

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN COMPARING MUNICIPAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Charter terms: 'council' refers to the elected legislative body; 'manager' to the chief administrative officer appointed by council; 'mayor' to the directly-elected CEO who is full-time administrator. Most mayoral positions do not vote as a council member in strong-mayor cities.

Role / Power	Council-Manager	Council-Strong Mayor
CEO	Professional manager	Elected/Political Mayor
CAO	Professional manager	Option: Mayor's political appointee; Additional salary/benefits
Qualifications	4-year degree minimum; Master's preferred; experience	Registered citizen
Ethics	Manager abides by international Code; Upheld by peers; Charter and state law	Charter and state law
Policy Development	Recommends and implements	Recommends and implements
Presents budget	Manager develops, presents and monitors; Council adopts	Mayor writes/presents; Council adopts
Staff appointments	Manager hires/fires	Mayor hires/fires
Advisory/Board appointments	Mayor and Council; varies	Mayor appoints; some variations
Continuity of Government	Manager serves at Council's pleasure	Position turns over with election, as do department directors/key staff
Ceremonial	Mayor acts as spokesperson	Same
Leads public meetings	Mayor leads Council	Usually Chairperson; rotates
Intergovernmental Leadership	Mayor	Mayor
Performance Evaluation	At pleasure of Council	Political
Dismissal Options	Hired/Fired by Council	Cannot be fired