



# City of Cleveland Heights Charter Review Commission

**Community Meeting: Form of Government Discussion**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2018**  
**7:00 – 9:30 pm**  
**Cleveland Heights Community Center**

## **Meeting Purposes:**

- To provide information about the contents of the current Cleveland Heights charter;
- To review common models of local government currently in use in Ohio and the U.S., including the strengths and deficits of each model;
- To provide an opportunity for collaborative reflection on our current form of local government and whether changing it would improve the quality of life in our city.

## **Agenda:**

- Welcome and Introduction of Charter Review Commission members – Jack Newman, CRC Chair
- Context: The Charter Review Process – Jack Newman
- Presentation on Forms of Government – Larry Keller, CRC Facilitator
- Group Exercises/Discussion Questions and Reporting Out – Facilitated by Katie Solender, CRC Member
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks – Jack Newman

## **Questions for discussion:**

- What type of government do you prefer for Cleveland Heights and why?
- What other elements should be added to or changed in the [city charter](#) to improve our local government?

## **Group agreements:**

- Focus on the meeting purpose
- Be actively engaged
- Listen actively
- Stay committed to the process
- Strive to share new and relevant information to the group



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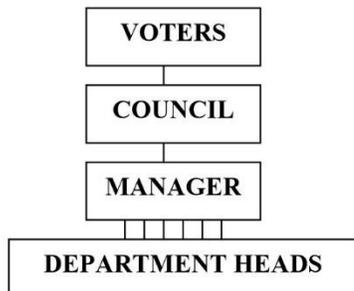
## Forms of Local Government

### Council-Manager

In the council-manager form of government, the council is the governing body of the city, elected by the public, and the manager is hired by the council to carry out the policies it establishes. The council usually consists of five to nine members including a mayor (or council president) who is either selected by the council or elected by the people as defined in the city charter. The size of the council is generally smaller than that of a mayor-council municipality and council elections are usually nonpartisan.

The council provides legislative direction while the manager is responsible for day-to-day administrative operations of the city based on the council's recommendations. The mayor and council, as a collegial body, are responsible for setting policy, approving the budget, and determining the tax rate. The manager serves as the council's chief advisor. Managers also serve at the pleasure of the council and are responsible for preparing the budget, directing day-to-day operations, and hiring and firing personnel.

Typically, the mayor is recognized as the political head of the municipality but is a member of the legislative body and does not have the power to veto legislative actions.



### Mayor-Council (Strong Mayor)

The mayor-council (council-elected executive counties) form of government is the form that most closely parallels the American federal government with an elected legislature and a separately elected executive.

The mayor or elected executive is designated as the head of the city or county government. The extent of his or her authority can range from purely ceremonial functions to full scale responsibility for day-to-day operations. But the mayor's or elected executive's duties and powers generally include the following: hiring and firing department heads, preparation and administration of the budget, and veto power (which may be overridden) over acts of legislature. The legislature has the following responsibilities: adoption of the budget, passage of resolutions with legislation, auditing the performance of the government, and adoption of general policy positions.

In some communities, the mayor or executive may assume a larger policy-making role, and responsibility for day-to-day operations is delegated to an administrator appointed by and responsible to the chief executive.

