

PROPOSED MINORITY REPORT:

Department Directors and Exempt Management Appointments.

[Hastings, Thomas and Wisham]

A Mayor is elected on a city-wide basis and brings a “platform” of major policy proposals with him/her to office. In order to implement his/her policy platform, the Mayor needs a “cabinet” of individuals who share his/her priorities and the enthusiasm for implementing these policy priorities. A Mayor would be significantly more effective in implementing these priorities if he/she appointed, with Council confirmation, a slate of department heads, in conjunction with the City Manager, to implement key policies.

Under this scenario, the Mayor will need to work collaboratively with Council Members to maintain coalitions to implement his/her policy agenda. Collaboration and consensus building is the role a Mayor should take in governing the City of Sacramento.

In addition to the “clout” the Mayor holds as the sole city-wide elected official, he/she needs the tools to implement key policies. Appointing the City Manager and department heads is an additional “tool” in the Mayor’s “tool box.” The role of the Council is not diminished by this approach; rather, in order to implement policy, the Mayor must build consensus with Council and the public to implement policy.

The Mayor would provide overall policy direction to department heads and the City Manager would provide oversight and direction of their work. This approach demands accountability by the public for both the Mayor and the Council, yet allows the steady hand of a seasoned administrator to guide department heads on a day-to-day basis.