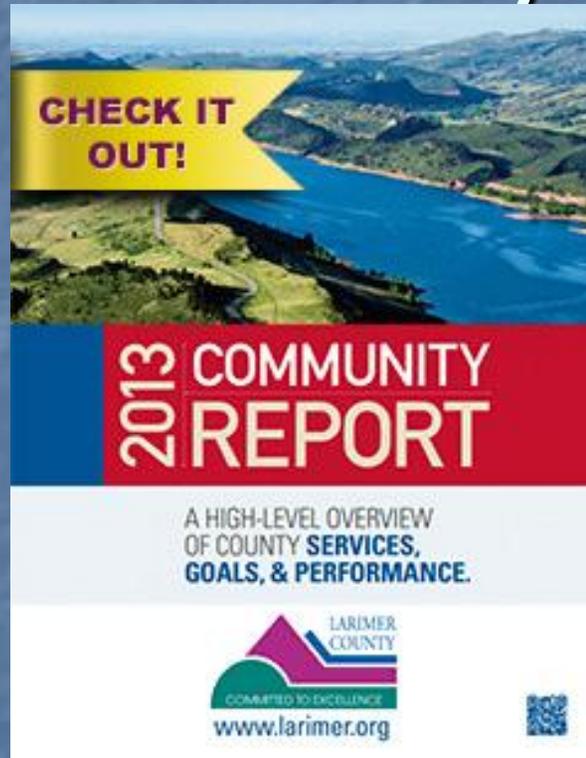
Cities vs. Counties

- Cities have **independent powers**. County powers come from the **State**.
- **Sales tax** is the primary local funding for cities. **Property tax** is the primary local funding for counties.
- Cities are formed by a **local election**. Counties are **constitutionally** created and need a constitution amendment (statewide election) to form a new county.
- 271 cities and towns and 64 counties in Colorado

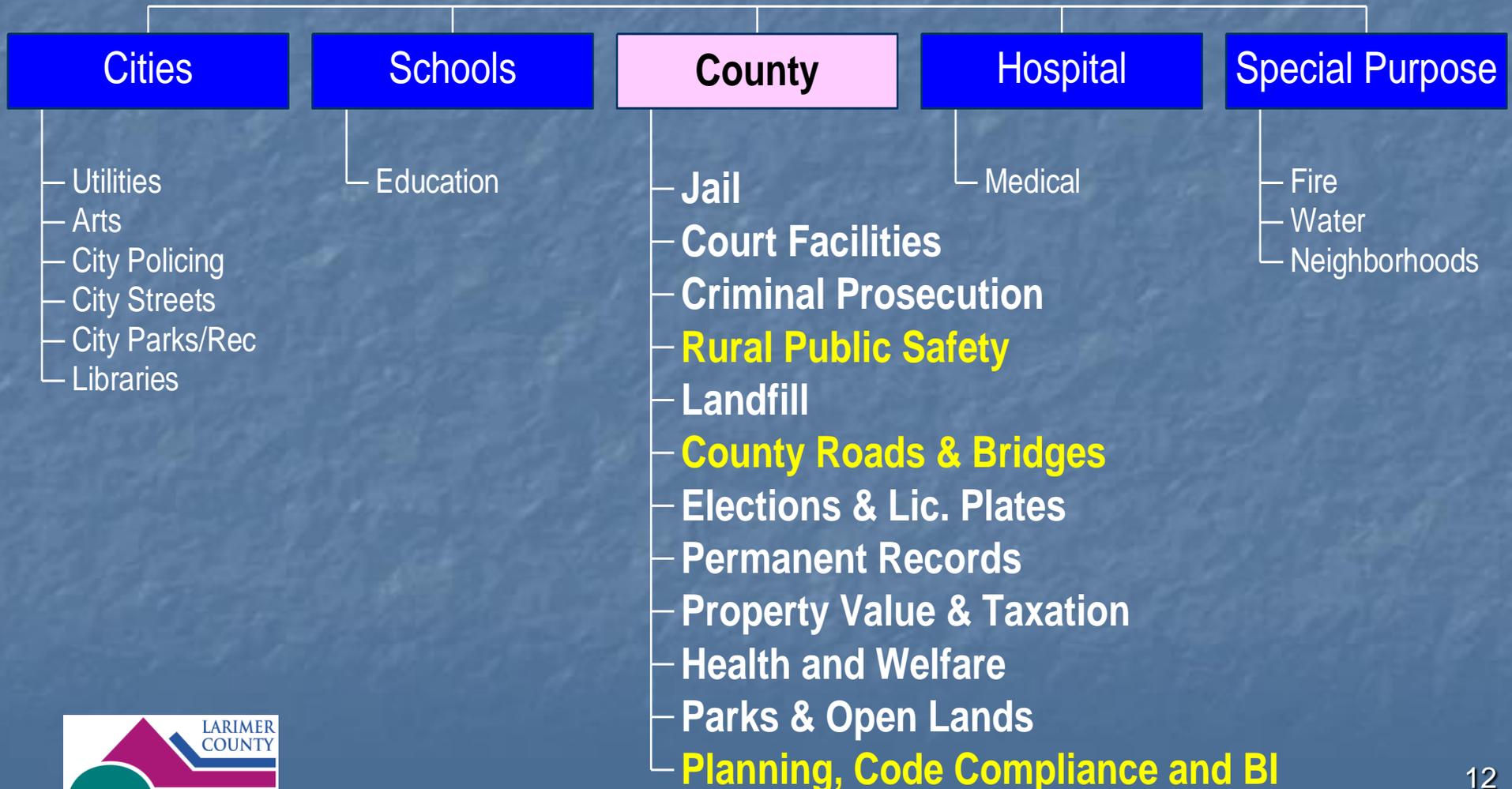
Cities and Counties Similarities

- Road and Bridge construction and maintenance
- Land use – planning and zoning, building permits
- Public safety
- Ability to levy taxes and fees

Did you use any Larimer County service today?



Local Government Responsibilities



YOU!

*People create the quality of their
government-
through participation or neglect*



Larimer County Web Site

www.larimer.org

