

City Government

Chapter 9 section 3 pages 234-239

City

- A city is usually larger than other forms of local government
- Some cities have millions of residents and typically they live in a relatively small area
- A cities government must provide:
 - Heath
 - Sanitation
 - Water
 - Fire protection
 - Transportation
 - Police protection

Organization

- A city receives its charter from the state government
- Some cities have **home rule**- a city can write or amend its own city charter as long as it is approved by the voters
- This gives the city the ability to manage its own issues and deal with their own local problems

Mayor-Council government

- The oldest and most common form of city government is the Mayor-Council system which includes:
 - **City council**- the law making body
 - **Mayor**- chief executive
- Under this type of government the city is divided into **wards**- districts, people from each ward elect a representative to serve on council

Use your book- page 237 to contrast and compare a weak mayor plan to a strong mayor plan

Commission Government

- Under a commission form of government the city is ruled by a commission of 3-9 elected officials
- Each commissioner specializes in one specific area: for example:
 - Public safety
 - Public works
 - transportation

Council-Manager Government

- In a council manager form of government the city is run much like a big business
- It employs specially trained individuals to handle the city's affairs
- Managers are appointed, not elected
- If a manager does not do their job the council will dismiss them and appoint another manager