
Sec. 2.3. Executive branch.

(A) *The county manager.*

- (1) The county manager shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners. The county manager shall be the chief executive officer of the county and all executive responsibilities and power shall be assigned to and vested in the county manager. The county manager shall exercise all executive authority provided by this home rule charter in addition to all other powers and duties authorized by general or special law.
- (2) The county manager shall be qualified by administrative and executive experience and ability to serve as the chief administrator of the county. [The] minimum qualifications for the county manager shall be established by county ordinance. The county manager shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the board of county commissioners. The county manager may be removed at any time by an affirmative vote, upon notice, of not less than a majority of the membership of the board, after a hearing if such a hearing is requested by the county manager. The county manager need not be a resident of the county at the time of appointment, but during the tenure in office the county manager shall reside within the county.
- (3) The compensation of the county manager shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners.
- (4) The office of county manager shall be deemed vacant if the incumbent moves his residence from the county or is, by death, illness, or other casualty, unable to continue in office. A vacancy in the office shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The board of county commissioners may appoint an acting county manager in the case of vacancy or temporary absence or disability until a successor has been appointed and qualified or the county manager returns.

(B) *County department heads.*

- (1) The county department heads, with the exception of the county attorney, shall be appointed by and shall be responsible to the county manager. The board of county commissioners shall by majority vote confirm the appointment of department heads.
- (2) The county manager shall have the sole authority to suspend or discharge any department head with or without cause.

(C) *County attorney.* There shall be a county attorney selected by the board of county commissioners who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The county attorney shall report directly to the board of county commissioners. The county attorney shall provide legal services to the board of county commissioners, county departments, and county boards and agencies as specified by county ordinance.