

Local Government in the United States

A very brief overview



Created by the States

- Each State creates its own rules
 - when and how local governments are created
 - What they can do
 - Sometimes, about how they can do it
 - Most states allow for optional locally adopted Charters
 - Local rules for form of government
 - Local limitations on authority
 - Etc.

States are similar, but have differences

- Tax Structures differ
- Responsibility for schools vary
- Operational rules vary

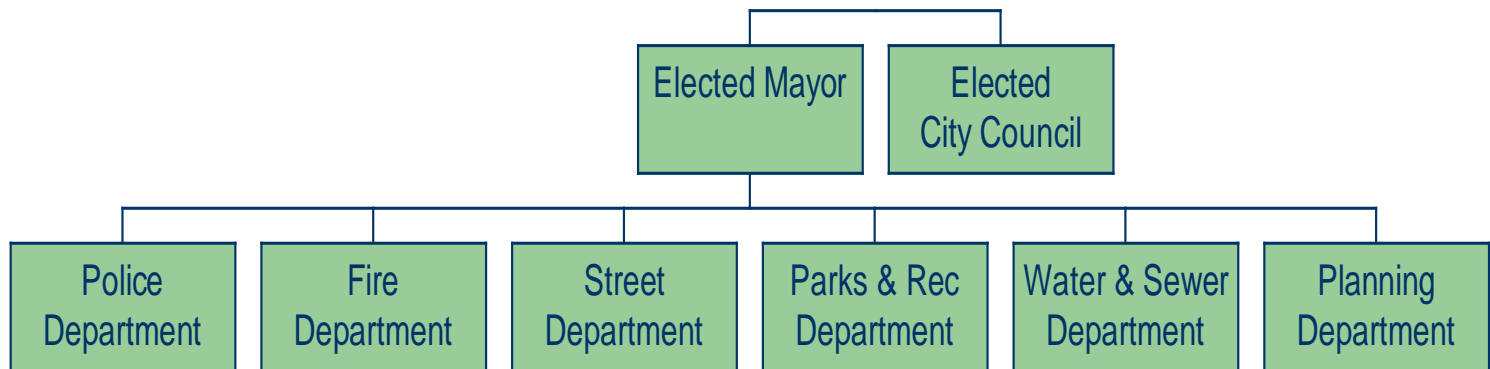
Typical Functions

- Police
- Fire Protection
- Local streets
- Parks and Recreation
- Water & Sewer service
- Land Use Planning & Control
- Economic Development

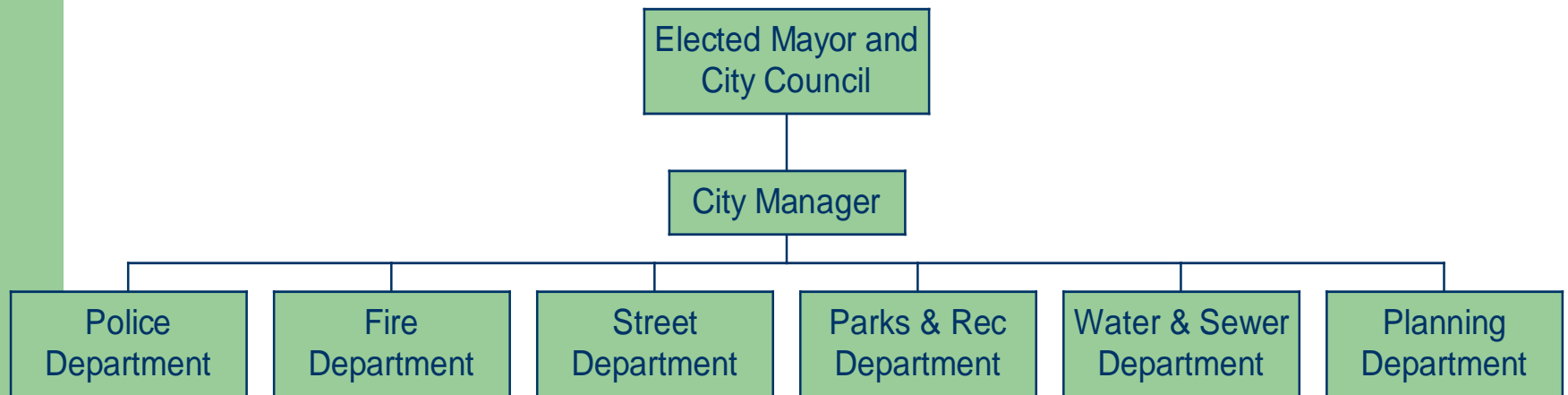
Typical Forms and Structures

- Strong Mayor/Council
- City Manager
- Many variations

Typical Strong Mayor form



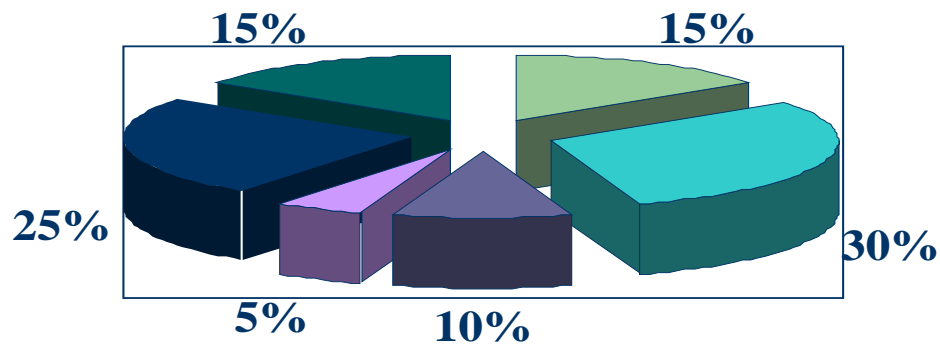
Typical City Manager form



Role of the City Manager

- Chief Administrative Office for the City
- Implements policy directions of the Mayor & Council
- Hire/Fire all Staff
- Prepares a recommended budget
- Reviews and reports on all Council agenda items and presents reports
- Facilitates Mayor & Council Policy Discussions

Typical Revenue Sources



- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Other Taxes
- Licenses & Permits
- Service Fees
- State Sources

Key Challenges

- Declining Revenues and Increasing demands for service
- Economic Development
- Changing state rules and finances

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Questions?