Chapter 25 in Brief

SECTION 1

Counties, Towns, and Townships (pp. 718–723)

★ Counties or their equivalents exist in all but two States. Their functions vary depending on region.
★ Many people see a need to make county government more efficient.
★ Towns and townships are forms of local government that exist in certain parts of the country.
★ Special districts provide a wide variety of services, including education, water and sewage, police and fire, and airport and park services.

SECTION 2

Cities and Metropolitan Areas (pp. 725–732)

★ Most Americans today live in urban areas.
★ The process by which a State establishes a city as a legal body is called incorporation.
★ City governments take one of three forms: mayor-council, commission, or council-manager.
★ Population shifts from cities to suburbs have left cities with fewer resources. One response has been the creation of metropolitan districts.

SECTION 3

Providing Important Services (pp. 733–737)

★ Under the federal system, States and their local governments have many powers and provide many important services.
★ State and local governments provide education, help ensure public welfare and safety, and build and maintain highways.
★ State and local governments vary widely in the amount and types of services they provide.

SECTION 4

Financing State and Local Government (pp. 739–744)

★ The federal Constitution, the 14th Amendment, and State constitutions restrict State and local taxing powers.
★ Most tax experts agree with Scottish economist Adam Smith that there are four principles of sound taxation.
★ State and local governments rely on a variety of tax and nontax sources of revenue.
★ The State budget is the means by which States plan the control and use of public money.