



Florida League of Cities

Center for Municipal Research & Innovation

MiniSurvey Series – Municipal Elections Procedures

The Center for Municipal Research & Innovation conducted a survey of the 412 municipalities in Florida to determine how municipal elections are handled in each city. The survey was conducted electronically from January 24-February 16, 2017 with a response rate of 69% or 286 cities.

Key Take-Aways

Of municipalities who responded:

- **42% of cities hold municipal elections during the November general election.**
 - Of those cities that do not hold elections for city officials in November, the vast majority hold their municipal elections in March and April (69%).
- **68% of cities do not hold primary elections.**
 - Of those cities that do hold primaries, the most popular months are August (36%) and March (19%).
- **55% of cities do not require run-off elections.**
 - Of those cities that do require run-off elections in certain situations, the most popular months are November (33%) and March (19%).
- **91% of cities contract with the local supervisor of elections to run their municipal elections.**
 - Of those cities that contract with the local supervisor of elections, 75% pay for the services provided.
 - Just over ¼ of municipalities indicate that the supervisor of elections has requested their municipal elections be held during a specific time frame.
 - More than ¾ of municipalities state that allowing the supervisor of elections to determine in what year their elections are held would affect the city officials' staggered terms of office.

Pages 2-3 of this report contain additional graphs of the data collected. Contact Research Analyst Liane Schrader at lschrader@flcities.com for the survey questions or additional information.

The FLC Center for Municipal Research & Innovation is the primary source of local government research and resources at the Florida League of Cities. The Center serves as a link between Florida's public policy researchers and municipal governments, bridging the gap between academics and public policy makers and administrators. More information on the Center can be found at www.floridaleagueofcities.com/ResearchMaterial.aspx.

**Surveys are completed by members of each individual municipality and the FLC staff does not verify or cross-reference responses with other sources.*

Municipal Election Procedures

Cities that hold municipal elections for city officials during the November general election



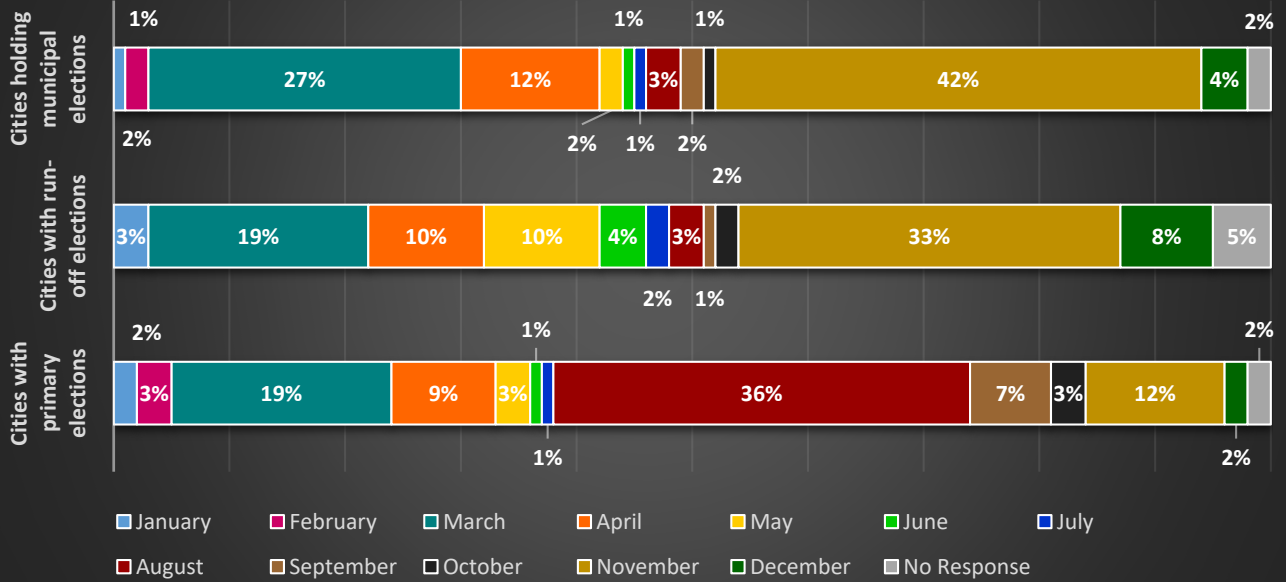
Cities that require a run-off election in certain situations



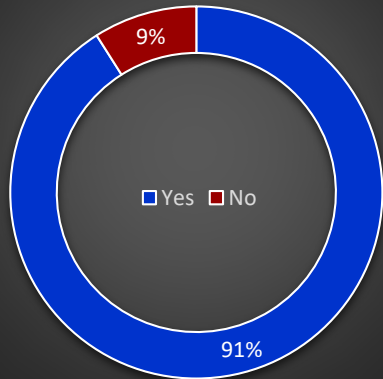
Cities that hold a primary election



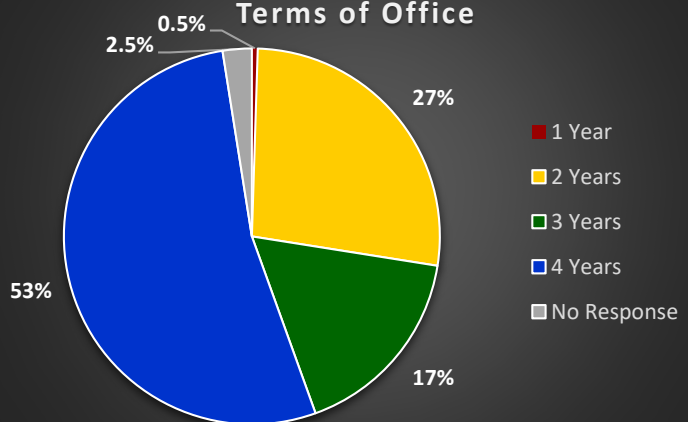
When Municipal Elections Are Held



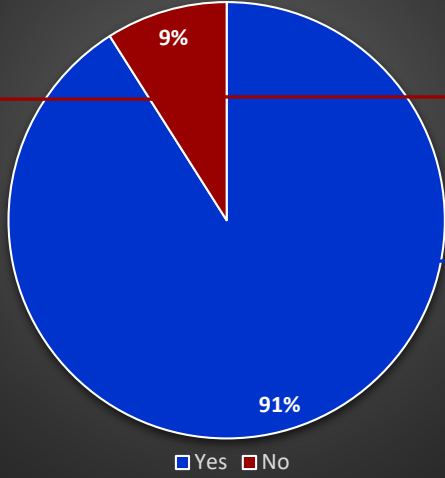
Cities with Staggered Terms of Office



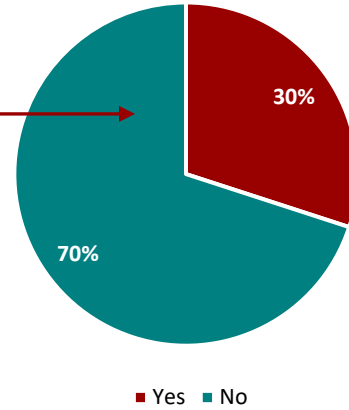
Cities with Length of Municipal Terms of Office



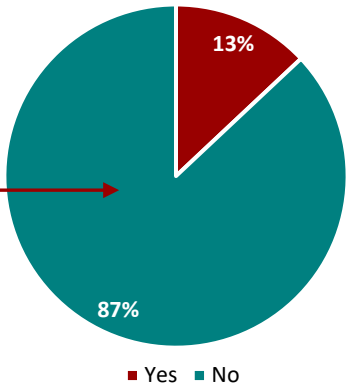
Cities that Contract with the Local Supervisor of Elections



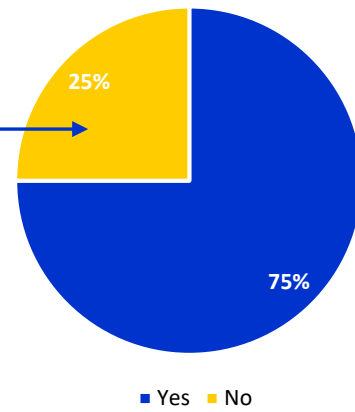
Cities Running Their Own Elections that Maintain Their Own Voter Rolls



Cities Running Their Own Elections that Maintain Their Own Voting Equipment

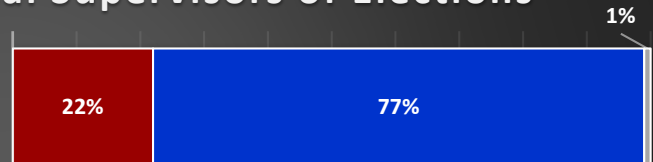


Cities that Contract with the Local Supervisor of Elections and Pay for Those Services

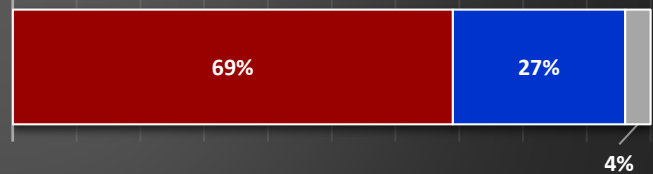


Municipal Elections & Local Supervisors of Elections

Cities whose staggered terms of office would be affected if supervisor of elections was allowed to determine election years



Cities where local supervisor of elections has requested city hold elections during a specific time



■ No ■ Yes ■ No Response