

CITY ORGANIZATION

The City of Mercer Island is a non-charter, code city which operates under the Council-Manager plan of government as provided in Title 35A RCW. The seven-member, at large, City Council is elected by the residents on a non-partisan basis. The City Council is responsible for the adoption of policies necessary for the operation and growth of the City. The City Council appoints a City Manager to administer the affairs of the City.

CITY COUNCIL

The seven Councilmembers are elected at large for four-year terms. Elections are arranged so that three or four terms expire every two years. Councilmembers have the responsibility of establishing policy to govern the City Manager, adopting a budget for City revenues and expenditures, and performing all other actions necessary to govern the City, including the passage of ordinances and resolutions.

MAYOR

The Mayor is elected from among the Councilmembers for a two-year term. The Mayor is recognized as the chief spokesperson and head of the City government for all public, political, and ceremonial purposes, and by the governor for purposes of military law. They preside at all Council meetings and vote as a Councilmember on business before the Council. They have no full-time administrative duties.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager is chief executive officer and the agent of the City Council in carrying out its decisions and policies. They are appointed by, and responsible to the Council for proper administration of City affairs for an indefinite term. The City Manager serves at the discretion of the Council. The appointment and removal of department managers is one of the powers given to the City Manager. They exercise general supervision and control over all officers and employees of the City. Another important duty is the preparation of the City budget, which they recommend to the City Council biannually.

The City Manager is responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all matters related to the City, including preparation of an annual budget, hiring & firing of City employees, supervision of City government, implementation of Council policies, and advising the Council on administrative questions.