



How is the mayor of Cincinnati elected?

In Cincinnati, the mayor is elected by Cincinnati voters for a four-year term and has some power over city council. Previously, the individual running for city council who earned the most votes became mayor, and at that time, the role was mostly ceremonial. In 1999, Cincinnatians approved an amendment to the city charter which changed mayoral elections.

What are some of the roles of the mayor of Cincinnati?

The mayor of Cincinnati is charged with presiding over city council meetings, appointing and removing the vice-mayor and committee chairs, assigning or vetoing legislation or even proposing legislation for city council's consideration. With the advice of the council, the mayor also appoints the city manager, an important role in Cincinnati. In times of emergency, with consent from city council, the mayor can take command of the police to maintain order and enforce the law.

How does the existence of the City Manager role affect that of the mayor?

In Cincinnati, the city manager has a lot of power, including some of the rights and responsibilities typically reserved for mayors. The city manager prepares the annual budget, which the mayor then sends to the city council. The city manager appoints and dismisses employees under their control, has the power to investigate departments, executes all contracts for departments and offices under their control, assigns administrative services, appoints hearing examiners, among other duties.

How do these roles interact with the police?

The city manager is charged with overseeing and issuing written decisions for unresolved police grievances, serving (or assigning a designee to serve) on the labor management committee which provides solutions to problems affecting labor relations, approving police pay increases, deciding whether a police officer indicted for a crime was performing their duties at the time of the alleged crime (in which case legal expenses are paid for), and signing the collective bargaining agreement for the city. Again, the mayor, with the advice of city council, appoints the city manager.

Note: City council is Cincinnati's legislative body. The council is responsible for enacting ordinances, imposing taxes, making appropriations, establishing policy, and hiring certain city officials. The council adopts the local general plan, zoning, and subdivision ordinance.