

Research Assessment #1: Various Positions in Local Governments

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Subject: Various Positions in Local Governments

MLA Citation:

Roberts, Michael. "Learn About the Job Titles in City Government and the Role Each Plays." *The Balance Careers*, The Balance Careers, 29 Apr. 2018, www.thebalancecareers.com/leadership-positions-in-city-government-1669737.

Assessment:

This week I think I really benefiting from reading about the different positions in local government. As excited as I am to begin informational interviews, I still have many questions about the basics of how a local system works, and this helped to clear it up. The article assessed a few different major positions within local governments, how they interact with citizens, and how they interact with each other.

I was particularly interested in the city manager description, because I would be really happy to study with a city manager this year. How much of a boss in the traditional sense is a city manager, because it seemed like from reading the article that they operate with a large degree of authority? Similarly, if the city council rarely goes against the opinions of the city manager, how is that very democratic? Because the city manager is not a voted-on position, is it really fair the amount of control they have in the government? If the work they do is primarily just oversight on other departments and making sure things run smoothly, I understand more, but if they are actively changing things with their role in the government, that seems a little unfair to me.

I was particularly fascinated to read about the city attorney because of my background last year studying law with Anna. I still would like to research on the type of work the city attorney does, because it was my understanding that the city attorney acted as more of a legal advisor than lawyer in literal cases, but this article made it seem like sometimes the attorney functioned as a real attorney. The finance director section was quite fascinating, because I think how the town interacts with such influential things as funds is interesting. Where, for example, does money get delegated between

schools? The article actually didn't talk much about school board or how school district decisions are made, but especially in Frisco, where so much of the immigration here is because of the schools, I imagine that it's a very important thing to study within the context local government. And again, I see some discrepancies with calling the government a democracy if the person hired to control where the taxpayers' money goes is not an elected position.

The police and fire chiefs, as well as the program directors were more straightforward in terms of what they could and could not accomplish. I definitely think the planning direction and economic development directors of Frisco and newer towns like Celina and the Colony must put a lot of emphasis on these positions when deciding who to fill them with, because growth is such a crucial factor in stimulating and ensuring a city's success.

Overall, it was a really fascinating article that makes me excited for the year to come in ISM. I think that my journey this year needed the backbone of this knowledge to help me be successful from here on out, and I'm glad to further narrow my focus after reading the information within. I hope to continue my work more specifically on urban development or city managing because I think especially in a city like Frisco, I'll have much to gain from experiencing what working in those fields is like.