

Portland's Mayoral Powers Compared to Maine's Three "Strong Mayor" Cities

	<-- stronger mayor system-----weaker mayor system -->				
Powers & Authority	Westbrook	Biddeford	Saco	Portland (post 2010 CC)	Portland (pre 2010 CC)
Who is the Chief Executive Officer?	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor is Chief Executive. City Administrator is Chief Administrator, reporting to the Mayor and the Council.	City Manager	City Manager
Who manages day to day operations of city affairs?	City Administrator, reporting directly to the Mayor.	City Manager	City Administrator	City Manager	City Manager
Who hires top city officials? (1)	Mayor appoints all. City Council confirms City Administrator by at least 3/4 vote and City Clerk by at least 2/3 vote. (2)	Mayor appoints city manager, city clerk, and city solicitor with confirmation by City Council.	Mayor appoints City Administrator; Council confirms. Other top officials appointed by Administrator with Council confirmation.	Mayor chairs committee with at least 2 other council members to appoint city manager, clerk, and Corporate Counsel; full council confirms.	City Council
Who hires Department Heads?	Mayor	City manager "after consultation with the Mayor and confirmation by the city council"	City Administrator with approval of Council	City Manager with approval of Council	City Manager
Who Appoints members to Council Committees?	President of the Council	Mayor appoints; Council approves.	Mayor appoints and Council confirms.(3)	Mayor, but council may override with 2/3 vote.	Mayor, but council may override with 2/3 vote.

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Who appoints members of city boards and commissions?	Mayor appoints; Council approves.	Mayor appoints; Council approves.	Mayor has 30 days to nominate; council approves. If 30 days passes without nomination, Council decides.	Mayor appoints; Council approves.	City Council
Is mayor a voting member of Council?	No	Mayor presides over Council but only votes to break a tie.	Mayor presides over Council (and the school board) but only votes to break a tie.	Yes	Yes
Who has authority for preparing Municipal Budget	City Administrator under direction of the Mayor. (4)	City Manager drafts, with input from Council budget committee.	City Administrator	City Manager with "guidance" from Mayor	City Manager
Can Mayor veto the budget approved by the Council?	Yes including line item veto. Override requires 2/3 vote.	Yes Override requires 2/3 vote.	Yes including line item veto. Override requires 5 (of 7) Council Votes	Yes Override requires 6 (of 9) Council votes.	No
Can Mayor veto other council decisions?	Yes including line item veto. Override requires 2/3 vote.	Veto limited to orders appropriating money. Override requires 2/3 vote of Council.	Veto limited to orders appropriating money. Override requires 5 (of 7) Council votes.	No	No

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Mayoral Term	3 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	1 year
Term Limit	none	none	none	3 terms	1 year
Removal of City Manager	Mayor alone can remove by written order	No clear statement re removal but Mayor and Council responsible for evaluating performance.	Council can remove for cause.	Council committee can recommend removal; full Council approves.	Council decision
Notes:					
(1) For purposes of this chart, top city officials include the city manager/administrator, city clerk, and city solicitor/corporate counsel as these are often designated in a town's Charter.					
(2) Rules for appointing Westbrook City Administrator established by ordinance.					
(3) Not clearly stated in Charter, but this was practice for 12/2020 administrative ordinance (Sec 4.38) establishing a council committee.					
(4) The Charter does not specify, but by ordinance the City Administrator prepares it under the direction of the Mayor.					