

Compare and Contrast

Town Administrator and Yorktown's Current Government

Benefit	Professional Town Administrator	Yorktown's Current Government
Stability and continuity	Administrators who have earned the confidence of their boards remain in the same community over an extended period of time. Their institutional knowledge base provides stability and continuity as new elected officials come into office.	Supervisors, elected for two year terms, come and go, leaving the day-to-day operation of town affairs vulnerable to instability and a lack of continuity. By the time they learn the job, many supervisors leave and return to their former careers.
Professionalism	At a time when government has become increasingly complex, administering a town with a \$50M budget, 23 departments and a staff of 250 requires specialized training and experience in a host of technical areas: labor relations; risk management; federal, state and county laws governing land use and environmental issues; fiscal management; law enforcement; grants, etc.	The only requirement to run for supervisor is to be a resident of Yorktown. Because supervisors typically come to the job from other careers, they spend their first term as interns working their way through an on-the-job training program. But while they're still learning, they must make major financial, health and safety decisions that affect our daily lives and property values.
Cost Efficiency	With prior experience in government, administrators know where to look for potential savings from day one. They're trained to resolve problems <i>before</i> a costly crisis erupts.	New supervisors first have to learn how the town functions before they can even begin to think about what could possibly be improved and how. They can't evaluate what they don't know and/or understand.
Accountability	The buck stops at the administrator's desk. Job performance is evaluated each and every day by the administrator's boss, our elected officials, and an administrator can be dismissed at any time.	When accountability is diffused between the supervisor and the town board, it's difficult to know who's responsible when things go wrong. And ineffective elected officials can only be removed after two or four years.
Candidate pool for supervisor	More people are likely to be interested in seeking the elected position if it's part-time and can be combined with their primary livelihood or other personal time commitments. Also, many people may be interested in participating in the legislative function of government but not have the desire or skills to also be an administrator.	There are a limited number of potential candidates with a background in local government and demonstrated managerial skills who are willing to leave their current jobs, business or profession to take a chance running for a two year job with no guarantee that they will either like the job or that they will be re-elected for a second term.
Non-partisan administrative decisions	An appointed non-partisan administrator who works for the <i>entire</i> town board can make tough decisions based on what's right and best for the entire town, not on political expediency.	When the supervisor and council members are responsible for making routine administrative decisions, political considerations -- and the next election -- can influence their decisions.
Functioning of the Town Board	A non-partisan administrator strengthens the functioning of the board by providing <i>all</i> council members with the same timely and impartial data and information they need to reach sound legislative and policy decisions.	When the supervisor and some members of the town board are of different political parties, communications between the supervisor, acting as the town's chief administrative officer, and the board can break down leading to mistrust, suspicion and legislative confusion and/or paralysis.

