



Council-Manager Form of Government

**Presentation to Gainesville City Commission
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(Abridged Version)

Assistance provided by ICMA and FCCMA

What is the Council-Manager Form?

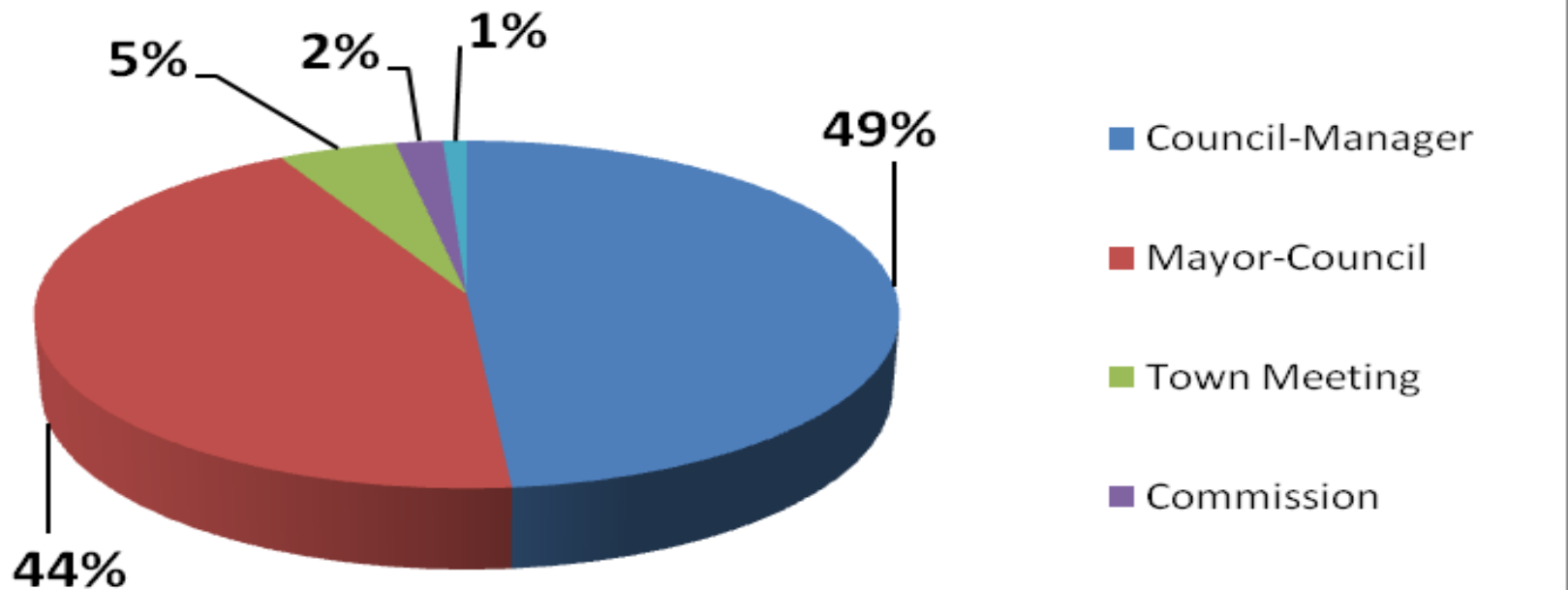
- Combines strong political leadership of elected officials with strong managerial experience of appointed Manager.
- All power and authority to set policy rests with elected officials.

What is the Council-Manager Form? (cont'd)

- Governing body hires a non-partisan Manager who has broad authority to run the organization.
- The Manager serves at the pleasure of the elected officials.

Current Status of Council-Manager Government

- Trend is toward Council-Manager government
- Today more than 92 million people in the U.S. live in cities operating under Council-Manager form



Forms of U.S. Local Government [2013]
(Population 2,500 and greater)

Fast Facts:

- 57% of U.S. cities with populations between 5,000 and 249,999 operate under the Council-Manager form.
- 144 of the 205 cities (70%) with populations similar to that of Gainesville (100,000 - 249,999 people) are Council-Manager.

Florida City Government

Charter Changes in the past 20 Years for cities 50,000 and above:

Lauderhill – Council-Strong Mayor to Council-Mgr. 1995

Fort Myers – Council-Strong Mayor to Council-Mgr. 2005

Pensacola – Council-Mgr. to Council-Strong Mayor 2010

Source: FCCMA

Florida City Government (cont'd)

Approximately approx. 275 of 410 cities operate under the Council-Manager Form

Since 1990 the 22 cities, towns and villages that have incorporated all adopted their charters with the Council-Manager Form

Source: FCCMA

Florida City Government (cont'd)

- Gainesville has a legacy of good government and positive citizen engagement
- The Council-Manager Form has been in place since 1927*

* Staunton, VA adopted Council-Manager in 1908; the first large city to adopt the Council-Manager Form was Dayton, OH in 1913

Benefits of Council-Manager Government

- Policy making resides with elected officials
- Elected officials free to devote time to policy planning/development and citizen engagement

Benefits of Council-Manager Government (cont' d.)

- C-M governments have Mayors; the charter draws clear distinction between administrative role of Manager and policy role of Mayor
- Mayor is a member of Council, therefore, no separation among elected body

Benefits of Council-Manager Government (cont' d.)

- Decisions on policy and community future made by the entire governing body rather than a single individual

Benefits of Council-Manager Government (cont' d.)

- Day-to-day operations managed by highly trained, nonpartisan, experienced professional
- Professional Managers typically possess a master's degree (approx. 60% in 2012), often in public administration (Source: ICMA)
- Acquire management “know-how” to ensure continuous improvement of community services

Benefits of Council-Manager Government (cont' d.)

- Manager carries out the policies established by elected governing body with an emphasis on effective, efficient, and equitable service delivery

Per the NCL's Model Charter (8th Edition) the City Manager:

- 1) Assist the council to develop long-term goals for the city and strategies to implement these goals;
- 2) Encourage and provide staff support for regional and intergovernmental cooperation, and
- 3) Promote partnerships among council, staff, and citizens in developing public policy and building a sense of community.

Benefits of Council-Manager Government (cont' d.)

- The Council-Manager Form is flexible enough to operate in a variety of city government structures and adapt to local needs and demands

“Value Proposition” of C-M Government

- Adds value to the quality of public policy and produces results that matter
- Takes a long-term, community-wide perspective
- Committed to a set of ethical practices in the service of public values

“Value Proposition” of C-M Government (cont’ d.)

- Builds consensus among diverse interests
- Promotes equity and fairness
- Develops and sustains organizational excellence and innovation

In summary...

- While a good Manager will always do his or her best to implement the vision of elected officials efficiently and effectively regardless of the form of government
- The Council-Manager form of government is the form that is best structured to facilitate a community's success.

About ICMA

- Founded 1914 as professional organization for appointed local government managers
- Approximately 9,000 members
- Roughly 5,400 city, town, or county managers or senior-level assistant/deputy managers
- Decisions made by ICMA members affect millions of individuals in thousands of communities

About ICMA (cont' d.)

- Mission:
to create excellence in local governance by developing and fostering professional local government management worldwide
- Premier local government leadership and management organization
- Origins in council-manager form of government

ICMA Code of Ethics

- ICMA members agree to subscribe to a stringently-enforced Code of Ethics
- The Code was established in 1924 and ensures the professional and personal integrity of city, town, and county managers
- The Code also requires members to commit to a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education and professional development

Source: ICMA http://icma.org/en/icma/ethics/code_of_ethics

For more information, contact:

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Information about Council-Manager Form:

http://icma.org/en/icma/about/overview/council_manager/topictabs/6

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