

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 voter turnout for municipal elections in Kansas City and several peer cities for the meeting on July 24, 2013. Information about the demographic characteristics of each city and several key features of their municipal structure are included to provide context for the turnout data.

Voter Turnout and Selected City Demographics

	Kansas City	Denver	Fort Worth	Minneapolis	Omaha	St. Louis
Voter Turnout in Municipal Elections (Average for last three elections)	23%	43%	7%	30%	28%	12%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin	9.99%	31.82%	34.06%	10.47%	13.09%	3.49%
Black or African American alone	29.91%	10.24%	18.91%	18.58%	13.68%	49.22%
White alone	59.22%	68.93%	61.10%	63.80%	73.07%	43.93%
Total Population	459,787	600,158	741,206	382,578	408,958	319,294
Per Capita Income	\$26,372	\$32,051	\$24,270	\$30,693	\$26,842	\$22,050
Median Age (Years)	34.6	33.7	31.2	31.4	33.5	33.9
Married	15.70%	15.10%	16.90%	13.10%	16.90%	19.70%
With Own Children Under 18 Years	27.00%	22.40%	36.70%	22.00%	28.30%	22.30%

Sources: Demographic data from the 2010 U.S. Census. The percentages for racial categories does not sum to 100% because the U.S. Census reports the percentage of persons of Hispanic or Latino origin separately from race. Turnout data compiled from city and county election boards. Data covers municipal elections held in the Spring only.

Voter Turnout and Several Key Elements of Municipal Institutional Structure

	Kansas City	Denver	Fort Worth	Minneapolis	Omaha	St. Louis
Voter Turnout in Municipal Elections (Average for last three elections)	23%	43%	7%	30%	28%	12%
Form of Government	Council-Manager	Mayor-Council	Council-Manager	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council	Mayor-Council
Mayor's Term Length	4 years	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Mayor FT/PT	Not specified in charter	Full time	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Part time	Full time
Council's Term Length	4 years	4 years	2 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
Council FT/PT	Full time	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Not specified in charter	Part time	Not specified in charter
# of Council Seats	13 (with Mayor)	13	9 (with Mayor)	13	7	29
# of Council Districts	6	11	8	13	All at-large	28
Partisan Elections	No	Unknown	No	No, but party listed on ballot	No	No
Process for Mayoral Elections	Directly elected	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	11 district, 2 at-large members	Districts, no primary	Districts, no primary	Elected at-large	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 of each city as of July 2013.