Comparison of Government Forms in California

San José's charter is like a local "constitution" that defines how the City operates. The Charter sets the powers of the Mayor and the City Council, and guides the day-to-day work of City staff. The **Charter Review Commission** was created by City Council to discuss potential changes to the charter to improve accountability, representation and inclusion. This chart compares some of the major differences between the two primary forms of local government in the United States with San José's current form of government

	Mayor-Council	**Council-Manager**	**San José**
Legislative authority	Council	Council and Mayor	Council and Mayor
Executive authority	**Mayor (optional City Manager)**	**City Manager**	**City Manager**
Removal of Executive	(Mayor) Recall election or end of term	(City Manager) Can be removed without cause at any time	Yes
Selection of Mayor	Elected	Elected (or chosen by Council)	Elected (at-large)
Removal of Mayor	Recall election	Recall (or removed by Council)	Recall
Mayor is member of Council	No	Yes	Yes
Mayor votes with Council	No	Yes (or only in a tie)	Yes
Veto authority	Mayor may have veto	Mayor rarely has veto	Mayor has no veto
Appointment & removal of City Manager	Mayor	Council	*Appointment:* Council (Mayor nominates) *Removal:* Council or recall

	Mayor-Council	**Council-Manager**	**San José**
Prepare budget	Mayor	City Manager	Mayor delivers budget message, Council reviews, Manager submits proposed budget
Approve Budget	Council	Council	Council (majority vote)
Appointment & removal of department heads	Mayor (with or without council confirmation)	City Manager (with or without Council confirmation)	*Council (majority vote):* City Attorney, City Clerk, City Auditor, Independent Police Auditor *Mayor:* Public Information Officer *City Manager:* all others (with Council majority vote confirmation)
Appointment of advisory boards	Varies	Varies	Council
Policy development	Council, Mayor can propose	Council and Mayor, Manager can recommend	Council and Mayor; City Manager can recommend
Policy advice	Staff	Manager and staff	City Manager and staff
Policy approval	Council	Council	Council
Policy implementation	Mayor, no role for Council	City Manager, no role for Council	City Manager; Council only sets budget

The Commission wants to hear from you! Learn more about the San José Charter Review process and sign up for notifications: **sanjoseca.gov/charter-review-commission**