

General Law City vs Home Rule Charter City

Characteristics	General Law City	Home Rule Charter City (Council-Manager Governance)
Legislative Authority	Prescribed by the Texas Legislature	<i>*Prescribed by Fair Oaks Ranch Citizens in the adopted home rule charter</i>
Representatives of the Citizens	Elected Mayor & City Council	Elected Mayor & City Council
Pass Laws & Set Policies	Elected Mayor & City Council	Elected Mayor & City Council
Initiative, Referendum, & Recall	No Authority Exists for General Law City	<i>*Qualified voters have the power to propose ordinances, require reconsideration of ordinances, and petition for the recall of the Mayor or any Council Member</i>
Adopt Budgets & Set Tax Rates	Elected City Council	Elected City Council
Administer Governmental Operations & Carryout City Council Policies	Elected Mayor & City Council	<i>*Professional City Manager (appointed by the City Council)</i>
Growth Management (Strategic Planning)	Prescribed by State of Texas	<i>*Prescribed by Fair Oaks Ranch Citizens in the adopted home rule charter:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased Annexation authority</i> • <i>Enhanced ETJ authority</i> • <i>Mandated Comprehensive Plan</i> • <i>Mandated Planning and Zoning Commission</i>
Selection of Mayor & City Council	Popularly elected by the citizens (Ballot Box)	Popularly elected by the citizens (Ballot Box)
Removal of Mayor & City Council	Via regular elections by the citizens (Ballot Box)	Via regular elections by the citizens <i>*and/or Recall</i> (Ballot Box)
Tenure of Mayor & City Council	two (2) year terms No Term limits	three year terms Term limits as defined in the Charter (Ballot Box)
Selection of City Administrator/Manager	Appointed by Mayor & City Council	Appointed by Mayor & City Council
Removal of City Administrator/Manager	As prescribed by the Texas Legislature	<i>*At the pleasure of the Mayor & City Council</i>

****significant differences are bolded & italicized***

The Home Rule Council-Manager form of government is based on the model of a business with a board of directors that appoints a chief executive officer. A familiar public example of this form of governance is the school board-superintendent relationship.