

Form of Local Government: Longitudinal Statistics (1984 – 2012)

Fast Facts about U.S. cities:

- More than 92 million individuals live in cities operating under council-manager government.
- 62% of U.S. cities with populations of 50,000* or more operate under the council-manager form
- 62% of U.S. cities with populations of 25,000* or more operate under the council-manager form
- 57% of U.S. cities with populations of 10,000* or more operate under the council-manager form
- 53% of U.S. cities with populations of 5,000* or more operate under the council-manager form

*Source: *The 2012 Municipal Year Book*, published by ICMA, Washington, D.C. Percentages were derived by dividing the number of council-manager communities in a specific population range by the total number of cities in that population range.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT	2012	2008	2004	2000	1996	1992	1988	1984
Council-Manager	3,661 (48.6%)	3,520	3,453	3,302	2,760	2,441	2,356	2,290 (34.7%)
Mayor-Council	3,315 (44.0%)	3,131	3,089	2,988	3,319	3,635	3,686	3,686 (55.8%)
Commission	144 (1.9%)	143	145	143	154	168	173	176 (2.7%)
Town Meeting	351 (4.7%)	338	338	334	365	363	369	370 (5.6%)
Representative Town Meeting	67 (0.9%)	62	63	65	70	79	82	81 (1.2%)
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Total	**7,539	**7,194	**7,091	**6,832	**6,668	**6,686	**6,666	**6,603

**Totals for the number of U.S. local governments represent only those municipalities with populations of 2,500 and greater. There are close to 30,000 local governments with populations fewer than 2,500.

Source for tabular statistics: “Inside the Year Book: Cumulative Distribution of U.S. Municipalities” in *The Municipal Year Books* 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012 published by the premier local government leadership and management organization, ICMA, Washington, D.C.