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# A Perspective on City Governance

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# The Mayor Project - Outline

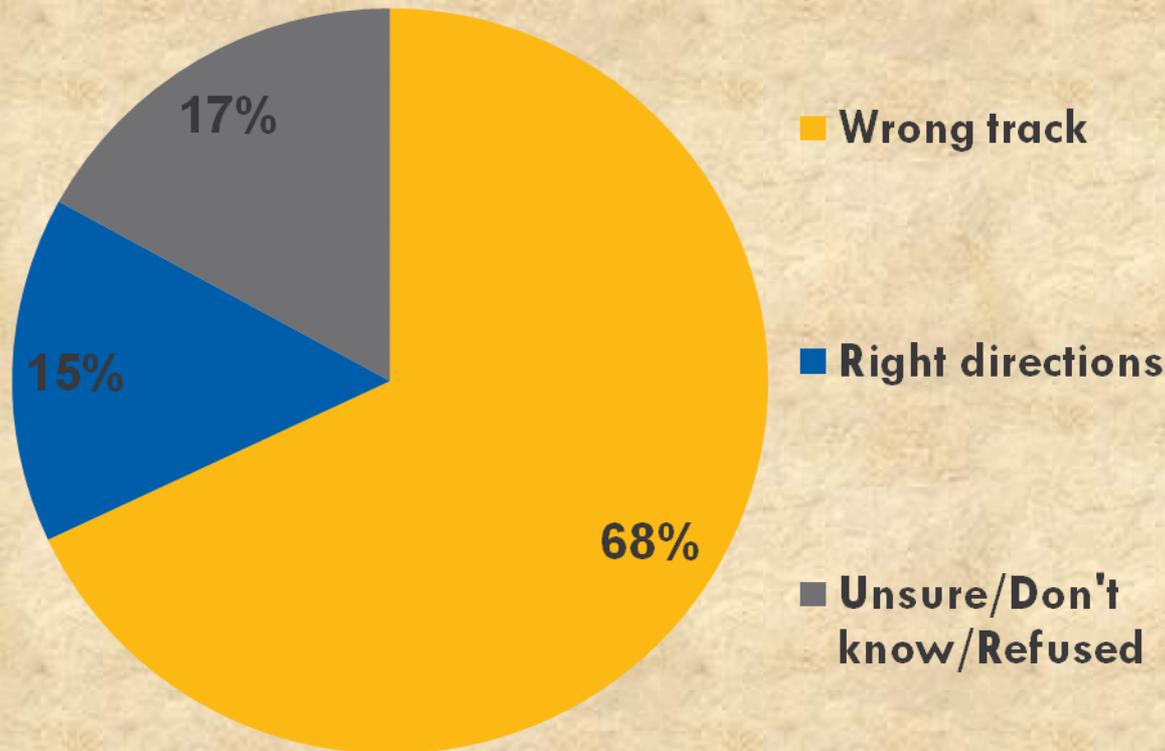
- City government is broken and has a structural problem - Our specific perspective on why it is dysfunctional
- Why an accountable elected leader will solve many of the problems
- Why we think the Mayor Project will make a difference

# 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](http://www.Mayor Project.org)

