# Municipal Forms of Government in Florida

## City of Clearwater

May 29, 2018

# Why FLC Participates in Charter Reviews

- Educational Opportunity
- To Share Peer Information
- To Share Additional Resources
- Neutral; no position on charter content or forms of government

# Florida Charters - Overview

- Currently 412 municipalities in Florida – all have a charter
- Forms Break-out:
  - Council Weak-Mayor: 85
  - Council Strong-Mayor: 48
  - Commission: 2
  - Council-Manager: 277

# Clearwater Comparisons

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Municipality (County)** | **2017 Population** | **Form of Gov't** | **Co. Size** | **M Vote** |
| 2 | St. Petersburg (Pinellas) | 263,768 | C-SM w/CAO | 9 | No |
| 3 | Hialeah (Miami-Dade) | 236,114 | C-SM | 7 | No |
| 4 | Tallahassee (Leon) | 189,625 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 5 | Port St. Lucie (St. Lucie) | 181,284 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 6 | Fort Lauderdale (Broward) | 179,063 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 7 | Cape Coral (Lee) | 175,063 | C-MGR | 7 | Yes |
| 8 | Pembroke Pines (Broward) | 163,103 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 9 | Hollywood (Broward) | 147,212 | C-MGR | 6 | Yes |
| 10 | Miramar (Broward) | 136,246 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 11 | Clearwater (Pinellas) | 113,723 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 12 | Miami Gardens (Miami-Dade) | 113,201 | C-MGR | 6 | Yes |
| 13 | Palm Bay (Brevard) | 110,623 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 14 | West Palm Beach (Palm Beach) | 110,396 | C-SM w/CAO | 5 | Tie only |
| 15 | Pompano Beach (Broward) | 109,441 | C-MGR | 5 | Yes |
| 16 | Lakeland (Polk) | 104,185 | C-MGR | 6 | Yes |
| 17 | Davie (Broward) | 100,689 | C-MGR | 5 | Yes |
| 18 | Miami Beach (Miami-Dade) | 92,588 | C-MGR | 6 | Yes |
| 19 | Sunrise (Broward) | 91,865 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 20 | Boca Raton (Palm Beach) | 91,797 | C-MGR | 4 | Yes |
| 21 | Deltona (Volusia) | 89,984 | C-MGR | 6 | Yes |

Sheet1

Ready

# Questions for Discussion: Authority

- What power should be vested into a mayoral position?
- What power should be vested in the council?
- Which powers need a check/balance between mayor and council?

# The Mayor as Elected Executive

- Historically, this form has been present in large, urban, metropolitan areas
- Electing the mayor to administer the actions of the council creates an 'elected executive' function – another name for the form
- If the mayor also votes: both legislative and administrative responsibility
- No qualifications can be required for mayoral experience – just residency/qualifying

# Discussion: CAO, Chief of Staff, or Not?

- Some Council-Strong Mayor cities have an administrative position in charter; some do not
- Chief of Staff – usually assists mayor but is non-administrative
- If a CAO is desired: should it be in the charter?
- If yes, should it be required that the CAO be ICMA credentialed (as many cities do for managers)?

# Commentary from *Model City Charter*

- National Civic League publication, 8th edition – go over pages 61 to 67
  - Authority defined and split/shared between mayor and council
  - CAO or not

# Questions for Discussion: Fiscal Stewardship

- Only the legislative body can appropriate funds – how and where should this be stipulated in the Charter? (Compare among those you have been given)
- An elected executive (strong mayor) usually presents the budget to the council – is that your preference?
- Audits: who will have which role in the audit preparation, review and adoption?

# Questions for Discussion:

# Thank you!

- FLC University appreciates being part of your city's educational process