The City of Manitowoc operates under the council-mayor form of government. Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing council consisting of a mayor who is elected at large to a four-year term, and council of 10 members elected to two-year staggered terms on the basis of district representations. The council is elected on a non-partisan basis. The governing council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing department head officials, and approval of mayoral member appointments to council committees, various boards and commissions. The mayor is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the government, economic development, monitoring and lobbying state and federal legislation, and compilation of an executive budget recommendation.