

## **X CAR O** **(Automobile Tic, Tac, Toe)**

### **Learning Objectives: Students will**

1. Analyze and evaluate safe driving practices.
2. Identify the branches of government.


**TEKS:** SS 7.14A, 7.15A, 7.22A, 7.22D

**Materials Needed:** *Texas Drivers Handbook*, Texas Government Packet, nine student desks lined up in rows of three each, chalkboard or flipchart paper for Tic, Tac, Toe board, timer (optional)

**Vocabulary:** Distraction, aggressive driving, suspension, conviction, DWI (Driving While intoxicated) or DUI (Driving Under the Influence), tailgating

### **Teaching Strategy:**

1. Provide each student with a copy of the July 2012 *Texas Drivers Handbook* (available at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/DL-7.pdf>) and the Texas Government Packet. Before playing the game, distribute the *Texas Drivers Handbook* during free time so the students can review.
2. Using the material from the *Texas Drivers Handbook* and the Texas Government Packet, explain that the class will now participate in a game similar to the television show “Hollywood Squares” or the game Tic, Tac, Toe as a reinforcement for what they have learned.
3. Nine students will volunteer or be chosen to be car drivers. Give each volunteer one of the full-page pictures of cars (attached). They will take their places in the nine student desks.
4. Divide the remainder of the class into two teams. One team will be the “X’s” and the other the “O’s.” Draw a Tic, Tac, Toe form on the board or flipchart to keep score (a designated student should serve as the scorekeeper).

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5. Call on student #1 in the “X” group. That student should pick one of the car drivers. The teacher then asks the chosen car driver a question, who answers the question. Explain that the drivers are allowed to bluff if they don’t know the answer, or if they simply want to try and trick the student. Student #1 agrees or disagrees with the answer given by the driver. Students may talk with other team members before answering, but they should be discouraged from actually looking up the answers themselves. If the student is correct, an X is placed on the board in the corresponding spot. If the student misses the question, the O’s get the square unless that would make that team win. In this case, the next student must answer a question and earn the win. The game continues until one of the groups scores Tic, Tac, Toe (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally).

The game may be repeated until class time is over or all questions are covered.

Notes to the Teacher:

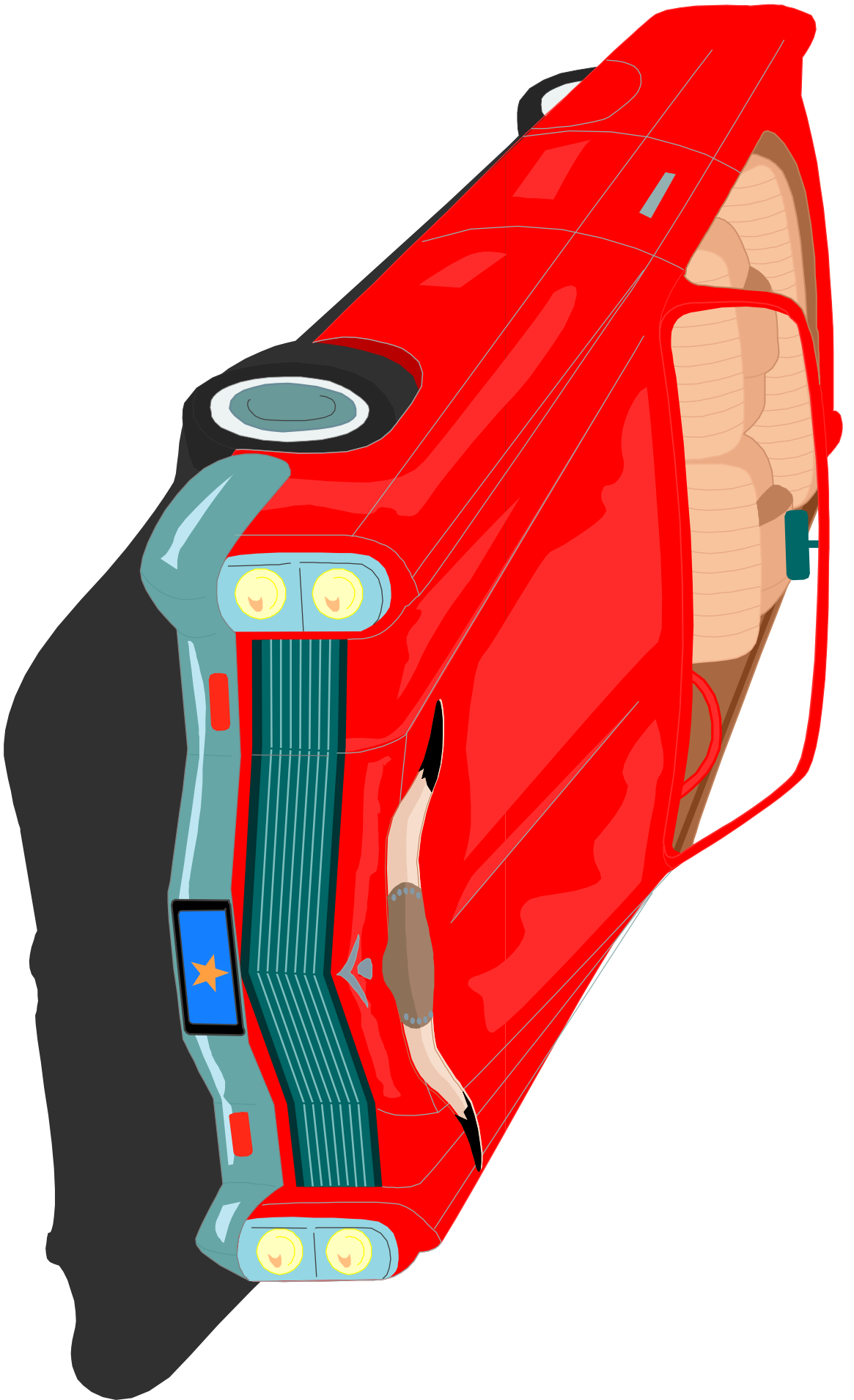
- 1) In order to keep the game moving and be able to cover all the questions, it might be necessary to set a timer. When the timer goes off, the student must agree or disagree with the car driver.
- 2) The teacher might find it helpful to have students write down questions and correct answers to be turned in for a grade instead of having team members aid the student answering the question.
- 3) It is suggested that this lesson be followed with the TxDOT lesson entitled “In the Driver’s Seat: Do You Have What It Takes to be a Good Driver in Texas?”



**Extension for GP/Pre-AP:**

Each car team will design a concept car that will incorporate a new safety feature into the car. Students will write a description of the new car and its safety features, and will also draw a picture of the new car. Students will research how to send the new design to a car manufacturer and then do so if possible.

Students will spend one morning before school observing cars entering the school parking lot. Teams will count different infractions, such as safety belt usage, speeding, usage of turn signals, and miscellaneous other violations. Using their graphing skills, students will average the percentage of students, teachers, or parents who violate or follow each rule and then create graphs from those statistics. Using this data, students should produce a school public safety ad that suggests solutions for frequent and/or dangerous infractions.



CADILLAC

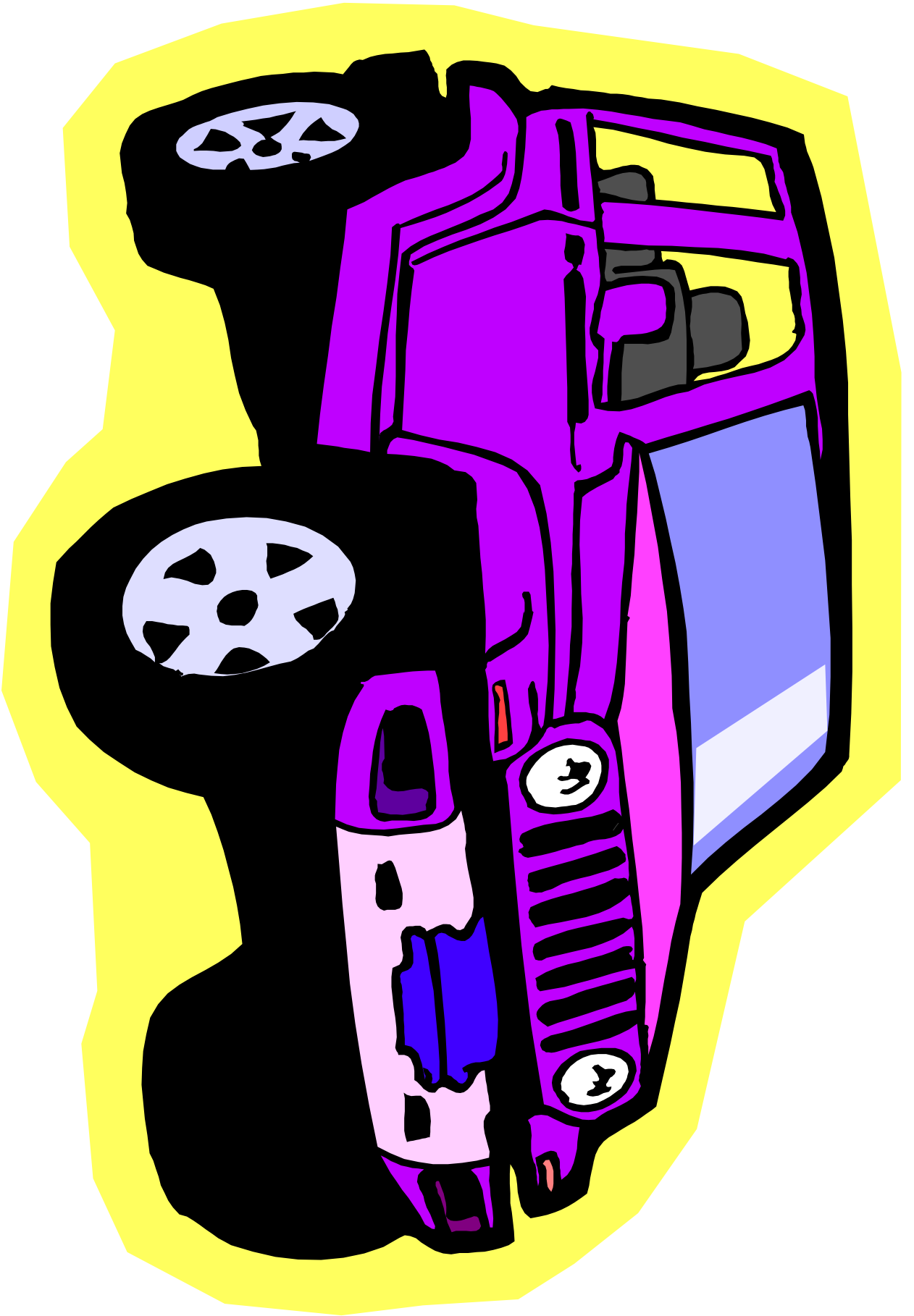


**CHEVY PICK-UP**

# HUMMER

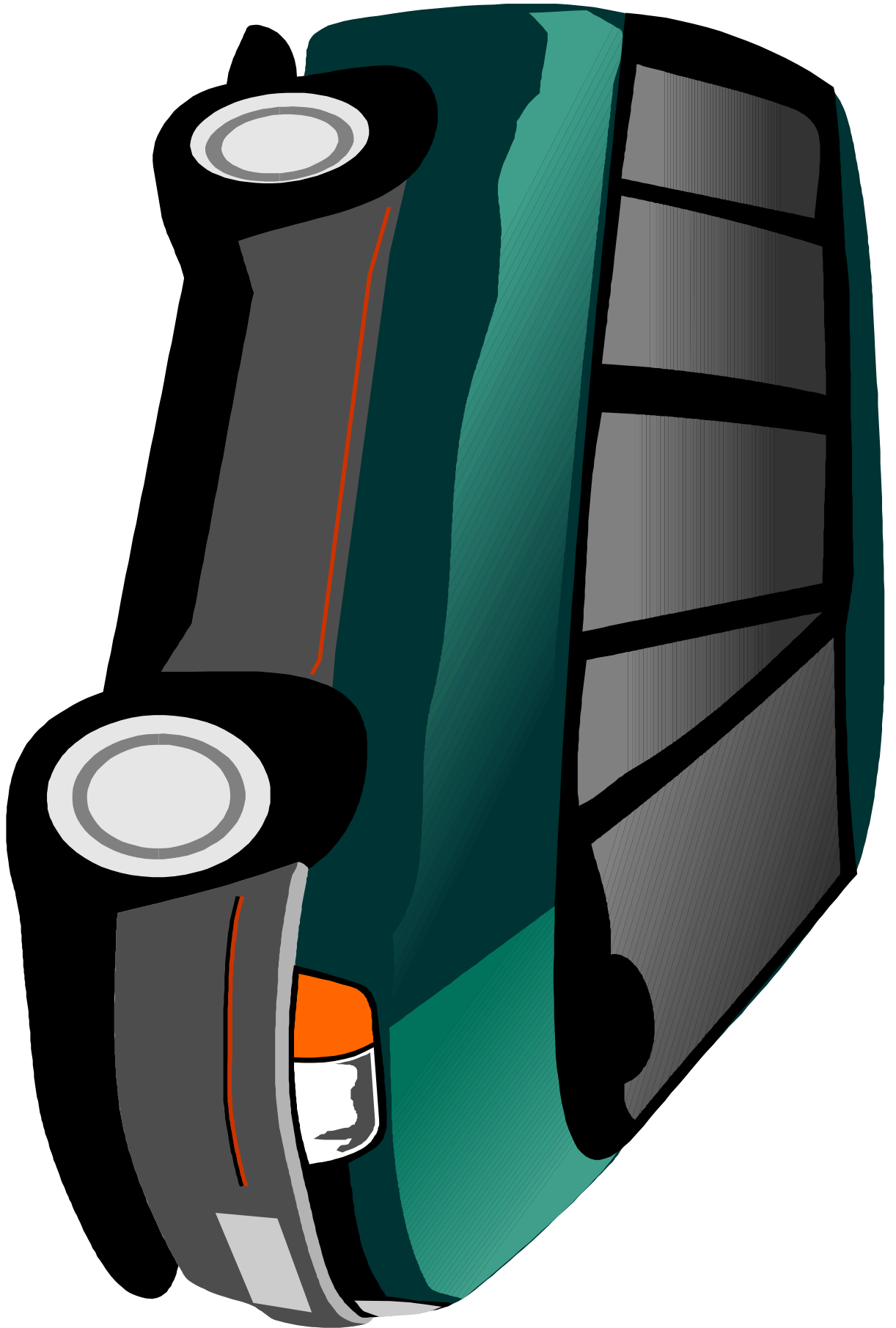


JEEP



LEVEL TWO-12

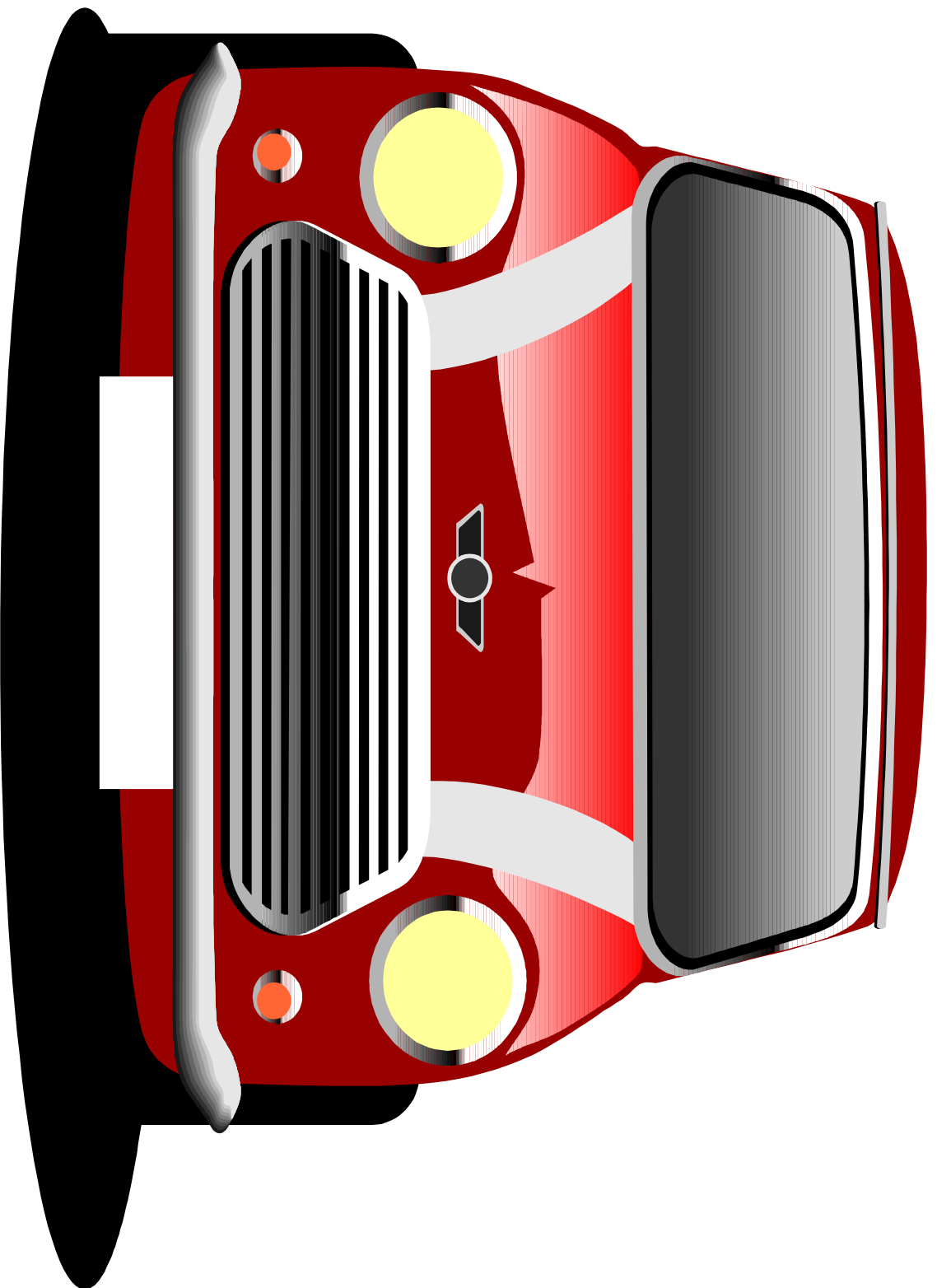
VAN





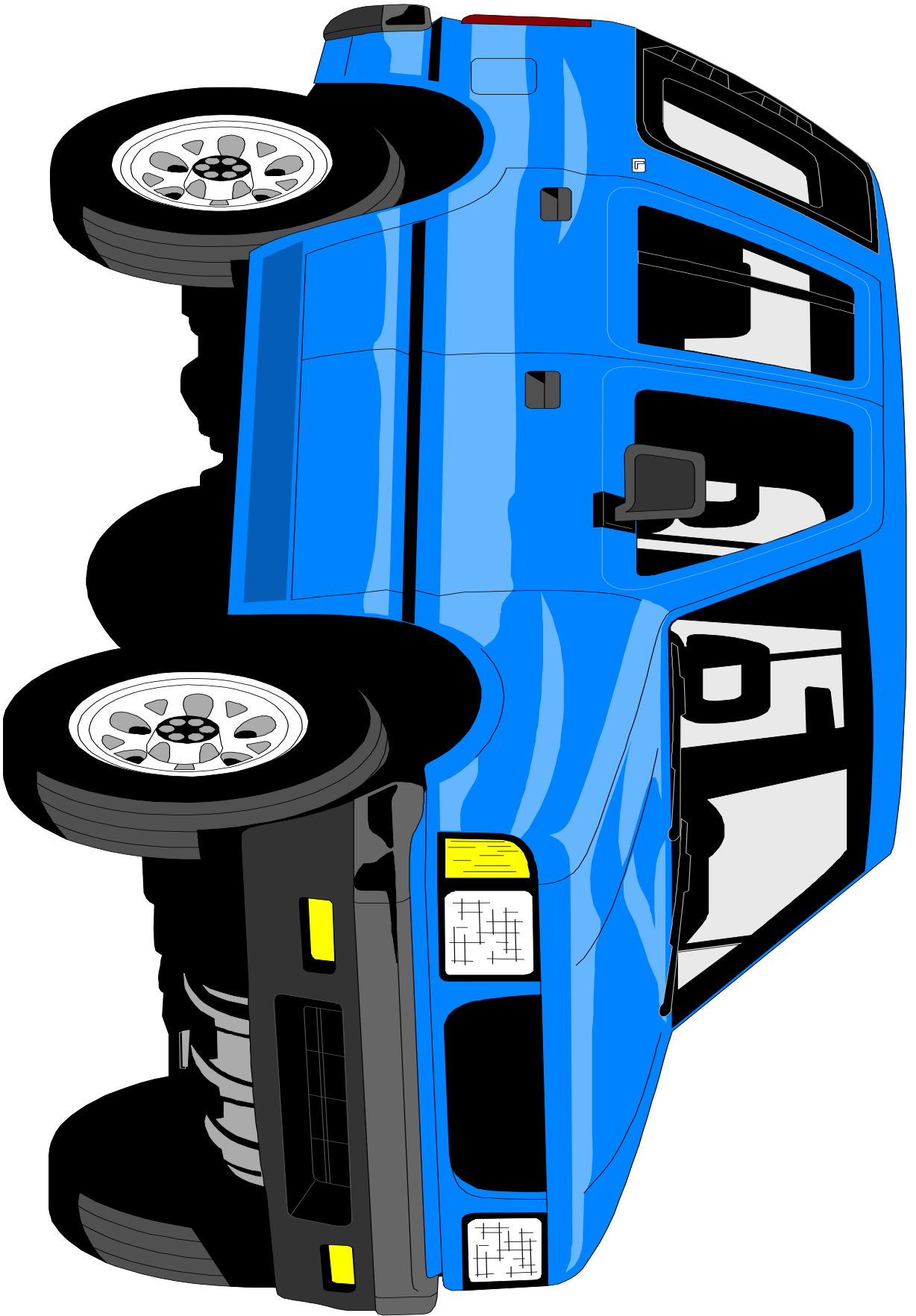
**FERRARI**



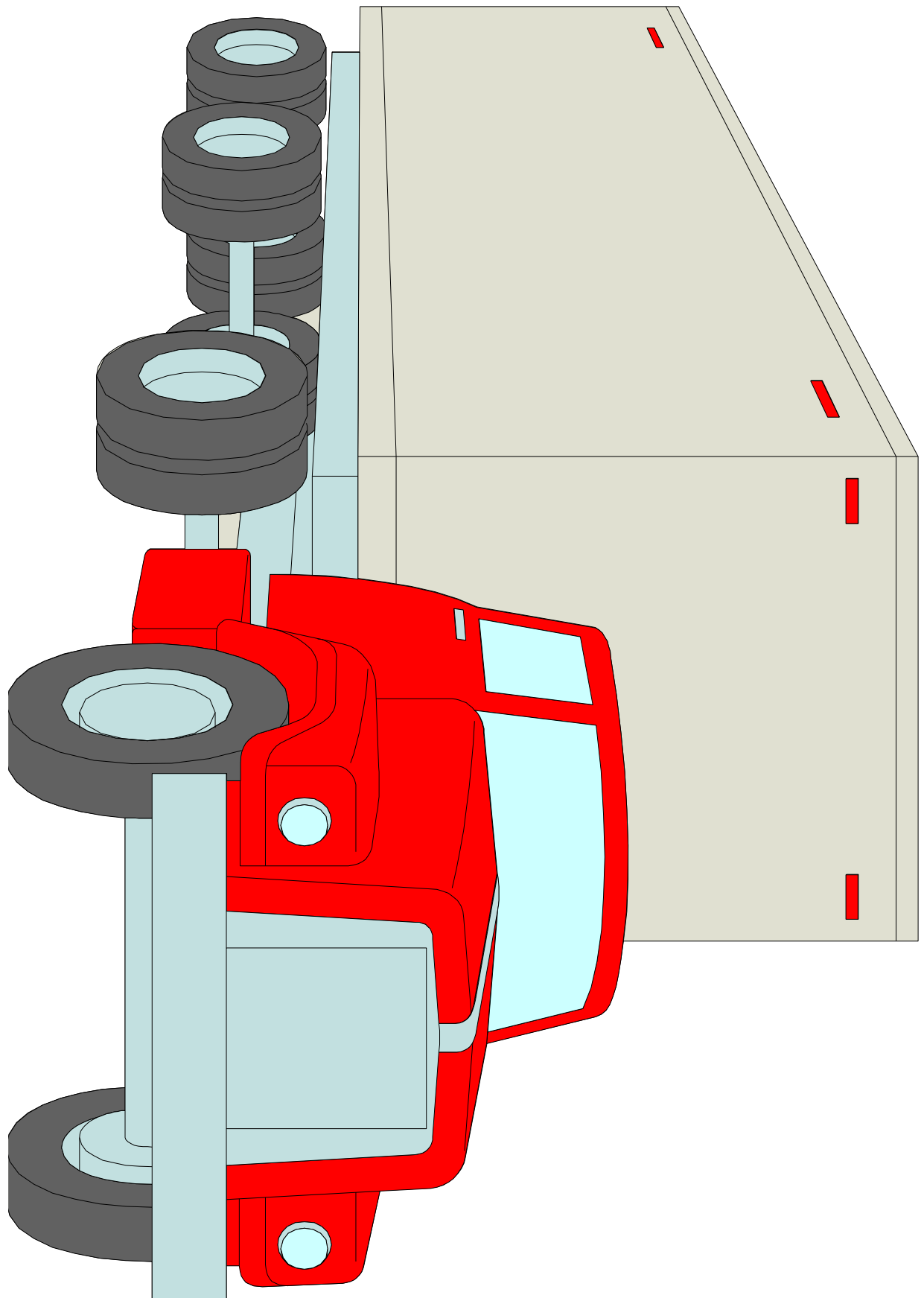


**MINI COOPER**

SUV




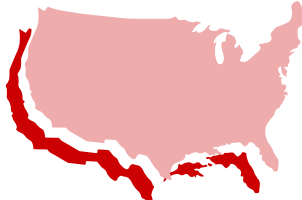
# SEMITRUCK



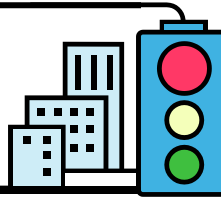
# Texas Government Packet



**COMPARING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION  
AND THE U. S. CONSTITUTION**

	<b>TEXAS</b>	<b>U. S.</b>
		
<b>1. LENGTH</b>	<b>80,000 WORDS</b>	<b>7,000 WORDS</b>
<b>2. DATE ADOPTED</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>1789</b>
<b>3. AMENDMENTS</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4. BILL OF RIGHTS</b>	<b>Article I</b>	<b>Amendments 1-10</b>
<b>5. SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>Unitary</b>	<b>Federal</b>
<b>6. PUBLIC POLICY</b>	<b>Detailed discussion of specific policy issues</b>	<b>No discussion of specific policy issues</b>
<b>7. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE</b>	<b>Plural, weak executive, two highest appellate courts, bicameral legislature</b>	<b>Singular, strong executive, one Supreme Court, bicameral legislature</b>

## CITY GOVERNMENT



In Texas, there are essentially two forms of municipal governments today: Mayor-Council and Council-Manager. Cities are divided into general law and home rule cities. The type of city is defined in its charter. The main difference is that home rule cities have rule making authority and are allowed to create and modify their form of government to meet local needs, rather than being defined by the general law, created by the Texas legislature. Thus, general law cities have less flexibility.

**Charter** – The city’s founding legal document that defines its structure and powers. It is similar to a constitution, but adopted by voters living in the city. Only a general law city has a charter.

**Mayor-Council** – This is the most widely used form of city government in less populated, rural cities. Most of the day-to-day operations of the city are carried out by either the mayor or the city council. In this form of city government, there are structures with strong mayors or weak mayors. For example, in a strong mayor form of city government, the mayor has veto power over ordinances passed by the council and often may hire and fire employees.

**Council-Manager** – More popular in mid-sized and larger cities, voters who reside in that city elect a city council and mayor, who in turn hire a city manager to carry out the council’s policies and manage the city employees.

**City Council** – Acts as the legislative body for the city. Its involvement in the operations of the city typically depend on the size of the city.

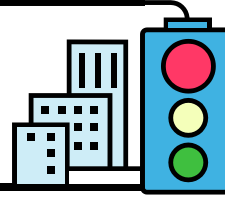
**Mayor** – Acts as the chief executive or head of the city; presides over city council meetings; and often serves the city spokesperson.

**City Council Members** – Elected by residents who are qualified to vote.

**City Elections** – Municipal elections in Texas are nonpartisan in the sense that candidates do not appear on the ballot on party lines, and do not run on party tickets.

**City Manager** – In larger cities, the city manager is hired by the council to manage the day-to-day operations of the city.

## CITY GOVERNMENT



**City Secretary** – Records and maintains custody of all official city documents. May serve as city treasurer in smaller cities.

**Chief of Police** – Hired by the city to run the police department which handles criminal offenses within the city limits.

**Municipal Judge** – In Texas, usually appointed by the city council, but are elected in more than a dozen Texas cities.

**Court Support Personnel** – Usually hired by the city council, manager, or judge to process the cases that appear in municipal court.

**Ordinance** – A law passed by the city council.

### THE FUNCTIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENT

The terms city, town, and municipality are used to describe local government in urban areas. A town is usually a smaller geographic area than a city. A big city, or metropolis, may have suburbs. The larger the municipality, the larger the range of services and functions.

Required functions of cities in Texas:

1. Passing local laws affecting quality of life and public safety or health issues
2. Protecting public safety – traffic, police, fire, roads, sidewalks
3. Providing for public sanitation – waste and sewage

Certain functions are optional for cities in Texas:

1. Protecting public health – communicable diseases, hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services
2. Providing utilities to citizens – electricity, water
3. Managing land use through zoning
4. Providing local transportation – buses, light rail, airport
5. Providing housing for local income groups and senior citizens
6. Providing for quality of life – libraries, public swimming pools, recreation centers, community college, parks



## THE FUNCTIONS OF TEXAS COUNTIES

Texas counties largely exist to perform certain functions for the state:

1. Collecting certain state taxes and fees (for example, the sales tax on automobiles)
2. Administrating and financing state elections
3. Maintaining records for the state (deeds, marriage licenses, wills, etc.)
4. Enforcing state law (particularly in rural areas)
5. Handling minor civil cases by county level judges and justices of the peace (counties also provide office space for Texas district court judges and supplement their salaries)
6. Prosecuting violators of state law by the county or district attorney
7. Registering automobiles

**In addition, counties in Texas perform limited functions regarding transportation and welfare:**

1. Road and bridge building was once a major county function, and counties largely remain responsible for such in rural areas.
2. Counties may also provide certain welfare services although this varies from county to county.

Certain functions are optional for counties in Texas:

1. Establishing county libraries;
2. Operating public cemeteries;
3. Financing and managing a county hospital and other health services;
4. Creating a county community college district;
5. Providing parks and airports; and
6. Contracting with other local governments to provide services such as fire protection and emergency medical services.





**Commissioners Court** — This is not a court but instead is the legislative (policy-making) and executive (policy-administering) body for each county in the state. It is made up of a county judge who is chosen in a partisan election by the voters of the entire county and four commissioners, each of whom is chosen in a partisan election by the voters in one of the four county commissioners precincts into which every Texas county is divided. Each commissioner is also responsible for his or her own precinct which includes the building and maintenance of roads and bridges.

**County Judge** — In addition to membership on the county commissioners court and participation in its decision-making, the county judge also has some judicial duties. He/she presides over the constitutional county court which in some counties means he/she hears minor civil cases as well as Class A and Class B criminal misdemeanors. In the largest Texas counties, the Texas legislature has created one or more county courts at law for the purpose of relieving the county judge of most, or all, judicial duties.

**County Sheriff** — The sheriff has jurisdiction over the entire county but especially in those counties with large cities, the sheriff is limited to enforcing the law outside the city limits. One of the sheriff's main duties is maintaining the county jail.

**County Attorney** — This individual serves as legal counsel for the county and as such represents the county in legal matters and prosecutes criminal misdemeanors in county and justice of the peace courts.

**County Clerk** — This officer is the recorder of all legal documents such as deeds and contracts. In addition, this office issues marriage licenses and birth certificates and serves as the clerk of both the county court and the commissioners court. This individual is also responsible for the conduct of elections.

**County Tax Assessor-Collector** — This officer collects the general property tax for the county. In addition, this office collects fees for license plates and certificates of title for motor vehicles and serves as the county's registrar of voters.



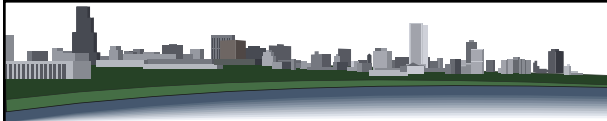
**County Treasurer** — This officer is responsible for receiving, maintaining, and disbursing county funds. In many counties the office has been eliminated by constitutional amendment.

**District Clerk** — This individual is principally a court official who keeps court records for county and district courts. In addition, this officer schedules cases in these courts.

**Justice of the Peace** — In most, but not all, Texas counties there is at least one justice of the peace for each of the four county commissioners precincts. Larger counties may have more justices of the peace. The justice of the peace has jurisdiction over minor civil cases (Texas' small claims court) and Class C misdemeanor criminal cases.

**Constable** — In most, but not all, Texas counties there is at least one constable for each of the four county commissioners precincts. This individual's duties include executing judgments and serving subpoenas for the justice of the peace courts.

# CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMPARISON



## CITY

Pay for the executive varies – some are volunteers

City council elections are nonpartisan

Council members have limited terms

Hundreds of people attend pack a council meeting

City council meetings often run all day

Some of the main duties of the city are zoning, public safety, and sanitation



## COUNTY

Executive earns full time salary

Commissioners run as Republicans, Democrats, or members of another political party

Commissioners have no term limits

Half a dozen or fewer often attend a commissioners court meeting

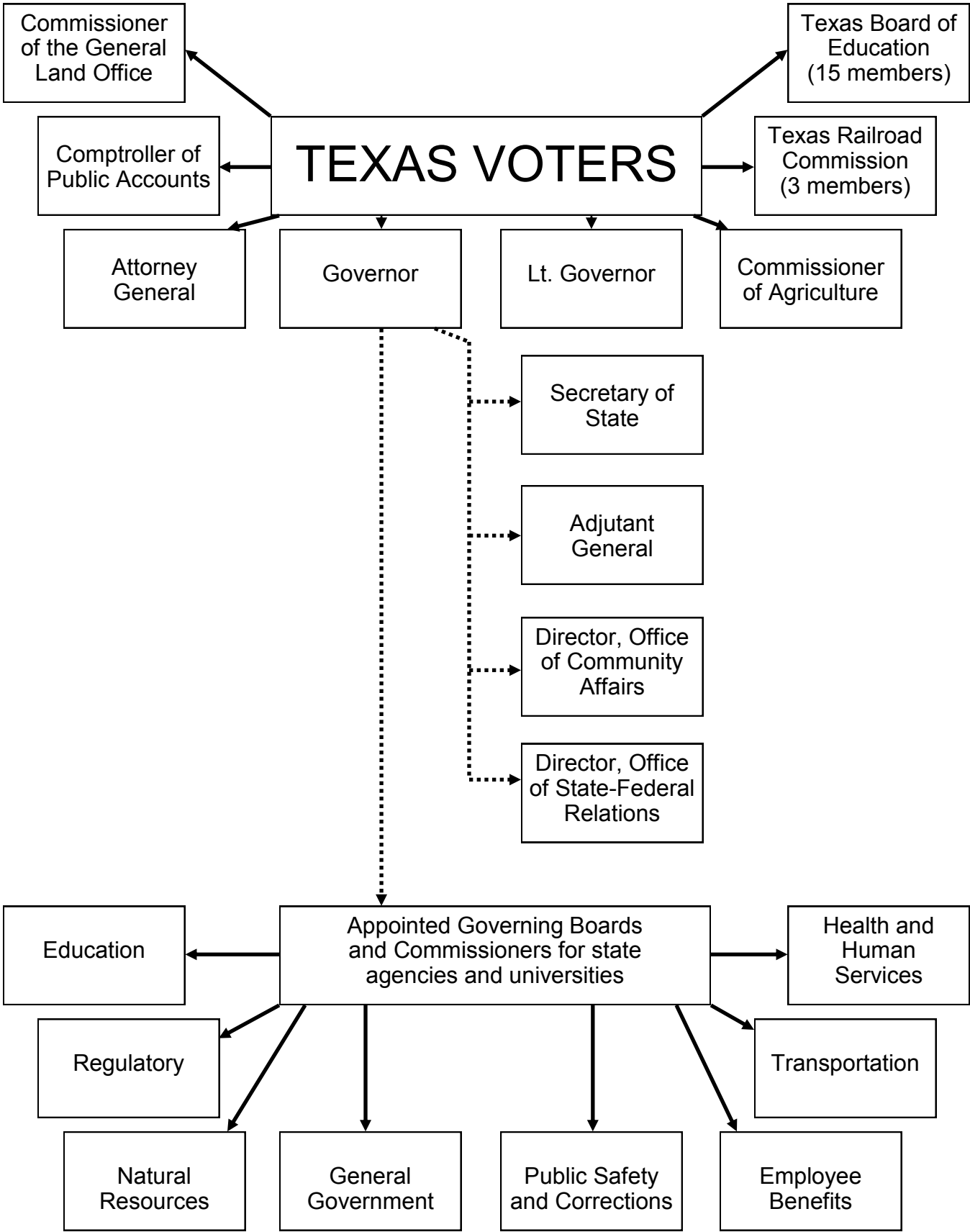
Commissioners court meetings usually wrap up before noon

One of the commissioners' main duties is to maintain miles of county roads in their districts

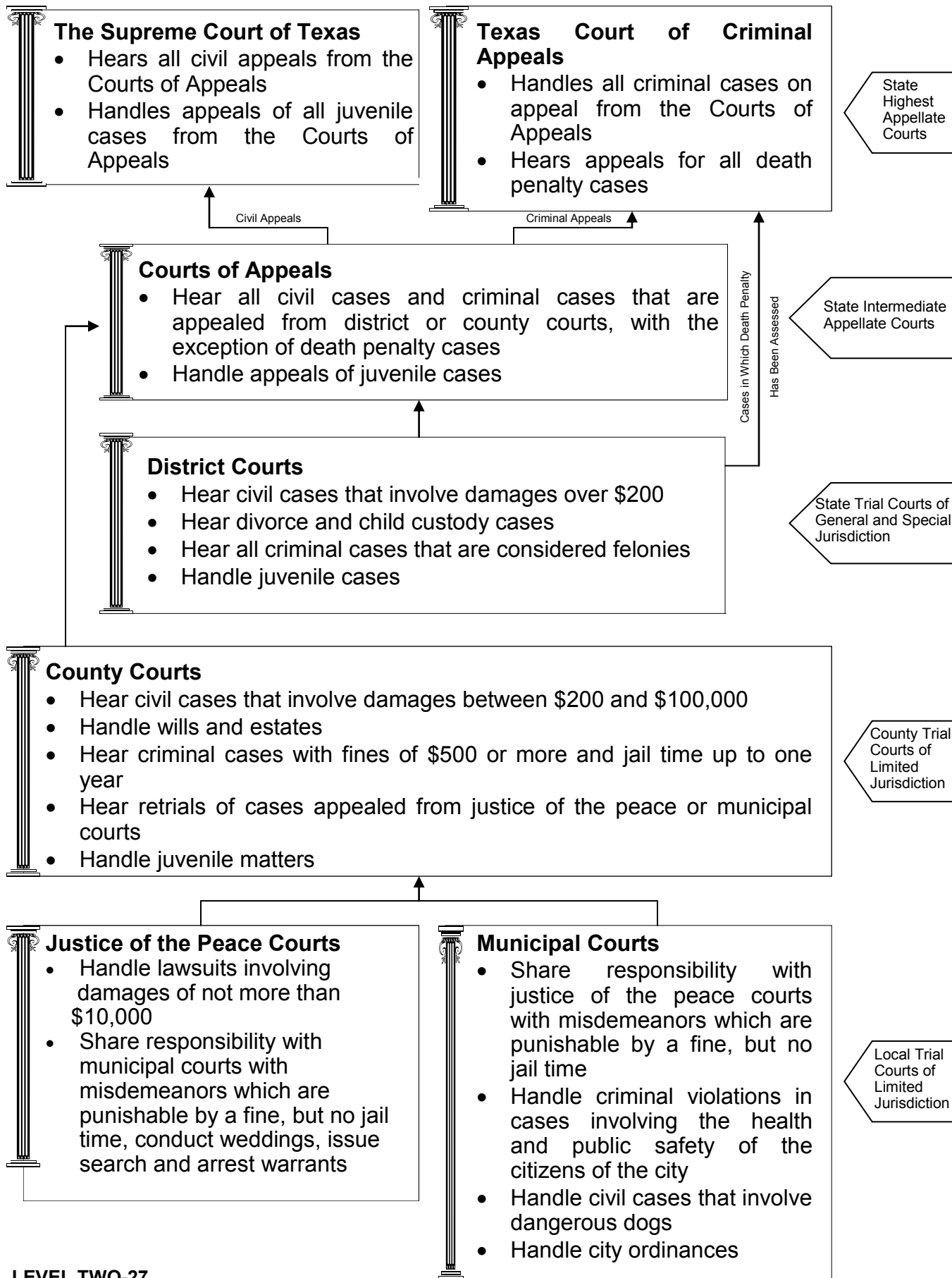
County government in Texas is often called an extension of state government. For instance, counties collect auto registration fees for the state, conduct statewide elections, and administer state health programs.

Commissioners also approve the budgets for other elected county officials. These include the sheriff, district attorney, treasurer, county clerk, district clerk, tax assessor-collector, constable, and justices of the peace. Like judges, these officials don't work directly for the commissioners court.

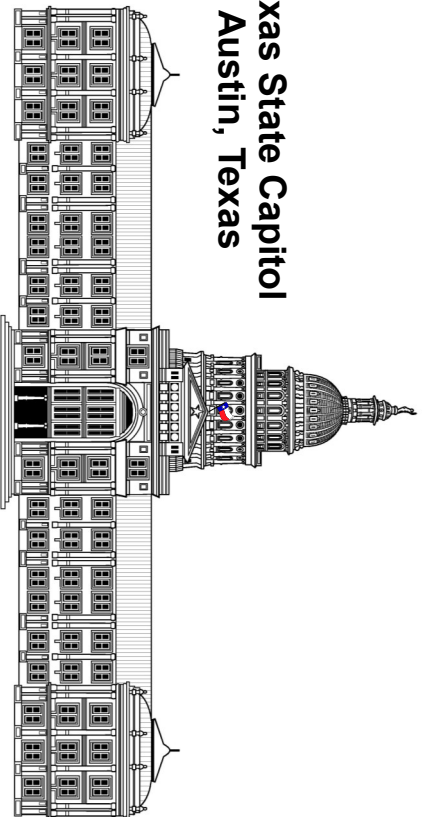
# THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN TEXAS



# COURT STRUCTURE OF TEXAS

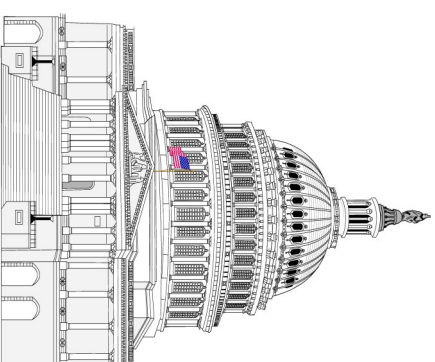


## Texas State Capitol Austin, Texas



Number of members of the House of Representatives	150
Number of members of the Senate	31
Term of office of the House of Representatives	Two years
Term of office of the Senate	Four years
Minimum Age to hold office in House	21 years old
Minimum Age to hold office in Senate	26 years old
Presiding Officer in Senate	Lt. Governor
Presiding Officer in House	Speaker of House
Regular Session of Legislature	Every other year for 140 days
Major Sources of Revenue	Sales Tax and Motor Fuel Tax

## United States Capitol Washington, D.C.



Number of members of the House of Representatives	435
Number of members of the Senate	100
Term of office of the House of Representatives	Two years
Term of office of the Senate	Six years
Minimum Age to hold office in House	25 years old
Minimum Age to hold office in Senate	30 years old
Presiding Officer in Senate	President of the Senate (Vice President of U.S.)
Presiding Officer in House	Speaker of House
Session of Congress	Two Years
Major Sources of Revenue	Individual and Corporate Income Taxes





## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

*\*\*The page numbers the answers can be found on correlate to the July, 2012 version of the Texas Driver's Handbook, which is the most recent version as of August 1, 2014\*\**

1. What does the color orange mean on a traffic sign?  
(It means a construction and maintenance warning, p. 29)
2. Which is longer - the U.S. Constitution or the Texas Constitution?  
(The Texas Constitution by over 73,000 words, see chart p. Level Two-19)
3. What type of license permits a person to drive a single unit vehicle?  
(Class C, p. 4)
4. Besides making a turn, pulling away from a parking space, or slowing down/stopping, what is another time a driver should signal?  
(When changing lanes, p. 41)
5. True or False: The definition of intoxication includes only alcohol.  
(False, p. 58)
6. True or False: One of the duties of city governments in Texas is collecting automobile registration fees (for license plates) for the state. (False, see chart p. Level Two-21)
7. What does a flashing yellow light mean?  
(Slow down and proceed with caution, p. 28)
8. When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar, chain, rope, cable, or other connection must not be longer than how many feet from one vehicle to the other? (Fifteen feet, p. 70)
9. Who is in charge of the county jail where you might be held if you are arrested for not contacting the appropriate court and dealing with tickets which you have received for a variety of serious traffic offenses? (The county sheriff, see chart p. Level Two-23)
10. How far should one park from a fire hydrant? (15 feet, p. 45)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

11. In Texas, over what percentage of blood-alcohol concentration is illegal for a driver? (0.08%, p. 58)
12. What is a regulatory sign? (It tells a driver what he or she must do, p. 33)
13. Who is the official who serves as legal counsel for the county and, as such, prosecutes criminal misdemeanors in county and justice of peace courts? (The county attorney, see chart p. Level Two-23)
14. What is the maximum fine for a first DWI offense? (\$2,000, p. 58)
15. What is the maximum fine for parking in a disabled parking space without the approved license plate or windshield identification card? (\$750, p. 45)
16. What is the minimum age for a person to hold an instruction permit? (15 years of age, p. 1)
17. Who is the presiding officer of the Texas Senate? (The Lt. Governor, see chart p. Level Two-28)
18. What is the maximum speed limit (unless otherwise posted) allowed for a passenger car on a highway outside an urban district? (70 mph, p. 49)
19. Who, if anyone, can give authorization to a person to stand in the roadway for the purpose of soliciting a contribution? (The local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway, p. 64)
20. What are city laws called? (Ordinances, see p. Level Two-21)





## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

21. How often should a driver stop when driving for a long distance? (Every two hours or every 100 miles, p. 51)
22. On what side of the road should a pedestrian walk if there are no sidewalks? (Left, p. 64)
23. What courts handle the greatest number of traffic violations which are misdemeanors punishable by a fine but no jail time? (Justice of the peace courts and municipal courts, see chart p. Level Two-27)
24. True or False: ANY drug, legal or illegal, can affect the mental and physical skills needed to drive a motor vehicle. (True, p. 58)
25. If a pedestrian crosses a street without using a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing, to which vehicles must he or she yield the right-of-way? (All, p. 64)
26. Who is the Chief Executive in a city? (Mayor, p. Level Two-20)
27. What does a driver do if an emergency vehicle is sounding a siren or flashing a red light? (Pull to the right edge of the roadway and stop, p. 25)
28. True or False: The members of the State Board of Education are appointed by the Governor of Texas. (False, see chart p. Level Two-26)
29. How is a minor defined in Texas law as far as possession and consumption of alcohol is concerned? (Someone under 21 years of age, p. 58)
30. May bicyclists ride on shoulders of a road? (Yes, p. 65)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

31. What does a guide sign tell a driver? (It identifies the road and in some cases furnishes information which makes the trip more pleasant and interesting, p. 35)
32. Where is the Bill of Rights found in the Texas Constitution? (Article I, see chart p. Level Two-19)
33. Who, under Texas law, are required to wear safety belts? (The driver and all passengers are required to wear seat belts at all times, p. 67)
34. True or False: It is permissible to park in a disabled parking spot as long as there are at least two additional disabled spots available. (False, p. 45)
35. To what court would you appeal a conviction for a traffic violation and a fine given you by a municipal court or a justice of the peace court? (County court, see chart p. Level Two-27)
36. What are two forms of city government in Texas? (Mayor-Council and Council-Manager, p. Level Two-20)
37. True or False: The faster one goes the greater the distance one should keep from the car ahead of him or her. (True, p. 48)
38. In what Texas court would you file your case if you wanted to sue for \$3,000,000 the person who hit your car and caused serious physical and property damage to you, your family, and your automobile? (District court, see chart p. Level Two-27)
39. In 2009, in what percentage of fatal crashes in Texas was alcohol found to be the main cause of the accident? (31%, p. 58)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

40. What happens to traffic fines in a construction zone? (They are doubled when workers are present, p. 40)
41. What is the term for a two non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person that is self-balancing and propelled by an electric propulsion system with an average power of 750 watts or one horse-power? (EPAMD or Segway, p. 69)
42. What is the highest court in the state for civil appeals only? (The Supreme Court of Texas, see chart p. Level Two-27)
43. What does Restriction Code A mean? (A person must drive with corrective lenses, p. 10)
44. True or False: The state is the only level of government that sets speed limits. (False, p. 48)
45. What is the legislative (policy-making) and executive (policy-administering) body for each county in the state called? (Commissioners court, see chart p. Level Two-23)
46. True or False: Everyone's driving skills are affected the same by using the same drug. (False, p. 58)
47. What do the diagonal stripes on barricades mean? (They guide the driver towards the direction to which the traffic is to pass, p. 39)
48. True or False: Texas counties largely exist to perform certain functions for the state. (True, see chart p. Level Two-23)
49. How much could a DWI or DUI arrest cost? (Some fines can be up to \$10,000, p. 59)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

50. True or False: Texas law requires bicycle riders to wear an approved bicycle helmet. (False, but it is highly recommended, p. 66)
51. Which has been amended more - the Texas Constitution or the U.S. Constitution? (The Texas Constitution – 456 to 27 for the U.S., see chart p. Level Two-19)
52. What is the number one killer of teenagers? (Driving under the influence, p. 60)
53. When does the Texas Legislature meet in regular session? (Every other year for 140 days, see chart p. Level Two-28)
54. What is the highest court in the state for criminal cases only? (Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, see chart p. Level Two-27)
55. Almost two-thirds of all motorcycle crashes are caused by what? (An automobile turning left in front of the motorcycle, p. 55)
56. When turning left, does the driver have to yield to vehicles that are coming from the other direction? (Yes, p. 23)
57. What is the number of members of the Texas Senate? (31, see chart p. Level Two-28)
58. True or False: If a driver experiences a skid, he or she should steer in the direction of the skid and then gently straighten the wheels to help recover control of the car. (True, p. 52)
59. What is one of the major sources of revenue for the State of Texas? (Sales tax or motor fuels tax, see chart p. Level Two-28)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

60. What deadly gas might be produced when a motor is left running inside a garage? (Carbon monoxide, p. 70)
61. What is the minimum age to hold office in the Texas House of Representatives? (21 years of age, see chart p. Level Two-28)
62. What courts hear all civil cases and criminal cases that are appealed from district or county courts with the exception of death penalty cases? (Court of Appeals, see chart p. Level Two-27)
63. True or False: If one's car breaks down on the highway, one should tie a white cloth on the antenna or raise the hood. (True, p. 51)
64. True or False: Speed limits are the same for both day and night. (True, p. 48)
65. Certain functions are optional for counties in Texas. Name one of these. (Establishing county libraries OR operating public cemeteries OR financing and managing a county hospital and other health services OR creating a community college district OR providing parks and airports, see chart p. Level Two-22)
66. Is it legal for a car to have a siren on it? (No, unless it is an emergency vehicle, p. 18)
67. What is the maximum fine for possessing an open container of alcohol in a passenger area of a vehicle located on a public roadway? (\$500, p. 58)
68. What is the title of the county officer who is the recorder of all legal documents such as deeds and contracts and also issues marriage licenses and birth certificates? (County clerk, see chart p. Level Two-23)



## QUESTIONS FOR X CAR O

69. What is the maximum fine for a person driving without a license on the first conviction? (**\$200, p. 10**)
70. What should a driver do if he or she experiences a flat tire or blowout? (**Take his or her foot off the gas and gently apply the brakes, p. 52**)
71. True or False: City council elections in Texas are nonpartisan, but county commissioners run as Republicans, Democrats, or members of another political party. (**True, see chart p. Level Two-25**)
72. True or False: Duties applicable to a driver operating a motor vehicle do not apply to a rider of a bicycle. (**False, p. 65**)
73. True or False: Texas voters elect the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Railroad Commissioners. (**True, see chart p. Level Two-26**)
74. What is the minimum amount of liability insurance a motor vehicle operator must carry against property damage? (**\$25,000, p. 21**)
75. In what Texas courts are all criminal cases that are considered felonies first heard? (**District courts, see chart p. Level Two-27**)