COLLECTION I — THE 12 POINTS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

12 Points Self-Assessment Scorecard

A practical worksheet for evaluating your local, state, or federal government against all 12 principles.

By Daniel P. Devine · Civest Sphere · November 2026

How to use this scorecard

1. Choose one institution, such as your town board, school board, county legislature or a state agency.
2. For each point, look for evidence: websites, meeting minutes, budgets, news coverage and your own experience.
3. Score each point from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), and write down the evidence behind your score.
4. Add up the total. More useful than the total: the two or three lowest scores, which tell you where to focus.

Institution: _____ Date: _____

Point	Score (circle one)	Evidence
1. Rule of Law Are rules applied equally, including to officials?	1 2 3 4 5	
2. Transparency Are meetings, budgets, contracts and records open?	1 2 3 4 5	
3. Accountability Do officials answer for decisions, and act on audits?	1 2 3 4 5	

Point	Score (circle one)	Evidence
4. Participation Can residents be heard before decisions are made?	1 2 3 4 5	
5. Consensus Orientation Does it seek common ground among competing interests?	1 2 3 4 5	
6. Equity & Inclusiveness Are services and attention fairly shared?	1 2 3 4 5	
7. Effectiveness & Efficiency Does it deliver results without waste?	1 2 3 4 5	
8. Responsiveness Does it act on residents' concerns in reasonable time?	1 2 3 4 5	
9. Strategic Vision Does it plan for the long term?	1 2 3 4 5	
10. Ethical Leadership Do officials avoid conflicts and act with integrity?	1 2 3 4 5	
11. Separation of Powers Do other branches and oversight bodies check its power?	1 2 3 4 5	
12. Local Power Are decisions made as close to residents as possible?	1 2 3 4 5	
Total	_____ / 60	

Reading your results

- **48–60:** Strong. Keep watching, and help others hold it to this standard.
- **36–47:** Mixed. Pick your two lowest points and start there.
- **Below 36:** Needs attention. Bring your evidence to a public meeting, your representatives, or local media.

Next steps

Share your scorecard with neighbors or a civic group and compare results. Each point has its own Citizen's Guide in the Civic Library with specific actions you can take.

Last reviewed November 2026. This guide is general information, not legal advice. Laws, deadlines and procedures change, so confirm details with the official source before you act.

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