

**Mayor-Council-CAO government**  
**Summary**  
**from Model City Charter, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by the National Civic League**

- Based on separated and shared powers
- Found in most mayor-council cities
- Is not a “strong” mayor structure
- Mayor is CEO who oversees work of the CAO
- CAO is nominated by the mayor and approved by the council
- Mayor may remove CAO
- CAO should have same professional qualifications as the city manager
- CAO formulates the budget for the mayor, and the mayor presents the budget to the council with his or her own recommendations added to those of the CAO
- The CAO recommends major personnel appointments to the mayor who presents them to the council for approval
- The mayor may remove department heads
- CAO serves as a bridge to span the separation of powers between the mayor and the council
- The CAO provides professional advice and detached assessment regarding key decisions to both the mayor and the council
- Mayor has an assigned role in the legislative process and must make a decision on each ordinance to sign it, veto it, or let it become law without signature (council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of its members)
- Shared power provisions may serve to knit the separate branches more closely together