

City Council Agenda Item Request

Date of Request: 3/26/2026 **Requester:** Deno Hondros

Agenda Item Title: Staff research on City Clerk service under CMO vs. Council

Estimated Cost: N/A **Anticipated Funding Source:** N/A

City Department(s) Support Requested: CAO (and CMO?)

Estimated Staff Time Required: 1-4 hours

Anticipated Date for Future Council Work Session Discussion: 4/6/2026

Which City Council Priorities within the Strategic Plan does this request directly support?

- 2) Responsive City Government
- 3) City Invested in Today and Tomorrow
- 4) Desirable Place to Live, Work & Recreate
- 5) Financially Sound City Providing Exemplary City Services
- 6) Collaborative Citizen and Business Engagement Base

What do you envision accomplishing with this agenda item request?

Research comparison of pros and cons of Clerk serving under CMO vs. under Council, including but not limited to NCGS and UNC School of Government's best practices recommendations and guidelines, and peer city and county comparissons.

Charlotte: ? ; Mecklemberg County: ?

Raleigh: ? ; Wake County: ?

Cary: ? ; Wake County: ?

Greensboro: ? ; Guilford County: ?

Wilmington: ? ; New Hanover County: ?

Durham: ? ; Durham County: ?

High Point: ? ; Guilford County ?

Winston Salem: ? ; Forsyth County: ?

Concord: ? ; Cabarrus County ?

Fayetteville: CMO; Cumberland County: Board of Commissioners

Cary: ? ; Wake County: ?

Additional Comments:

Per NCGS the council in cities with a council-manager form of government commonly appoint the clerk.

City Clerk serving at the pleasure of council ensures political independence, allowing the clerk to act as a neutral keeper of records.

One practical reason for the clerk to serve under council instead of the CMO is that the can keep personnel folder with CA's and CM's employment agreement(s) and annual performance evals.