

## How is the Manager selected?

The vacancy usually is announced and Managers, Assistants and others apply directly to the Council, which reviews the applications and interviews them.

## How does the Manager serve?

Managers serve at the pleasure of the Council or governing body, consistent with local laws, ordinances or employment agreements they may have with the Council. Control is always in the hands of the elected representatives of the people.



## Do managers participate in local politics?

All managers who belong to ICMA are bound by its Code of Ethics, which states that every member of the Association shall refrain from all political activities that undermine public confidence in professional administrators and refrain from participation in the election of members of the employing legislative body.

## Where do managers get their prior experience?

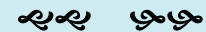
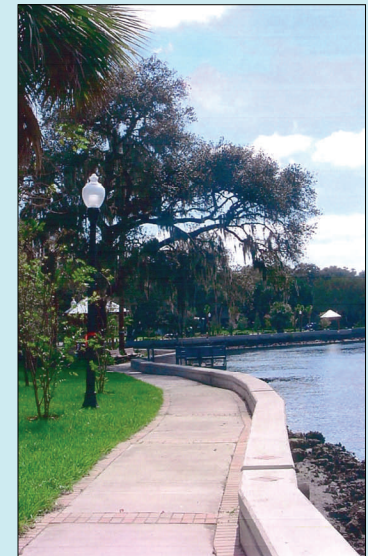
Nearly 73% of managers surveyed by ICMA (International City/County Management Association) have a master's or a professional degree. Respondents indicated they had spent an average of 10 years as a local government manager.

## How does a community adopt this form of government?

Methods vary, but most communities can adopt Council-Manager government through a charter, a local ordinance, or a state enabling law. In many cases, adoption must be by a vote of the local governing body.



## THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT



CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY  
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## Answers to your questions —

The Council-Manager form is the system of local government that combines the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a council, with the strong managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. The form establishes a representative system where all power is concentrated in the elected council and where the council hires a professionally trained manager to oversee the delivery of public services.

### Is it a responsive form of government?

In Council-Manager government, the mayor and councilmembers are the leaders and policy makers elected to represent various segments of the community and to concentrate on policy issues that are responsible to citizens' needs and wishes.

### What is the City Council's function?

The Council is the legislative body; its members are the community's decision-makers. Power is centralized in the elected council, which approves the budget and determines, the tax rate, for example. The Council also focuses on the community's goals, major projects and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing and strategic planning. The Council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager's performance.

### What is the history of the Council - Manager form?

Born out of the turn-of-the-century progressive reform movement, the council-manager system of local government is one of the few original American contributions to political theory. In 1908, Staunton, Virginia instituted the first position legally defining, by ordinance, the broad authority and responsibility associated

with today's professional local government manager. Sumter, South Carolina, was the first city to adopt a charter incorporating the basic principles of council-manager government in 1912. Westmount, Quebec, introduced the form to Canada in 1913. The first large city to adopt the plan was Dayton, Ohio, in 1914. The first counties to adopt it in the 1930's were in Arlington County, Virginia, Durham County and Robeson County, North Carolina.

Since its establishment, the Council-Manager form has become the most popular form of government in the United States in communities with populations of 5,000 or greater. The form also is popular in Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Honduras, Chile and Brazil. For 100 years, Council-Manager government has responded to the changing needs of citizens and their communities.



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