

# CITY OF ONALASKA INFORMAL MEETING NOTICE

**COMMITTEE/BOARD:** Common Council  
**DATE OF MEETING:** August 30, 2018 (Thursday)  
**PLACE OF MEETING:** City Hall – 415 Main St. (Common Council Chambers)  
**TIME OF MEETING:** 7:00 P.M.

## PURPOSE OF MEETING

1. Call to Order and roll call
2. Rules of the Informal Meeting:
  - Each council member will be given the floor for comments and concerns for a maximum of 15 minutes. The order of the speakers will be selected at random prior to the meeting.
  - A 10 minute discussion period will follow each presentation and will be open to all council members (each member is limited to 2 minutes). The order of the speakers for the discussion portion will be selected at random prior to the meeting.
  - Each alderperson will use their 15 minutes to discuss their individual topics and not for the purpose of continuing debate on previously presented topics. The chair will be responsible for keeping the discussion relevant to any new topics.
    - At no time during this meeting will any action be taken or a vote taken on any issue.
3. Individual comments and concerns by the Common Council members
4. Adjournment

### **NOTICES MAILED TO:**

*Mayor Joe Chilsen	_____
*Ald. Jim Binash	_____
*Ald. Jim Olson	_____
*Ald. Jerry Every	_____
*Ald Ron Gjertsen	_____
*Ald. Diane Wulf	_____
*Ald. Kim Smith	_____
City Attorney	City Administrator
Dept Heads	La Crosse Tribune
Coulee Courier	FOX
WPTY WLXR WLAX WKBT WXOW	_____
	Onalaska Public Library Onalaska Omni Center

\*Committee Members

Date Mailed & Posted: 8-21-18

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Onalaska will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with a disability to ensure equal access to public meetings provided notification is given to the City Clerk within seventy-two (72) hours prior to the public meeting and that the requested accommodation does not create an undue hardship for the City.

RESOLUTION 12 - 2014

**RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY ON CITY OF ONALASKA'S  
COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, the City of Onalaska has numerous committees, boards and commissions which are filled by community volunteers;

WHEREAS, the City of Onalaska is committed to promoting diversity in its committees, boards and commissions;

WHEREAS, the City of Onalaska seeks to develop strategies to ensure that all community members are educated about the appointment process and vacancies within the City of Onalaska committees, boards and commissions and that the composition of such committees, boards and commissions shall be reflective of the diversity of the City of Onalaska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Onalaska feels it is important to have the composition of its committees, boards and commissions reflect the composition of the community of the City of Onalaska and to be representative of the age, gender, geographic and cultural diversity of the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED, that in order to promote public interest in participation in local government and to encourage participation and interest within the City of Onalaska committees, boards and commissions, the administration of the City of Onalaska shall work together to develop a strategy to implement these objectives.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2014.

CITY OF ONALASKA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Chilsen, Mayor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Caroline Burnmaster, Clerk

PASSED:  
APPROVED:  
PUBLISHED:

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## Governance Symposium

# Municipal Government Structure in Wisconsin: Does Form Matter?

*Karl Nollenberger – University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh*

*James Simmons – University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh*

*This article examines the forms of municipal governments in Wisconsin and their relationship to variables in the areas of socioeconomic, partisanship, election process, decision-making in the governance process, and internal municipal operations. Wisconsin has more mayor-council and mayoral forms with an appointed administrator rather than council-manager forms common in other states. We find that reform in Wisconsin has occurred in all government forms and that most municipalities desiring the managerial results of a professional administration have chosen an adaptation of the mayor-council form. Furthermore, we find that there are few clearly identifiable differences between cities with differing governmental forms.*

Keywords: Form of Government, Professionalism, Wisconsin

Does municipal government structure matter in Wisconsin and, if so, how and why? Wisconsin's adoption of forms of municipal government differs from the experience in other states. In the United States, the council-manager system has become the most common form of local government, and it is now the prevalent form of choice for adoption by the nation's cities. In Wisconsin, however, the council-manager system has rarely been adopted, and it has often been abandoned. Mayor-council forms still predominate in the state's cities but in recent years a growing number of municipalities have modified their mayor-council governance structures with the creation of the position of a chief administrative officer who reports to the mayor and council. The Wisconsin experience of reform provides important insights regarding the specific role of city government structures. Using Wisconsin findings allows a focus on the relationship between the form of government and performance without the confounding factors such as the wide variations in state laws, controls, electoral arrangements, and restrictions on local municipal autonomy in the United States that could distort a comparative state study (Nelson, 2011). In states that have optional charter laws and home rule such as Wisconsin, the municipalities have greater freedom to design their form of government with their preferences for representative institutions, elected leadership and professional management (Wheeland, Palus, & Wood, 2014).

This research paper examines the forms of municipal governments of an over 5,000 population in Wisconsin and their relationship to a variety of variables in the areas of socioeconomic, partisanship and election process, decision-making in the governance process, and internal municipal operations. The population size was limited to 5,000 both due to the access to information on smaller populations and the lesser need for some small governments to have professional administrators. The form of government is identified using the three forms of council-manager, mayor-council with a professional administrator, and mayor-council with an elected chief executive.

The literature has found the opposing views that a structural form of government can have an effect on levels of efficiency, innovation, and levels of cooperation in the decision-making process and also that form of government has little impact of these variables. Wisconsin has a high level of mayor-council with administrator forms of government rather than the council-manager forms common in other states. Wisconsin and Illinois have been particularly impacted

Nollenberger, K., & Simmons, J. (2016). Municipal government structure in Wisconsin: Does form matter? *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*, 2(2), 82-100. doi:10.20899/jpna.2.2.82-100