

Citizens for Common Sense
4465 Kipling St
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

THE STORY...

In April 2010, two petition committees were formed by Wheat Ridge citizens to place two questions on the November ballot. All members of both committees are residents of Wheat Ridge. Some members also operate businesses in Wheat Ridge.

The two proposed ballot questions address critical issues in establishing a more responsive city government, enhanced checks and balances, greater accountability and **less bureaucracy of Council and City Administration in the 21st century:**

- ✓ **Question 300:** Expands the Mayor's veto on ordinances to the city budget or by city department budget – **increases checks and balances on the use of taxpayer money**
- ✓ **Question 301:** Returns our city government to the more efficient **MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR** form of government – **increases accountability of elected officials and city staff**

We would like to acknowledge the 2000+ citizens, businesses, volunteers and elected officials who signed the petitions and/or worked on this grassroots effort to bring these two ballot questions forward to the citizens of Wheat Ridge.

Leading by Example - Wheat Ridge can be a leader in Colorado by advocating for efficient changes in city government.

- ✓ **More Accountability of Elected Officials and City Administration**
- ✓ **More Checks and Balances on the Use of Taxpayer Money**
- ✓ **Less Government Bureaucracy**
- ✓ **Less Government Red Tape**

✓ **Moving Wheat Ridge Forward
Vote "YES" on Ballot Questions 300 and 301**

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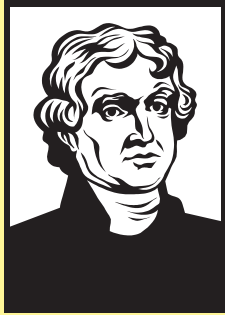
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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - TIME FOR LESS BUREAUCRACY FOR A CITY OUR SIZE

MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR

Form of Government

At the city level, the form of government that best encourages **separation of powers** and **checks and balances** of elected officials and city staff is the **MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR** form of government.



The founding fathers of our country assembled 3 branches of government whose members were elected and directly accountable to the citizens. This structure gives each branch some scrutiny of and control over the other branches. The **MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR** form of government is based on the same principle:

Executive: President, Governor, **Mayor**
Legislative: Congress, State Legislature, **City Council**
Judicial: Federal, State, Municipal **Courts**

- The executive branch of city government is the **Mayor**, who is elected at large, and is directly accountable to the residents and businesses. By Charter, the **Mayor** does not vote on adopting or amending the city budget.
- The legislative branch is the elected **Council** which adopts city policies, laws and resolutions. Council approves and amends the city budget. Council has the power of the purse!

www.jerryditullio.com/ballotquestions.php

- The **MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR** form of government provides for a professional **Administrator** who reports directly to the **Mayor**, rather than a City Manager who reports to the 8 members of **Council**. This eliminates the "**8-boss syndrome**" that has perpetuated the bureaucratic deadlock at City Hall by City Managers who have not been held accountable by **Council**. Wheat Ridge is going on its fifth City Manager in just 14 years!
- The **Mayor** recommends AND the **Council** ratifies the salary and employment contract of the **Administrator**.
- As a team, the **Mayor** and the **Administrator** implement the policies and laws adopted by **Council**.

Does the **MAYOR-COUNCIL-ADMINISTRATOR** form of government "diminish" the powers of **Council** or "reduce" its members' role as representatives?

NO! Section 4.7 of the City Charter (Powers of **Council**) is not changed by the proposed ballot questions.

✓ **Moving Wheat Ridge Forward
Vote "YES" on Ballot
Questions 300 and 301**

Dick Matthews	303.424.7763	Polly Pinkston	District IV
John Marriott	720.273.3912	Jerry DiTullio	303.237.4806
Mike Stites	303.423.8360	Joe De Mott	303.929.4608
Wanda Sang	303.431.8390	Kent Davis	District II
Karen Thaler	District I	Susan Motika	District III