Comparison of Mayor-Council vs Council-Manager forms in CA

	Mayor-Council	Council-Manager	San Jose
Underlying principles	Separation of powers Modeled after national and state systems of government	Separation of partisan politics from administration Professional management Modeled after U.S. corp. structure	
Legislative authority	Council	Council and Mayor	Council and Mayor
Executive/administrative authority	Mayor (optional CAO)	Manager (CEO and CAO)	City Manager
Selection of Mayor	Elected	Elected (or chosen by Council)	Elected (at-large)
Removal of Mayor	Recall election	Recall (or removed by Council)	Recall
Conditions for removal of CEO	Recall election or end of term	Can be removed without cause at any time	Yes
Mayor is member of Council	No	Yes	Yes
Mayor votes with Council	No	Yes (or only in a tie)	Yes
Appointment & removal of CAO	Mayor	Council	<i>Appointment:</i> Council (Mayor nominates) <i>Removal:</i> Council or recall
Appointment & removal of department heads	Mayor (with or without council confirmation)	Manager (with or without Council confirmation)	<i>Council:</i> City Attorney, City Clerk, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor <i>Mayor:</i> PIO <i>Manager:</i> all others
Appointment of advisory boards	Varies	Varies	Council

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Policy development	Mayor can propose	Manager can recommend	Mayor and Manager
Policy advice	Staff	Manager and staff	Manager and staff
Policy approval	Council	Council	Council
Veto authority	Mayor sometimes has veto	Mayor rarely has veto	Mayor has no veto
Policy implementation	Mayor, no role for Council	Manager, no role for Council	Manager, no role for Council
Prepare budget	Mayor	CAO	Manager (no Mayoral review)
Approve Budget	Council	Council	Council
Purchasing	Mayor (with restrictions)	CAO (with restrictions)	< \$100k - Manager & Dept Heads > \$100k - Council