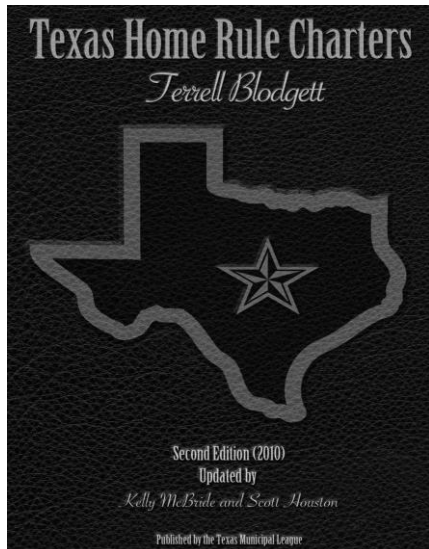


# Texas Home Rule Cities: Term Limits

History, Practice, and Analysis



Scott Houston  
Texas Municipal League



# History

- Types of Texas Cities
- Texas Constitution's home rule amendment (1912)
- First term-limited council: Paris, Texas (1948)
- U.S. presidents (FDR): 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (1951)
- City charter push in 1980s
- By 2010: Over 40% (147 out of 351) have term limits
- 2019: General law city legislation

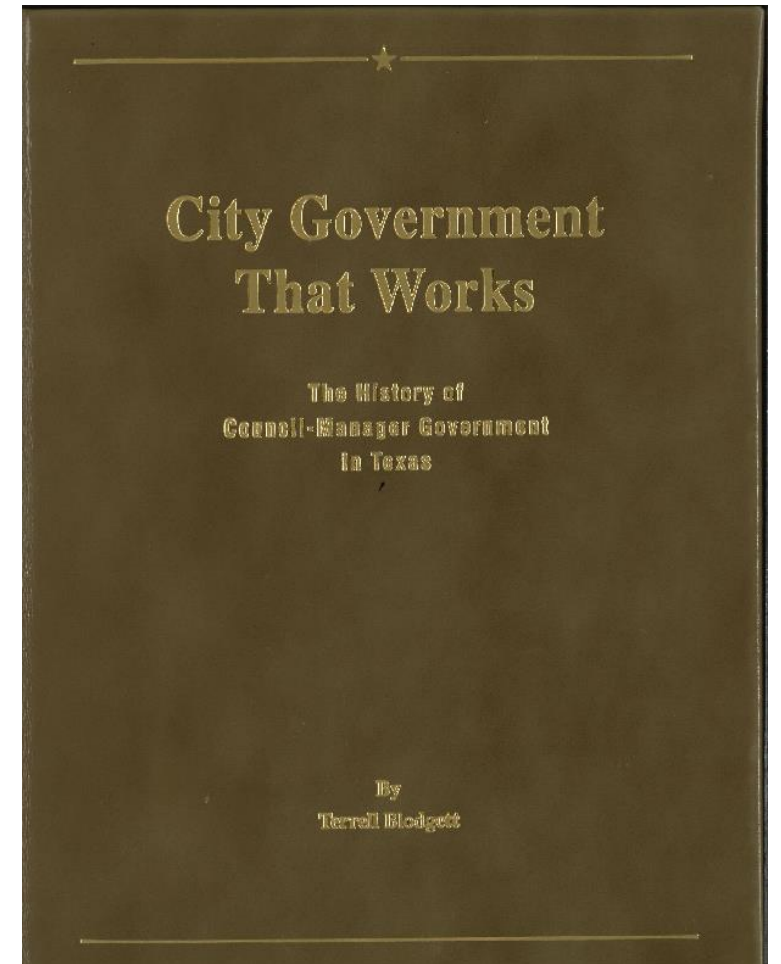


# Practice

- What led to them: International? National? State? Local?
- Voting rights: Preclearance no longer required
- State preemption: Substance v. form of government
- Council-manager form of government (89% of home rule cities)

# Most Significant Outcome of the Council-Manager Plan in Texas

“The national reputation that Texas municipalities are efficiently run. It is not a coincidence that national corporations enjoy doing business in Texas because council-manager cities are generally more politically stable and ethical. [Ted Barron, Mesquite]” – Blodgett, p. 197



# Elements of Term Limits

- Term Lengths
- Limit on Total v. Consecutive Terms
- Cooling Off Period after Consecutive Terms