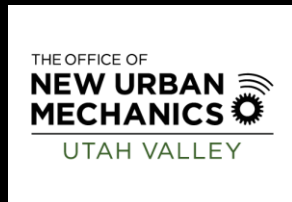


National Benchmark of County Governance Practices

A Presentation to the Utah Legislature



County Practices Benchmarking

National Findings

- Forms of Government Vary Widely Across the Nation
- Most States have some form of 3-Commissioner System
- Many States have something equivalent to Council-Manager
- Elected Executive is Rare

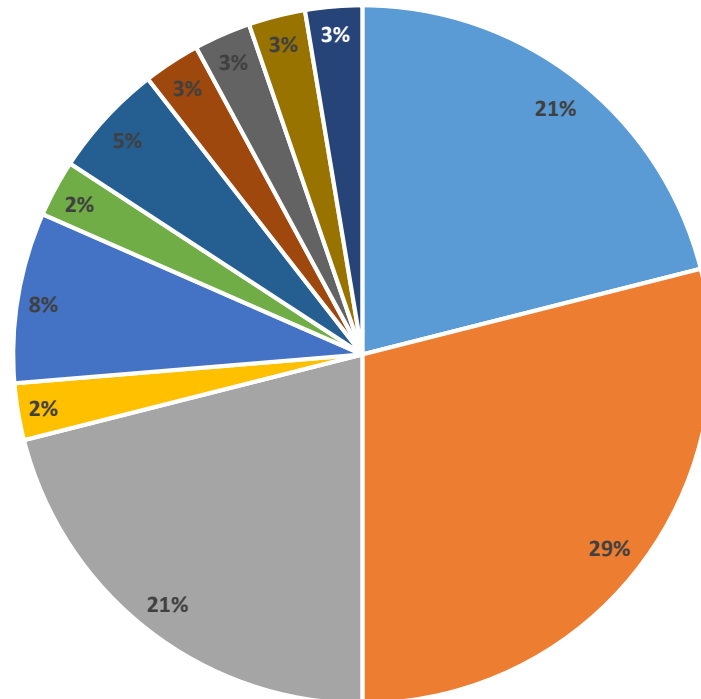
Benchmarking Cohort

- Benchmarking Criteria
 - Population
 - Density
 - Growth Rate
 - Red State/Blue State
 - % Rural / Urban
 - Area
 - Region of Country

Benchmarking Cohort

Count by Size of Legislative Body

■ 3 Member ■ 5 Member ■ 7 Member ■ 8 Member ■ 9 Member ■ 11 Member
■ 13 Member ■ 19 Member ■ 27 Member ■ 35 Member ■ 40 Member



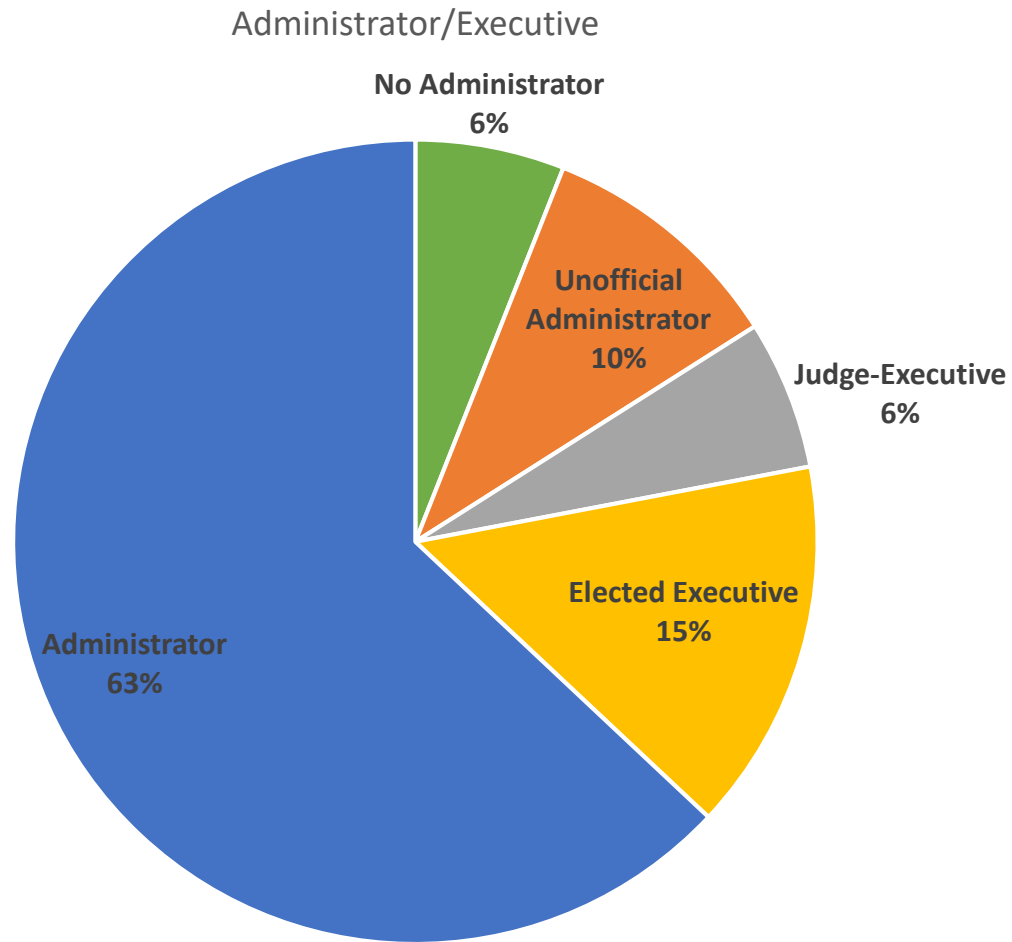
Benchmarking Cohort

- 50 Counties in Broad Cohort
- 10 Counties in Narrow Cohort
 - Ada, Idaho
 - Pinal, Arizona
 - Clackamas, Oregon
 - Williamson, Texas
 - El Paso, Colorado
 - Will, Illinois
 - Polk, Florida
 - Johnson, Kansas

Separate Executive

- Vast majority of cohort counties have separate executive/administrator
- Few Exceptions, usually where not permitted by state-code
- Even these often have de facto, unofficial administrators

Separate Executive



Separate Executive

“The Commissioner System makes for very inefficient and ineffective government. At our scale and growth rate, it’s too much work. If we could make one change to our form of government, it would be to create an appointed administrator.”

-Ada County, Idaho Commissioner

Separate Executive

- Pros
 - Professionalism, Continuity
 - Scale on Growth
 - Can be more Cost-Efficient
 - May reduce chances of corruption, mismanagement
- Cons
 - Can increase conflict