

Elections are split up usually on three levels. Local, state, and federal. That means local elections are for the folks who represent just your local area. So for example, the mayor of a city is a local official. The city council is a local official because the thing that they oversee and make laws and rules for is just the one city.

So on an election day, we have to choose who those local officials are. But then at the same time that the mayor and the city council are making decisions, there's also a state government which is overseeing the whole state.

So we have state elections to pick who those folks are. At the same time that the state government is making rules for the state of Rhode Island and local governments are making rules for their city. There is also the federal government. The federal government makes rules for the whole country. The person we most usually think of in terms of the federal government is the president, but this also includes the House of Representatives and the Senate. So the federal elections are when we get to choose our senators, our representatives and the House of Representatives and the president.