

Modified City Manager-Council Charter

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the MTAS website ([mtas.tennessee.edu](https://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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Reference Number: MTAS-332

The city manager-council charter (T.C.A. §§ 6-30-101 *et seq.*) leaves fewer options in structuring local government than the other two forms.

Seven or more councilmembers are elected from single-member voting precincts for four-year terms. If a city has fewer than seven precincts, the remaining councilmembers are elected at-large. The mayor is elected to a two-year term by his or her fellow councilmembers. The city may ask its legislative delegation to pass a private act allowing all councilmembers to run at-large. For a new city to incorporate under the city manager-council charter, the community must have at least 5,000 residents. There is no explicit provision for existing cities to adopt this form.

The council appoints the city attorney and a city manager. The city judge is elected to a four-year term or an eight-year term if exercising concurrent jurisdiction with general sessions court. All other department heads are appointed by the city manager. The manager serves at the pleasure of the city council. He or she is responsible for purchasing, financial affairs, administration, presenting a proposed budget to the council, and seeing that all city laws and ordinances are enforced. Councilmembers are prohibited from giving orders to the manager's subordinates. Except for inquiries, they are to deal with administrative officers and city employees solely through the manager.

Unlike the two other statutory charters, the modified city manager-council charter includes a recall provision. T.C.A. § 6-31-301, also see T.C.A. § 2-5-151.

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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