



Forms of City Government

An Overview by Anne Corrock
Ketchum Committee for Better Government

Forms of City Government

City Government Structures

- Mayor-Council (aka Strong Mayor)
- Council-Manager

Forms of City Government—Mayor-Council Form

- Elected mayor is the Chief Executive of the City
- The City Council is the policy setting or legislative body
- Depending on the city, mayoral authority can range from ceremonial to full scale responsibility for day-to-day operations
- Strong mayor duties generally include:
 - Ceremonial responsibilities, presides at council meetings, oversight of day-to-day operations, hiring and firing of staff, setting administrative direction to staff, preparation and administration of the budget
- Nearly half of strong mayor cities in the U.S. have chief administrative officers (CAOs) or city administrators. Most administrators are appointed by the mayor and ratified by the city council. Duties of the administrators are either set by the council or by the mayor or both.

Forms of City Government—Mayor-Council Form

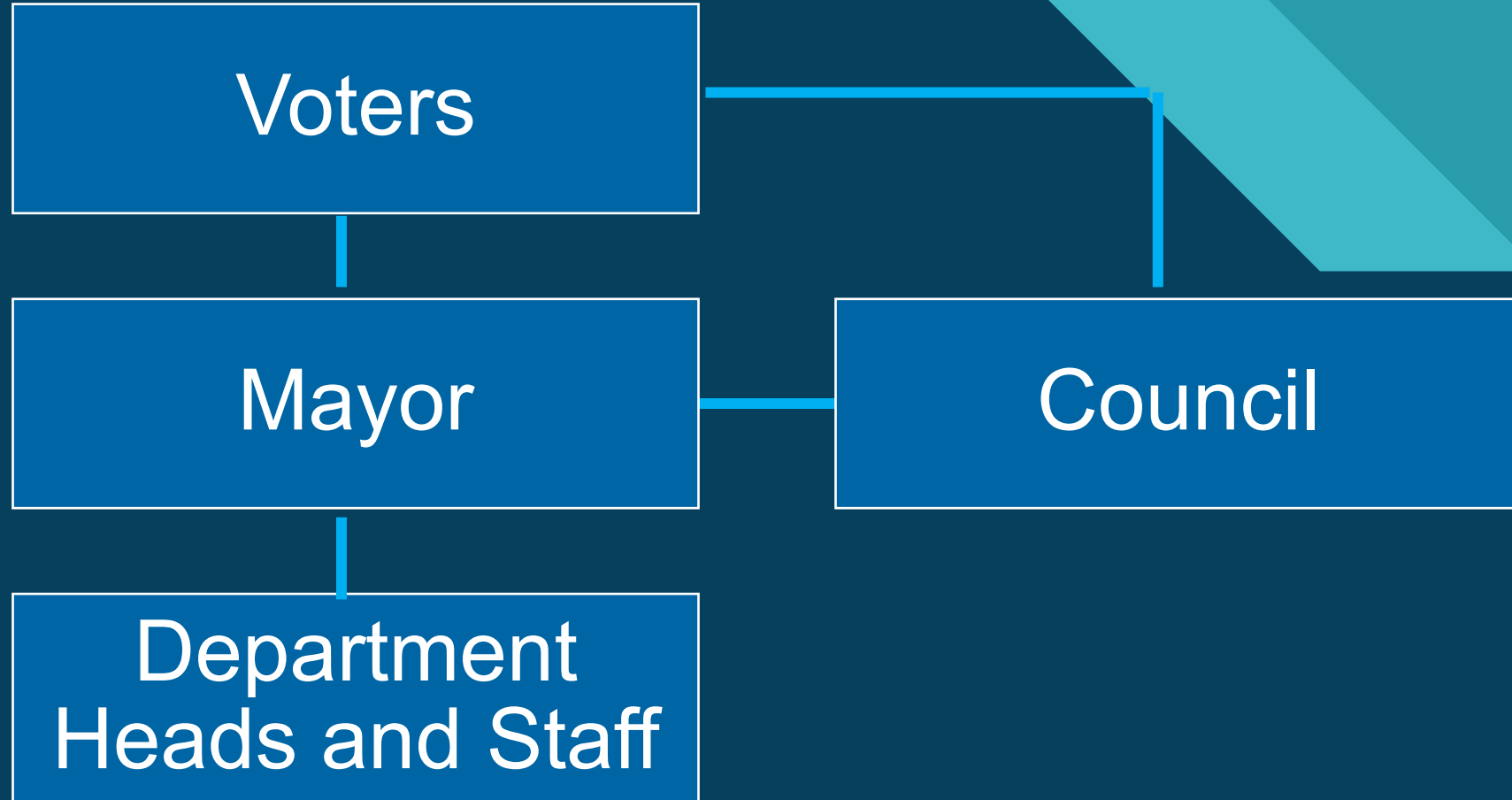
Major Attribute

- An elected executive answerable directly to the public concerning policy implementation

Major Criticism

- Partisan political perspective in policy implementation
- Can be subject to special interest in policy implementation
- Professional/managerial skills may not be adequate for responsibilities

Forms of City Government—Mayor-Council Form



Forms of City Government—Council-Manager Form

- The city council (including the mayor) is the legislative body
- The mayor presides over city council meetings, performs ceremonial duties and participates as an equal voting member with the council in policymaking, appropriating funds, and other legislative responsibilities
- Some mayors are elected at large by the voters while others are appointed by the council
- The council appoints the city manager by majority vote
- The city manager serves at the pleasure of the elected legislative body
- The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city, oversees all department heads and ensures that the ordinances and policies of the city are complied with and faithfully executed

Forms of City Government—Council-Manager Form

Major Attribute

- Professional/educated/experienced public sector executive
- More public access to elected officials
- Less political in management and delivery of public services
- The power of special interests is diffused
- Continuity of community vision
- Cost effective

Major Criticism

- Not elected by the people. Can be detached from the will of the people

Forms of City Government—Council-Manager Form



Forms of City Government—Resort Cities

Aspen, CO	Council-Manager	City Manager
Breckenridge, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Crested Butte, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Dillon, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Durango, CO	Council-Manager	City Manager
Frisco, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Jackson, WY	Mayor-Council	Town Administrator
Ketchum, ID	Mayor-Council	City Administrator
McCall, ID	Council-Manager	City Manager
Crested Butte, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Park City, UT	Council-Manager	City Manager
Silverthorne, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Snowmass Village, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
South Lake Tahoe, CA	Council-Manager	City Manager
Steamboat Springs, CO	Council-Manager	City Manager
Telluride, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager
Vail, CO	Council-Manager	City Manager
Winter Park, CO	Council-Manager	Town Manager

2011 Election Results

November 8, 2011 Election Results

Precinct	Ketchum City Council													Ketchum Council Manager		Ketchum LOT	
	Bailey	Garcia	Gourlay	Hall	Helzel	Jonas	Kemp	Kesting	Marshall	Morrow	Shafran	Slanetz	White	YES	NO	In Favor	Against
001 NW Ketchum	79	50	109	84	77	125	78	70	7	44	60	82	1	82	109	138	46
002 SW Ketchum	142	104	207	156	124	289	143	145	19	89	111	174	14	155	225	284	85
003 N & E Ketchum	61	41	74	64	62	113	64	61	10	46	48	59	3	76	93	121	39
004 South Ketchum	39	35	59	56	48	84	47	51	4	32	39	59	6	50	80	97	27
Absentee	58	33	76	61	53	95	88	61	4	39	64	53	13	77	75	111	42
City Total	379	263	525	421	364	706	420	388	44	250	322	427	37	440	582	751	239

Total Registered Voters: 2,032

Total Votes: 1,034

Over 50% turnout

Total Yes: 440 43%

Total No: 582 57%

Summary

- **Why?** It's all about good governance. Ketchum needs excellent elected officials and excellent management. Which form of government is best suited to deliver good governance to Ketchum? Let's look at our options.
- **Why now?** It takes a vote of the people to make the change. It's a general election year with 2 council and the mayor positions on the ballot. If the voters choose to change to the council-manager government, the transition is smoother with the 3 positions up for election.
- **How can the council help?** The council can place this choice before the voters on November 4 by resolution. The City of Ketchum belongs to the International City/County Association (ICMA). They are a good resource for information on professional management to help with voter education on the forms of government.
- **How can we engage voters?** In 2011 the voters were asked if they wanted to change to the council manager form of government. 43% said yes. More people have knowledge of the council-manager government today than in 2011. It will take an education campaign and you guys are good at that! With the help from the ICMA, there is plenty of time to get everyone informed.

Request of Council

From the 1975 Comprehensive Plan

“As cities and corporations become larger and more complex so too does the management process. The most difficult period is when a small corporation or city moves over the threshold to its first experience with formalized management—from flying a super cub by the seat of your pants to sitting at the controls of a 727 going through the checklist and trauma of your first take off.”

Request

Support a public information campaign and consider placing the question before the voters on November 4th



Thank You

It's all about Good Governance.

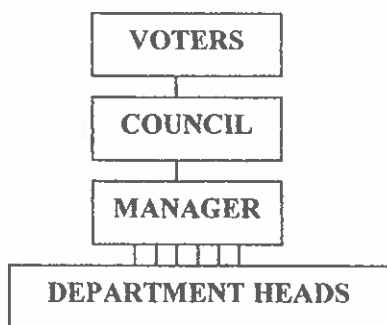
Does Ketchum have the form of government that is best suited to deliver good, effective governance to the people of Ketchum?

Council - Manager Form of Government **vs.** **Mayor - Council Government Form of Government** **(aka "Strong Mayor")**

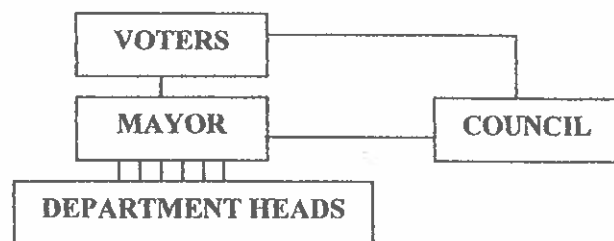
Currently **Ketchum has a Mayor - Council Government**, which is often described as a "strong mayor" form of government. In this form of government, the elected mayor serves as the CEO of the city, appoints and oversees the department heads, day-to-day affairs and ensures that city ordinances are enforced. The mayor also presides over city council meetings, votes when needed to break a tie and performs the ceremonial duties. The city council serves as the legislative body which makes policy and appropriates funds.

In a **Council - Manager Form of Government**, the city manager is appointed by and works at the pleasure of the city council and mayor. A city manager is a specially trained, experienced nonpartisan manager who runs the day-to-day operations, appoints and oversees all department heads and ensures that the ordinances and policies of the city are complied with and faithfully executed. The mayor presides over city council meetings, performs ceremonial duties and participates, as an equal voting member, with the council in policymaking, appropriating funds and other legislative responsibilities.

Council-Manager Organizational Structure



Mayor-Council Organizational Structure

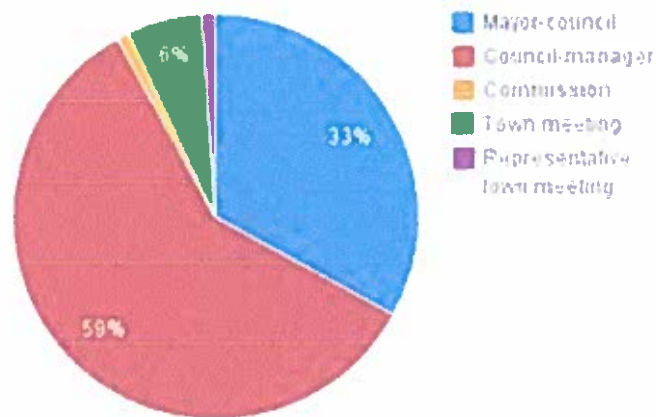


At the turn of the 20th century, the council – manager form of government was created to combat corruption and unethical activity. It recognizes the critical role of elected officials

as policy makers with the need for a highly qualified individual who is devoted exclusively to the delivery of services to residents.

Council – Manager It is the fastest growing form of government in the U.S. More than 120 million people live in municipalities with the Council – Manager form of government.

Municipal governments in the United States



The Council – Manager Form of Government delivers:

- **More access to elected officials**
Decisions on policy and the future of the community are made by all five (5) elected officials equally, giving the residents more opportunity to become engaged in the process.
- **Less Political**
The hired manager works at the pleasure of all five (5) elected officials “at will” and is dedicated to the highest ideals of honesty, integrity and excellence in the management and delivery of public service.
- **The Power of Special Interests is Diffused**
A more balanced approach to community decision making, so that all interests can be expressed and heard, not just those that are well funded.
- **Continuity of Community Vision**
The Council – Manager form of government provides a smooth transition of administrations, greater city staff retention and delivery of long-term goals.

- **Cost Effective**

There are no increased staffing costs necessary to adopt the Council – Manager form of government. Many local governments have found that ~~overall costs are reduced under competent management.~~

Times have changed in Ketchum.

We've gone from a town with one blinking light to, well, a lot more! We have outgrown the government we have now. We need a strong, diverse council, elected by the people, to ~~serve as the policymaking, fund appropriating, legislative body and a highly trained,~~ appropriately educated and experienced manager as our chief executive officer. **We need to change to the Council - Manager Form of Government!**

So how do we get it done?

It takes a vote of the people. There's a few of us around who did the work to get it on a ballot in 2011. We were a small grassroots group of people who gave up our summer to collect signatures and campaign on behalf of the cause. It was tough. We ruffled some feathers. We were opposed by a well-funded campaign representing special interest groups. While we did not get the 50% votes we needed, we got a strong 43%.

To get on a ballot it takes a resolution of the City Council or an initiative petition by the people. If we start now, we can get it on the November 2025 ballot. The process to get it done is outlined in State Statute Title 50 Chapter 8 - Council - Manager Plan.

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/statutesrules/idstat/Title50/T50CH8.pdf>

Join me! It is going to take some hard work to make the changes we need for good governance. Volunteers will be needed to collect signatures, educate voters and take on ~~other responsibilities of a campaign.~~

Let's work together to get this done! Call, text or e-mail me if you're interested.

Anne Corrock
Ketchum Committee for Better Government
Call/text: 208-721-2499
Email: KetchumBetterGov@gmail.com

Note: statistics and information gathered from *ICMA, the International City/County Management Association (icma.org)*

TITLE 50
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

CHAPTER 8
COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN

50-801. CITIES MAY ADOPT PLAN. Any city within the state of Idaho, organized under the general laws of the state, special chapter, or a general incorporation act, may adopt the council-manager plan of government by proceedings as herein provided.

[50-801, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 140, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 1, p. 381.]

50-802. INSTITUTING ELECTION, PETITION -- RESOLUTION. Procedure for instituting a special election on adoption of the council-manager plans shall be by petition of electors as provided for initiative in section 34-1801B, Idaho Code, or by resolution passed by one-half (1/2) plus one (1) of the members of the full council.

[50-802, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 141, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 2, p. 381; am. 2015, ch. 285, sec. 4, p. 1158.]

50-803. TIME FOR HOLDING SPECIAL ELECTION ON PROPOSITION. Within ten (10) days after the filing of such petition or resolution with the city clerk, the mayor shall, by proclamation, establish a date for holding a special election on the question of adopting the council-manager plan, such date to be determined as follows:

(1) When the petition or resolution is filed with the city clerk during a year when no general city election is to be held, such election shall be held on the date authorized in section 34-106, Idaho Code, that is nearest to but not less than sixty (60) days following filing of such petition or resolution;

(2) When the petition or resolution is filed with the city clerk during a year when a general city election is to be held, such election shall be held on the date for holding general city elections.

[50-803, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 142, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 3, p. 382; am. 2009, ch. 341, sec. 125, p. 1056.]

50-804. PROPOSITION TO BE VOTED. At such election the proposition to be submitted to the electors shall be: "Shall the City of adopt the council-manager plan of government, as set forth in sections 50-801 through 50-812, Idaho Code?"

[50-804, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 143, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 4, p. 382.]

50-805. GOVERNING BODY -- SIZE. The governing body of any city governed by the provisions of sections 50-801 through 50-812 shall consist of five (5) or seven (7) councilmen. Should the proposition be adopted under section 50-804, the governing body shall consist of a council equal in number to the councilmen plus the mayor under the existing form of government, unless subsequently changed as provided by section 50-703.

[50-805, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 144, p. 1249.]

50-806. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS FOLLOWING ADOPTION -- DETERMINING SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES -- DESIGNATION OF SEATS. (1) When the proposition is submitted to the electors under section 50-803(1), Idaho Code, officials shall be elected at the same election during which the proposition is submitted to the voters; when the proposition submitted to the electors under subsection (2) of section 50-803, Idaho Code, officials shall be elected at the same general city election. If any proposition submitted to the electors under section 50-803, Idaho Code, fails to receive a favorable vote, the election of officials at the same election shall be declared null and void.

Determination of successful candidates at either a special or general election shall be as herein provided: A. When the council is to consist of five (5) members, the three (3) receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to serve four (4) year terms or so much thereof as remains, and two (2) to serve two (2) year terms or so much thereof as remains; B. When the council is to consist of seven (7) members, the four (4) receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to serve four (4) year terms or so much thereof as remains, and three (3) to serve two (2) year terms or so much thereof as remains. At each general city election thereafter, councilmen shall be elected to fill the unexpired terms.

(2) By ordinance, the city may assign a number to each council seat. In that event candidates will file for a designated seat and the candidate receiving the largest number of votes for the seat he has filed for shall be declared elected.

[50-806, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 145, p. 1249; am. 1981, ch. 158, sec. 1, p. 270.; am. 2009, ch. 341, sec. 126, p. 1056.]

50-807. EFFECTIVE DATE FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF PLAN. The effective date of the council-manager plan shall be not more than seventy-five (75) days following the election of officials, to be determined by the incumbent council.

[50-807, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 146, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 5, p. 382.]

50-808. POWERS -- DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL. The council shall have all powers delegated under general law, appoint a chief administrative officer to be known as the city manager, and confirm all appointments of department heads made by the city manager.

[50-808, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 147, p. 1249.]

50-809. MAYOR. (1) At the time of installing and swearing in the councilmen following each general city election, or special election called for the purpose of electing officials, the council shall elect one (1) of their members to be designated the mayor. He shall serve for a period of two (2) years unless sooner removed by the council or becomes disqualified.

(2) By ordinance, a city may provide for the direct election of the mayor by the voters. When direct election is permitted, the mayor's position on the ballot shall replace that of one (1) councilman. Prior to the opening of the filing for candidacy for mayor, the term of the direct elected mayor shall be designated, by ordinance, as two (2) years or four (4) years.

The direct elected mayor shall have no changes in his powers as defined in section 50-810, Idaho Code.

[50-809, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 148, p. 1249; am. 1975, ch. 203, sec. 1, p. 564.]

50-810. POWERS OF THE MAYOR. The mayor shall preside at the meetings of the council and perform such other duties consistent with his office as may be imposed by the council. He shall be entitled to a vote on all matters coming before the council, but shall possess no veto power. He shall be recognized as the official head of the city for all ceremonial purposes, by the courts of the purposes of serving civil processes, and by the governor for military purpose. He may use the title of mayor in any case in which the execution of contracts or other legal instruments in writing, or other necessity arising from the general laws of this state may so require, but this shall not be construed as conferring upon him administrative powers or functions of a mayor under the general laws of the state.

[50-810, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 149, p. 1249.]

50-811. CITY MANAGER -- DUTIES. The council shall appoint a city manager to be the administrative head of the city government under the direction and supervision of such council and who shall hold office at the pleasure of the majority of the members thereof. Before entering upon the duties of his office, such city manager shall take the official oath for the support of the government and the faithful performance of his duties, and shall execute a bond in favor of the city in such sum as may be fixed by the council. He shall:

1. Have general supervision over the business of the city.
2. See that the ordinances and policies of the city are complied with and faithfully executed.
3. Attend all meetings of the council at which his attendance is required by that body.
4. Recommend for adoption to the council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient.
5. Make the appointment of all department heads, subject to such civil service regulations as may relate thereto.
6. Prepare and submit to the council such reports as may be required by that body, or as he may deem advisable.
7. Keep the council fully advised of the financial condition of the city and its future needs.
8. Prepare and submit to the council a tentative budget for the next fiscal year.
9. Perform such other duties as the council may establish by ordinance or resolution.
10. Possess such powers as are vested in the mayor as provided in section 50-606.

[50-811, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 150, p. 1249.]

50-812. DISCONTINUANCE OF COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN -- PROPOSITION TO BE VOTED. Any city which shall have operated for more than six (6) years under the provisions of sections 50-801 through 50-812, Idaho Code, may resume operation under sections 50-601 through 50-708, Idaho Code, by proceedings held as sections 50-801 through 50-812, Idaho Code, provide for adoption of

the council-manager plan. The proposition to be submitted shall be: "Shall the City of retain its organization under the 'council-manager plan'?"

[50-812, added 1967, ch. 429, sec. 151, p. 1249; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 6, p. 382.]

50-813. CALCULATION FOR NUMBER OF REQUIRED SIGNATURES. In cases where a city is operating under the council-manager plan, if there is no direct mayoral election, and a statute provides for petitions or elections based upon the total number of votes cast for mayor at the last preceding city election, the calculation of signatures or votes necessary under state law shall be based upon the total number of votes cast for the city councilman who received the highest number of votes at the last preceding city election.

[50-813, added 1978, ch. 257, sec. 1, p. 562; am. 1984, ch. 156, sec. 7, p. 382.]