Twenty-Five Largest U.S. Cities by Population: Form of Government	
New York	Mayor-Council
Los Angeles	Mayor-Council
Chicago	Mayor-Council
Houston	Mayor-Council
Philadelphia	Mayor-Council
Phoenix	Council-Manager
San Antonio	Council-Manager
San Diego	Mayor-Council
Dallas	Council-Manager
San Jose	Council-Manager
Austin	Council-Manager
Jacksonville	Mayor-Council
San Francisco	Mayor-Council
Indianapolis	Mayor-Council
Columbus	Mayor-Council
Fort Worth	Council-Manager
Charlotte	Council-Manager
Detroit	Mayor-Council
El Paso	Council-Manager
Seattle	Mayor-Council
Denver	Mayor-Council
Washington	Mayor-Council
Memphis	Mayor-Council
Boston	Mayor-Council
Nashville	Mayor-Council

Note on Forms of Government

Form of government for each city comes from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

ICMA defines a Council-Manager form of government as one in which a "council is the governing body of the city, elected by the public, and the manager is hired by the council to carry out the policies it establishes." The council legislates and the manager administrates based on council recommendations. The mayor serves as the city's political head but generally sits as a council member and does not have veto power.

ICMA defines a Mayor-Council government as one that "closely parallels the American federal government with an elected legislature and a separately elected executive. The mayor or elected executive is designated as the head of the city or county government." The mayor generally has power to veto legislation, hire (and fire) department heads, and prepare and administer the city budget.

For details on these and other forms of government, see ICMA's *Forms of Local Government*, available for download at http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/9135/Forms_of_Local_Government_Structure.