

# CONPT 260 BELL

Sept 7

Ways state and local government affects you?

Themes of the course

1. The importance of state and local governments
2. Political institutions matter
3. Reform
4. State and local governments differ from one another

Government, Politics, and Public Policy

- **Government** - The authoritative apparatus by which people organize themselves to achieve common goals
  - **Collective Action Problem**: Causes free rider problem. Everyone can benefit whether you help or not

- **Public goods**

- **Politics** - process that a community uses to determine what government ought to do

- Involves: campaigns, elections, lobbying, lawmaking, and "issue uptake"

- **Issue uptake**: you take an issue from your opponent that seems to be a popular issue that they were able to take a stand