A campaign to make city government more representative, diverse, responsive, and accountable.

Powers Forfeited by the Mayor in the Transition to a Mayor-Council Form of Government

- **The power to introduce legislation or place items on the council agenda.** Today, as a member of the council, the mayor may introduce legislation or place other items on the council agenda, with the support of three other council members. In the mayor-council system, the mayor will no longer be a council member and will have no power over the introduction of agenda items. Council alone will control the legislative agenda.

- **The power to vote on the selection of the president of the council (formerly mayor pro tem).** Today, as a member of the council, the mayor votes on the selection of the mayor pro tem. In the mayor-council system, the title “mayor pro tem” will change to “president of the council,” signifying the separation of that role, and the council more generally, from the office of the mayor. In addition, the council president will replace the mayor as the presiding officer of the council, and the mayor will no longer have a role in the selection of that person, allowing the council to select its own presiding officer and creating a new center of power in city hall.

- **The power to vote on legislation.** Today, the mayor has the power to vote on all ordinances, resolutions, and other matters before the council. The mayor’s role is analogous to that of an at-large council member. In the mayor-council system, the council will be composed only of representatives from single-member districts, and the mayor will no longer have the power to vote on any matters before the council. Resolutions may be enacted without any mayoral review, and the mayor will also lack any role in the final disposition of ordinances, which may be passed exclusively by the council and over any veto.

- **The power to preside over — or even speak at — council meetings.** Today, as the presiding officer of the council, the mayor controls the administration, direction, and tone of council meetings, as well as the disposition of items on the council agenda, even if the mayor did not introduce those items. In the mayor-council system, the mayor will have no formal ability to influence the direction of council action at those meetings. Council members will control the entire legislative process, from the introduction of legislation, to the public hearing and amendment process, to final passage. Moreover, not only will the mayor lose their power to preside over these meetings, but the mayor will also have no role at council meetings at all. Unless called or invited to speak by the council, the mayor will not be a presence in those meetings.

- **The power to vote on the selection of the city auditor, the city clerk, or the civil service commission.** Today, as a member of the council, the mayor may vote on the selection of the city auditor, the city clerk, and the civil service commission. In the mayor-council system, that power is reserved exclusively to the city council. The mayor will have no say over the appointment of the auditor, who will provide oversight on the mayor’s executive performance, nor will the mayor have any say over the appointment of the city clerk, who oversees critical aspects of the city’s election administration, including the city’s campaign finance programs. And the mayor will have no say over the appointment of civil service commissioners, who will review and adjudicate personnel actions taken by the executive branch.

- **The power to make appointments to city boards and commissions.** Today, as a council member, the mayor has a role in appointments to boards and commissions, as those appointments are generally reserved to the council. In the mayor-council system, the mayor will no longer have the power to make any appointments to boards or commissions where the council is the appointing body. And, for any board or commission where the mayor is granted one or more appointments by ordinance, the council will retain the power to remove that appointment power by virtue of its ultimate authority to enact ordinances.

- **The power to vote on implementing legislation for this amendment.** After passage, the amendment may require implementing legislation, or council, at its discretion, may pass additional legislation conferring powers not otherwise addressed by the charter. The mayor will not have a vote on this additional legislation.