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What form of government does the city of Cleveland have?

The city of Cleveland has a mayor-council structure. The mayor and city council members are elected separately, but work together to lead the city. The mayor is the city's chief executive, and city council is the city's primary legislative body.

How is the mayor of Cleveland elected?

The mayor of Cleveland is elected by Cleveland voters to serve a four-year term. There are currently no term limits for the mayor.

What role does the mayor of Cleveland play in Cleveland City Council?

According to the Cleveland City Charter, the mayor is entitled to a seat in the council; however, there is clear separation of powers (legislative and executive). While the mayor can participate in city council discussions, the mayor is not able to vote.

What are some of the responsibilities of the mayor of Cleveland?

The mayor holds a lot of power, including: appointing departmental directors, signing legislation, and proposing the city budget.

- **Appointing Power**

The mayor oversees the city's administrative structure and can appoint and remove city department heads. City departments influence public safety, accessibility of public housing and transportation, and availability of essential public services and supports.

The mayor also can appoint and remove officers/ members beyond city departments, including citizens serving on advisory boards or commissions. For example, the mayor is the appointing authority of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board of Education.

- **Policymaking**

The mayor is responsible for signing or vetoing legislation. City laws, known as ordinances, address a wide range of issues from housing and employment to safety or the city budget. The mayor can also sponsor and introduce legislation, in addition to members of city council.

- **Budgeting**

The mayor is tasked with preparing the city's annual budget and is responsible for determining how city funds and Cleveland taxpayer dollars are spent. Ultimately, the city's budget represents the priorities of the mayor and city council for the city of Cleveland.

How does the mayor interact with the police?

The mayor is heavily involved with the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP) and the role of policing throughout the city. The mayor is at the top of the CDP's hierarchy. The mayor appoints the Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police, and the Police Inspector General. The mayor also appoints a portion of the Civilian Police Review Board, and indirectly appoints a majority of the Community Police Commission.

For more information see the [Charter of the City of Cleveland](https://clevelandcitycouncil.org/legislation-laws/charter-codified-ordinances)
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