




Cookingham Institute of Urban Affairs
 Henry W. Bloch School of Management
 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - KANSAS CITY

This information was compiled by staff from the L.P. Cookingham Institute of Urban Affairs to provide members of the Kansas City Charter Review Commission with some basic descriptive information about several key charter provisions affecting the powers of the mayor, CAO, and city council used by four peer cities for the meeting on July 17, 2013.

Form of Government, and Structure of Offices of Mayor and Council Members

Charter Elements	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Oklahoma City	Denver	St. Louis
Form of Government	Council-Manager	Council-Manager	Council-Manager	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council
Mayor's Term Length	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Mayor FT/PT	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Full time
Council's Term Length	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Council FT/PT	Full time	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter		4 years
# of Council Seats	13 (with Mayor)	9 (with Mayor)	9 (with Mayor)	13	29
# of Council Districts	6	8	8	11	28
Partisan Elections	No	No	No		No
Process for Mayoral Elections	Directly elected	Directly elected	Directly elected	Directly elected	Directly elected
Process for Council Elections	Six district, six at-large members, primary to select two candidates for general	Districts, no primary	Districts, primary to select two candidates for general	11 district, 2 at-large members	28 ward, 1 at-large President of Board of Aldermen with general elections every two years to create staggered terms; no primary.

Source: City Charters for each city as of July 2013

Mayor Participation on Council and Veto Power

Charter Elements	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Oklahoma City	Denver	St. Louis
Mayor Formal Participation in Council Decisions	A voting member and presides over City Council when in attendance.	Yes, voting member	Yes, voting member	No	No
Mayor Veto Power	Yes	No	Not specified in charter	Yes	Yes

Source: City Charters for each city as of July 2013

Chief Administrative Officer, Budget Preparation Responsibility, and Provision of Staff

Charter Elements	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Oklahoma City	Denver	St. Louis
Charter Authorizes Appointment of CAO	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Assignment of Power to Nominate/Appoint CAO	Jointly by Mayor and City Council	City Council	City Council	N/A	N/A
Preparation of Budget	City Manager prepares it and presents to Mayor for comments. Mayor transmits it to City Council with his/her comments. City Council adopts budget. Can modify budget submitted.	City Manager	City Manager	Mayor with assistance from Manager of Finance	Board of Estimate and Apportionment consisting of the Mayor, Comptroller and President of the Board of Aldermen submit to Board of Aldermen; Board of Aldermen approves it.

Source: City Charters for each city as of July 2013

Contracts, Staffing, Charter Officers, and Department Managers

Charter Elements	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Oklahoma City	Denver	St. Louis
Power to Determine Contracting/Purchasing Policies	City Manager and manager of procurement services and department directors if under \$1.2 million and \$300,000 for all other contracts with no approval by City Council.	City Manager	City Council has authority to award contracts.	Mayor, but council approves contracts over \$500,000.	Mayor
Power to Determine Staffing Policies	City Manager, but Mayor appoints three-person Human Resources Board to rule on matters of discipline, suspensions, demotions and terminations.	City Manager	City Manager	Mayor and cabinet	Mayor
Assignment of Power to Nominate/Appoint Charter Officers	Mayor and City Council appoint City Clerk and City Auditor. CM appoints Internal Auditor and all officers not specified in charter.	No other charter officers specified.	City Council selects City Auditor, Municipal Counselor, and Municipal Judges. Otherwise, City Manager has exclusive control of personnel.	Mayor, including county officers	Mayor appoints City Assessor
Assignment of Power to Appoint/Confirm Department Managers	City Manager	CM appoints finance, police, fire, public works, public health and water works directors; CM recommends City Attorney but City Council approves City Attorney and can vote to remove City Attorney.	City Manager has exclusive control of personnel.	Mayor and cabinet	Mayor

Source: City Charters for each city as of July 2013