

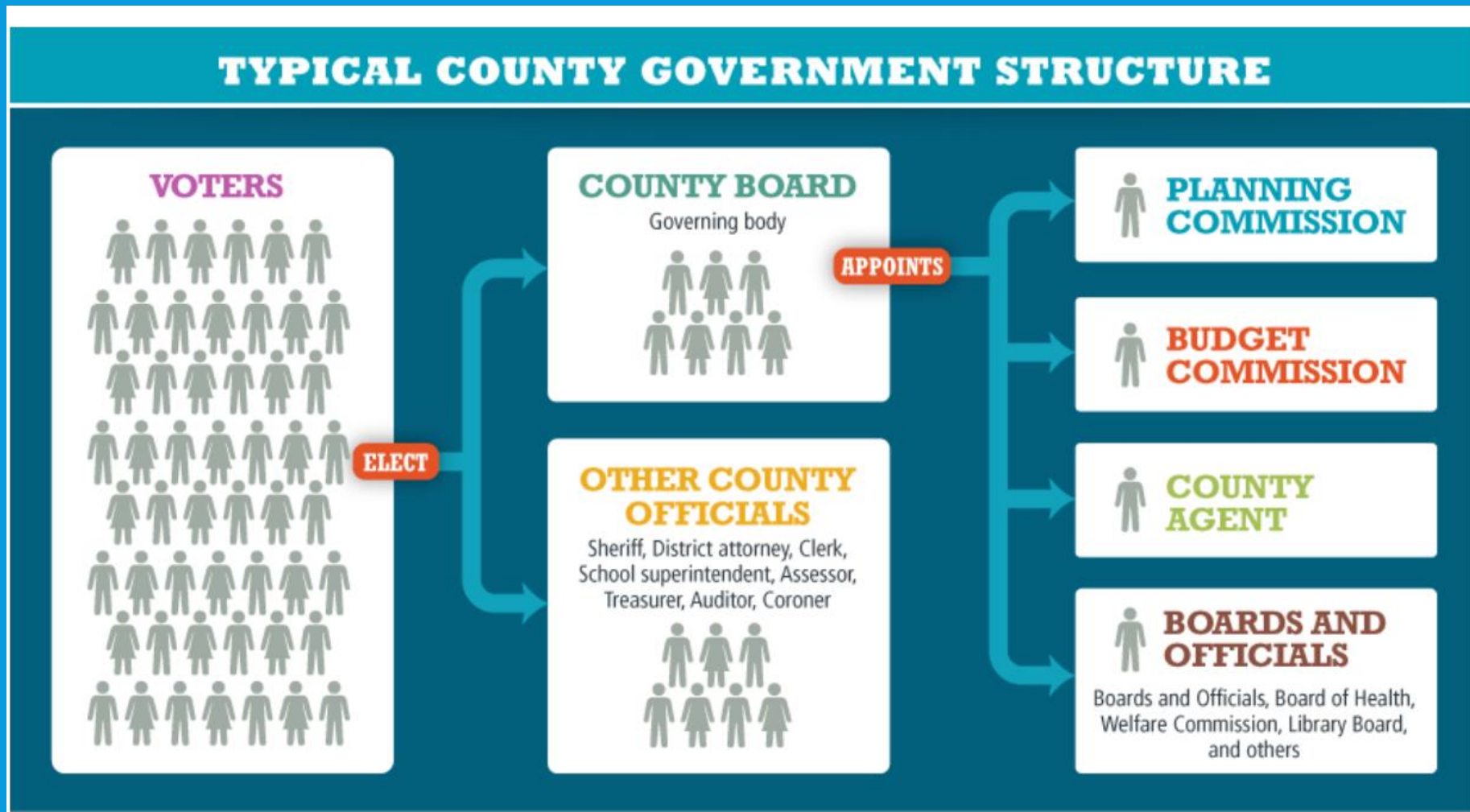
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

13.5

COUNTY OFFICIALS

- **Most counties are governed by county boards**
- **Most country boards which are also called commissions, have 3 to 5 elected members**
- **Board members set up county programs and pass ordinances (local laws)**

HOW COUNTIES ARE STRUCTURED



County Official	Duty	County Official	Duty
County Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levies Taxes and sets spending • Administers roads, buildings, & programs • Appoints boards and officials 	Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registers and records documents for property, birth, and death • Runs county elections
Assessor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the value of taxable property • Collects property taxes 	Sheriff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runs county jail • Provides rural police protection • Carries out court orders • May collect taxes
Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps financial records 	Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps county funds
School Superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers public schools 	District Attorney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts criminal investigations • Prosecutes criminal cases
Coroner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigates violent deaths • Certifies causes of death 		

TOWNSHIPS

- **At first townships were needed to help carry out duties like setting up schools and repairing roads**
- **In urban areas, townships just elect officials to serve on the county board**

CITIES

- **A government that serves people who live in an urban area is called a municipality**
- **The boundaries of a municipality be it a city, town, or village are set by the state**
- **Sometimes the state establishes the type of run within these boundaries, and sometimes people will write a charter establishing their type of rule**
- **There are 3 types of rule**

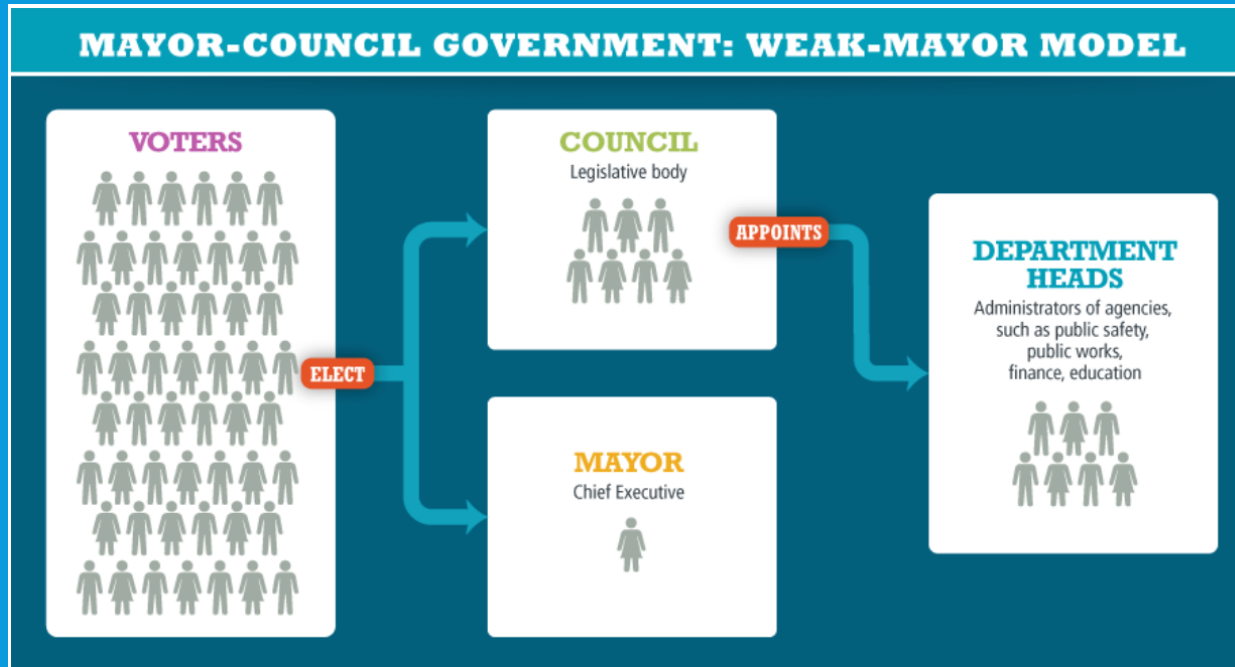
MAYOR-COUNCIL PLAN

- **Under this plan, the duties and powers of city officials depend on whether the city uses a weak-mayor plan or strong-mayor plan**

WEAK MAYOR PLAN

- **The mayor does not have special powers**
- **Most power rests in the council.**
- **The council is elected by the people and acts as both a legislative and executive body**
- **The council can choose the mayor from among it's members**
- **This plan originated with early settlers who did not trust English government**

WEAK MAYOR PLAN



- **The weak mayor plan has 3 major defects:**

- **1. Lack of a single chief executive makes it difficult to assign responsibility**

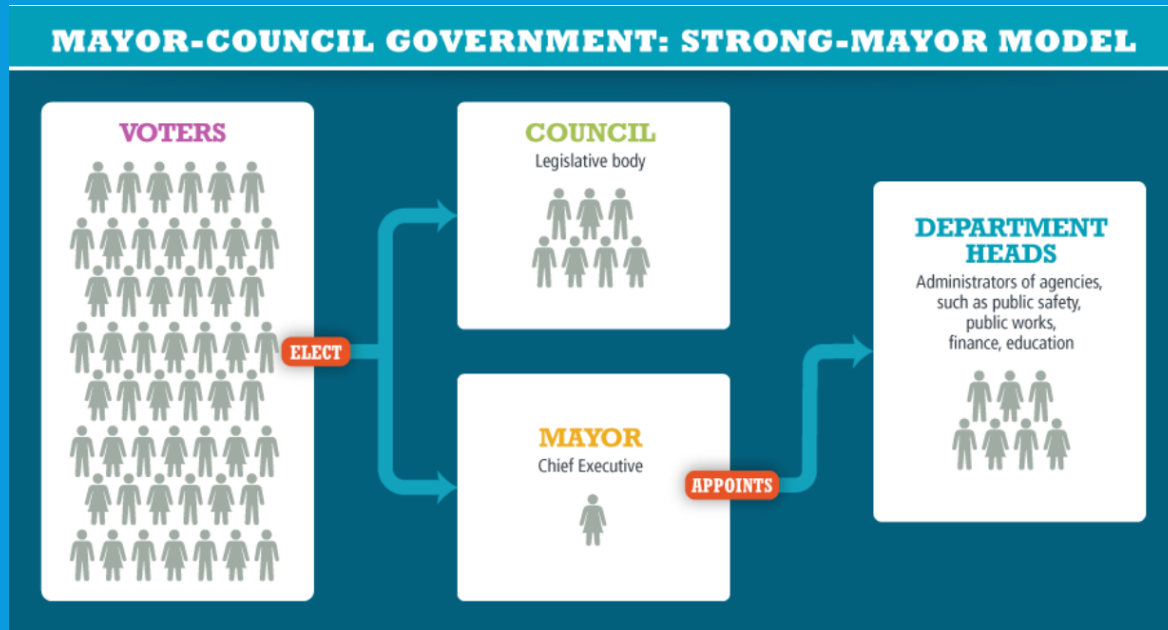
- **2. Built-in tendency toward 'Empire Building.' Each commissioner tries to gather as much power and influence**

- **3. Lack of coordination makes policy making difficult**

STRONG MAYOR PLAN

- **The relationship between the Mayor and the council is more like President and Congress**
- **The council makes ordinances, but the mayor is elected by the voters and is in charge of the budget, makes policies, and chooses city officials**

STRONG MAYOR PLAN

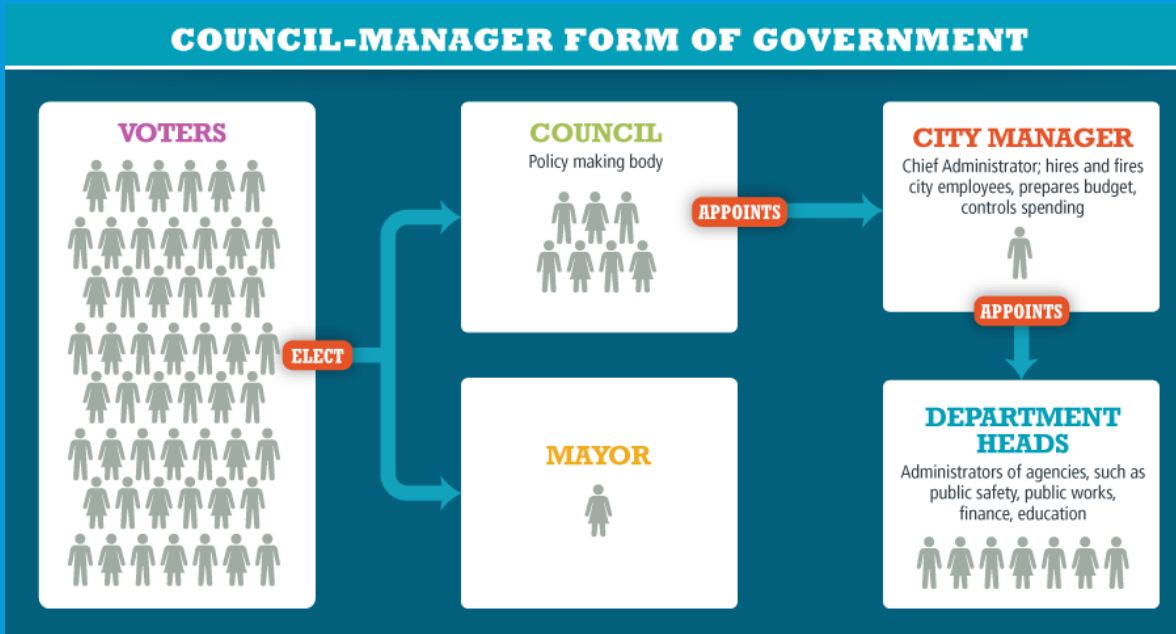


- **The mayor-council form has 3 large defects**
- **1. It depends quite heavily on the capabilities of the mayor**
- **2. An ongoing dispute between the mayor and the council can stall the working of government**
- **3. Complicated, often not understood by average citizens**

COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN

- **The goal of the plan is to run government like a business**
- **The council is chosen through an election in which candidates have no political ties.**
- **The council makes ordinances and hires a city manager to handle day to day city business**

COUNCIL-MANAGER PLAN



- Major advantages of this plan:
- 1. Simple in form
- 2. Fairly clear who is responsible
- 3. Relies on highly trained experts who are skilled in modern budget making, planning, computerization, and administration

COMMISSION PLAN

- **Voters choose several commissioners who together make ordinances**
- **The plan does not provide for a single leader to control the budget and make the departments work together**

