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A Perspective on City Governance

August 18, 2010

The Mayor Project - Outline

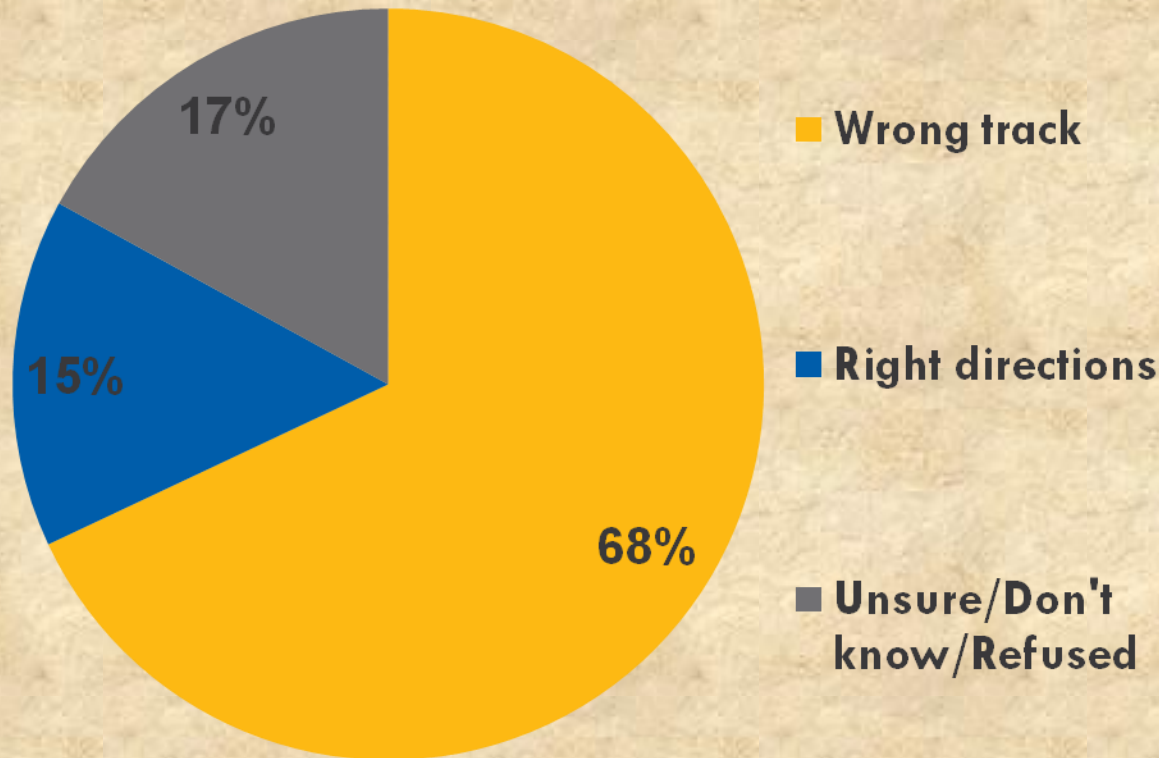
- City government is broken and has a structural problem - Our specific perspective on why it is dysfunctional
- Why an accountable elected leader will solve many of the problems
- Why we think the Mayor Project will make a difference

The Problem

- Our city has an outmoded and ineffective system of government.
 - ▣ More than 60 percent of the 50 largest U.S. cities have a “Strong Mayor” form of government
 - ▣ Colorado Springs is the 47 largest city in our nation
 - ▣ We need a modern form of government fitting of a city of our size and complexity.

The Problem

- More than two thirds of Colorado Springs citizens agree that our city is on the wrong track and city government is not doing a good job.



The Problem

- Why city government isn't working:
 - ▣ City manager, an appointed official, acts as CEO of the city, making important fiscal and policy decisions.
 - ▣ Mayor is one of nine City Council members who appoint the city manager.
 - ▣ Mayor is a part-time figurehead without authority or responsibility to appoint city leadership, create the budget or veto ordinances.

The Problem

- Our perspective on the problem
 - We followed the City budget process very closely this past year
 - Our direct experience and observation highlighted the dysfunction of the current process

The Problem

- The position of city manager is:
 - Unaccountable
 - We didn't elect the current CEO of our city – he/she isn't accountable to us
 - Proposes the City budget, but then has no say in what ultimately gets decided
 - Is responsible to implement the details of the approved budget but has no accountability to voters
 - Not empowered and disconnected from the important aspects of the budget process

The Problem

□ The City Council

- Votes on the budget based on politics, but without the knowledge of having prepared it and without the understanding all of its intricacies
- No one on Council is accountable for the budget because they are only one of nine voting members, therefore no elected official is accountable

The Problem

□ The Mayor

- Has no part in the budget process other than one vote, with perceived authority, but no power to do anything but conduct the meeting
- Mayor is a part-time figurehead **without authority or responsibility** to appoint city leadership, create the budget or veto ordinances

The Problem

□ The position of city manager is:

□ Transient

- Over the last 25 years, we've churned through 10 city managers
- Search and hiring committees, along with buy-out packages, waste precious city dollars

□ Unstable

- We've experienced a new city manager roughly every 2.5 years
- City managers don't have a reason to stick around during tough times

The Problem

- Our current city leadership is appointed, not elected
- Democracy is built on the concept that we elect our leaders
- Government should have a separation of powers based on Constitutional model

The Solution

- The Mayor Project, a simple change to our City Charter, will:
 - ▣ Shift more power to the people
 - ▣ Increase responsibility for the elected leader
 - ▣ Produce a clear system of checks and balances
 - ▣ Boost transparency
 - ▣ Increase stability
 - ▣ Bring our city in line with the vision of democracy our forefathers had

The Solution

- What the Mayor Project proposes:
 - ▣ Mayor, elected by voters, acts as CEO of the city with the authority to make fiscal and policy decisions.
 - ▣ Mayor is accountable to voters through the traditional election process.
 - ▣ Mayor works full-time to lead our city.

What It Means

- Expanded full-time duties for the Mayor include:
 - Preparing the budget, combining knowledge with authority
 - Integrates budget creation and execution
 - Appointing select city positions
 - Holding veto power on select ordinances
 - Working full-time with fair compensation

What It Means

- Balance of power with City Council:
 - ▣ Council retains and expands legislative power with increased checks & balances
 - ▣ Council appoints select city positions
 - ▣ Council can override budget with 2/3 vote
 - ▣ Council approves mayoral appointments of key positions

What It Means

City Council Appoints

- Auditor
- Utilities CEO
- Memorial Hospital Board

Mayor Appoints, City Council Confirms

- City Attorney
- Treasurer
- Police Chief
- Fire Chief
- Director of Public Works
- Director of Parks and Recreation
- Director of Community Development
- Director of the Airport

Mayor Appoints

- Chief of Staff

What It Means

□ Boards:

- Colorado Springs Utility Board remains under Council's scope of authority
- Memorial Hospital Board remains under Council's authority
- Mayor becomes an ex-officio member of CSU board

Benefits

- What it means to YOU:
 - You elect the chief executive of our city
 - Your voice is heard in City Hall
 - More responsibility for the position your dollars are funding
 - A leader that is accountable to us

Get Involved

- Take a stand against bureaucratic, unstable and ineffective leadership
- Get rid of a dysfunctional budget process
- Have a voice at City Hall by supporting the Mayor Project
- We deserve a strong and full-time mayor
- We expect accountability and improvement

Get Involved

- Sign the petition
- Volunteer for the campaign
- Join the growing list of supporters
- Make a contribution to the campaign



Questions?

For more details, check out this website:

www.Mayor Project.org

