



Cities, Local Government, and Local Governance

Participants explore a number of questions concerning the economics of cities. Key questions include:

- How important are cities relative to other forms of social organization?
- Why do some cities grow, while others shrink?
- How can we compare the viability of private alternatives to government provision of goods and services?
- What is the relevance of federalism in debates about governance?

Reading Schedule

Session 1 – The Importance of Cities

- “The World Goes to Town.” (2007) *The Economist*. May 3. London, UK: the Economist Newspaper Limited. Accessed at <http://www.economist.com/node/9070726>.

Session 2 – Urban Decline

- Roberts, Russell and Edward Glaeser. (2013) “Glaeser on Cities.” *EconTalk*. April 22. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2013/04/glaeser_on_citi.html.
- Stansel, Dean. (2011) “Why Some Cities Are Growing and Others Shrinking.” *Cato Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 2. 285-303.
- ——— (2013) “An Economic Freedom Index for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.” *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, Vol. 43, No. 1. 3-20.

Session 3 – Sprawl and Local Economic Development

- Rybczynski, Witold. (2005) “Suburban Despair: Is Urban Sprawl Really an American Menace?” *Slate*. November 7. Accessed at http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/architecture/2005/11/suburban_despair.single.html.

Session 4 – Zoning and Texas-Style Urbanism

- Stringham, Edward, Jennifer Miller, and J.R. Clark. (2010) “Internalizing Externalities through Private Zoning: the Case of Walt Disney Company’s Celebration, Florida.” *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, Vol. 40, No. 2. 96-103.
- Powell, Benjamin and Edward Stringham. (2009) “Inclusionary Zoning.” In *Housing America: Building Out of a Crisis*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute. 109-130.
- Siegan, Bernard. (2009) “The Benefits of Nonzoning.” In *Housing America: Building Out of a Crisis*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute. 33-64.



Cities, Local Government, and Local Governance

Session 4 – Zoning and Texas-Style Urbanism (Continued)

- Desmet, Klaus and Cullum Clark. (2016) “The Dallas Way of Urban Growth.” In *The Texas Way of Urbanism*. Houston, TX: Center for Opportunity Urbanism. 14-20. Accessed at <http://opportunityurbanism.org/2016/11/texas-way-of-urbanism-report/>.
- Kotkin, Joel and Tory Gattis. (2014) “America’s Opportunity City: Lots of New Jobs and a Low Cost Living Make House a Middle-Class Magnet.” *City Journal*. Issue #105. New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Accessed at <http://www.city-journal.org/html/america%E2%80%99s-opportunity-city-13662.html>.
- Center for Opportunity Urbanism. (2016) *The Texas Way of Urbanism*. Houston, TX: Center for Opportunity Urbanism. Accessed at <http://opportunityurbanism.org/2016/11/texas-way-of-urbanism-report/>.
- Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. (2016) Special Issue: Texas Rising 2016. *City Journal*. Issue #307. New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Accessed at <http://www.city-journal.org/magazine?issue=307>.
- Anderson, Brian and Joel Kotkin. (2016) “Reimagining Urbanism for the 21st Century.” *10 Blocks*. April 20. New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Accessed at <http://www.city-journal.org/html/reimagining-urbanism-21st-century-14406.html>.
- Sumner, Scott. (2016) “Market Urbanism in Houston.” *EconLog*. April 23. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at http://econlog.econlib.org/archives/2016/04/market_urbanism.html.
- Roberts, Russell and Ryan Avent. (2011) “Avent on Cities, Urban Regulations, and Growth.” *EconTalk*. October 31. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2011/10/avent_on_cities.html.

Session 5 – Local Government: What is it Good For?

- Cowen, Tyler. (2008) “Public Goods.” In David Henderson, ed., *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/PublicGoods.html>.
- Caplan, Bryan. (2008) “Externalities.” In David Henderson, ed., *The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/Externalities.html>.
- Stigler, George. (1962). “The Tenable Range of Functions of Local Government.” In Edmund Phelps, ed., *Private Wants and Public Needs*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton. 213-219.
- Tabarrok, Alex. (2002) “Market Challenges and Government Failure.” In David Beito, Peter Gordon, and Alex Tabarrok, eds., *The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute. 405-433.



Cities, Local Government, and Local Governance

Session 5 – Local Government: What is it Good For? (Continued)

- Roberts, Russell and Alex Tabarrok. (2015) “Alex Tabarrok on Private Cities.” *EconTalk*. January 26. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2015/01/alex_tabarrok_o.html
- Feine, Paul and Alex Manning. (2011) “Sandy Springs, Georgia: The City that Outsourced Everything.” *Reason TV*. April 12. Los Angeles, CA: Reason Foundation. Accessed at <http://reason.com/reasontv/2011/04/12/sandy-springs-georgia-the-city>.
- Epstein, Jim. (2010) “Boondoggle in the Motor City: Detroit’s Train to Nowhere.” *Reason TV*. October 13. Los Angeles, CA: Reason Foundation. Accessed at <http://reason.com/reasontv/2010/10/13/light-rail>.
- Roberts, Russell and Michael Munger. (2008) “Munger on the Political Economy of Public Transportation.” *EconTalk*. July 7. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2008/07/munger_on_the_p.html.
- Carey, Drew. (2010) “Privatize It: Reason Saves Cleveland with Drew Carey, Ep. 3.” *Reason TV*. March 16. Los Angeles, CA: Reason Foundation. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9-ozphsuSk>.

Session 6 – Alternatives to Traditional Local Government

- Foldvary, Fred. (1994) “Utopia for Rent: Walt Disney World.” In *Public Goods and Private Communities: The Market Provision of Social Services*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. 114-132.

Session 7 – Polycentrism

- Stringham, Edward. (2015) “Applying Hayek’s Insights about Discovery and Spontaneous Order to Governance.” In *Private Governance: Creating Order in Economic and Social Life*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 206-225.
- Stansel, Dean. (2005) “Local Decentralization and Local Economic Growth: A Cross-Sectional Examination of U.S. Metropolitan Areas.” *Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 57, No. 1. 55-72.
- ——— (2012) “Competition, Knowledge, and Local Government.” *Review of Austrian Economics*, Vol. 25, No. 3. 243-253.
- Foldvary, Fred. (1994) “Urban Economics and Public Choice.” In *Public Goods and Private Communities: The Market Provision of Social Services*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. 194-202.
- Boettke, Peter, Christopher Coyne, and Peter Leeson. (2012) “Quasimarket Failure.” *Public Choice*, Vol. 149, No. 1-2. 209-224.



Cities, Local Government, and Local Governance

Session 8 – Police and Fire Fighting Services

- Boettke, Peter, Jayme Lemke, and Liya Palagashvili. (2016) “Re-evaluating Community Policing in a Polycentric System.” *Journal of Institutional Economics*, Vol. 12, No. 2. 305-325.
- Oppenheimer, Tracy. (2012) “Can Volunteers Protect Communities?” *Reason TV*. April 11. Los Angeles, CA: Reason Foundation. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67XKF7CkHLQ>.

Session 9 – Social Services and Disaster Relief

- Green, David G. (2002) “Medical Care through Mutual-Aid: The Friendly Societies of Great Britain.” In David Beito, Peter Gordon, and Alex Tabarrok, eds., *The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute. 204-220.
- Tooley, James. (2002) “Education in the Voluntary City.” In David Beito, Peter Gordon, and Alex Tabarrok, eds., *The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society*. Oakland, CA: The Independent Institute. 223-248.
- Mill, John Stuart. (1859) “On Education.” In *On Liberty*. Library of Economics and Liberty. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, Inc. Accessed at <http://www.econlib.org/library/Mill/mlLbty5.html#V.13>.

Session 10 – Overview

- Stringham, Edward. (2015) “The Unseen Beauty that Underpins Markets.” In *Private Governance: Creating Order in Economic and Social Life*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 226-238.
- Florida, Richard. (2005) “Open Questions.” In *Cities and the Creative Class*. New York, NY: Routledge. 171-176.
- Rusk, David. (2013) “Conclusion.” In *Cities without Suburbs*, 4th ed. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press. 167-176.