

+

○

# WELCOME TO THE PARKING LOT!

Cliff Shepard  
Town Attorney - Eatonville





# Agenda

- Strong Mayor vs. Council/Manager
- Districting
- Candidate Qualifying





ONE REASON PEOPLE  
RESIST CHANGE IS  
BECAUSE THEY FOCUS  
ON WHAT THEY HAVE TO  
**GIVE UP**, INSTEAD OF  
WHAT THEY HAVE TO  
**GAIN.**

THE DAILY QUOTES . COM

# A Change Imposed is a Change Opposed.

Spencer Johnson





+

•

○

# TOPIC ONE

Strong Mayor vs. Council/Manager

# Forms of Government

## **Council - Strong Mayor**

- Distinct division of powers between council and the mayor.
- Mayor is chief executive with substantial influence in the policymaking and substantial control over administration.
- Mayor holds important budgetary and appointment powers. Administrative authority is not shared but can be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).
- Mayor has general power to appoint board members.
- Eatonville has established the position of CAO under the mayor to handle day-to-day operations of the government, thus leaving mayor free to concentrate on policy formulation, ceremonial tasks and other functions.
- Administrative management by CAO to the mayor may be combined with strong political and policy leadership by the mayor.

# Forms of Government (cont'd)

## **Council-Manager**

- City manager is chief administrative officer of the city. The manager supervises/coordinates the departments, appoints and removes directors, prepares budget for council's consideration, and makes reports and recommendations to council.
- All department heads report to manager and manager is responsible for municipal administration.
- Mayor is ceremonial head of municipality, presides over council meetings and may serve as the spokesperson for the city.
- Mayor is chosen by direct election, rotation among the council or election from the council.
- Mayor has little, if any, role in day-to-day administration.
- Widely viewed as taking politics out of municipal administration.
- Manager is hired and fired by the council, but council members must abstain from interfering in administration, including personnel matters, lest they be removed from office.



+

•

○

# TOPIC TWO

Districting

# Districting

## Based on Population Distribution and Makeup

- Goal is to divide population equally (+/-) into districts so all locales and populations in community are represented.
- Based on population, not just voting population, but voter registration still important.
- Idea is to create more direct representation between citizens and their elected officials.
- Census is key tool to draw district map.
- Usually, but not always, done with a consultant.
- Can include both district and “at large” representation.
- Reanalyzed with each census for population/demographic shifts.



# Districting

+

•

○

## PROS

- Promotes accountability and representation.
- Promotes proportional representation.
- Easier to know “your” representative.
- Can promote advocacy for a specific geographic area.

## CONS

- Potential for gerrymandering.
- Can be more complex and expensive to administer.
- Harder to hold other representatives accountable.
- Can lead to factionalized rather than holistic community planning.

The background image shows a shipping yard with a forklift in the foreground and stacks of shipping containers in the background. The image is overlaid with a blue-to-orange gradient.

# TOPIC THREE

Candidate Qualifying

# Candidate Qualifying

## Charter is Silent

- Need a standardized qualifying period.
- Typically, 5-7 days.
- Should provide for adjustment during Presidential Primary years.
- Consider methods of qualifying (*i.e.*, petition, fee, affidavit).

### EXAMPLE - Maitland

Any person who is a resident of the city for a minimum of 6 months and has the qualifications of an elector therein may become a candidate for nomination to the office of mayor or to council seat by filing with the city clerk a petition subscribed to by not less than fifty (50) persons who are qualified electors of the city and by taking and subscribing to an oath or affirmation in substantially the following form and filing the same together with the petition with the city clerk at any time after noon of the first day of qualifying, which shall be noon of the 50th day prior to the general city election but not later than noon of the 46th day prior to the day of the general city election. However, in any year which is a multiple of four and during which the general city election is held concurrent with the Florida Presidential Preference Primary, the first day of qualifying shall be noon of the 80th day prior to the general city election and the final day of qualifying shall be no later than noon of the 76th day prior to the election date. The city clerk shall post in city hall notification of the date of the general city election no later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of such general city election.



THANKS  
FOR  
COMING!

