

Fundamentals of City Regulation

Newly Elected City Officials' Orientation
August 17, 2023
Presented by Stephanie Huser, TML Legal Counsel



1

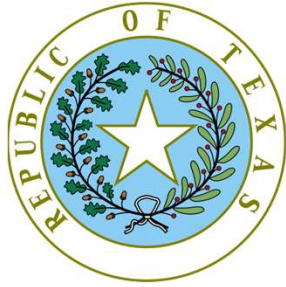
Outline

- Brief History of Texas Cities
- Determining City Type
- General Law Cities
- Home Rule Cities
- Differences
- Preemption
- Recent Legislation
- Resources



2

Brief History



3

Determining City Type



General Law

- Type A
- Type B
- Type C

Home Rule



4

General Law Cities



5

A general law city may *only* exercise those powers that are specifically granted or necessarily implied in state law.



6

City Regulation Authority

The governing body of a municipality may adopt ... an ordinance, rule or police regulation that ... is for the good government, peace, or order of the municipality ...

- *Tex. Local Gov't Code Sec. 51.001*

A Type A general law city "may adopt an ordinance ... not inconsistent with state law that is necessary for the government, interest, welfare, or good order of the municipality ...

- *Tex. Local Gov't Code Sec. 51.012*

The governing body of a Type B municipality may adopt an ordinance ... not inconsistent with state law, that the governing body considers proper for the government of the municipal corporation ...

- *Texas. Local Gov't Code Sec. 51.051*



7

Type A General Law Cities

Aldermanic Form of Government

Council = Mayor + 5 aldermen (if no wards)

Mayor doesn't vote except to break a tie

Quorum consists of 3 aldermen, except:

- Special meeting or meeting concerning taxation
- 2/3 requirement
- Mayor doesn't count toward quorum requirements

Two-year terms (unless diff term adopted)

H.B.1434 – May establish staggered terms

Mayor pro tem elected to fill in for mayor

Taxation:

- Limited to \$1.50 or \$2.50 per hundred, depending on pop.



8

Type B General Law Cities

Aldermanic Form of Government

Council = Mayor + 5 aldermen

Quorum =

- Mayor + 3 aldermen, or
- 4 aldermen, if mayor absent

One-year terms

- (unless staggered 2-year terms are adopted)

Mayor pro tem elected to fill in for mayor

Mayor vote unclear

Taxation:

- Limited to \$0.25 per hundred-dollar valuation



9

Type C General Law Cities

Commission Form of Government

Council = Mayor + 2 Commissioners

Two-year terms (unless longer term adopted)

Taxation:

- Limited to \$0.25 or \$1.50, depending on population



10

Borrowing Provisions

(Local Gov't Code Chapter 51)

- Type B cities have the same authority, duties, and privileges as a Type A city, unless there is a conflicting state provision regarding only Type B cities
- Type C cities have the same powers as a Type B or Type A city (depending on population), unless the law specifically provides otherwise



11

City Manager Form of Government

- Tex. Local Gov't Code Chapter 25
- Cities < 5,000 population
- Election
- Similar to private corporation
- City Administrator Option
- “Weak Mayor” vs. “Strong Mayor” form of government



12

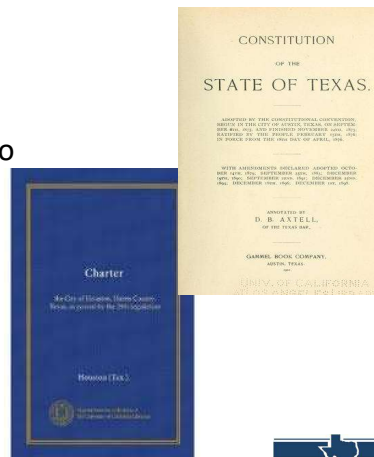
Home Rule Cities



13

“Home-rule municipalities derive their powers from the Texas Constitution and possess the full power of self government and look to the Legislature not for grants of power, but only for limitations on their power.”

- Texas Supreme Court, May 2016



14

Differences

- Citizen Initiative & Referendum (HR)
- Recall Election (HR)
- Removal (GL)
- Term Limits (HR)
- Maximum Property Tax Rates



15

Maximum Property Tax Rate

- Home Rule: \$2.50 per \$100 valuation
- Type A with <5,000 population: \$1.50 per \$100 valuation
- Type A with >5,000 population: \$2.50 per \$100 valuation
- Type B: \$ 0.25 per \$100 valuation
- Type C: Same as Type A if 501-4,999 population, or same as B if 201-500 population



16

Changing City Type

Changing to a Type A City

1. Affirmative vote of 2/3 of city council;
2. Record taken and signed by mayor; and
3. Record filed and recorded in county clerk's office.

Changing to Home Rule

1. City council may order an election to create a charter commission, with 2/3 vote of council; or
2. Council must order an election if presented with a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the qualified voters



17


Let's Summarize

	General Law Cities	Home Rule Cities
Does the city have a charter?	No	Yes
Where does the city get its authority?	Express grant of power (or necessarily implied) from the Legislature	Full power of self government and look to the Legislature only for limitations on its power
Can the city have citizen initiative and referendum?	No	Yes, only if the charter allows for it
Can the city have a recall election or set term limits?	No	Yes, only if the charter allows for it



18

Preemption



19

Plastic Bags



Texas Health & Safety Code § 361.0961(a)



20

Alcoholic Beverages



Texas Alcoholic Beverage
Code §§ 1.06 and 109.57



21

Dangerous Dogs



Texas Health & Safety Code
§ 822.047



22

Oil & Gas Regulation

Texas Natural Resources
Code § 81.0523



23

Transportation Network Companies

Texas Occupations Code
Chapter 2402



24

Building Materials

Texas Government Code
Chapter 3000



25

Recent Legislation



26

Recent Legislation

- H.B. 2127 – “Super Preemption Bill”
- H.B. 1819 – Juvenile Curfews
- H.B. 3137 – Firearm Insurance
- S.B. 29 – COVID-19 Preventative Measures

For more information, see our legislative updates here: <https://www.tml.org/867/2023>.



27

TML Legislative Program

- TML Municipal Policy Summit
 - 2-day workshop to develop legislative policy recommendations
 - Participants are city officials appointed by TML President
- Cities, TML Regions, or TML affiliates submit resolutions for consideration
- TML Board discusses and votes on Legislative Program
- More information: <https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/3848/Policy-Process-for-website>



28



29

TML Legal/Legislative Resources

legalinfo@tml.org
512-231-7400
<https://www.tml.org/249/Legal-Research>

Legislative Information:
<https://www.tml.org/319/Legislative-Information>



30

Charters and Ordinances

generalcode.com/library/#
library.municode.com/tx
codelibrary.amlegal.com/regions/tx

The screenshot shows the Municode website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Code Library' and 'My Training Wiki'. Below that, there's a search bar and a map of Texas. A search prompt says: 'Search for a specific municipality using the search bar or click on the map to see a listing of all municipalities by state. To filter municipalities by eCode, MapLink™ or Custom Building Codes, use the buttons below the map.' Below the map is a search box for municipalities. The main content area shows 'USA Map > Texas' and 'Texas' with a 'View All Texas Codes' link. A list of municipalities is displayed in a grid format, including Anahuac, Baird, Balcones Heights, Big Sandy, Harker Heights, Heath, Ivanhoe, Keene, Pleasanton, Port Isabel, Sour Lake, Stephenville, and Sunset Valley. The TML Texas Municipal League logo is in the bottom right corner.

31

State Statutes

www.capitol.state.tx.us

The screenshot shows the Texas Constitution and Statutes website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home' and 'Statutes By Date'. Below that, there's a search interface with a 'Code:' dropdown, an 'Article/Chapter:' dropdown, and an 'Art./Sec.:' dropdown. A 'Hide Quick Search' link is also present. The main content area lists various statute categories, including:

- TEXAS CONSTITUTION
- TEXAS STATUTES
- AGRICULTURE CODE
- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE
- AUXILIARY WATER LAWS
- BUSINESS AND COMMERCE CODE
- CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION CODE
- CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE
- CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
- EDUCATION CODE
- ELECTION CODE
- ESTATES CODE
- FAMILY CODE
- FINANCE CODE
- GOVERNMENT CODE
- HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE
- HUMAN RESOURCES CODE
- INSURANCE CODE
- INSURANCE CODE - NOT CODIFIED
- LABOR CODE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE
- NATURAL RESOURCES CODE
- OCCUPATIONS CODE
- PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE
- PENAL CODE
- PROBATE CODE

 The TML Texas Municipal League logo is in the bottom right corner.

32

Questions?

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