

Effective Council Communications

Can't we just all get along? How to work together

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Types of cities and forms of government

Types of cities (classification)

- **First Class** (10) – RCW 35
- **Second Class** (5)
- **Towns** (68)
- **Code Cities** (197) – RCW 35A

Forms of government

- **Mayor-council** (strong mayor) (227)
- **Council-manager** (54)
- **Commission** (0)

Characteristics	Mayor-Council	Council-Manager
Legislative authority	Council	Council
Executive authority	Elected mayor	Appointed manager
Selection of CEO	Popularly elected	Appointed by council on the basis of experience
Removal of CEO	Recall election	Removed by a majority vote of the council
Tenure of executive	4-year term	Indefinite
Tenure of council	4-year term	4-year term
Appointment of department heads	Mayor (with council confirmation if provided)	Manager (no council confirmation)
Removal of department heads	Mayor	Manager
Veto	Mayor	Manager has no veto
Policy development	Mayor can propose	Manager can recommend
Policy implementation	Mayor	Manager
Underlying principles	Separation of powers Political leadership Strong central executive	Separation of politics from administration Promotes economy and efficiency through professional management Strong central executive Follows a business model
Source: MRSC.org		

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Roles & Responsibilities

- Policy and Administration are separated (think branches of government)
- Legislative and policy-making powers are vested in the City Council
- Administrative authority is vested in the directly elected Mayor or City Manager

Council

- Adopt council rules of procedures
- Participate in preparation of council agenda
- Discuss, develop and adopt city policies governing city operations including budget
- Set wages and benefits, establish positions, establish bargaining parameters and approve final labor contracts

Mayor/City Manager

- Prepared agenda, report to council on matters
- Propose policy including budget
- Implement policy adopted by the council
- Hire, fire, supervise, and discipline staff
- Negotiate labor contracts