



Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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## Authority of the Governing Body (Mayor-Ald.)

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained daily by MTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee municipal government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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## Authority of the Governing Body (Mayor-Ald.)

**Reference Number:** MTAS-1635

Under the 1983 Purchasing Law, a municipality has the power to set its own purchasing procedures. The city's governing body may lower the \$2,500 minimum required for competitive bidding and public advertisement or raise the requirement to a maximum of \$10,000. <sup>[1]</sup>

The city's governing body may also raise the \$1,000 competitive quote threshold up to 40% of the competitive bidding and public advertisement limit.

The municipality also may exempt perishable goods bought in the open market from competitive bidding and public advertisement. But remember, there are certain reporting requirements if this exemption is made.

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[1] Cities with populations of not less than 40,000 nor more than 42,500 or populations over 150,000, according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent census may increase the minimum dollar amount required for public advertisement and competitive bidding to \$25,000, provided that purchases between \$10,000 and \$25,000 are based upon three competitive bids (quotes).

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*DISCLAIMER: The letters and publications written by the MTAS consultants were written based upon the law at the time and/or a specific sets of facts. The laws referenced in the letters and publications may have changed and/or the technical advice provided may not be applicable to your city or circumstances. Always consult with your city attorney or an MTAS consultant before taking any action based on information contained in this website.*

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