**Original Work Proposal**

Although different levels of government exist and operate distinctly, there is a lot of overlap between them. In politics today, that overlap in particular and the resultant overstepping that comes from it is a major source of governmental contention. Many politicians advocate for increased local control while at the state level plenty work against it. Because of the implications state policy has at every tier beneath it, the results of those high-up choices trickle down and affect citizens at local levels. As a citizen, it can be hard to see how so many separate decisions can affect your life in specific ways, so for my Original Work I want to research a variety of local control situations and how they impact city governments and the people who live within them. My proposal is to complete comprehensive research of different local control cases in Texas and then focus on a few specifically to analyze their resulting effects. The further synthezation of my research will be done by analyzing the public policy that relates to the subjects of my choosing and then considering how more and less local control would impact a citizen directly. Hopefully with this work I’ll have a much more thorough understanding of the difficulties local municipalities have with local control and deepen my understanding of the complexities of the subject too.

Both of my mentors spoke about this idea of “local control” being highly relevant to local government right now. Specifically in Frisco I imagine it has a lot of bearing on the town because of the many public-private partnerships that the city prioritizes, however after researching more about the nature of local control I’ll be able to determine this more concretely. I want to understand how much the decisions of state governments really impact the work of city officials, because even during the interview process one of the questions I made sure to ask the people I spoke to was “how do other levels of government influence your work and how much intermixing is there?”. By synthesizing the information I am going to get from my research into a few specified situations, I’ll be able to really consider the legislation in question too and what it means for cities individually.

I will need to be able to utilize higher-level thinking when analyzing the research I’ve completed in order to make informed opinions about what local control does and does not do to citizens themselves. By considering different factors in specific instances of local control, I’ll realize what the trends are in these situations and how that particularly is reflected in the lives of citizens and the officials of the government. In other words, by considering multiple sides of the balance of local control, I hope to recognize how that impacts the positions of city council and city manager as well as the lives of residents. I will need to be able to use logic and my own nuanced understanding of the situations I consider to determine what I think is best for cities on a case-by-case basis, hopefully pertaining to Frisco specifically, as then I could further deepen my knowledge by speaking to my mentors about how local control affects Frisco, not just general cities of Texas.

Through this Original Work project, I hope to bring some understanding to the complexity of local control, especially as it becomes an increasingly impactful debate among politicians. By the end I would like to have a full understanding of why local control is growing as a source of contention while realizing in a more specific focus how the decisions in local control jurisdiction relate to local governments and the citizens of their towns. With this work, I hope that I’ll be able to create an encompassing study on how a variety of factors change the question of who has control over certain political matters and see how that relates to the city I’ll be studying in for the rest of my year in ISM, Frisco.