

# Palm Beach Shores: Town Charter Workshop

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# Municipal Charters in Florida

- All charters are unique; haven't found any two identical
- 412 cities, towns and villages – all have a charter
- Goal for tonight: discuss municipal characteristics in Florida and compare Palm Beach Shores using peer statistics



# Comparable Charter Characteristics

- Size of Council or Commission: five (5) members is most common; some seven (7) and some (6) where mayor is non-voting
- Length of term: two, three and four year terms are fairly evenly spread across 412
- Type of election per council seat: at-large; single-member district (SMD); elected seat with at-large voting; some councils are mix of at-large and SMD
- Selection of mayor: elected at large; elected from within the council; rotational
- Form of government: see next slide

# Forms of Municipal Government in Florida

- **Council-weak mayor:** original form brought over from England; about 80 Florida cities with populations less than 25,000
- **Council-strong mayor:** an elected executive implements council actions and administers the city; about 48 Florida cities in all populations
- **Commission:** each elected official oversees one or more departments autonomously; come together as legislative body. Less than 3 Florida cities have this
- **Council-Manager or Commission-Manager:** professional manager appointed by mayor & council to administer city, prepare agenda and recommend actions to council, and present a budget each year; about 280 Florida cities of all populations
- **Hybrid:** elements of the above without fitting into one category exclusively



# Palm Beach Shores: Peer Comparisons

- Using population and coastal location: see chart
- *Should also compare scope of services if any charter elements are compared more deeply*



# Form of Government Comparisons

1	<b>Municipality (County)</b>	<b>2015 pop.</b>	<b>Form of Gov't.</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Notes</b>
2	Cedar Key (Levy Co.)	696	C-WM	5	
3	Shalimar (Okaloosa Co.)	741	C-WM	5	unusual charter/liasons
4	Jupiter Island (Martin Co.)	810	C-M	5	
5	Golden Beach (Miami-Dade Co)	928	C-M	5	
6	Palm Shores (Brevard Co.)	978	C-SM	5	
7	Gulf Stream (Palm Beach Co.)	998	C-M	5	
8	Mexico Beach (Bay Co.)	1,136	C-WM	5	has administrator position
9	<b>Palm Beach Shores (P B Co.)</b>	1,143	C-WM	5	
10	Bradenton Beach (Manatee Co)	2,624	C-WM	5	
11	South Palm Beach (PB Co.)	2,468	C-M	5	
12	N. Redington Bch (Pinellas Co.)	2,459	C-WM	5	
13	Indian Shores (Brevard Co.)	2,458	C-WM	5	has administrator position
14	Redington Beach (Pinellas Co.)	2,416	C-SM	5	
15	Belleair Beach (Pinellas Co.)	2,415	C-M	7	
16	Ocean Ridge (Palm Beach Co.)	2,387	C-M	5	
17	Hillsboro Beach (Broward Co.)	2,334	C-M	5	charter change 2015
18	Sewall's Point (Broward Co.)	2,317	C-M	5	has administrator position
19					
20	<b>Abbreviations:</b>				
21	Council-Strong Mayor - C-SM				
22	Council-Weak Mayor - C-WM				
23	Council-Manager - C-M				
24					
25					

# Form of Government Discussion

- As cities evolve, form of government can take on multiple 'types'
- Clarity in role of Mayor compared to Council: can be hard to do
- Clarity in support/administrative roles: also difficult
- Day-to-day operations within Sunshine: tougher if Council is administrative
- Caution: setting up a form that has conflict in the design



# Mayor-Council Charter Elements

- Council as administrator collectively: all decisions made together
- Mayor as administrator: if non-voting, can talk w/o Sunshine Law violation
- Mayor as administrator with certain Council confirmation: check & balance
- Becomes full-time for Mayor if all administration is assigned to Mayor
- Combining these, or not clarifying them – leads to conflict





# Council-Manager Charter Elements

- Manager hires/fires all staff – usually except attorney
- Manager proposes policies for council consideration
- Manager submits a budget for council consideration
- Emphasis within manager profession on experience, ethics & effectiveness
- Mayor is ceremonial and conducts meetings; leadership role as 'city voice' can be added into policies



# Charter Trends in Florida

- **Form of government:** trend since 1950s toward the council-manager and commission-manager form of government (including new incorporations)
- **Charter reviews:** seven to ten (7 to 10) years is widely seen



# Questions and discussion

- Thank you for including the Florida League of Cities in your process!

