



THE LEVERS OF POWER

in local governments

State-by-State Reference

*An in-depth look at forms and types
of authority, municipal government,
initiative/referendum powers
with party affiliations*

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The Mission of ACCE is to engage local elected officials and leaders from business and industry for the advancement of limited government and free market principles.

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The American Legislative Exchange Council is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Designed by Christine Phipps.

OVERVIEW

Though different in each state, municipal government in the United States is extremely important to the understanding of federalism. The genius of the Founders' federalism was in diffusing power between different layers of government. Understanding the fact that local government is closest to self-governance is necessary to a more complete understanding of distribution of power in American government. This guide was created with the intention of producing a comprehensive look at local government as well as an understanding of the different structures.

When the Founders created a federal system of government in the Constitution, they were very specific about the national government, less specific about state governments and not at all specific about local governments. As a result, local governments have been free to develop and meet the particular needs of the communities in which they exist as permitted by state law.

This freedom resulted in tremendous diversity in municipal government across the country. This diversity can be reflected by region. For example, the town meeting-selectman form of government is common in New England while mayor-council government dominates the South. Geography is also important; the two states disconnected from the lower 48 are also outliers in municipal government structures. Hawaii is the only state without incorporated municipalities, and Alaska has a unique way of allocating regional and municipal power.

State governments, as a governing structure, treat municipalities differently. The expansion of home rule has been gradual but steady. Some states have had it for over a century, while West Virginia is currently running a home rule pilot program. Some states prescribe forms of government in state law, while others lack such strictures. For example, New Jersey outlines 12 forms of government from which cities may choose, but Rhode Island provides no parameters to govern municipal structure. The ways states name their municipalities varies greatly as well (town, borough, village, first-class city, second-class city, etc.). This nomenclature may or may not have any effect on form of government or municipal law.

There are however, quite a few commonalities in the ways states manage municipalities. It is common for municipalities to have initiative/referendum power to amend their city charters. State constitutions will also frequently not prescribe rules for municipalities, but rather include enabling language for state legislatures to pass appropriate laws to do so. The vast majority of municipal elections around the country are non-partisan. Municipalities in states that allow the choice between partisan and non-partisan usually choose non-partisan. It is also very common for states to exempt their largest cities from the norms in the particular state.

NOTES FOR READERS

The following text briefly describes four characteristics of municipal government for each of the fifty states: type of authority (Dillon Rule, home rule, or both), form of government, initiative/referendum power, and whether candidates run on party labels. Additionally, a list of the five most populous cities in each state according to the 2010 Census is included for easy reference.

These four issues do not always offer straightforward answers for the four categories above. If the state provides a concrete answer, it is given in italics to visually separate it from the surrounding explanation.

Oftentimes, large cities in a state will have exceptions carved out specifically for them, whether in the city's charter or in state law. A note will commonly accompany one or more of the five most populous cities in each state clarifying that exception.

This document describes each state's municipalities in general. Always remember city charters often supersede other governing documents. *If a city has a charter, always consult that charter for questions specifically pertaining to that city.*

This document is written to be easily understood. The sources used for this document are publications of state municipal leagues, state constitutions and state codes. All are cited with endnotes and hyperlinks included for easy access. Please consult linked source materials for data and legal code. Additionally, the type of authority for each state was found in a January 2016 American City County Exchange publication, "*Federalism, Dillon Rule and Home Rule*" by Jon Russell and Aaron Bostrom.

DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS

CITY COUNCIL – elected legislative body of a municipality; elections may be at large or in single-member districts; size of the council varies for each municipality.

CITY MANAGER – professional appointed by and serving at the pleasure of a city council who oversees day-to-day operation of a municipality.¹

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT – legislative and executive authority is vested in a commission consisting of elected commissioners who specialize in specific aspects of municipal government. The commission commonly elects one of its members to be mayor on a rotating basis.²

COMMISSIONER – elected official in a municipality with commission government; oversees one specific aspect, i.e. fire, police, public works, etc.³

COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT – city council carries out general governing duties including policy and budgeting; the council appoints a city manager.⁴

DILLON RULE – rule that states local governments may only legislate what the state government has decreed.⁵

HOME RULE – rule that gives local governments authority to legislate a wide range of issues.⁶

MAYOR – executive officer of a city.

MAYOR-BOARD OF ALDERMEN GOVERNMENT – different name for mayor-council government; board of aldermen serves the function of a city council.

MAYOR-COUNCIL GOVERNMENT – mayor is executive of the city, elected separately from the city council.⁷ The separation of powers between the two differs based on mayor strength:

Strong – mayor has centralized chief executive power including veto power and appointment power; council has legislative power.

Weak – council has legislative and executive power; mayor is not truly a chief executive.⁸

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING GOVERNMENT – voters elect a large number of representatives who meet to make policy and elect leaders for the municipality.⁹

SELECTMAN – executive officer in a municipality with town meeting-selectman form of government; elected by the town in a general election as a rough analog to mayor.¹⁰

TOWN MEETING-SELECTMAN GOVERNMENT – all voters in the municipality meet to make policy and elect leaders for the municipality.¹¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

The US Constitution does not mention local governments in any capacity. This omission was purposeful because it was understood local governments are creations of the state and should be governed as extensions of the state. Local governments exist to deliver services that would otherwise be inefficient for the state government to provide. For this reason, Dillon's Rule, a ruling that solidified local governments as creations of the state, is the optimal legal framework in line with a federalist view of the US Constitution. If Dillon's Rule is not the legal framework for the relationship between a state and their political subdivisions, the state should reevaluate its legal framework to conform more closely to the American founder's intent.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Every jurisdiction must do what is best for its city when it comes to the form of government they enlist. Different localities have varying needs with different demands from its citizens. However, there is a form of government common to both federal and state governments that provides checks and balances on the executive and legislative branches. This structure is designed to give protection to the taxpayer. In local government, this form is the strong mayor system that allows for the people to elect an executive branch officer to represent the government to the people. This structure creates a veto power that can be used to keep the legislative branch of local government accountable for its spending practices.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Initiative/referendum power is a form of direct democracy that may be necessary when local governments have overstepped their Constitutional responsibilities to protect individual liberty and uphold the rule of law. It may also be necessary to change certain charter inefficiencies that can be costly to taxpayers. Americans live in a representative democracy that places the responsibility for mundane governmental decisions in the hands of elected representatives. A constant push for initiatives and referendums held outside the normal primary or general election can be costly to taxpayers if not kept in check. If possible, initiatives and referendums should be placed on the primary or general election ballot to keep taxpayer costs under control.

PARTY AFFILIATION



When an individual decides to run for public office, that individual is making an intimate decision and should have the right to seek a political party nomination or choose not to run on a party label. Many states and municipalities mandate individuals run on a partisan or non-partisan designation. The decision to run on a party designation or not run on a party designation should be left to the individual and not decided by state or local government. Allowing for individuals to exercise their right of association or non-association is completely in line with the 1st Amendment to the US Constitution.



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ALABAMA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Alabama is a strict *Dillon Rule* state.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Alabama cities use *mayor-council government*. There is a separation of powers with the mayor as the executive branch and the council as the legislative branch. The nature of this separation depends on the population of the city. In cities with over 12,000 inhabitants, the mayor does not sit on the city council and has typical presidential powers, including veto. In cities with fewer than 12,000 inhabitants, the mayor does have a seat on the city council and may vote and introduce measures like any other member of the council.¹²

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In general, *this is not an option* in Alabama. There are only a few cases where a city is required to act on citizen petitions: referenda concerning wet/dry reform or annexation. Otherwise, cities are under no obligation to act on citizen petitions. Since Alabama is a strict Dillon Rule state, municipalities are not allowed to institute referenda on their own accord. The only exception to this is ad valorem taxation. Non-binding referenda are never allowed.¹³



PARTY AFFILIATION



Elections are *non-partisan* for cities with fewer than 300,000 inhabitants.¹⁴ (Note that this is, in fact, all cities because Alabama has no cities with over 300,000 inhabitants.)

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Birmingham	212,237
2. Montgomery	205,764
3. Mobile	195,111
4. Huntsville	180,105
5. Tuscaloosa	90,468



ALASKA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Alaska cities and boroughs have *home rule* authority and require enabling legislation.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Alaska cities use *mayor-council* government. Given Alaska's extraordinary geography compared to other states, it has a unique local government system. Alaska has two forms of local government: boroughs and cities. The boroughs are roughly analogous to counties in other states: they are regional governments in which cities are located (Alaska does not have counties).¹⁵ Cities are defined as they typically are and exist in two categories: home rule and general law.¹⁶ The relatively large cities are home rule and have immense latitude in determining their charters.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Alaska general law *cities do have initiative/referendum power*. Most home rule cities follow the same procedure as general law cities, but each city charter should be checked to be certain.¹⁷ These initiatives and referenda may be binding and will appear on the general election ballot if it is 45 to 75 days after certification, otherwise a special election will be held.¹⁸



PARTY AFFILIATION



Alaska municipal elections are *non-partisan*.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

		
1.	Anchorage (<i>slightly modified mayor-assembly form of government with eleven assemblymen and one mayor</i>) ²⁰	291,826
2.	Fairbanks	31,535
3.	Juneau	31,275
4.	Sitka	8,881
5.	Ketchikan	8,050



ARIZONA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Arizona municipalities with populations of at least 3,500 people are *home rule*. This authority is self-executing. Smaller municipalities are Dillon Rule.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arizona municipalities use the council-manager form of government. Each city council is elected, and they select a professional, unelected city manager. Mayors of Arizona cities are members of the city council and do not have any powers beyond their peers on the city council.²¹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Arizona municipalities have extensive initiative/referendum power. The initiative power requires 15% of the qualified electors to sign a petition and includes the ability to enact a measure as an ordinance, refer an enacted ordinance to a vote, or allow for special elections. Amendments to city charters may always be submitted to referendum. Citizens may also petition for a referendum when 10% of the qualified electors in the municipality sign a petition.²²



PARTY AFFILIATION



Arizona municipal elections are *non-partisan* except in the City of Tucson, where party labels are used.²³

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Phoenix	1,445,632
2. Tucson (<i>the only city in Arizona with partisan municipal elected officials</i>)	520,116
3. Mesa	439,041
4. Chandler	236,123
5. Glendale	226,721



ARKANSAS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Arkansas has a *mixture of home rule and Dillon Rule*. The state provides for home rule through legislative statute, but municipalities are Dillon Rule by default.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Arkansas is *mayor-council* government. The mayor is ex-officio president of the council. The mayor has unique authority to appoint department heads, veto ordinances, and submit a budget.²⁴ In addition, there are also city manager and city administrator forms of government available for cities. Only eight of Arkansas' 500 cities use one of these forms, but they include large cities. The city manager form has a board of directors instead of a council. The board of directors elects one of its members mayor and then hires a city manager. The city administrator form is identical to the city manager form except that the mayor is elected at large.²⁵

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Arkansas *municipalities have broad initiative/referendum power*. The signature requirement for initiative or referendum is 15% of the legal voters in a municipality.²⁶



PARTY AFFILIATION



Each municipality may decide whether to hold partisan elections.²⁷ Most are *non-partisan*.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Little Rock (<i>city-manager government</i>) ²⁸	193,524
2. Fort Smith	86,209
3. Fayetteville (<i>city administrator government</i>) ¹⁸	73,580
4. Springdale	69,797
5. Jonesboro	67,263



CALIFORNIA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

California uses both *Dillon Rule and home rule*. General law cities are Dillon Rule, but charter cities are home rule.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most California cities use *council-manager* government. That is the default, but state code outlines procedures to create city manager or mayor-council forms of government. Most of the large cities have mayor-council government with a directly elected mayor separate from the city council. California has 361 general law cities and 121 charter cities.³⁰

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

The state constitution mandates that *general law cities have broad initiative/referendum powers*.³¹ *Charter cities have the choice* whether to allow initiatives and referenda, but most of them do.



PARTY AFFILIATION



All municipal offices in California are *non-partisan* according to the state constitution.³²

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Los Angeles (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	3,792,621
2. San Diego (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	1,307,402
3. San Jose	945,942
4. San Francisco (<i>mayor-council government and is the only unified city-county government in California; its official name is the City and County of San Francisco</i>)	805,235
5. Sacramento (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	466,488

COLORADO

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Colorado uses both *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Colorado statutory towns and cities both use *mayor-council* government. The mayor is either selected from the city council or elected by popular vote.³³ However, statutory cities have the ability to change to council-manager if they so choose.³⁴ 171 of Colorado's 272 municipalities have made that change.³⁵ In order to do this, five percent of registered voters in the city must sign a petition, which would require the city council to adopt an ordinance to hold an election on changing form of government. A simple majority is required to change forms. City managers are appointed indefinitely by the city council and serve at the pleasure of the council.³⁶

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Colorado *cities do have initiative/referendum power*. This power is guaranteed by the state constitution. The signature threshold for initiatives and referenda is 5% of the registered electors.³⁷

PARTY AFFILIATION



Colorado municipal elections are *non-partisan* according to Colorado Municipal Election Code.³⁸

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)



1. Denver (<i>unified city-county government; the official name is the City and County of Denver. Denver uses mayor-council government</i>)	600,158
2. Colorado Springs (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	416,427
3. Aurora	325,078
4. Fort Collins	143,986
5. Lakewood	142,980



CONNECTICUT

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Connecticut is a mixture of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for home rule with enabling legislation.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Connecticut is organized differently than most states. Rather than having county governments, the whole state is incorporated into towns. The traditional form of government within these municipalities is the town meeting-selectman system. All statutory towns use this form of government. However, 104 towns are charter towns which may choose to retain the town meeting-selectman form or change to a manager-council or mayor-council form.³⁹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Statutory towns do not have initiative or referendum power because there is no mention of it in Connecticut's constitution. *Some charter towns/cities do have initiative/referendum power* and rules vary depending on the city.⁴⁰



PARTY AFFILIATION



Most Connecticut municipal elections are *partisan*.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Bridgeport (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	144,229
2. New Haven (<i>mayor-council government and calls its council the Board of Alders</i>)	129,779
3. Hartford (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	124,775
4. Stamford (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	122,643
5. Waterbury (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	110,366



DELAWARE

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Delaware has a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but legislative statute provides for home rule for any municipality

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Delaware state constitution does not specify any forms of municipal government. *Municipalities may make whatever form of government they want after attaining home rule by having a population over 1,000 and choosing to become a home rule municipality.*⁴²

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In general, this is not an option in Delaware. The state constitution does not give Delaware municipalities initiative or referendum power. Delaware municipalities are governed by the state constitution until they make themselves home rule municipalities. They may only do this when their populations exceed 1,000. At that point, they may decide to become a charter city and add initiative or referendum power to their charter. Only a few cities have done so: Delaware City, Newport, Cheswold and Bethany Beach.⁴³



PARTY AFFILIATION



According to the state constitution, municipal elections in Delaware are *non-partisan*.⁴⁴ That being said, cities may change that since their election results show party labels.⁴⁵

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Wilmington (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	70,851
2. Dover (<i>council-manager government</i>)	36,047
3. Juneau (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	31,454
4. Sitka (<i>council-manager government</i>)	18,871
5. Ketchikan (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	10,023



FLORIDA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

All Florida municipalities are *home rule* by legislative statute.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Florida is *council-manager*. About 270 of Florida's over 400 cities have a manager or administrator. The second most common form is the weak mayor-council form, which is most common in smaller cities.⁴⁶ Because of the 1969 state constitution and subsequent legislation, all municipalities in Florida have broad home rule power to make their own charters.⁴⁷ There are neither permissible nor impermissible forms according to state law.⁴⁸

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Given the home rule nature of Florida municipalities, each city may determine how it wants to use initiatives or referenda in its respective charter.⁴⁹ That being said, all charter amendments must be put on the ballot as a binding referendum.⁵⁰ City councils have broad powers to call bond referenda or non-binding referenda so long as they are in accordance with that city's charter or ordinances.⁵¹



PARTY AFFILIATION



Florida municipal elections are officially *non-partisan*. However, local parties do have the ability to organize and campaign with candidates.⁵²

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Jacksonville (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	821,784
2. Miami (<i>hybrid form of municipal government. Voters elect a commission and a mayor. The mayor then appoints a city manager</i>)	399,457
3. Tampa (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	335,709
4. St. Petersburg (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	244,769
5. Orlando (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	238,300



GEORGIA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Georgia uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but legislative statute provides for home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most Georgia municipalities use *mayor council* or *council-manager* municipal⁵³ government. Trenton is the only city in Georgia to use the commission form of government.⁵⁴ There are six consolidated county-city governments.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Georgia *municipalities do have broad initiative/referendum power*. Georgia state code outlines the procedure for municipal initiatives/referenda. The signature threshold for initiatives changes based on population. For cities with 5,000 or fewer residents, 25% of registered electors are required. For cities with 5,001 to 100,000 residents, 20% of registered electors are required. For cities with over 100,000 residents, 15% of registered electors are required.⁵⁵ Given Georgia's home rule municipal power, each city may add to the provisions in the state code via its city charter and some have chosen to do so; however, the provisions in the state code may not be reduced or eliminated by a city charter.



PARTY AFFILIATION

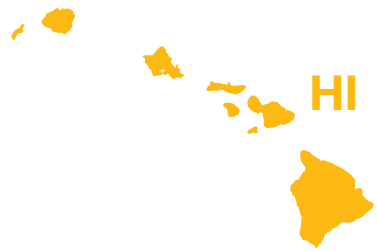


Nearly all Georgia municipal elections are *non-partisan*.⁵⁶

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Atlanta (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	420,003
2. Augusta (<i>consolidated with the government of Richmond County and uses mayor-council government</i>)	195,844
3. Columbus (<i>consolidated with the government of Muscogee County and uses council-manager government</i>)	189,885
4. Macon (<i>consolidated with the government of Bibb County and uses mayor-council government.</i>)	155,547
5. Savannah (<i>council-manager government</i>)	136,286



HAWAII

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Hawaii does not have incorporated municipalities.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

N/A

 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**



N/A

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**

  NP
N/A

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Honolulu	337,256
2. Pearl City	47,698
3. Hilo	43,263
4. Kailua	38,635
5. Waipahu	38,216



IDAHO

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Idaho uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Idaho municipalities use strong *mayor-council* government as outlined in the state code. The office of mayor functions as the executive branch of city government with the city council as the legislative branch.⁵⁷ However, cities may choose to adopt a council-manager plan under a different part of the state code.⁵⁸



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

Idaho *cities are allowed to hold initiative/referendum elections*. In fact, Idaho state code requires them to allow “direct legislation by the people through the initiative/referendum.”⁵⁹ The signature threshold for initiatives is 20% of qualified electors.

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



Idaho municipal elections are *non-partisan* according to state code.⁶⁰

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Boise	 205,671
2. Nampa	81,557
3. Meridian	75,092
4. Idaho Falls	56,813
5. Pocatello	54,255



ILLINOIS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Illinois uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. General law cities are Dillon Rule, but home rule applies to any city with a population over 25,000 according to the state constitution.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Illinois *municipalities may choose any form of government* they want. Municipalities with over 25,000 residents are automatically granted home rule status by the state, and smaller municipalities can hold a referendum to become home rule municipalities. Furthermore, home rule municipalities can hold a referendum to revert back to general law. Whether home rule or not home rule, municipalities can hold referenda to establish or alter their forms of government.^{64,65} The choices available to Illinois municipalities as stipulated by state code are commission,⁶⁶ council-manager,⁶⁷ or strong mayor-council.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Aside from the situations described in the previous paragraph, Illinois *municipalities do not have binding initiative/referendum power*. They may put non-binding measures on the ballot.



PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal offices in municipalities with over 5,000 residents in Illinois are *partisan* elections according to state code.⁶⁹ That being said, there are many exceptions in state law to this rule. Municipalities with populations under 5,000 may pass an ordinance to allow for partisan primaries.⁷⁰ All municipal elections in the City of Chicago are non-partisan.⁷¹ Municipalities using council-manager government may approve non-partisan elections by referendum, and all municipalities incorporated after May 13, 1993 are non-partisan unless they choose to be partisan.⁷² All of this should not be confused with township or school elections, which are non-partisan.⁷³

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Chicago (<i>mayor-council government, non-partisan elections</i>)	2,695,598
2. Aurora (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	197,899
3. Rockford (<i>revoked its home rule status and operates under general law. It has strong mayor-council government</i>)	152,871
4. Joliet (<i>council-manager government</i>)	147,433
5. Naperville (<i>council-manager government</i>)	141,853



INDIANA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Indiana uses *Dillon Rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Indiana municipalities mostly use strong *mayor-council* government.⁷⁴ Indiana has four classes of municipalities. First-class cities are defined as having populations over 600,000 (Indianapolis is the only such city). Second-class cities are defined as having populations from 35,000 to 599,999. Third class cities are defined as having populations less than 35,000. All other municipalities of any population are considered towns.⁷⁵ For cities, the only exception to straightforward strong mayor-council government is for third-class cities, which may appoint a city manager if they pass an ordinance to that effect.⁷⁶ Towns have a town council from which a town president is elected.⁷⁷ Town councils may also employ a town manager.⁷⁸

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Indiana *municipalities do not have initiative or referendum power.*

PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal elections in Indiana are *partisan*.⁷⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)



1. Indianapolis (<i>consolidated with Marion County government in what is called UNIGOV. It is governed under a different section of state code⁸⁰ but still maintains a strong mayor-council form of government</i>)	820,445
2. Fort Wayne	253,691
3. Evansville	117,429
4. South Bend	101,168
5. Carmel	79,191



IOWA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Iowa's state constitution provides for *home rule* by enabling legislation for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most municipalities in Iowa use *mayor-council* government. However, the state code allows for six different types of municipal government: mayor-council or mayor-council with appointed city manager, commission, council-manager-at-large, council-manager-ward, home rule charter and special charter.⁸¹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Since the Iowa state constitution does not mention initiatives or referenda, *only cities with home rule charters could give their residents initiative/referendum power.*⁸² Note that this does not mean they all have done so.



PARTY AFFILIATION



According to Iowa state code, municipal elections are to be *non-partisan.*⁸³ The only exception to this is cities that were acting under a special charter in 1973 with over 50,000 residents; they may still hold partisan municipal elections if they choose.⁸⁴

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Des Moines (<i>council-manager government</i>)	203,433
2. Cedar Rapids (<i>home rule charter that gives it a weak mayor-council government</i>)	126,326
3. Davenport	99,685
4. Sioux City	82,684
5. Waterloo	68,406



KANSAS

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Kansas municipalities have self-executing *home rule* authority as provided by the state constitution.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

By far, the most common form of municipal government in Kansas is mayor-council. Kansas state law allows for two other options, commission and council-manager, but those are used infrequently. Kansas municipalities also have significant leeway to modify these forms in their home rule charters.⁸⁵



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

All Kansas *municipalities have initiative/referendum power* as mandated by state law. The signature threshold for first class cities is 25% of electors who voted in the last regular city election. The signature threshold for second and third class cities is 40%.⁸⁶

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



Kansas municipal elections may be either partisan or non-partisan, depending on the municipality.⁸⁷ Most are *non-partisan*.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 <p>1. Wichita (<i>council-manager government</i>)</p>	 <p>382,368</p>
<p>2. Overland Park</p>	<p>173,372</p>
<p>3. Kansas City (<i>unified with Wyandotte County</i>)</p>	<p>145,786</p>
<p>4. Topeka (<i>council-manager government</i>)</p>	<p>127,473</p>
<p>5. Olathe</p>	<p>125,872</p>



KENTUCKY

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Kentucky uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. All municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but only cities may become home rule, which is provided through legislative statute.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Kentucky cities exist in two classes. Cities of the first class use mayor-council government. Cities of the home rule class use mayor-council, commission, or council-manager government.⁸⁸ *Mayor-council* is most common.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Kentucky *municipalities do have referendum power* according to state code. The signature threshold is 20% of the total number of votes cast in that city in the last presidential election.⁸⁹



PARTY AFFILIATION



According to state code, Kentucky municipalities are governed by the state's election procedures until they decide otherwise.⁹⁰ That means the default position for municipal elections is partisan elections. That being said, the vast majority of municipalities have chosen to make their elections *non-partisan*.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Louisville (<i>unified with Jefferson County and holds partisan elections</i>)	597,337
2. Lexington (<i>unified with Fayette Count</i>)	295,803
3. Bowling Green (<i>council-manager government</i>)	58,067
4. Owensboro (<i>council-manager government</i>)	57,265
5. Covington (<i>council-manager government</i>)	40,640



LOUISIANA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Louisiana uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Dillon Rule applies to municipalities with charters written before 1974. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Louisiana municipalities operate under the *mayor-council* form of government according to the state's Lawrason Act. However, there are exceptions. Twenty-four small municipalities operate under vestigial special legislative charters since they existed before the Lawrason Act was passed in 1898. Thirty cities and four city-parishes (these thirty-four entities are generally the large cities in Louisiana) operate under home rule charters which allow them to choose their own forms of government.⁹¹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In Louisiana, *some home rule municipalities have initiative/referendum power*. It is up to each home rule municipality whether it would like that power. State law does not provide this power, so Lawrason Act and special legislative charter municipalities do not have initiative/referendum power.



PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal elections are *partisan*.⁹² Home rule municipalities may choose to make them non-partisan.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. New Orleans (<i>consolidated with the Parish of Orleans</i>)	343,829
2. Baton Rouge (<i>consolidated with the Parish of East Baton Rouge</i>)	229,493
3. Shreveport	199,311
4. Lafayette (<i>consolidated with the Parish of Lafayette. The chief executive is called Mayor-President, but it remains a mayor-council system</i>)	120,623
5. Lake Charles	71,993



MAINE

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Maine uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Maine uses the *town meeting-selectman* form of municipal government. However, some larger municipalities have adopted other forms. 425 of Maine's 491 municipalities still use the town meeting-selectman form of government.⁹³ Additionally, 206 municipalities employ a manager. Maine's 23 cities (municipalities with city charters) all have city councils and employ city managers.⁹⁴ A few of the larger cities use mayor-council government.⁹⁵

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Only Maine's larger municipalities allow for initiative/referendum. Since the smaller municipalities usually use town meeting-selectman government, it is unnecessary to have initiative/referendum.⁹⁶



PARTY AFFILIATION



The vast majority of municipal elections in Maine are *non-partisan*. Only three cities (Biddeford, Waterville and Westbrook) hold partisan municipal elections.⁹⁷

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Portland (<i>council-manager government</i>)	66,194
2. Lewiston (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	36,592
3. Bangor (<i>council-manager government</i>)	33,039
4. South Portland (<i>council-manager government</i>)	25,002
5. Auburn (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	23,055



MARYLAND

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Maryland uses a mix of *Dillon Rule and home rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most municipalities in Maryland use *mayor-council* government.⁹⁸ However, each municipality may choose its own form of government in its charter.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Maryland *municipalities have initiative/referendum power for charter amendments*. The signature threshold is 20% of qualified voters.⁹⁹



PARTY AFFILIATION



All municipal elections in Maryland are *non-partisan* except Baltimore, Annapolis and Frederick.¹⁰⁰

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

		
1. Baltimore (<i>independent city and not part of any county. It holds partisan elections</i>)		620,961
2. Frederick (<i>partisan elections</i>)		65,239
3. Rockville (<i>council-manager government</i>)		61,209
4. Gaithersburg (<i>council-manager government</i>)		59,933
5. Bowie (<i>council-manager government</i>)		54,727



MASSACHUSETTS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Massachusetts has *limited home rule*. There is a home rule amendment to the state constitution and the legislature passed a law to allow home rule, but it is much more limited than in other states.¹⁰¹

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Massachusetts is *town meeting-selectman*. Massachusetts has 351 municipalities; there are 50 cities and 301 towns. 263 of the towns use town meeting-selectman government. The remainder uses a representative town meeting. Most cities use mayor-council government, but there are some council-manager cities as well.¹⁰²

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Massachusetts *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.¹⁰³ The signature threshold is 15%.



PARTY AFFILIATION



Nearly all municipal elections in Massachusetts are *non-partisan*.¹⁰⁵

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Boston (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	617,594
2. Worcester (<i>council-manager government</i>)	181,045
3. Springfield (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	153,060
4. Lowell (<i>council-manager government</i>)	106,519
5. Cambridge (<i>council-manager government</i>)	105,162



MICHIGAN

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Michigan uses a mix of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for any city or village.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Michigan is *council-manager*. 175 of its 274 cities use that form. The rest use mayor-council.¹⁰⁶

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Michigan *municipalities may have initiative/referendum power in their own charters*.¹⁰⁷ Not all of them do and the restrictions vary from charter to charter. State code does mandate that initiative may be used to amend a city charter. If 5% of the registered voters in a city sign a petition to do so, it will be put on the next general election ballot. If 20% of the registered voters in a city do so, a special election may be called.¹⁰⁸



PARTY AFFILIATION



Over 90% of city elections in Michigan are *non-partisan*.¹⁰⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Detroit (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	713,777
2. Grand Rapids	188,040
3. Warren (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	134,056
4. Sterling Heights	129,699
5. Lansing (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	114,297



MINNESOTA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Minnesota uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for home rule which requires enabling legislation.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Minnesota is *mayor-council*. Most Minnesota cities are statutory, which means three government plans are available. The “Standard Plan” is weak mayor-council. “Plan A” is the most common and is also weak mayor-council (the differences between Standard Plan and Plan A lie in the appointment of other city officials and the number of councilmen). “Plan B” is council-manager. There are also home rule cities which establish their own charters.¹¹⁰ These are most of the larger cities, and they may make whatever form of government they wish.¹¹¹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Minnesota municipalities generally do not have initiative/referendum power. Statutory cities have no such power. Charter cities may use initiative to amend their city charter with the signatures of 5% of the total votes cast in the last previous state general election.¹¹² Additionally, some charter cities have allowed initiative/referendum for ordinances in their city charters.



PARTY AFFILIATION



Minnesota municipal elections are *non-partisan*.¹¹³

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Minneapolis (<i>partisan city council elections</i>) ¹¹⁴	382,578
2. St. Paul	285,068
3. Rochester	106,769
4. Duluth	86,265
5. Bloomington	82,893



MISSISSIPPI

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Mississippi uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Mississippi is *mayor-board of aldermen*. It is used by about 95% of Mississippi municipalities.¹¹⁵ It is nearly identical to the weak mayor-council form of government.¹¹⁶ There are other forms available. Clarksdale and Vicksburg use variants of commission government.¹¹⁷ Only seven municipalities (D'Iberville, Diamondhead, Gautier, Grenada, Moorhead, Pascagoula and Picayune) use council-manager government.¹¹⁸ Ten cities (Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Columbus, Greenwood, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, Meridian and Tupelo) use strong mayor-council government, and these are mostly the largest ones.¹¹⁹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Mississippi municipalities do not have initiative/referendum power. The only exception to this is amendments to city charters, which may be initiated by the signatures of 20% of the qualified electors in the municipality.¹²⁰



PARTY AFFILIATION



Mississippi municipalities may decide whether to have partisan or non-partisan elections.¹²¹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Jackson (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	173,514
2. Gulfport (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	67,793
3. Southaven	48,982
4. Hattiesburg (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	45,989
5. Biloxi (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	44,054



MISSOURI

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Missouri uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for municipalities with at least 5,000 residents.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The most common form of municipal government in Missouri is *mayor-council*. Most are weak.¹²² Also available are city administrator and council-manager forms of government.¹²³



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

Missouri *charter cities* may allow *initiative/referendum power*. General law cities do not have it. The state constitution mandates that charter amendments be brought to a referendum. Additionally, a petition bearing the signatures of 10% of the registered qualified voters may put a charter amendment on the ballot.

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



All Missouri cities except Kansas City and St. Louis are subject to state election laws.¹²⁵ These laws allow for partisan elections, but cities may choose to hold non-partisan elections as well. It depends on the city.¹²⁶

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Kansas City (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	 459,787
2. St. Louis (<i>partisan elections</i>)	319,294
3. Springfield (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	159,498
4. Independence	116,830
5. Columbia (<i>council-manager government</i>)	108,500



MONTANA

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Montana municipalities are *home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for all municipalities.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Montana state code allows for three different municipal forms of government: strong mayor-council, commission and council-manager.¹²⁷ The default is *mayor-council*.¹²⁸



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

The Montana state constitution mandates that *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.¹²⁹ Montana state code stipulates how initiatives/referenda are to be conducted. A petition signed by 15% of a municipality’s qualified electors requires that the measure be put on the ballot at the next local election.¹³⁰ A petition signed by 25% of a municipality’s qualified electors can force a special election.¹³¹ However, there are restrictions. The following are excluded from initiative power: the annual budget; bond proceedings (except authorization); the establishment and collection of charges pledged for the payment of principal and interest on bonds; the levy of special assessments pledged for the payment of principal and interest on bonds; and the prioritization of the enforcement of any state law by a unit of local government.¹³²

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



Montana municipal elections may be partisan or *non-partisan* according to state code.¹³³

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Billings	 104,170
2. Missoula	66,788
3. Great Falls	58,505
4. Bozeman	37,280
5. Butte (<i>consolidated with the government of Silver Bow County</i>)	33,525



NEBRASKA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Nebraska uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for municipalities with at least 5,000 residents.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The default form of municipal government in Nebraska is *mayor-council* by state law. Cities in Nebraska exist in four classes: metropolitan (300,000 or more inhabitants),¹³⁴ primary (over 100,000 and less than 300,000 inhabitants),¹³⁵ first (over 5,000 and not more than 100,000 inhabitants),¹³⁶ and second (over 800 and not more than 5,000 inhabitants).¹³⁷ Cities of the metropolitan and primary classes are strong¹³⁸ while cities of the first and second classes are weak.¹³⁹ It should be noted that the only city in the metropolitan class is Omaha, and the only city in the primary class is Lincoln (however, Lincoln will probably be in the metropolitan class by the 2030 Census). Therefore, nearly every Nebraska city is weak mayor-council.



INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Nebraska *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.^{140,141} A petition with signatures of 15% of the municipality's qualified electors is sufficient to force the governing body of the municipality to consider the measure; if they fail to pass it, it is then put up to a vote of the people.¹⁴² A petition with signatures of 20% of the municipality's qualified electors is sufficient to force a special election.¹⁴³ For referenda, there are some measures that are excluded.¹⁴⁴

PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal elections in Nebraska are non-partisan unless the municipality passes an ordinance to the contrary.¹⁴⁵ Cities in the metropolitan class (Omaha) are required to hold non-partisan elections by state law.¹⁴⁶

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Omaha	 408,958
2. Lincoln	258,379
3. Bellevue	50,137
4. Grand Island	48,520
5. Kearney	30,787

NEVADA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Nevada has a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for any city or town.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Nevada municipalities have *mayor-council* government.¹⁴⁷ State code allows them to change to commission government if they so choose.¹⁴⁸

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Nevada *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.¹⁴⁹ The signature threshold for initiatives is 15%, and the signature threshold for referenda is 10%.¹⁵⁰



PARTY AFFILIATION



Nevada municipal elections are *non-partisan*.¹⁵¹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Las Vegas	583,756
2. Henderson	257,729
3. Reno	225,221
4. North Las Vegas	216,961
5. Sparks	90,264

NEW HAMPSHIRE



TYPE OF AUTHORITY

New Hampshire uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default. Legislative statute provides for home rule for cities and towns.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Hampshire only has 13 cities. Of those, 11 have *council-manager* government. The remaining two (Manchester and Nashua) have mayor-board of aldermen government. New Hampshire also has 221 towns. The towns use town meeting-selectman government unless they decide to change it to something else by adopting a town charter.¹⁵²

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

New Hampshire *municipalities have initiative/referendum power for charter amendments*. The signature threshold is 15% of the number of ballots cast in the last regular municipal election.¹⁵³



PARTY AFFILIATION



New Hampshire municipalities may decide whether to have partisan or *non-partisan elections*.¹⁵⁴

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Manchester (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	109,565
2. Nashua (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	86,494
3. Concord	42,695
4. Derry (<i>town council government</i>)	33,109
5. Dover	29,987



NEW JERSEY

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

New Jersey municipalities have limited home rule. Legislative statute establishes an optional charter system for cities (number 7 in the list below) that amounts to home rule.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are no fewer than *12 forms of government* available to New Jersey municipalities. All but one of them is actually used. Four of them exist under a state law called the Faulkner Act (denoted by an asterisk). Here are brief descriptions of each in order of prevalence:

1. The most common form is weak mayor-council which is called the “Borough Form.”
2. The next most common is the “Township Form,” which is government by township committee. The committee is elected by the public and then the township committee elects the mayor.
3. Strong mayor-council is the next most common, and this is called the “Mayor-Council Plan.”*
4. Next most used is “Council-Manager Form.” It is typical council-manager government.*
5. The “Commission Form” is next most popular, and it is typical commission government. It used to be more popular and was used by major urban areas, but that has reversed over the last few decades.
6. Next is “Small Municipality Form.” This is for municipalities with fewer than 12,000 inhabitants, and it is strong mayor-council.*
7. New Jersey also has special charter cities. This is when a municipality petitions the state legislature for enabling legislation to enact its own form of government. Many of these mimic forms from the Faulkner Act.
8. Next is the “City Form.” It is strong mayor-council.
9. “Town Form” is next most frequently used. It is mayor-council government with the mayor known as the councilman-at-large. The executive authority is vested in the council.

10. The “1923 Municipal Manager Form” is a predecessor to the Faulkner Act council-manager form (number 4 on this list). Many municipalities that used to use this form have changed to Faulkner council-manager, but a few have retained it.
11. The most infrequently used Faulkner form is “Mayor-Council-Administrator.” It is weak mayor-council and very similar to borough form.*
12. The final option is “Village Form,” although no New Jersey municipalities use it currently.¹⁵⁵

✓ INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In New Jersey, *one in four municipalities allow for initiatives or referenda.*¹⁵⁶ All municipalities with forms of government under the Faulkner Act have municipal initiative/referendum.¹⁵⁷ For those, the signature threshold is 10% of the number of votes cast in the most recent state assembly election.¹⁵⁸ Non-Faulkner Act municipalities may have initiative/referendum in their charters, but likely do not.¹⁵⁹

△ PARTY AFFILIATION



This differs depending on the form. (Faulkner Act forms are denoted by asterisks.)

- The following forms hold partisan elections: Township, Borough, City, Town and Mayor-Council-Administrator.*
- The following forms hold *non-partisan* elections: Commission and 1923 Municipal Manager.
- The following forms may hold partisan or non-partisan elections: Mayor-Council,* Council-Manager,* Small Municipality* and special charter cities.¹⁶⁰

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

1. Newark (<i>Mayor-Council Plan government, non-partisan elections</i>)	277,140
2. Jersey City (<i>Mayor-Council Plan government, non-partisan elections</i>)	247,597
3. Paterson (<i>Mayor-Council Plan government, non-partisan elections</i>)	146,199
4. Elizabeth (<i>Mayor-Council Plan government, partisan elections</i>)	124,969
5. Edison (<i>Mayor-Council Plan government, partisan elections</i>)	99,967

Note: All five of the largest cities in New Jersey are Faulkner Act municipalities.

NEW MEXICO

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

New Mexico uses *home rule*. All municipalities are granted self-executing home rule by the state constitution.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

New Mexico municipalities are by default weak *mayor-council*. Municipalities with populations over 1,000 may appoint a manager to create mayor-council-manager government. A municipality with over 3,000 residents may vote to adopt commission-manager government. Additionally, there are provisions for charter cities, but only a few larger cities have taken that step.¹⁶² There are 96 mayor-council cities (16 of which have a manager) and eight commission-manager cities. Of the 12 charter municipalities, only two have created their own form of government; the remaining 10 are either mayor-council or commission-manager. There is one consolidated city-county government (Los Alamos).¹⁶³

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In New Mexico, *this depends on the form of government*. Mayor-council municipalities have very limited initiative/referendum power; there is a list of possible questions in state law.¹⁶⁴ Commission-manager municipalities do have initiative/referendum power.¹⁶⁵



PARTY AFFILIATION



New Mexico municipal elections are *non-partisan*.¹⁶⁶

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Albuquerque	545,852
2. Las Cruces (<i>home rule, council-manager government</i>)	97,618
3. Rio Rancho	87,521
4. Santa Fe	67,947
5. Roswell	48,366



NEW YORK

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

New York uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The most common form of New York municipal government is *mayor-council*, with 46 of 62 cities using it with varying degrees of mayor strength. Thirteen use council-manager government and three use commission government.¹⁶⁷



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

This is generally not an option in New York. A municipality may only hold a referendum if it finds specific authority in the state constitution or state code to do so; this is mostly limited to changes in form of government or boundaries. Non-binding referenda are specifically prohibited. Initiative power is mostly limited to attempts to amend city charters.¹⁶⁸

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



New York municipal elections are *partisan*.¹⁶⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. New York	 8,175,133
2. Buffalo	61,310
3. Rochester	210,565
4. Yonkers	195,976
5. Syracuse	145,170



NORTH CAROLINA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

North Carolina uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but legislative statute provides for home rule.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The default form of municipal government in North Carolina is *mayor-council*. A municipality may choose to adopt council-manager government. These are the only two available options.¹⁷⁰

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

North Carolina *municipalities do not have initiative/referendum power*. Only elections specifically authorized by state law may be held in municipalities. These are limited to questions like changing forms of government, incorporation and some taxation issues.¹⁷¹



PARTY AFFILIATION



North Carolina state law allows for four different types of municipal elections. One is partisan and the other three are *non-partisan*.¹⁷²

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Charlotte (<i>council-manager government, partisan elections</i>)	731,424
2. Raleigh (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	403,892
3. Greensboro (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	269,666
4. Winston-Salem (<i>partisan elections</i>)	229,617
5. Durham (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	228,330



NORTH DAKOTA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

North Dakota uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for all cities.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

North Dakota state law stipulates three forms of municipal government. The most common is strong *mayor-council*. The other two allowed forms are commission and modern council, which is basically weak mayor-council.¹⁷³

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In North Dakota, *only commission and modern council cities have initiative/ referendum power*.¹⁷⁴ In those cities, a petition with the signatures of 15% of the number of votes cast in the preceding regular municipal election is sufficient to submit a measure to the governing body of the municipality.¹⁷⁵ After that, the governing body may either pass the ordinance or call a special election.¹⁷⁶ For referenda, the signature threshold is 10% of the number of votes cast in the preceding regular municipal election.¹⁷⁷ That forces the governing body to reconsider the ordinance in question, and if it does not repeal it, it shall go on the ballot in the next general election or in a special election.¹⁷⁸

PARTY AFFILIATION



North Dakota municipal elections are *non-partisan* by state law.¹⁷⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)



1. Fargo (<i>commission government</i>)	105,549
2. Bismarck (<i>commission government</i>)	61,272
3. Grand Forks	52,838
4. Minot	40,888
5. West Fargo (<i>commission government</i>)	25,830



OHIO

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Ohio municipalities are *home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for all municipalities.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Most significant municipalities in Ohio have adopted charters. Of those, the most common form of government is *mayor-council* with 158 such municipalities. The next most common forms are council-manager (71), mayor-council-manager (23) and commission (8).¹⁸⁰ These plans are based on Ohio state law.¹⁸¹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Ohio *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*. The signature threshold for initiatives is 10% of the number of votes cast in the most recent governor's election in that municipality. Doing so puts the question on the ballot in the next general election.¹⁸² The procedure is the same for referenda.¹⁸³



PARTY AFFILIATION



Ohio municipal elections may be partisan or *non-partisan*.¹⁸⁴

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Columbus	787,033
2. Cleveland	396,815
3. Cincinnati (<i>council-manager government</i>)	296,943
4. Toledo (<i>mayor-council-manager government</i>)	287,208
5. Akron	199,110



OKLAHOMA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Oklahoma uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for cities with at least 2,000 residents.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Oklahoma allows for four different forms of municipal government: mayor-board of aldermen, council-manager, strong mayor-council and town board of trustees.¹⁸⁵

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Oklahoma *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.¹⁸⁶ The signature threshold for both initiatives and referenda is 25% of the total number of votes cast at the preceding general election.¹⁸⁷



PARTY AFFILIATION



Oklahoma municipal elections are *non-partisan* unless a municipality passes an ordinance to the contrary.¹⁸⁸

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Oklahoma City (<i>council-manager government</i>)	579,999
2. Tulsa (<i>strong mayor-council government</i>)	391,906
3. Norman (<i>council-manager government</i>)	110,925
4. Broken Arrow (<i>council-manager government</i>)	98,850
5. Lawton (<i>council-manager government</i>)	96,867



OREGON

 **TYPE OF AUTHORITY**

Oregon municipalities are *home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for every city and town.

 **FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The most popular form of municipal government in significant Oregon cities is *council-manager*. Most small cities in Oregon have weak mayor-council. Only a few cities use strong mayor-council. Only Portland uses commission government.¹⁸⁹



 **INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER**

Oregon’s state constitution mandates that *municipalities have initiative/referendum powers*.¹⁹⁰ While procedures vary by charter, the constitution states that the signature threshold for initiative is 15% of the qualified voters in the municipality. The threshold for referendum is 10% of qualified voters. The city council may also put a question on the ballot by ordinance.¹⁹¹

 **PARTY AFFILIATION**



Oregon municipal elections are *non-partisan* by tradition. Partisan elections would be allowed, but do not exist.¹⁹²

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Portland (<i>commission government</i>)	 583,776
2. Eugene	156,185
3. Salem	154,637
4. Gresham	105,594
5. Hillsboro	91,611



PENNSYLVANIA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Pennsylvania uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for optional forms of local government.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Pennsylvania cities exist in four classes. First class cities have over 1,000,000 inhabitants (Philadelphia). Second class cities have populations between 250,000 and 999,999 (Pittsburgh). Second class A cities have populations between 80,000 and 249,999 and elect by ordinance to be in that class (Scranton, although it now has fewer than 80,000 residents). The remaining 53 cities are third class cities.¹⁹³ In addition to cities, there are 957 boroughs.¹⁹⁴ The default form of government for all cities by state law is mayor-council.¹⁹⁵ The council may vote to establish the office of city administrator or city manager and therefore change to council-manager government.¹⁹⁶

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Pennsylvania *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*.¹⁹⁷ The signature threshold for initiatives is 20% of the total votes cast for mayor in the preceding municipal election.¹⁹⁸ Gathering that number of signatures submits the petition to the council, which may enact the ordinance or call for a referendum at the next general election.¹⁹⁹ The threshold for referenda is also 20% of the total votes cast for mayor in the last election.²⁰⁰ That forces the council to reconsider the ordinance in question. If they fail to repeal it, then it goes on the ballot during the next general election.²⁰¹



PARTY AFFILIATION



Pennsylvania city elections are governed by the state election code and therefore are *partisan* elections.²⁰²

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

		
1.	Philadelphia (<i>governs what was formerly Philadelphia County as a consolidated government</i>)	1,526,006
2.	Pittsburgh	305,704
3.	Allentown	118,032
4.	Erie	101,786
5.	Reading	88,082



RHODE ISLAND

AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Rhode Island has a combination of *Dillon Rule* and *home rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Rhode Island state constitution gives municipalities the right to determine their own form of government.²⁰³ There are no forms given in the state code, as it simply reaffirms that each municipality may do whatever its own charter says.²⁰⁴

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

There is no mention of it in the state constitution or code. Therefore, cities may allow for initiatives or referenda in their charters.²⁰⁵

PARTY AFFILIATION



There are no statewide regulations on municipal elections. Therefore, cities may allow for partisan or *non-partisan* elections in their charters.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Providence (<i>mayor-council government, partisan elections</i>)	178,042
2. Warwick (<i>mayor-council government, partisan elections</i>)	82,672
3. Cranston (<i>mayor-council government, partisan elections</i>)	80,387
4. Pawtucket (<i>mayor-council government, partisan elections</i>)	71,148
5. East Providence (<i>mayor-council government, non-partisan elections</i>)	47,037



SOUTH CAROLINA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

South Carolina municipalities are *home rule*. The state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for all municipalities.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in South Carolina is *mayor-council*. This is because three quarters of South Carolina municipalities have fewer than 3,000 residents and are unable to afford hiring a manager. However, over 50 larger municipalities have adopted council-manager government.²⁰⁶

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

South Carolina *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*. The signature threshold for both initiatives and referenda is 15% of registered voters at the last regular municipal election. Initiative power extends to any ordinance except ones that appropriate money or authorize taxation. Referendum power extends to any ordinance that authorizes borrowing money. These apply to all South Carolina municipalities since they are mandated by state code.²⁰⁷



PARTY AFFILIATION



252 of South Carolina's 269 municipalities hold *non-partisan* elections.²⁰⁸

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Columbia (<i>council-manager government</i>)	129,272
2. Charleston	120,083
3. North Charleston	97,471
4. Mount Pleasant	67,843
5. Rock Hill (<i>council-manager government</i>)	66,154



SOUTH DAKOTA

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

South Dakota uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for all municipalities.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in South Dakota is *trustee* government, whereby the voters elect a board of trustees and the trustees elect a president of the board. Of the 310 municipalities in South Dakota, 160 use trustee government. The next most common is mayor-board of aldermen government, which is used by 128 municipalities. There are a few each of commission and council-manager governments. Additionally, 10 charter cities (Aberdeen, Beresford, Brookings, Elk Point, Faith, Fort Pierre, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Springfield and Watertown) have made their own forms of government.²⁰⁹

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

South Dakota *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*. The signature threshold for both procedures is 5% of registered voters in the municipality.²¹⁰



PARTY AFFILIATION



South Dakota municipal elections are officially *non-partisan*.²¹¹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Sioux Falls (<i>charter city, mayor-council government</i>)	153,888
2. Rapid City (<i>mayor-board of aldermen government</i>)	67,956
3. Aberdeen (<i>charter city, council-manager government</i>)	26,091
4. Brookings (<i>charter city, council-manager government</i>)	22,056
5. Watertown (<i>charter city, mayor-council government</i>)	21,482



TENNESSEE

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Tennessee uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. General law municipalities are Dillon Rule, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tennessee state code outlines three forms of municipal government for general law municipalities: mayor-board of aldermen, city manager-commission and modified city manager-council.²¹² Home rule municipalities may change their forms of government as they wish.²¹³

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In general this is not an option for Tennessee *municipalities, but home rule charters are allowed to have initiative/referendum procedures*. Municipalities that choose to adopt initiative/referendum are subject to the requirements of state code. These include a minimum signature threshold of 15% of registered voters.²¹⁴



PARTY AFFILIATION



Tennessee municipal elections are *non-partisan* by state code. However, home rule charters may allow for partisan elections.²¹⁵

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Memphis (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	646,889
2. Nashville (<i>consolidated with Davidson County, mayor-council government</i>)	601,222
3. Knoxville (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	178,874
4. Chattanooga (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	167,674
5. Clarksville (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	132,929



TEXAS

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Texas uses *Dillon Rule and home rule*. General law cities of Types A, B and C are all Dillon Rule municipalities. The state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for any city with a population of at least 5,000.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are three types of general law cities in Texas: A, B and C. Both Type A and Type B cities use mayor-board of aldermen government. Type C uses commission government. Furthermore, any general law city with fewer than 5,000 residents may adopt city manager form of government. Cities with populations over 5,000 may adopt home rule charters. Large cities, in general, have adopted home rule charters. Home rule cities in Texas may adopt any form of government they wish.²¹⁶

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Only Texas charter *cities may have initiative/referendum power if their charter allows it*. Cities operating under general law do not have this power.²¹⁷



PARTY AFFILIATION



Texas municipal elections are non-partisan unless a home rule city decides to adopt partisan elections in its charter.²¹⁸

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Houston (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	2,099,451
2. San Antonio (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	1,327,407
3. Dallas (<i>council-manager government</i>)	1,197,816
4. Austin (<i>council-manager government</i>)	790,390
5. Fort Worth (<i>council-manager government</i>)	741,206



UTAH

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Utah municipalities are *home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any incorporated city or town.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Utah cities may choose from three forms of government as provided in the state code. These three are mayor-council, six-member council and five-member council. Mayor-council is essentially the usual strong mayor-council system with separation of powers between the executive mayor and the legislative council. The six-member and five-member council forms have no separation of powers, and the mayor is a member of the council in both forms. The difference between them is whether the mayor is a voting member. In the six member form, the mayor is not a voting member, while in the five member form, the mayor is a voting member. There are a few cities that use council-manager government (that used to be an option in Utah state code, but it was removed in 2008). Additionally, the state constitution allows for cities to create their own charter and therefore make any form of government they wish.²¹⁹



INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Utah *municipalities do have initiative/referendum power*. The signature threshold for initiatives is scaled to the population of the municipality and is based on the number of votes cast for President in the preceding presidential election.²²⁰

PARTY AFFILIATION



In Utah, *this depends on the municipality*. Municipalities may choose to nominate candidates by party convention or committee, in which case their party label does appear on the ballot.²²¹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Salt Lake City (<i>mayor-council government, non-partisan elections</i>) 	 186,440
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> West Valley City (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>) 	129,480
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provo (<i>mayor-council government, non-partisan elections</i>) 	112,488
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> West Jordan (<i>council-manager government, but will switch to mayor-council government in January 2020</i>) 	103,712
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Orem (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>) 	88,328



VERMONT

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Vermont uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vermont municipalities use the town *meeting-selectman* form of government. However, cities may adopt charters and create their own forms of government.²²³

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Municipalities using town meeting-selectman government do not have initiative/referendum power. City charters may outline initiative/referendum processes.²²⁴



PARTY AFFILIATION



Each *city may decide* to hold partisan or non-partisan elections.

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Burlington (<i>mayor-council government, partisan elections</i>)	42,417
2. South Burlington (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	17,904
3. Rutland (<i>board of aldermen, non-partisan elections</i>)	16,495
4. Barre (<i>weak mayor-council government, non-partisan elections</i>)	9,052
5. Montpelier (<i>council-manager government, non-partisan elections</i>)	7,855

VIRGINIA



TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Virginia uses *Dillon Rule*.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cities in Virginia are unique because they are independent incorporated communities.²²⁵ That means they are not part of a county. Towns are municipalities that are located in counties.²²⁶ There are 40 independent cities in Virginia.²²⁷ Each municipality has broad authority to make its own form of government.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Virginia municipalities may have initiative/referendum provisions in their charters. State code lays out minimal standards for these measures and does not include a signature threshold.²²⁸



PARTY AFFILIATION



Virginia municipal elections may be partisan or non-partisan depending on the municipal charter, but municipal office holders traditionally file as Independents, making most elections *non-partisan*.²²⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Virginia Beach (<i>council-manager government</i>)	437,994
2. Norfolk (<i>council-manager government</i>)	242,803
3. Chesapeake (<i>council-manager government</i>)	222,209
4. Richmond (<i>mayor-council government</i>)	204,214
5. Newport News (<i>council-manager government</i>)	180,719



WASHINGTON

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Washington uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. Municipalities are Dillon Rule by default, but the state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality with at least 10,000 residents.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Washington municipalities may choose from mayor-council, council-manager, or commission government.²³⁰ (Only the City of Shelton uses commission government.²³¹) Additionally, cities with populations over 10,000 may make a charter. All 10 first class cities and the City of Kelso are charter cities.²³² The most common form of government is *mayor-council*.²³³

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

In Washington, *most municipalities do not have initiative/referendum power*. Around 50 of the state's 281 cities have it.²³⁴ That being said, all 10 of the state's first class cities have initiative/referendum procedures in their city charters. Second class cities and towns never have initiative/referendum power. Commission cities automatically have initiative/referendum power. Code cities may adopt the power if they so choose.²³⁵ The signature threshold for code cities is 15% of the votes cast in the previous mayoral election, and it is 25% for commission cities.²³⁶



PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal elections in Washington are *non-partisan*.²³⁷

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

FIVE LARGEST CITIES	CENSUS POPULATION (2010)
 1. Seattle	 608,660
2. Spokane	208,916
3. Tacoma (<i>council-manager government</i>)	31,275
4. Vancouver (<i>council-manager government</i>)	161,791
5. Bellevue (<i>council-manager government</i>)	122,363

WEST VIRGINIA



TYPE OF AUTHORITY

West Virginia has a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. The state used to be a strict Dillon Rule state, but a home rule pilot program has begun to expand home rule in the state to specific cities.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

West Virginia state code provides five options for municipal form of government: Mayor-Council Plan (weak mayor), Strong-Mayor Plan, Commission Government, Manager Plan (mayor elected by council) and Manager-Mayor Plan (mayor elected at large).²³⁸ It should also be noted that home rule is very new in West Virginia, and 34 cities have home rule power as part of a pilot program under state legislation.

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

West Virginia municipalities may adopt initiative/referendum procedures in their city charters. State code stipulates a minimum signature threshold of 10% of qualified voters.



PARTY AFFILIATION



West Virginia municipal elections are mostly *non-partisan*. Only a few cities hold partisan municipal elections.²⁴¹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Charleston (<i>Strong-Mayor Plan, partisan elections</i>)	51,400
2. Huntington (<i>Strong-Mayor Plan, partisan elections</i>)	49,138
3. Parkersburg (<i>Strong-Mayor Plan, partisan elections</i>)	31,492
4. Morgantown (<i>Manager Plan</i>)	29,660
5. Wheeling (<i>Mayor-Manager Plan</i>)	28,486



WISCONSIN

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Wisconsin uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. The state constitution provides for home rule, which requires enabling legislation, for any city or village.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of government for cities in Wisconsin is *mayor-council* although some cities do use city managers as well. Villages in Wisconsin are governed by village boards made up of trustees and a president, all elected at large.²³⁸ That being said, municipalities in Wisconsin have broad home rule powers to change their forms of government.²⁴²

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

All Wisconsin municipalities do have initiative/referendum power. First and foremost, all municipal borrowing is subject to referendum.²⁴³ Additionally, any proposed ordinance may be put to a vote of the council or of the general public through an initiative petition with the number of signatures equal to 15% of the votes cast for governor in the last general election.²⁴⁴



PARTY AFFILIATION



Municipal elections in Wisconsin are *non-partisan*.²⁴⁵

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Milwaukee	594,833
2. Madison	233,209
3. Green Bay	104,057
4. Kenosha (city administrator)	99,218
5. Racine	78,860



WYOMING

TYPE OF AUTHORITY

Wyoming uses a combination of *Dillon Rule and home rule*. The state constitution provides for self-executing home rule for any municipality.

FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The most common form of municipal government in Wyoming is *mayor-council*. Other options available to Wyoming municipalities are council-manager and commission,²⁴⁶ although no municipalities currently use commission.²⁴⁷

INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM POWER

Wyoming *municipalities only have referendum power*. The signature threshold is 10% of qualified electors.²⁴⁸



PARTY AFFILIATION



All municipal offices in Wyoming are *non-partisan*.²⁴⁹

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

CENSUS POPULATION (2010)

	
1. Cheyenne	59,466
2. Casper (<i>council-manager government</i>)	55,316
3. Laramie (<i>council-manager government</i>)	30,816
4. Gillette	29,087
5. Rock Springs	23,036

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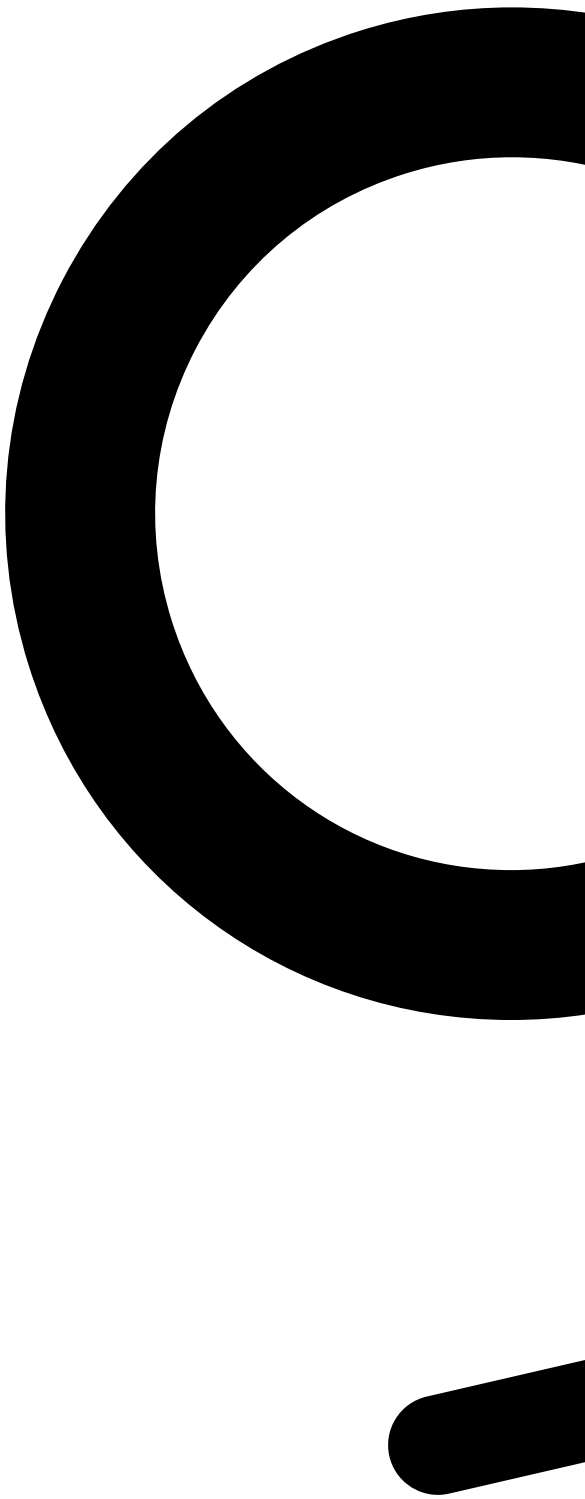
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