Does the Job Description of a City Council Member Matter? Towards Better Local Authorities

Rishpi Orit, Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? Towards Better Local Authorities in:
Nicole Paun, Sylvain Schirmann (Hrsg.)
Borders, Identities, Communities, Seite 493 - 508
Reihe: Veröffentlichungen der Historiker-Verbindungsgruppe bei der Kommission der EG, Bd. 18

Bibliographische Daten ▲

Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? Towards Better Local Authorities Rishpi Orit (Lavi)

Abstract: Two major aspects are pointed when studying local arena; One is how different are the attitudes of mayors, local bureaucrats and the public from one another, and the second is how powerful are councilors in promoting their own agendas. They put the spotlight on the councilors as "major, but understudied, actors in the local government reform discourses". Analysis of the power triangle within the local government puts focus on the councilors and their "Job Description" as never before. Semi structured interviews and documentary analysis provide new insights; Initial findings hint: Where you stand depends on where you sit, in this case study. Key words: local governments; councilors; power; mayor; job description

The Rational of the Research "...The domain of local government will therefore undoubtedly remain the focus of considerable debate – both academic and political – for many years to come." Looking at Local Governance across the Europe today and tomorrow, challenges for local and regional governance are many. Some of the most 1 Razin, E. and A. Hazan, (2013). "Attitudes of European Local Councilors towards Local Governance Reforms: A North-South Divide?" in Local Government Studies. 40:2. 2 Ibidem, p. 267. 3 Zinger, S. and S. Dana, (2009). The Municipalities Bill: from External Supervision to Internal Checks and Balances. Hukim, Journal on Legislation (Hebrew) 1. 4 Denters, B. and Rose, L E. (Ed.) (2005). Comparing Local Governance: Trends and Developments. London: Palgrave, p. 262. 493 salient trends must be considered: Urbanization, Globalization and Europeanization.5 The Three Trends 1 - Urbanization is rooted in history, and increased dramatically in the last century. While in the 70's two thirds of the population was urbanized in the western world, in the 90's it was three fourth, and expected to be five sixths by 2030. 6 We will see more metropolitan, along megacities such as New York, Mexico City, Beijing Rio De Jeneiro and many more. 2 - Globalization is another trend to consider while looking at the European arena and its local governments. Castells (2002) sees those enlarged metropolitans as multilevel governance structures, and points out these local and regional governances will have more importance as we proceed in time. It is claimed by Denters and Rose (2005) that just as in the USA local authorities gain more importance over time, because of economic necessity, the same will happen in Europe, in fact, already is happening."Cities and citizens are not helpless in a global flow of events. The negative aspects of globalization, may dominate the headlines but they tell only part of the story." The negative aspects of globalization are discussed, with terrorism as the major factor. "We may increasingly be part of a global economy, but almost all of us live in local communities and continue to think, to an extraordinary degree, locally". 8 Hutton and Giddens (2000) suggest that globalization involves four overlapping trends: 1 - a global communications revolution,2 - knowledgebased economy lead by finance, 3 - the fall of the "iron-curtain and the creation of post-communist Europe and world, and 4 - the changes in everyday lives, roles of women and lifestyle. The implications for cities and urban knowledge are major to the issues of local autonomy, local democracy, and the state of local governments and government. 5 Denters, B. and Rose, L E., op.cit. 6 Ibidem, pp. 2-4. 7 Hambleton, R., Savitch H. V. and Stewart, M. (2003) Globalism and Local Democracy: Challenge and Change in Europe and North America. Palgrave. 8 Stiglitz, Joseph. (2007) Making Globalization Work, Norton, p. 278. Rishpi Orit 494 To mention but a few examples, in the USA regionalism and metropolitan governments have regained adherents, in France decentralization occurred, localities have gained greater control over spending and policy priorities, Scotland and Wales have moved towards devolved governments, while England went down the road of offering choices in most aspects of the local government. "In many countries traditional approaches to local government leadership and management are being transformed. Long-established practices and procedures are being questioned and innovations in democratic and managerial practice now proliferate." 9 It is suggested that globalism and local democracy are two sets of change drivers that underpin the development of the new city management. Firstly, the forces of globalization are putting new pressures on all local authorities to be more efficient and effective - to do more for less. Secondly, it is public opinion that is changing and in turn, reflects wider changes in society. Citizens become more attentive, well-informed, want more openness, responsibility, accountability. The general new understanding is that the citizens are clients, partners, stakeholders and active. In the last 15-20 years, the two change drivers described above and the new city management in fact are different from past calls for renewals and change. Specifically, three factors make this time in the evolution of local governments unique, and what it is today. Firstly, the pace of change expected is faster than ever before, both because of technological changes and higher demand for
faster responsiveness. Secondly, the impact of the changes on the roles of local governments is greater than ever before, with older models becoming obsolete. And thirdly, the potential for achieving synergy between managerial democratic objectives has never been greater. 10 Two major shifts are clear and rather universal. One is the shift from local governments to local governance. Local government as it was known and understood in the past is no longer relevant. The second shift is the change from public administration to new public management, with a variety of definitions and interpretation to these notions, and the ideas of corporate management in-between. 9 Hambleton, R., Savitch H. V. and Stewart, M. op. cit. 10 Ibidem. Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 495 A quick overview shows three currents of change which have characterized public service reform strategies on the last 20 years or so. The first is associated with the radical right, seeks to challenge the very notion of collective and non-market provisions, to replace public provisions with private. The second alternative aims to preserve the notion of public provision, but seeks radical reform of the manner in which this provision is undertaken. It seeks to replace the old bureaucratic paternalistic model with a much more democratic, transparent model, often involving radical decentralization to the neighborhood level. 11 The third strategy for public service attempts to distinguish between managerial response to political responses to problems confronting public bureaucracies. Over the years it has become clear that the new city management involves more than application of new public management approaches within local governments. Aims and considerations such as democratic renewal mattered, effectiveness of those public services. Giddens in his discussion of the Third Way, argues that government can re-establish, more direct contact with its citizens by experimenting with democracy and democratic opinions and vehicles such as local direct democracy, electoral referenda, citizens' juries and so on. 12 To take two major examples, in the US some bold approaches were applied in Philadelphia by Mayor Ed Rendell. 13 In the UK, from 1997 new institutional forms were developed, to enable more accountable leadership on the local level, more visible, outgoing decision making processes. The Local Government Act 2000 actually stirred up a wide range of structures, institutions and innovative developments by requiring modifications of the constitutions in England and Wales. Three main options were made possible to choose from: 1 - a directly elected executive mayor, with a cabinet, 2 - a directly elected mayor with a council manager, 3 - a council leader elected by the full council who heads a cabinet. Common to these options are the need for separations of powers between executive and the assembly, representation and scrutiny roles. 14 That together with 11 Burns, D., Hambleton, R. and Hoggett, P. (1994) The Politics of Decentralization. London. Macmillan, now Palgrave. 12 Giddens, A. (1998), The Third Way. The Renewal of Social Democracy. Cambridge: Policy Press. 13 Bissinger, B. (1997) Prayer for the City. NY, Vintage Books. 14 Hambleton, R. (2000) “Modernizing Political Management in Local Government” in Urban Studies, Vol. 37, Nos 5-6, pp. 931-950. Rishpi Orit 496 other new legislation along the same line is surely resulting in innovations and experimentation never seen before. It is suggested that there has been an increase in the number of networks involved in local networks involved in local government in economic governance. In the eastern parts of Europe new political regimes struggle to attain institutional foundations, stability in the, markets, shed the mindset of topdown thinking and open up to new economy. Hence new strategies and tools are needed, and those are developed everywhere. In discussing the role of formal institutions arrangements, one should consider the role of leadership, social capital and political culture. As stated in Putnam's study in Italy, 15 when institutions are put into place, the variable leadership qualities, value systems and behavioral styles of individuals operating within these institutions might result in different outcomes even if, say, electoral arrangements and party systems are identical in two different settings. In fact, it is claimed that no matter how good the institutions, the might be dysfunctional if they are not supported by appropriate cultural patterns at a broader social level. Thus, social capital or political culture might therefore be crucial to the way parties operate and the degree of partnership and conflict in local councils. Lanka, Hudalla and Wollmann 16 looked at post-communist Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Russia, in small towns. Their study suggests that while parties are desirable on the national level, on the local level it may very well impact negatively on the locality's performance. Having said that, it also states that performance could be a function of the ability of actors of political and civic society to influence local processes. That is to say, that as seen for the post-communist states, those are not doomed to develop in a slow, old fashioned path, but rather, everything is open, under the correct circumstances. 3 - Europeanization by itself raises the importance of larger cities, and consequently, their governing entities parallel in importance to the rise of the urbanization processes, inevitable and universal. Le Gales 17 claims 15 Putnam, R. (1993) Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton University Press. 16 Lankina, T. and V, Hudalla, A. and Wollmann H, (2008) Local Governance in Central and Eastern Europe; Comparing Performance in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Russia. Palgrave Macmillan. 17 Le Gales, P. (2002) European Cities: Social Conflicts and Governance. Oxford University Press. Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 497 that the rise of the EU has changed the balance of power between central and sub-national governments. Also, many local authorities have also broadened their horizons and become more active in all sorts of international networks and partnerships. 18 Taking these three trends of Globalization and within Europe, Europeanization, and with Urbanization taking place, challenges are many. Given all these happenings taking place, innovation is called upon. One sees urban governance evolve, grow, developed, reinvented in many ways. It was suggested by Hambleton, Savitch and Stewart that globalization can bring better democracy through better communications, rising prosperity, wider middle class; for example, satellite dished to Iran as an example. Looking to the future, based on what is happening within the arena of local governments, how will Europe's shape continue to evolve is not certain, yet, some trends are visible. First, Globalization, Europeanization and Urbanization all bring an awakening in localization, along fragmentation in national and regional boundaries. Secondly, the need for reduction of risk and dependency brings along the creation of local alliances, local and immediate coalitions, thus strengthening the local powers and institutions. There is no doubt that the new strategies include involving multiple stakeholders in cross- sectoral collaboration within the boundaries of the urban or metropolitan or other local entity. Thirdly, while there is a growing tendency to move powers and capabilities from local institutions and governments to regional or similar governments, for a variety of reasons, such as economic advantages, there is a counter tendency to move services, financing, control, and decision-making close to the people receiving those services. So upwards movements are followed immediately by downwards empowerment. The principle of subsidiarity is a good example. Principle of subsidiarity: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affair/s/treaties/lisbon_treaty/a0017_en.htm) And for that matter, so is the 1985 European Charter of Local Self Government discussed earlier. One conclusion is that the powers of Globalization, Europeanization and Urbanization can indeed pose a threat to localism, local authorities and local democracy. Nevertheless, opposite powers encourage in light of 18 Denters, B. and Rose, L. E. (Ed.) (2005) Comparing Local Governance: Trends and Developments. London: Palgrave. Rishpi Orit 498 these powers, localism, cooperation on the local level vis-à-vis the global powers, ‘glocalism’ appears (not discussed here), and new models and structures appear to remain loyal to the principles of democracy, participatory or representative. Certainly, the phenomenon of globalization itself is a contributor to the delay of clearly coding the characteristics of the current international system....Considering this increased complexity in today; world as a result of the contemporary history we are experiencing, we also state, that we are facing a multi-level structure of international and transnational activities, that should be answered, from a global governance point of view, with a multi-centric, based on multi-layered, multi-dimensional and multi-actor formations. 19 In the post-socialist states, visible remnants of the old regime continue to remind citizens and public officials alike of what was wrong in the old times. These states focus heavily on marketization and privatization. The challenges are enormous still. Larger cities adapted, naturally, faster, while the smaller places take longer, and need more support within the development stages, still going on today. A final word for the issues above: “the lesson of the last forty years is the need for a learning government that welcomes diversity. All can learn from the
relative successes and failures of diversity, whereas too often centralism builds uniformity from which all that may be learnt is general failure. The disappointments of the last forty years show that the challenge now is to build the role of the local government with real powers for community leadership to overcome the fragmentation of existing structures, to ensure effective accountability both for and within the system of community governance; and to strengthen representative democracy not in opposition to participatory democracy but rather in interaction with it.20 Two factors are pointed out as important to be further studied when looking at the local arena. One factor is how different are the attitudes of mayors, local bureaucrats and the public from one another, and the second is how powerful are councilors in promoting their own reform agendas.21 19 Puscas, V. (2014) Accession Negotiations to the European Union, Studia UBB, Europaea, LXI, 1 2014, pp. 5-20. 20 Stewart, J. (2014). “An Era of Continuing Change; Reflections on local Government in England” 1974-2014. Local Governments Studies, 40:6 835-850. Routledge. 21 Razin, E. and A. Hazan, op. cit. Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 499 Razin and Hazan put the spot light on the councilors, "major, but understudied, actors in local government reform discourses".22 A practical way of looking at the arena with regards to councilors is through the analysis of the balance of the power triangle on the local level – the triangle of the mayors – councilors and senior bureaucratic "gatekeepers".23 Reforms have an impact on the status of councilors particularly when opting for more personalized electoral systems offering councilors new management tools or conversely introducing more direct modes of citizen participation that lessen the significance of representative democracy.24 The local arena is yet more complex and with reforms in this arena being debated as almost perpetual,25 the power triangle is a worthwhile focal point as described. Factors such as method of mayors' elections, the roles of the different players, the types of democracy and so on, are all dynamic. Other aspects are issues of urban leadership and the urban developments, issues of leadership in the larger urban settings, issues of size, of management styles and many more. Specifically, issues of urbanization and democratization are clearly under researched.26 As stated by Razin and Hazan, the aspects of the councilors are understudied - and this is the challenge of this research, investigating clearly under-theorized grounds. In 2005 Rishpi called for the first time in Israel to improve the status of elected city council members and suggested steps need to be taken to improve local governments altogether in Israel; in actual fact it was a call for a reform, with a new aspect of deep consideration for the city council and its members.27 An expected outcome of this research is a model of a good local authority. The issue of "good" governance has been tackled over time by global organizations such as the UN. In 1977 United Nations Development Program put together a set of standards. The Council of Europe in 2008 put 22 Ibidem, p. 267. 23 Zinger, S. and S. Dana, op. cit. Denter, B. and Rose, L. E. op. cit. 24 Kersting, N and A. Vetter (2003) Reforming Local Government in Europe, closing the gap between democracy and efficiency. Opladen, Leske and Budrich, Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden. 25 Razin, E. and A. Hazan, op. cit. 26 Barnett, C. (2014)' What do cities have to do with Democracy?" International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Vol 38, September 2014. 27 Rishpi, O. (2005) "Improving the Status of City Council Members in Israel", in the First Local Governance Summit, Tel Aviv University. Rishpi Orit 500 out the 12 principles, and there are many other nice, reasonable suggestions along these lines. The uniqueness of this research is put in more details later on here. Research Aim and Research Subsidiary Aims To develop a model of quality local governance in an urban local authority in Israel. The 2 subsidiary aims are: 1. To examine how the legal "job description" of a local authority council member influences their function and status. 2. To explore the roles and functions of mayors, heads of local authorities, in an urban setting. There is an underlying assumption that indeed, the legal "job descriptions" of city council members influences the function and status of those council members. Research Paradigm, Design, Method and Methodology The qualitative approach is applied as it lends itself to the nature of the aims of the given research and investigation, both in content and scope. This study's point of view, hopefully will lead the investigation to information and data unique and new. The methodology planned is a multi-stage and multi methods qualitative research. Methods planned to be used are documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews. The design is as follows: Stage 1 Aim: to examine how the legal job description of a local authority council members influences their function and status Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 501 Method: A - A documentary analysis of 5 city hall meetings minutes of an urban setting. B - Semi-structured interviews with city council members of an urban setting. Research population: 15 city council members of urban settings in the center of Israel. Method of analysis: Content analyses. Categories will be identifying and those will be building bricks in the second stage, described next. Stage 2 Aim.: to explore the role and functions of mayors of a local authority in an urban setting Method: semi structured interviews, applying the categories from stage one. Research population: 10 mayors of urban settings in the center of Israel. Method of analysis: content analysis. The documents to be studies are minute of city assemble meetings of some cities in the center of Israeli. These documents are available on line in many of the cities and are there by law. Stages of the Research Since outcomes from Stage 1 are needed in order to start Stage 2, I have in fact already begun collecting and analyzing some minutes, trying to establish the categories by which I may want to work on the analysis planned. Out of the document analysis of Stage 1 part A I will create meaningful categories of subjects and issues, and those will be tools for me for the next stage. Those categories will be further clarified, maybe expanded with the outcomes of the semi-structured interviews I intend to hold as Stage 1-part B. Some validation will be applied at this point, that is when I can consider determining which are the valuable, worthwhile and relevant issues, categories to be used in Stage 2. Stage 2 is where mayors will be interviewed by me, with semi structured interview, and where I will make use and explore how these Rishpi Orit 502 categories created in Stage 1 are looked at, relevant, perceived by the mayors in this Stage 2. Contribution of the Research to Knowledge This era of globalization urbanization and Europeanization naturally calls for reforms in governance in general and in local governance specifically.28 Integration and disintegration in East-Central Europe is the very same subject. Local and central governments across the world are developing and exchanging ideas about urban leadership and are considering how to adapt new leadership arrangements to all those new and changing requirements, how to bring about improvements ineffectiveness and how to develop the leadership models that can strengthen local democracy. Choosing to look into the power triangle of the council members – mayors and city officials, a look hardly ever taken allows a new chance for new understandings of how a local governance entity works, and can shed new light on this complicated field. Most research and most discussion relating to local governments or even already local governance tackle issues like efficiency, best size, issues looking at the relationships between central and the local governments, or the regional issues that are so popular and relevant these days. The issues regarding the relationship within the local authorities amongst themselves – is rare, I would even dare say biased often, and here we have a chance for a fresh, and very relevant look onto the field and the relationships in it. One cannot exaggerate describing the centrality and importance of the local governments and local governance, today more than ever. This research opens a door to a whole new group of ideas and notions to be examined, and out of which new, untried options may grow, for the benefit of better local governance, and as a result, better local democracy. 28 Hambleton, R. and D. Sweeting, op. cit.. Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 503 Initial Findings of Stage 1 This paper reports initial findings of Stage 1 of the research described above. Pointed out earlier, outcomes of stage 1 will be the basis for the categories on which stage 2 is to be applied. The aim of stage 1 is to examine how the legal job description of a local authority council members influences their function and status, and in other words: Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? Part A - Document analysis, minutes of 5 city hall meetings minutes, 2 meetings from each city. Part B - Semi structured interviews of 15 city council members. Initial conclusion: where you stand depends on where you sit. That is to say, feelings and opinions in the minutes (part A) and of the interviewed councilors (part B) depend on the position they hold at the time of research. Opinions expressed in the minutes were always consistent to the position of the councilors, of the other persons equated in the minutes. Coalition members consistently expressed and
supported the Mayoral and city management point of view, whereas opposition members, mostly a minority, expressed consistently opposing thoughts, points of view and feelings. In Part A, city council minutes of 5 cities were carefully read and analyzed. The analysis was carried out by myself, looking for occasions of power issues, opposition-coalition issues, opportunities to learn how the speakers feel, how they see the situations they are in, what they resented, attacked, supported, argues for, or against and so on. It is too early in my study to actually report findings, but, I already have significant body of evidence that city/town meetings are either a quiet show of control by the mayor and his or her administration, no real discussions are held, no changes of opinions or considerations take place, clear-cut oppositionalcoalition standpoints are expressed, no deep discussions or interactions are seen, nor found. It seems these meetings are well orchestrated presentations, true only from the lips outwards, have no real value of debating for a purpose, surely not for considering issues and trying to convince others to support your ideas. On the contrary, the act reader out the lines prepared for him or her, and a ritual of a discussion is carried out. Rishpi Orit 504 In Part B, when city council members were asked about their feelings, intentions, experiences, thoughts, successes and failures during city council meetings, the picture arising from the data collected is the same as that from the minutes in Part A, and very much consist when going from one interviewee to the next. Interviewees expressed consistent stand points regarding the situation of city council meetings. For the coalition members, the meeting is often indeed a well-orchestrated show, all planned and agreed upon prior to the meeting. Coalitions seem to have a preparation meeting where issues are agreed upon, decided and staged for the public meeting. Opposition members, who are not part of the rehearsals, experience often very frustrating sessions, feel they express their words for nothing as no one is really listening, no real discussion is carried out, no debate goes on, and they are almost nonexistent. The local press is reported to be weak or just not interested, the public rarely shows up to the meetings, although the meeting are open to the public. It is interesting to point out that some municipalities hold the city/town meeting in rather small halls where there is very little room for the public. When asked more general questions regarding the situations involved in being city council members, many remarks indicated that the situation is understood as inevitable, that is this is how it should be, and council members who have served on the other side (moved from opposition to coalition and the opposite, expressed understanding to the power of the mayor and his or her administration, for many, it is a given. This is how it should be, this is how it work anyway. Moreover, not rarely was expressed the opinion that given the power to rule, may report they think they would act in the very same way. Many issues are still open and still need to be investigated carefully. The categories have not been created yet, though hints for the directions are available to me already. The categories will revolve around power issues, rights to the actors and limits by law, that is to say by the legal "Job Description", and what happens in actual reality. All of this rich data is a result of speaking to city council members and analyzing council meetings. Much more is to be expected, I presume, from Stage 2, talking to mayors and hearing from their stand point and their positions. At this initial stage, indeed, it seems that in this game, one's point of view alters according to the position one holds, or as I put it: where you stand depends on where you sit. Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 505 Bibliography Barnett, C. (2014) "What do cities have to do with Democracy?" International Journal of Urban and Regional research, Vol 38, September 2014. Bissinger, B. (1997) Prayer for the City. NY, Vintage Books. Burns, D., Hambleton, R. and Hoggett, P. (1994) The Politics of Decentralization. London. Macmillan, now Palgrave. Castells, M. (2002) "Local and Global: Cities in the Network Society". Journal of Economic and Social Geography 93(S). Committee of the Regions, White paper on Multilevel Governance 2009. EC. http://eur-ropa.eu/index_en.htm , 2/5/2016. Delters, B. and Rose, L. (Ed.) (2005) Comparing Local Governance: Trends and Developments. London: Palgrave. Giddens, A. (1998). The Third Way. The Renewal of Social Democracy. Cambridge: Policy Press. Hambleton, R. (2000) "Modernizing Political Management in Local Government" in Urban Studies, Vol. 37, Nos 5-6, pp 931-50. Hambleton, R. and D. Sweeting (2014)." Innovation in Urban Political Leadership. Reflections on the introduction of a directly-elected mayor in Bristol", in Public Money and Management September 2014. UK. Hambleton, R., Savitch H. V. and Stewart, M. (2003) Globalism and Local Democracy; Challenge and Change in Europe and North America. Palgrave. Hutton, W and Giddens, A. (2000) On the Edge. Living with Global capitalism. London. Jonathan Cape. Kersting, N and A. Vetter (2003) Reforming Local Government in Europe, closing the gap between democracy and efficiency. Opladen, Leske and Budrich, Spinger Fachmedien Wiesbaden. Le Gales, P. (2002) European Cities: Social Conflicts and Governance. Oxford University Press. Local Governments Act 2000. EC. http://europa.eu/index_en.htm Lankina, T. and V. Hudalla, A. and Wollmann H, (2008) Local Governance in Central and Eastern Europe; Comparing Performance in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Russia. Palgrave Macmillan. Panara, C. and M. Varney, M. (ed.) (2013). "Local Governance in Europe, The Fourth Level in the EU multilayered system of Governance." Routledge. Puscas, V. (2014) Accession Negotiations to the European Union, Studia UBB. Europaea, LIX, 1 2014, 5-20 Putnam, R. (1993) Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton University Press. Razin, E. and A. Hazan, (2013). "Attitudes of European Local Councilors towards Local Governance Reforms: A North-South Divide?" in Local Government Studies. 40:2, pp. 264-291. Rishpi Orit 506 Rishpi, O. (2005) "Improving the Status of City Council Members in Israel", in the First Local Governance Summit, Tel Aviv University. Stewart, J. (2014)." An Era of Continuing Change; Reflections on local Government in England" 1974- 2014. Local Governments Studies, 40:6 835-850. Routledge. Stiglitz, Joseph . (2007) Making Globalization Work . pp 278 Norton White Paper on European Governance 2001 of the EC. https://core.ac.uk/download/file/s/213/5073914.pdf Zinger, S. and S. Dana, (2009) The Municipalities Bill: from External Supervision to Internal Checks and Balances. Hukim, Journal on Legislation (Hebrew) 1, 7-47. http://europa.eu/index_en.htm 12/5/2016 http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index_en.htm, 24/4/2016 http://www.ccre.org/en/article/introducing_cemr_3/1/2016 http://www.eura.org/ 2/2/2016 http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/122.htm 2/3/2016 http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/lisbon_treaty/ai001_7_en.htm 15/5/2016 Does the "Job Description" of a City Council Member Matter? 507

Student council members are the elected representatives of the student body. A student council is the body charged with representing the interests of students in a school. For example, a student council may lobby the school principal for a special event, such as a schoolwide assembly. The council may also run particular programs, such as fundraisers. The treasurer's main job is to act as the custodian for the student council funds. The treasurer must be able to explain organizational budget matters to council members. He is a former commissioner with the city of Berkeley, Calif. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California-Berkeley and a Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law. Photo Credits. A city councilperson, or alderman, is an elected member of a municipal legislature. He is responsible for representing the needs of his district, or ward, in local government, just as a congressman represents his constituents on the federal level. A city council enacts laws and promotes the safety of its citizens, and ... Investigate previous council members, their party affiliations and their actions in office. You will want to have a good understanding of what issues are important in the community, so you should attend city council and school board meetings. While there are no educational

| Kontakt | Impressum | Login |