

## Chapter Two: Activity One

**Supplies:** copy of *Discretionary Services Worksheet*, pens or pencils

**Directions:** Explain that some of the services funded by counties are mandated by law, while other services are funded because the constituents want them. Pass out the copies of the worksheet and have students choose whether funding is mandatory, based on the Texas Constitution, or at the discretion of the county. Afterwards, discuss the students' answers.

**Key:**

Jails (mandatory)  
EMS/Fire (discretionary)  
Courts (mandatory)  
Juvenile Probation (mandatory)  
Future Tax Abatements (discretionary)  
Family Services (discretionary)  
Community Development (discretionary)  
Adult Probation Facilities (mandatory)  
Prosecution (mandatory)  
Indigent Health (mandatory)  
Parks/Community Centers (discretionary)  
Elections (mandatory)  
Roads (discretionary)  
Senior Services (discretionary)  
Employee Benefits (discretionary)  
Health Insurance (discretionary)  
County Auditor/Treasurer (mandatory)  
Public Health (discretionary)  
Debt Service (mandatory)  
Records Management (mandatory)  
Law Enforcement (discretionary)  
Homeland Defense (mandatory)  
Existing Tax Abatements (mandatory)  
Economic Development (discretionary)  
Libraries (discretionary)