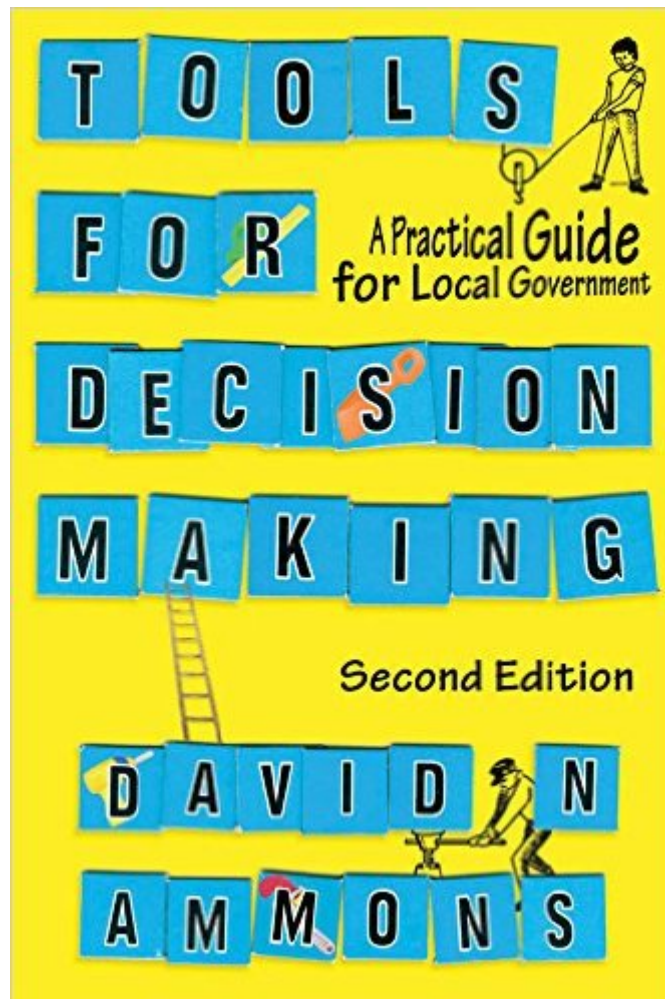


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# Tools For Decision Making: A Practical Guide For Local Government



## Synopsis

Known for encouraging step-by-step problem solving and for connecting techniques to real-world scenarios, David Ammons's *Tools for Decision Making* covers a wide range of local government practices—from the foundational to the advanced. Brief and readable, each chapter opens with a problem in a hypothetical city and then introduces a tool to address it. Thoroughly updated with new local government examples, the second edition also incorporates chapters devoted to such additional techniques as sampling analysis, sensitivity analysis, financial condition analysis, and forecasting via trend analysis. Numerous tables, figures, exhibits, equations, and worksheets walk readers through the application of tools, and boxed features throughout each chapter present other uses for techniques, helpful online resources, and common errors. A handy guide for students and an invaluable resource and reference for practitioners. Students can visit [college.cqpress.com/TDM](http://college.cqpress.com/TDM) for more opportunities to put these tools to use. Instructors can register for access to the solutions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book contained a lot of valuable information but was a little dry. If you are getting it as a reference guide, as I was, it is great. However, if you are looking for a recreational read, it may not be the best.

This is a useful little book that is designed to provide tools for decision making at the local government level. The Preface describes the focus of the book as "a guide to practical techniques of analysis for local government." The author, David Ammons, is a realist. He recognizes that politics can trump analysis, so that even use of these tools will not prevent politics from determining decisions. For instance, at the close of the book, he notes that "Local government decision makers must contend with multiple and often conflicting objectives." There is a nice table at the outset of the book, showing different analytical techniques available for local decision making. Throughout the book, a series of these are discussed in readable language. Among these? Demand analysis, PERT, performance standards, figuring interest rates and yields, cost-effectiveness analysis, analyzing survey data, benchmarking, and so on. All in all, a rather straightforward handbook. Much of the discussion is at only an introductory level, but that is not inappropriate given the book's purpose. On the other hand some of the discussion may be slow going for local officials. Bottom line: a useful little book.

The format of the book is problem solution based. I have never in my life had some of these analysis tools explained to me in such a simple manner. The problem is presented via a real life public administration problem and then using that issue the analysis is explained. Very useful and I am sure I will use the things that I have learned from the book in various positions in my future.

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