

## CITY ORGANIZATION

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

### 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. He/she presides at all Council meetings and votes as a Councilmember on business before the Council. In the name of and on behalf of the City, he/she signs all legal instruments and documents to which the City is a party, unless otherwise provided. He/she has 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. He/she is appointed by, and responsible to the Council for proper administration of City affairs for an indefinite term. The Manager serves at the discretion of the Council. The appointment and removal of department managers is one of the powers given to the Manager. He/she exercises general supervision and control over all officers and employees of the City. Another important duty is the preparation of the City budget, which he/she recommends 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.