

HANDBOOK OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649215966

Handbook of municipal government by Charles M. Fassett

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CHARLES M. FASSETT

**HANDBOOK OF
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT**

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OF
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

ASSETS OF
THE IDEAL CITY

A brief description of the more important
institutions, activities and undertakings
which pertain to modern life in cities.

THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS NEW YORK

HANDBOOK
OF
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

BY
CHARLES M. FASSETT

SPECIALIST IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
FORMER MAYOR OF SPOKANE

NEW YORK
THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

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Printed in the United States of America

PREFACE

This book, as is indicated by its title, is intended to be a handy volume containing the essential facts of the development and structure of city government, including an outline of some of the administrative processes through which democracy functions in municipal affairs, and some comment, criticism and opinion upon these facts and processes. It does not pretend to exhaustive treatment of the subject, nor to rival or supersede the more voluminous texts and treatises which are available to the student who may desire to make an intensive study. The effort has been to condense the material into a handy and readable volume without sacrifice of essentials.

The book is the product of the author's long and varied experience as a public official, his interest in the growth of good citizenship, and his studies of the forms of government and the details of administration in many of our American cities. While primarily intended as a text-book for use in schools and colleges, it is hoped that it will be found useful for the instruction of that large and rapidly-growing element of the American people, the men and women who are now taking a greater interest than ever before in their local government; who are ready to consider the duties and

obligations of citizenship as well as its rights and privileges.

Millions of American women have recently acquired the political equality which they have long sought, and to these new citizens, ready and anxious to perform the new duties with intelligence and effectiveness, this volume is particularly dedicated. It will be found as well adapted to systematic study by citizens' organizations as to individual reading.

In outlining and classifying the various forms of municipal government now in use in American cities, it was at first thought desirable to name one or more cities which had adopted each form, but this idea was abandoned when it was realized that our cities are rapidly changing their charters to meet the newer conception of better city government. Indeed, Cleveland, Ohio, lately a type of Responsible-Executive form, changed its organization to City-Manager form between the dates of writing and of printing this book.

The author desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to the standard texts, to friends who have read and criticised portions of the manuscript, and particularly to Mr. C. G. Hoag, Secretary-Treasurer of the Proportional Representation League, who has furnished the section on proportional representation.

C. M. F.

January 6, 1922

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