Outline of an Option for Clarifying Statutory Provisions Relating to the Forms of Municipal Government

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
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	Form of Municipal Government in Which Executive and Legislative Functions Are Separated	Forms of Municipal Government in Which Executive and Legislative Functions Are Combined	
Form of Government	Council-mayor (strong mayor) form	5-member council form (with voting mayor)	6-member council form (with non-voting mayor)
	A municipality operating under any of these forms of government may change to another form by following a process which includes a requirement for voter approval.		
City/town council	5- or 7-member council	5-member council (one of which is the mayor)	6-member council (one of which is the mayor)
	exercises legislative functions	exercises legislative and executive functions and whatever administrative functions as are provided by ordinance	exercises legislative and executive functions and whatever administrative functions as are provided by ordinance
	selects one of its members as chair	the mayor acts as chair of the council	the mayor acts as chair of the council
	may appoint administrative assistants to the council as a whole or to individual members and define their duties -- appointees serve at the pleasure of and report to the council or individual members, as prescribed by ordinance	may appoint city manager and other officers and administrators and define their duties -- appointees serve at the pleasure of and report to the council, unless otherwise prescribed by ordinance ***Limitation:*** The council may not delegate to a city manager: (1) the mayor's legislative or judicial powers, position as chair of the council, or any ex officio position; or (2) the council's legislative powers	may appoint city manager and other officers and administrators and define their duties -- appointees serve at the pleasure of and report to council, unless otherwise prescribed by ordinance ***Limitation:*** The council may not delegate to a city manager: (1) the mayor's legislative or judicial powers, position as chair of the council, or any ex officio position; or (2) the council's legislative powers

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Mayor	is the chief executive and administrative officer of the municipality	exercises ceremonial functions and whatever administrative functions as are provided by ordinance	exercises ceremonial functions and whatever administrative functions as are provided by ordinance
	may, with advice and consent of the council, appoint city manager supervises all administrative departments	may, with advice and consent of council, appoint administrators or assistants who serve at the pleasure of and report to the mayor	may, with advice and consent of council, appoint administrators or assistants who serve at the pleasure of and report to the mayor
		is chair of city council; presides at city council meetings	is chair of city council; presides at city council meetings
	does not vote with the council	votes as a member of the council	votes only in the case of a tie or for the appointment of a city manager
	may veto ordinances, tax levies, or appropriations passed by council	no veto authority	no veto authority