

YOUR CITY



Centennial



CENTENNIAL...YOUR CITY

Dear Students:

Welcome to YOUR CITY - Centennial! This booklet will help you learn a little more about the community where you live, play, and attend school. This booklet is just the beginning – there is so much more to learn about Centennial. Please feel welcome to visit the Centennial Civic Center, any of your local Fire Stations or the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. Centennial is YOUR CITY – so be proud of its history and be a part of its future!



Mayor and Council

The Centennial City Council consists of nine elected officials including the Mayor. There are four Districts in the City of Centennial. Two City Council Members represent each District. The Mayor represents all of the citizens of Centennial. The Mayor and City Council are the policy makers for YOUR CITY.

City Council meetings are scheduled on the first, second and third Mondays of every month at 7:00 PM. These meetings are open to the public. If you would like more information, please visit the City of Centennial website at www.centennialcolorado.com or call the City Clerk's Office: Brenda Madison, City Clerk, at (303) 754-3302 or Barbara Setterlind, Deputy City Clerk at (303) 754-3324.

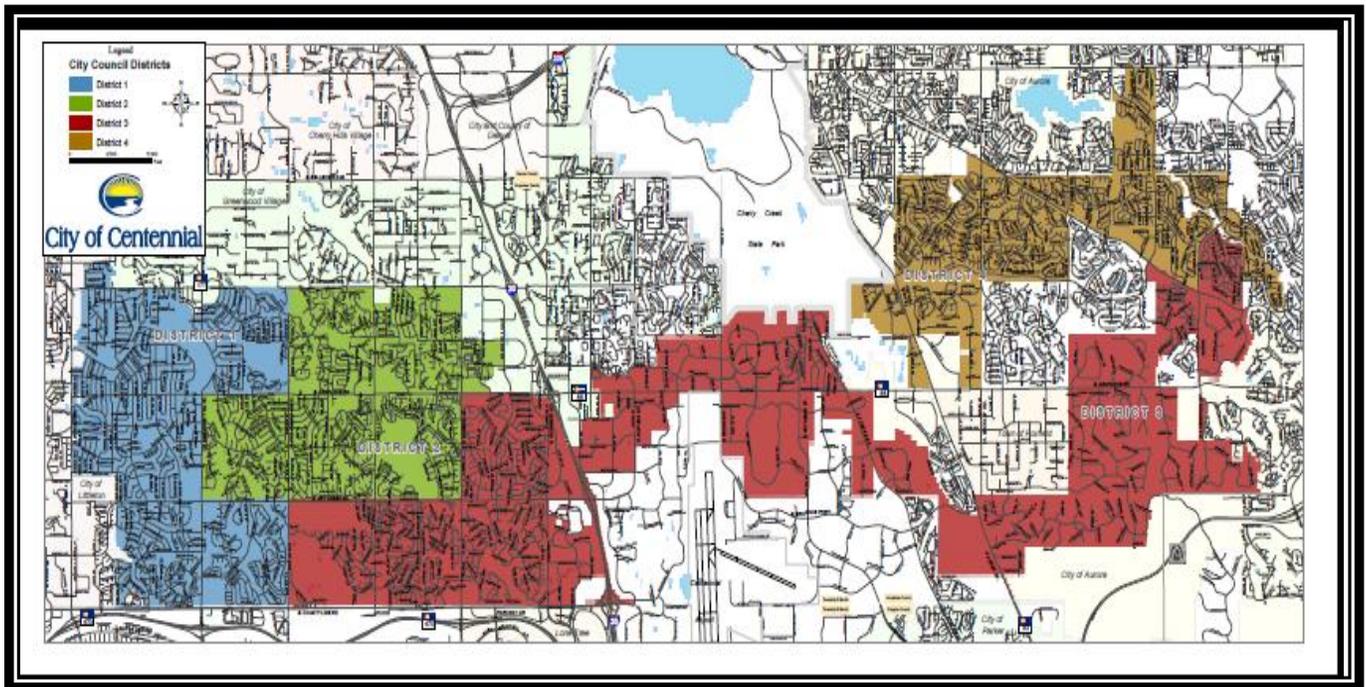


(Back Row (left to right) Ken Lucas (District 3), Mark Gotto (District 3), Mayor Cathy Noon, Keith Gardner (District 2), Stephanie Piko (District 4); Front Row (left to right) Vorry Moon (District 1), Kathy Turley (District 1), Doris Truhlar (District 2), C.J. Whelan (District 4)

Centennial District Map – Effective January 2011

To view map on-line:

<http://www.centennialcolorado.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=2621>





HISTORY OF CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

Before 2001, the area now known as the City of Centennial was part of unincorporated Arapahoe County. The “founders” of the city met for many months making plans for creating a new city. The quest took almost two and a half years.

On September 12, 2000, residents voted to incorporate the City of Centennial and on February 7, 2001, Centennial officially became a City. September 12th has been proclaimed “Centennial Volunteer Founders’ Day” in the City of Centennial.

The City of Centennial was originally known as a Mayor-Council style statutory City, which limited the authority that the City could have in certain areas of government such as taxes and tax collection.

On June 10, 2008, the residents of Centennial overwhelming voted for Centennial to become a Home Rule City. This type of city government follows a Home Rule Charter, written by its citizens, as its rule of government.





Where in the USA is Centennial, Colorado?

- Look on the map of the USA for our State – Colorado.
- Trace around the State of Colorado with Red.
- Now, put a red dot where you think Centennial is located and label it.



CITY MANAGER



John Danielson, Centennial City Manager

The City of Centennial has a Council-Manager form of government. The City Manager is hired by and reports to the City Council. He is responsible for the day to day management of the city government and city employees.

The City Manager has to know a lot about everything a city government does, such as collection of sales tax, planning of the city, roads, property development and much more. City Managers go to school for many years in order to have enough knowledge to be in charge of a city.



FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY LAWS



Our United States Constitution describes the basic rights of every person in America. These are called our constitutional rights. Laws are made to protect these rights. Laws are rules that we all must follow. There are different groups of people who pass laws for us to follow.

The federal government in Washington, D.C. makes some laws. One example of a federal law is that you are not allowed to break into a bank and take money.

Other laws are made by the State Legislature in Denver. These laws are called **statutes**. One example of a state law is that you must go to school in Colorado for 181 days every year.

Your City Council also makes laws. These laws are only for Centennial and they are called **ordinances**. One of our Centennial laws is that dogs must be kept in their yards. If they go with you for a walk, they must be on a leash.





Voting is a method by which groups of people make decisions.

Of the three major forms of government in the United States (federal, state and local) none affects citizens more directly than local government. City Council manages the policies and activities for the City of Centennial. Citizens elect the members of City Council to four-year terms.

Students just like you will be voters one day. One thing that will help you make some of the very important choices before casting your ballots is knowledge about the city in which you live.

Your vote counts! Many decisions have been made by only one vote. But if you do not vote, you are not helping to make the decisions.

Your most important responsibility as a citizen is to be informed about what is happening in your community and to vote at each election. You must be a United States citizen to vote and be eighteen years old at the time of the election. If you do not vote, others will be deciding what kind of city you live in. You will have given up a very important right which people in other parts of the world wish they had.

How many years before *you* can vote?

Age you can vote: 18

Minus your age: _____

Equals the number of years until you can vote _____

What a difference one vote makes!

The election on November 7, 2000, was the closest presidential race in history. In the final count, Governor George W. Bush of Texas won by 4 electoral votes, but Vice President Al Gore had won the popular vote by 338,576 votes. Bush was the first presidential candidate in more than a century to win the presidency while losing the popular vote. The deciding factor in Bush winning the election was his victory in Florida by just 537 votes over Gore!

CITY BUDGET

The City of Centennial has to have money, or revenue, so it can provide services to its citizens and businesses. Revenue is used to pay bills and expenses. Most of the revenue for the City comes from something called sales tax. When you buy a toy at the store for one dollar, two and one-half cents is added on to the price as city sales tax. The City also gets revenue from all the people in the City who own houses or land. This is called property tax. After all the revenue is counted, the City Council can plan a budget. They must decide what services are most important and should be paid for out of the revenue. Shown below are some of the important services that the City of Centennial must provide.



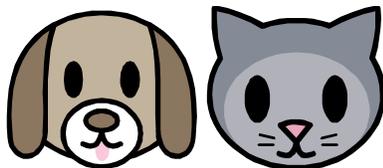
Snow Plows



Police



Traffic Lights



Animal Control



Courts

The City of Centennial's sales tax is 2 ½ pennies for each \$1.00. If you bought the following items, what would the total cost be, including City sales tax?

Item	Price	City Sales Tax	Total with Tax
2 Candy Bars	\$1.00		
1 T-Shirt	\$10.00		
1 Baseball Glove	\$20.00		
Playstation Game	\$50.00		



David Walcher
Arapahoe County Sheriff

Police

The City of Centennial does not have its own Police Department.

Public Safety is provided under contract by the [Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office](#), which has a number of deputies and clearly marked vehicles dedicated to the City. The Sheriff's Office has the important job of keeping everyone safe and making sure that the laws are followed.

Sometimes, Sheriff's deputies give traffic tickets to people who are speeding and do not stop at red lights. When these things happen, the people must go to the Centennial Municipal Court. In Municipal Court, a person can be fined and asked to pay money for disobeying the law.

If you need help, you can call 911 and a Sheriff's deputy will come to help you.

The City of Centennial is ranked one of the safest cities in Colorado and one of the safest in the country.

Fire Departments



Ask a Firefighter

The City of Centennial is located within three Fire Protection Districts:

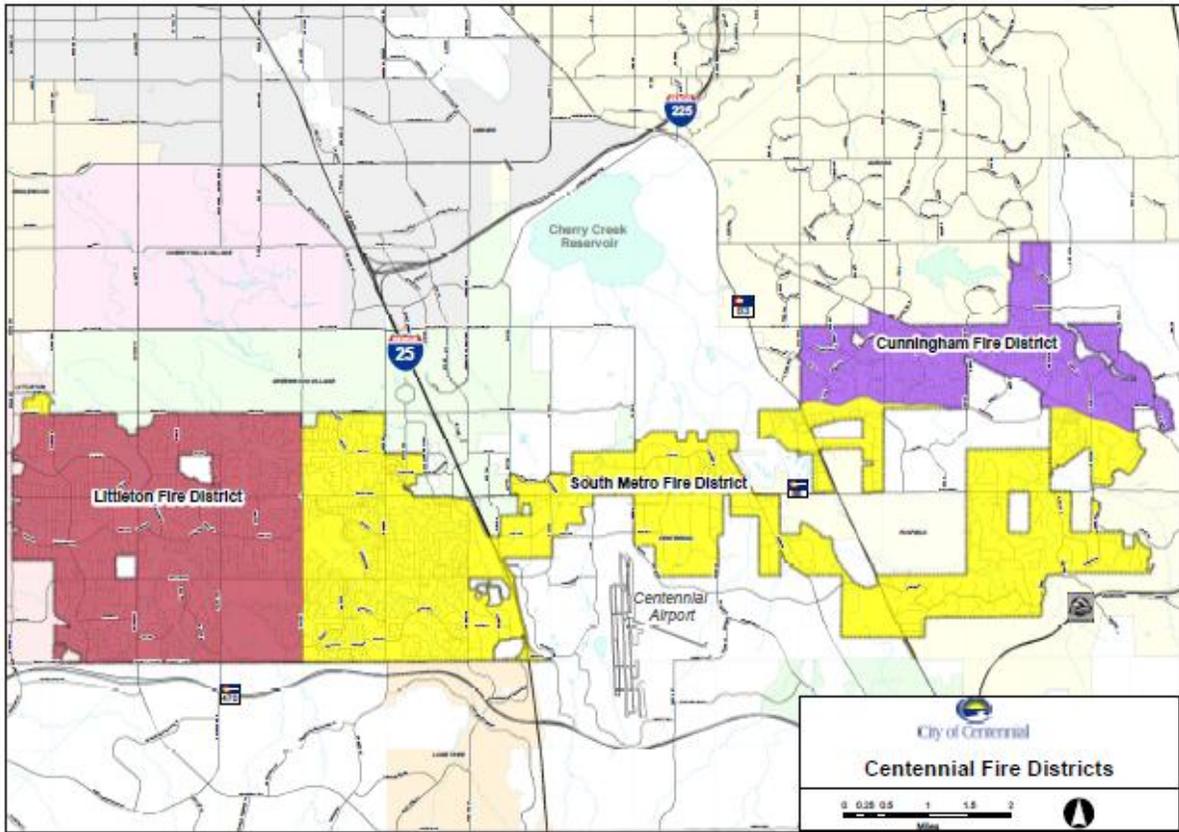
[Cunningham Fire Protection District](#)

[South Metro Fire Rescue Authority](#)

[Littleton Fire Department](#)



Littleton Volunteer Fire Department's Engine No. 2, circa 1914.





KIDS FACT PAGE

Location

The City of Centennial is one of Colorado's newest cities, located in the southern Denver metropolitan area, entirely within [Arapahoe County](#).

Centennial is close to the cities and towns of Aurora, Englewood, Foxfield, Greenwood Village, Highlands Ranch (unincorporated Douglas County), Littleton, Lone Tree, and Parker.



Centennial Center Park

Centennial covers 28.24 square miles, or 18,071.24 acres.

Households

Centennial has 37,449 households and a median household income of \$83,110.

Education

Approximately 50% of the population over the age of 21 has at least a Bachelor's Degree. School Districts: Cherry Creek School District & Littleton Public Schools.

Population of Residents	100,377
Median Age	41.1
Male to Female Ratio	49.2% / 50.8%
Average Summer Temperature	57-90 degrees
Average Winter Temperature	17-44 degrees

Ethnicity	Percentage of the Population
White	82.4%
Hispanic or Latino	7.4%
Asian	4.3%
African-American	3.1%
American-Indian	0.3%
Native Hawaiian	0.1%
Other	2.4%



THE CITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Community leaders know that good communities and cities don't just happen, they are "planned." Planning helps our city prepare for change. The City Planning and Development Department helps the City Council by finding ways to keep our City a pleasant place to live as it grows bigger and older.

For example, to keep city streets from getting too busy, planners and engineers figure out where new roads should be built. Planners and engineers also recommend where to put the stop signs and where the fire stations should be located to keep people safe. As neighborhoods grow, planners make sure there are parks and bike trails and other places nearby for recreation. Planners also have ideas about where the shopping areas should be in the city. If it were not for planners and engineers, you might have a very busy car wash built right next to your house.

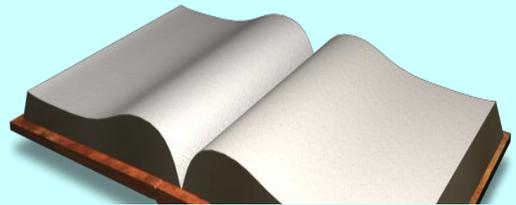




Paint a Word Picture

Pictures can be created with paint or with words! In 1916, the famous poet Carl Sandburg painted a word picture of Chicago, his home. He wanted to share his impressions of the city. Here are a few of his lines...

“Chicago...Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads
and the Nation’s Freight Handler
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders



You can paint a word picture of your City by writing a poem below.



Who does what?

Match the pairs by drawing a line to the things that people in your City do.

POLICE OFFICER

Person who delivers your mail

FIREFIGHTER

Person who makes you feel better when you are sick

TEACHER

Person who fights crime

DOCTOR

Person who puts out fires

MAIL CARRIER

Person who teaches you in a classroom



What is government and what role does it play in our lives? Why do we need government?

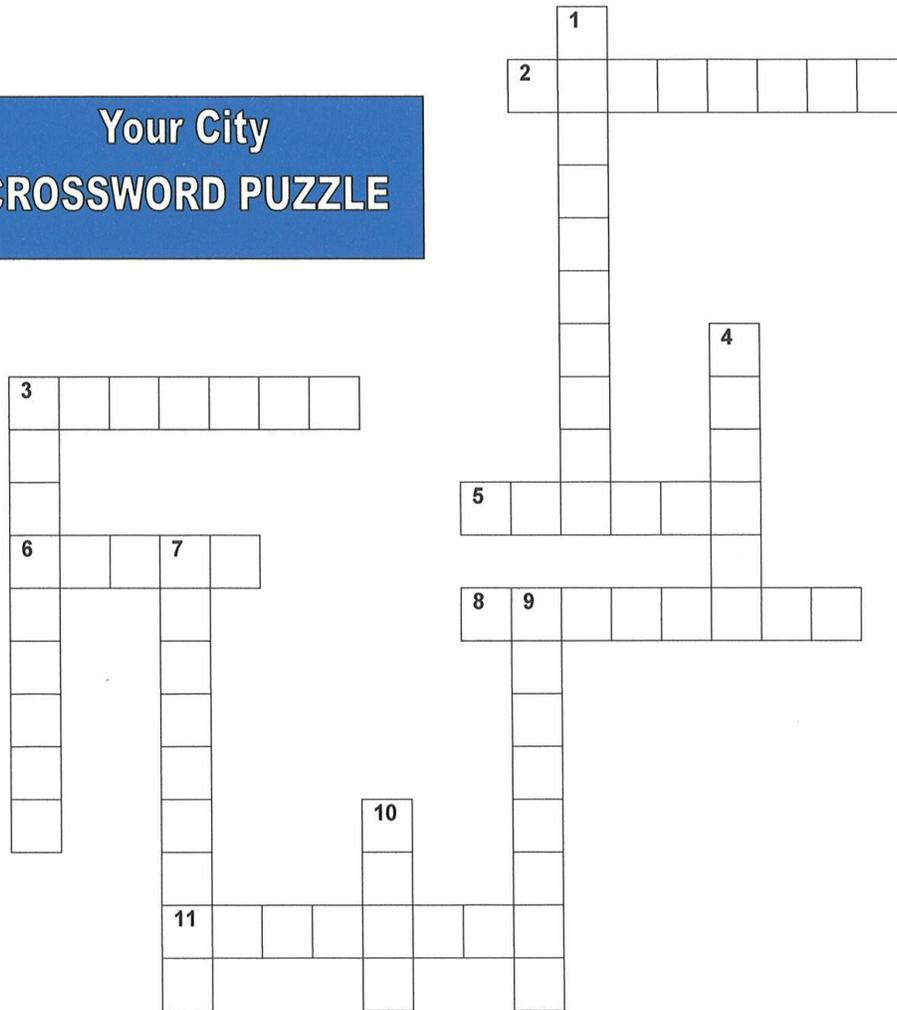
In its simplest form, a government determines the way in which a county, state, township, city or village is run. At every level, government makes laws that citizens must obey and creates policies about everything connected with the daily life of a community – whether that community is a nation, a state or the city where you live.

Visit the Web site below for fun activities and more information about *How Government Affects Me*.



<http://pbskids.org/democracy>

Your City CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. Centennial's rule of government is its _____ Charter
3. Nine elected officials sit on the City _____
5. When citizens go to the polls and cast a ballot, it is called _____
6. Cathy Noon is the _____ for the City of Centennial.
8. The amount of _____ collected by Centennial is 2 ½ cents for every dollar.
11. You live in the state of _____.

Down

1. Federal, State and Local are three kinds of _____.
3. The place where you live, play and attend school is called your _____.
4. The City's plan for how to spend its money is called a _____.
7. A law made by a city is called an _____.
9. The City of Centennial is located in _____ County.
10. The City of Centennial is located in three different _____ districts.



CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the “Centennial – Your City” workbook and now know a lot more about your city. You have learned many new vocabulary words, too! Draw a line from the words on the left side to their meanings on the right.



BUDGET

Rule that we must follow

REVENUE

The governing body of a city

LAW

Method by which groups of people make decisions

CITY COUNCIL

Laws only for a city

VOTING

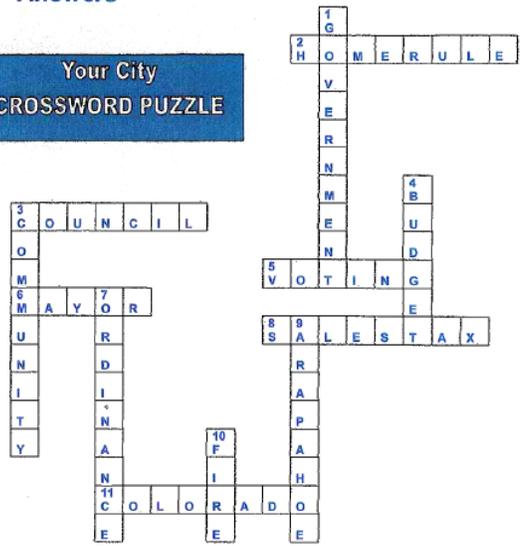
Money the city collects through taxes

ORDINANCES

Plan for spending money

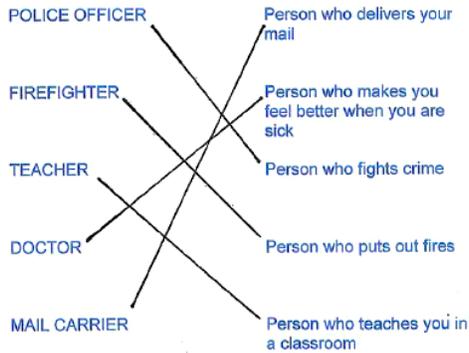
Answers

**Your City
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



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Snow Plows



Police



Traffic Lights



Animal Control



Courts

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1 Baseball Glove	\$20.00	\$0.50	\$20.50
Playstation Game	\$50.00	\$1.25	\$51.25

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- | | |
|--------------|---|
| BUDGET | Rule that we must follow |
| REVENUE | The governing body of a city |
| LAW | Method by which groups of people make decisions |
| CITY COUNCIL | Laws only for a city |
| VOTING | Money the city collects through taxes |
| ORDINANCES | Plan for spending money |