

REBUTTAL—FOR THE INITIATIVE

The arguments for or against a ballot proposition are the opinions of the authors.

Is Professional City Management in the Best interest of Providence?

These issues should concern you:

- Providence City’s State mandated General Plan is 16 years old and outdated. Other Utah cities update theirs annually. *Is forward thinking too much to expect of City Officials?*
- No long term plan for City streets? On average, 3 out of 282 City blocks a year are replaced; that’s once every 94 years. *The citizens of Providence expect a plan!*
- Promised new park development has not happened although impact fees were collected. *The citizens of Providence expect promises be kept!*
- Impact fees charged developers for streets, water and sewer have not changed in 19 years, but construction costs have escalated *dramatically*. The citizens of Providence get stuck with the difference!

Eventually, this results in a TAX INCREASE

How do other Utah cities pay for an experienced, professional city manager? As a start, by not purchasing expensive buildings, spending money wisely, and avoiding costly legal battles.

Our plea to the citizens of Providence:

- ✓ Vote YES for a more responsive and citizen focused City government.
- ✓ Vote YES for efficient, cost effective, wise use of taxpayers’ money.
- ✓ Vote YES to limit the influence of special interests.
- ✓ Vote YES for professional management of our City.

Vote YES on Proposition Two for a new direction for Providence.

Paula Anderson, Brent Arnell, Merideth Bitter, Chad Checketts, Steve Jenson

REBUTTAL—AGAINST THE INITIATIVE

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The statement that our “sister cities” have city manager form of government is misleading and false. Neither Hyrum nor North Logan has a city manager. In addition, the language in the Ballot Initiative calls for an appointed (non-elected) city manager to assume many of the duties of the elected mayor. The two “sister cities” which actually have city managers still maintain the elected mayor as the chief executive officer.

With the exception of Logan, all these “sister cities” (as does Providence) function under a six-member council form of government. In Providence the mayor presently oversees the staff under the direction of an Administrative Service Director and Public Works Director. Since the Council is the legislative body, the Council makes the ordinances and establishes the rules. To infer that the city staff makes the rules is simply untrue. And, the mayor only votes when there is a tie on the Council.

Expect more spin taken out of context on education requirements, certifications, litigation, and the premise of “all” following the ordinances. Providence has the finest people, the best neighbors, and a caring, well-balanced government. No amount of “spin” with statistics out of context should alter that balance. I urge you to vote “NO” on the Initiative so that your city can preserve the balance of government, avoid unnecessary taxes, elect rather than appoint, and check this effort to spin the truth for the advantage of certain special interests.

Mayor Calderwood

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

CITY MANAGER IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE

PROVIDENCE CITY, UTAH

THIS ISSUE IS TO BE DECIDED BY THE VOTERS OF PROVIDENCE

AT THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

The information in this publication is provided as required by Utah Code Ann. 20A-7-402.

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CITY MANAGER IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE - BALLOT TITLE

Shall the voters of Providence City enact new provisions in the Providence City Municipal Code authorizing the City Council to appoint an individual as City Manager; to realign responsibilities and authority of the Mayor to provide that general administration of the City may be performed only by an appointed City Manager and not by the Mayor; and to provide that the City Manager would report directly to the City Council? The City Manager would be appointed by, and only removed by, a majority of the City Council, which includes the Mayor.

CITY MANAGER IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE—FISCAL IMPACT

The City Manager Initiative may be legally approved by the voters of Providence. Because there are a variety of options in implementation, it is difficult to determine what the cost might be to implement the Initiative. To add a new position without making other staff reductions would cost \$90,000 - \$120,000. However, there are a variety of options available to the City Council in implementing the City Manager Initiative that would cost much less. The minimum would be a one-time cost of approximately \$5,000 in legal fees to revise the other policies and ordinances of the City to accommodate the change. It is estimated the cost of printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition in the voter information pamphlet as required by Utah Code § 20A-7-402 will be \$2,100.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT

WWW.PROVIDENCECITY.COM

OR OBTAINED AT THE PROVIDENCE CITY OFFICES, 15 SOUTH MAIN, PROVIDENCE.

ARGUMENT FOR THE INITIATIVE PROPOSITION

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A Well Accepted Solution for Better City Government

Why have most Utah cities adopted the city manager form of government? Clearly there has been strong public support for change. Utah government policy experts state that city manager run governments are generally more cost effective and efficient. They are also far less likely to become embroiled in legal disputes.

23 out of 30 (77%) Utah cities of a similar size use a city manager form of government, including our sister cities of Nibley, Hyrum, North Logan and Smithfield.

Most city managers have advanced degrees in public administration (MPA) and other certifications. They may also serve as personnel manager, economic development director, finance director, city engineer, or public works director.

Political abuses in mayor run governments led to a widespread adoption of the city manager form across the US.

If passed, the council will hire an experienced, professional manager who reports directly to the mayor and council.

Who should administer the city's business?

	Mayor	City Manager
<i>Job qualifications/ experience/ skills required</i>	No specific education, relevant experience or job background required for the job. Who are we electing (hiring) as mayor?	Advanced degree with broad municipal government management experience and relevant certifications
<i>Term of office</i>	4-years, recall or removal NOT possible	No guarantee of term of office; at-will, serves at the pleasure of and may be removed by a simple majority of the council
<i>Job duties/assignments</i>	Determines his own schedule, job duties and assignments	Has job description with specific duties, responsibilities and goals assigned by the council
<i>Time commitment</i>	Not full time; may have limited time or inclination.	More than full time
<i>Political agenda</i>	Can drive own political agenda having full authority over city administration	Not driven by partisan politics; is focused on working well with all segments of the community

Why is this good for Providence?

Power of Special Interests is Diffused

Under the city manager form of government, there is a more balanced approach to decision making. This ensures that varied interests are expressed and considered.

Having to secure a majority of the city council's vote requires broad citizen support.

Special interests use money and influence on a single elected official, the mayor.

Merit-Based Decision Making vs. Partisan Politics

As the mayor has full authority over city staff, the temptation is to make decisions based on political support rather than professional qualifications.

Citizens' Voices are Strengthened

Under our current system, political power is concentrated in the mayor. This means other members of the council have limited influence. Often public input has been disregarded or met with indifference.

With a city manager system, citizens have a greater opportunity to influence policy. This encourages an "inclusive" city culture.

For further details and information, see www.wethepeopleofprovidence.org

Committee of concerned Providence citizens:

Paula Anderson Brent Arnell Merideth Bitter Chad Checketts Steve Jenson

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE INITIATIVE PROPOSITION

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Providence does not need a city manager. Presently there is a group within our city that has been promoting a change in our structure of government. The change being proposed is to relieve the resident elected mayor of certain powers and hire a city manager, non-elected, and possibly a non-resident.

The mayor will still be the mayor, but some of the powers shift. First, the estimated cost with benefits for a "competent" city manager is approximately twenty (20) times the present salary of the mayor, \$125,000, whereas the salary of the mayor is \$6,000. Long before you elected your present mayor, Providence went through a city manager structure with both long and short term negative results. Since state law dictates that a city manager "report" directly to the council which has the authority to terminate him/her without cause, the politics shift.

That is what the initiative is really about – political influence. As your mayor, my commitment was, is, and will continually be that all citizens will follow the ordinances enacted by the elected council. I am not related to anyone living in Providence, have no financial ties to any entity in or out of Providence, and I follow what council has enacted as the law prescribes. There are no exceptions and no favors. Second, the actual initiative has been "spun" in statements relative to the councils' decision to acquire new office space, a resignation last year, a justified termination of a city employee, a law suit against the city by a home business owner who simply does not comply with ordinances enacted by the council, which has been confirmed by two district judges as well as an appellate court. Every one of these actions have been under the direction of your elected council. Third, some of the advocates for change in our government need scrutiny, whether it be a distant relative, a disgruntled councilman, or a citizen disagreeing with a council decision. Fourth, a city manager will have the authority (presently delegated to an elected mayor) to oversee the staff that is serving your community. I have the background and experience to perform the duties of this office fairly and have done so with countless hours. Our city is exceptionally financially sound, and there is no layer of government between your mayor and you.

With a city manager not only will the city realize a significant budget increase, but there will not be the balance of administrative/ legislative authority we presently experience. Unfortunately the city's past bad experience and additional costs with a city manager had the same roots as the present proposal. A city manager at this time is not in the best interest of our city – whether suggested by someone upset with a council decision, someone who stands to gain financially, or someone seeking more control in Providence.

Mayor Calderwood