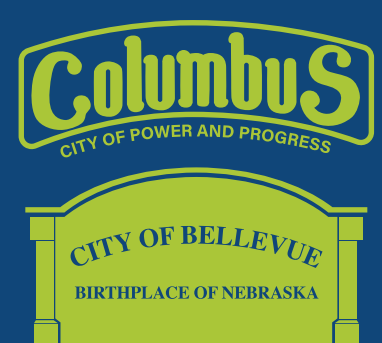
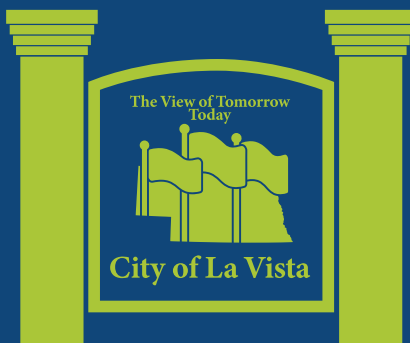


City Government

Omaha

What does City Government do?

- City Governments have many responsibilities. These include parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, municipal courts, transportation services (including public transportation), and public works (streets, sewers, snow removal, signage, and so forth).
- In general, mayors, city councils, and other governing bodies are directly elected by the people - to serve as part of city government.



Types of City Governments



Mayor - Council Omaha.

Characteristics include:

- The mayor is elected **separately** from the council, and is often a **full-time**, paid city employee, with significant **administrative** and **budgeting** authority.
- Depending on the municipal charter, the mayor could have weak or strong powers.
- The council is elected and maintains legislative powers.

Council - Manager/Administrator/Mayor

Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Norfolk, Schuyler, Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista.

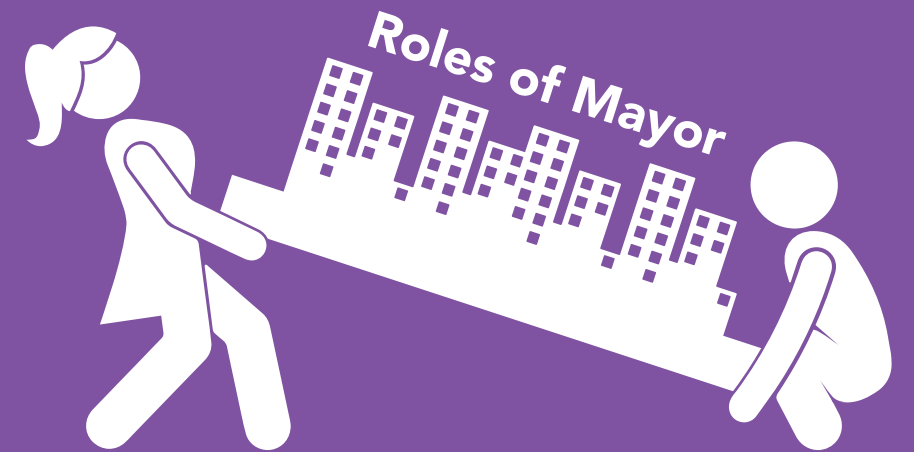
Characteristics include:

- City council oversees the general administration, makes policy, and sets budget.
- Council appoints a professional city manager to carry out day-to-day administrative operations.
- Often the mayor is chosen from among the council on a rotating basis or is elected to office by his/her constituents.

City Commission Nebraska City.

Characteristics include:

- Voters elect individual commissioners to a small governing board.
- Each commissioner is responsible for one specific aspect, such as fire, police, public works, health, finance.
- The mayor is often elected to that position by his/her constituents or one commissioner may be designated as chairman or mayor, who presides over meetings.
- The commission has both legislative and executive functions.
- In the case of Nebraska City, they have commissioners of Public Affairs & Public Safety, Public Accounts & Finance, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works.



"Strong" Mayor Vs. "Weak" Mayor*

Characteristics of a "Strong" Mayor government:

- The "Strong" Mayor is a full-time position and the chief executive officer with centralized executive power.
- The mayor directs the administrative structure, appointing and removing of department heads.
- The council does not oversee daily operations.
- Omaha has a "Strong" Mayor form of government.

Characteristics of a "Weak" Mayor government:

- The council is powerful, with both legislative and executive authority.
- The mayor is not truly the chief executive, with limited power or no veto power.
- The council can prevent the mayor from effectively supervising city administration.
- There may be many administrative boards and commissions that operate independently from the city government.
- Most "Weak" Mayor government have a City Manager or City Administrator that handles the day to day operations of the city.
- Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Norfolk, Schuyler, Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Nebraska City all have a "Weak" Mayor form of government.

* The terms "Strong" mayor and "Weak" mayor come from the National League of Cities - the term is not the judgment of effectiveness, rather it distinguishes the level of political power and administrative authority assigned to the mayor.



Roles of City Council

As local legislators, councilmembers are responsible for and responsive to the citizens who elected them. Depending on the city's charter and state laws, they may perform the following functions:

- Review and approve the annual budget.
- Establish long- and short-term objectives and priorities.
- Establish tax rates.
- Pass ordinances and resolutions.
- Modify the city's charter.
- Regulate land use through zoning laws.
- Regulate business activity through licensing and regulations.
- Regulate public health and safety.
- Communicate policies and programs to residents.
- Respond to constituent needs and complaints.
- Represent the community to other levels of government.

Roles of City Administrator/Manager

- Prepare the City budget.
- Direct day-to-day operations of City Departments.
- Oversee personnel management.
- Serve as the City Council's Chief Policy Advisor.
- Supervise City Staff.
- Recruit, hire, and fire city employees within the boundaries of civil service rules.



**HEARTLAND
WORKERS
CENTER**

*Building a Community
that Works for All*

- *Community Organizing*
- *Leadership Development*
- *Workers Rights*
- *Civic Engagement*

South Omaha
(Main Office)

(402) 933-6095 | 4923 South 24th St Suite 101, Omaha, NE 68107

North Omaha

(402) 933-6095 | 2406 Fowler Ave. Rm. #318 Omaha, NE 68111

Schuyler

(402) 615-9115
1119 B St Suite #1
Schuyler, NE 68661

Grand Island

(308) 385-5242
325 West Fourth St
Grand Island, NE 68801

Columbus

(402) 564-2110
3020 18th St Suite 7,
Columbus, NE 68601

Nebraska City

(402) 969-0850
611 Central Ave Suite D,
Nebraska City, NE 68410

Norfolk

(402) 371-9606
123 N 4th St
Norfolk, NE 68701

Fremont

(402) 933-6095
445 E 1st St
Fremont, NE 68025

Follow us!



✉ hwc@heartlandworkerscenter.org

🖱 www.heartlandworkerscenter.org

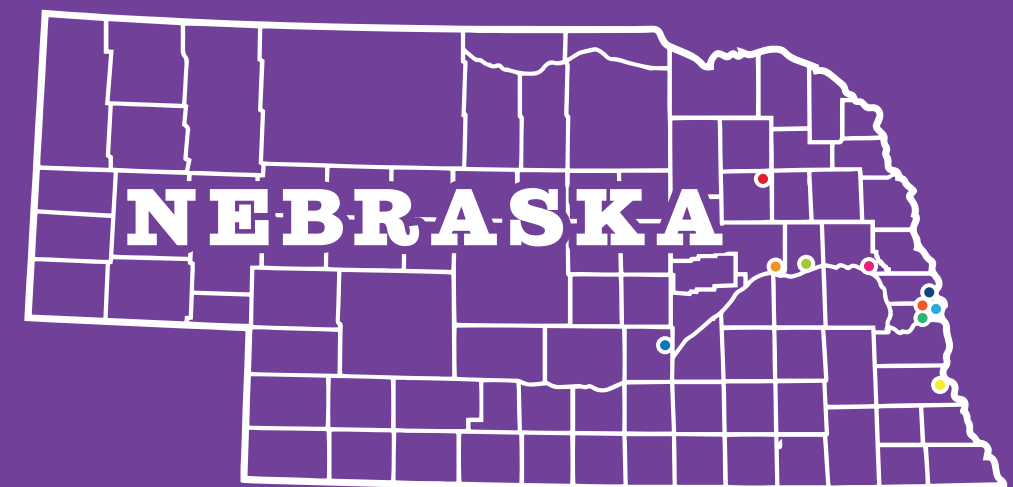


**HEARTLAND
WORKERS
CENTER**

*Building a Community
that Works for All*



**City The Basics
Government**



*Norfolk - Columbus - Fremont - Grand Island
Schuyler - Omaha - Nebraska City
Bellevue - Papillion - La Vista*