

# CITY OF YAKIMA

## LEGAL

## DEPARTMENT

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### *MEMORANDUM*

October 24, 2019

TO: The Honorable Mayor Coffey and members of the City Council; Cynthia Martinez, Interim City Manager

FROM: Ryan Bleek, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJ: Potential Charter Amendment Changing the Form of the City of Yakima Government to Mayor-Council

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Attached are two redline versions of proposed changes to the Yakima City Charter, one drafted by the City of Yakima Legal Department, and the other submitted to Council by a private resident. Also attached is a brief synopsis of the primary differences between the two draft Charter amendments, as well as a letter recently sent to the City by the ACLU.

Additionally, for Council's general information, of the ten First Class cities in the State of Washington, six use the Mayor-Council form of city government, and the other four use the Council-Manager form. Of the 25 cities with populations greater than 50,000 (as of 2018), 10 use the Mayor-Council form of city government, and 15 use the Council-Manager form. According the Municipal Research and Services Center, about 60% of Washington's population that resides within incorporated cities is governed under the Mayor-Council form, and the other 40% under the Council-Manager form.