

## Term Lengths

- . Shorter terms like two years- for new members- does not give much of a learning curve
- . Two year terms have nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of term dedicated to running for office
- . Shorter terms allow citizens to vote someone out during a re-election sooner if not satisfied
- . Shorter terms cost candidates more
- . Shorter term council members may think of issues on short term & their impact
- . Longer term harder to replace if dissatisfied with council member
- . Longer term council members may not be as focused on next election vs. the issues
- . Longer term members get settled in and have more time after learning curve
- . Longer terms provide stability

Typical lengths: 2, 3 & 4 years

## Staggered vs. Non-staggered Terms

- . No complete turn over possible
- . Allows for stability, allows for partial change so no sweeping change at one time
- . Makes citizens more aware of elections
- . Allows other issues like bonds, Commissioners replacement, etc. to coincide with a city election
- . Candidates are less "lost" in a pack of office seekers
- . Can't replace all commissioners at one time if unhappy with Commission as a whole
- . Provide for instability every other year as portions could change each year and have to train new members
- . Election every year cost more than every two years
- . Give year off where commissioners can act without worry of election impact coming up for some members
- . Issues aren't driven by elections during off years
- . Everyone at one time, especially if Mayor race, creates more voter turnout