

### Questions to Think About

Before we chat in November, it would be helpful to review the questions below. There is no need to write down anything but you should spend some time thinking about these questions, as we will discuss some of them during our time together. There is no right or wrong answer to these questions. If you only have time to look at one question, consider the last one.

1. Webster's Online Dictionary defines a city as "a place where people live that is larger or more important than a town." Although the dictionary does mention work in a second definition, why is the fact that people live in a city so important? How might this affect how local policymakers enact city laws? (Hint: Residents of a city elect its government).
2. Are laws that may help city residents ethical if they may simultaneously disadvantage those who are not yet residents but who may want to be? Does your answer vary by occupation? Income? Family size?
3. If you are a single businessman who works upwards of fifty hours a week and saved up to rent a luxury apartment, should all other tenants have to pay the same price as you did? Why or why not?
4. How would you design a city? Suburbs? A town? A rural countryside?
5. Think about your hometown. What is it like? Where are the businesses? The single-family homes? The schools? The apartments? Is there a "bad" part of town? If there is, why is it considered "bad"? What, if any, businesses are located in this area? Is there a lot of open space in your town? Parks? Trails? What are the advantages of the way your hometown is set up? Disadvantages? Take some time to use Google Maps to look at a satellite view of your hometown.
6. Are homes an "investment" that should appreciate in value? If you think they are, should they be? What political and economic problems might this create? What are the benefits? (Hint: Consider reactions to the crash in home prices during the most recent recession.)
7. Should city governments actively work to attract certain types of families and businesses? What are the pros and cons of these programs? How do you define "certain types"?
8. Pretend a hypothetical city does not have the funds to extend its sewage lines. Who wins? Who loses?
9. Pretend you just bought a penthouse specifically for the amazing view it provides: glistening sunset, twinkling stars, an inviting breath of fresh air. Do you have the right to that view since you bought the penthouse? What if someone builds a taller building near your penthouse, obstructing your view? Was the view included in the price you paid?