

Elected Official Discuss the Benefits of Professional Local Government Management and Results of Ballot Initiatives Adopting Council-Manager Systems

Videos

1. [Elected Officials and Local Government Managers: A Powerful Partnership in Building Strong Communities](#) (Illinois)

Community leaders in Illinois describe how professional local government managers help elected officials further their policy goals and vision, and by working together, improve the quality of life in their communities.

<http://lifewellrun.org/media/video-library/campaign-videos/elected-officials-and-local-government-managers-a-powerful-partnership-in-building-strong-communities/#.VowChvkrLEY>

2. [A Lovely Place to Call Home: Professional Local Government Managers and Your Quality of Life](#) (Glenview, Woodridge, and Lake County, Illinois)

This video explains how professional local government managers improve community quality of life. Features elected officials, business, and community leaders from Glenview, Woodridge, and Lake County, Illinois.

<http://lifewellrun.org/media/video-library/campaign-videos/a-lovely-place-to-call-home-professional-local-government-managers-and-your-quality-of-life/#.VowBpfrkLEY>

3. [Life, Well Run: Flagler County-Palm Coast](#)

Uses *Life, Well Run* campaign template. Includes two strong testimonials on behalf of professional management by two elected officials.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVqerH1L3dg>

4. [Life, Well Run: Fayetteville, North Carolina](#)

Uses *Life, Well Run* campaign template. Includes testimonials on behalf of professional management by current and former mayors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC890c22G8M>

Notable or Recent Form of Government Elections

2002

Topeka, Kansas (pop. 122,330)--Voters in Topeka, Kansas dropped the city's 19-year-old mayor-council form of government, replacing it with a council-manager form in a vote that was 66 percent in favor of the change and 34 percent against.

Des Plaines, Ill. (pop. 58,720)--Residents of Des Plaines voted 60.6 percent in favor of changing to a council-manager form of government. Under the new form, the city manager holds the power to hire and fire department heads. A group of residents with the help of the city council gave Des Plaines its first city manager in the late 1980s, but under that system the mayor had oversight over department heads.

San Diego, Calif. (pop. 1,223,000)--San Diego's Proposition F, which passed by a 51-to-48-percent margin, changed the city's form of government from council-manager to mayor-council.

2009

On March 10, by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, voters in **Sarasota, Florida (pop. 52,488)**, overwhelming defeated a proposal that would have provided for a directly-elected mayor, increased the mayor's administrative responsibilities, and expanded the number of council seats from five to seven. Sixty-five percent (4,406) of voters opposed the amendment, while 35% (2,393) of voters were in favor of it.

2011

In an all-mail ballot, the results of which became public on February 8, voters in **Yakima, Washington (pop. 85,832)**, voted 7,750 against and 7,033 for a proposal to end their more than 50-year history of council-manager government and switch to the mayor-council form.

2012

McHenry County, Illinois (pop. 308,760)--By a vote of 75,010 to 41,501, voters in McHenry County, Ill. (pop. 308,760) decided to retain the county administrator form rather than adopt an elected executive option.

2013

Voters in **Pasco, Washington (pop. 65,398)**, located roughly 135 miles southwest of Spokane, resoundingly retained the council-manager structure and rejected a proposal to adopt the mayor-council form by a vote of 5,057 (61%) to 3,214 (39%).

During a December 3, 2013, special election, voters in **the capital city of Columbia, S.C. (pop. 131, 686)**, defeated a ballot initiative to change the jurisdiction's current council-manager form of government to the mayor-council form. Voters retained council-manager by a margin of 1,629 votes, or 6,684 (57%) in favor of retention vs. 5,055 (43%) in favor of change. The path that led to the December 3 vote took some interesting turns, with the Columbia council resisting efforts to place the question on the ballot until this past fall. A citizens-led petition drive in September successfully obtained more than 12,000 signatures in favor of placing the question on the ballot. Following certification of those signatures, the council voted on September 11 to place its own form of government question on the ballot, and rather than combine the form of government question with the November 5 mayoral election, to hold a special election on the issue on December 3.

2014

On November 4, by a 57-to-43-percent margin, residents in the capital city of **Sacramento, California (pop. 479,686)**, voted to reject Measure L (“The Checks and Balances Act”), which would have replaced the city’s current council-manager form of government with a mayor-council structure. The tally, according to the [Sacramento Bee](#), was 31,885 votes (57%) in support of retaining council-manager government to 23,885 votes (43%) in favor of the change. Had it passed, Measure L would have effectively transferred day-to-day oversight of the city from the city manager, who is currently appointed by the entire council, to the elected mayor. The measure also would have enabled the mayor to appoint, oversee, and terminate the city manager; propose the city budget; and exercise veto power over council decisions.

Voters in **Plantation, Florida (pop. 90,268)**, rejected a proposal to change from mayor-council to council-manager government by a vote of 17,185 to 7,469. The proposal included a provision whereby through which hiring and termination recommendations for the city’s police chief, fire chief, and city clerk would be made to the council by the city manager and would require a supermajority vote of approval by the council on a supermajority vote.

2015

Substantial errors in the initiative language could be partially to blame for why the proposal to change the form of government in **Tacoma, Washington, (pop. 205,159)** from council-manager to mayor-council failed by a nearly 2-to-1 margin. According to The New Tribune, the proposal calling for the mayor-council change also removed the ability of for residents to amend the city charter through the referendum and initiative processes and did not reinsert reinstate the term-limit provisions for the mayor and council members.