



Role of the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst

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Agenda



+ Background

- Why our office was created
- Forms of City government

+ Why our role is important

+ Our mission and independence

+ About us

+ What we do

Why was our office created?



Financial and other problems within the City led voters to approve Prop F in 2004:

- + Beginning in January 2006, the City switched from a City Manager form of government to Strong Mayor - Strong Council for a five-year trial period.
- + The City Council was also given authority to create our Office as a counterbalance to a Strong Mayor.

Voters passed Proposition C in June 2008 which made both the Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government and our office permanent.

Difference in Forms of City Government



City Manager - The Mayor is a voting member of the City Council along with eight other Council members, setting policy direction.

The City Manager is the Chief Executive, appointed by the Mayor and Council, who runs day-to-day operations and implements City policies.

Strong Mayor-Strong

Council - The Mayor is now the Chief Executive of the City, responsible for day-to-day operations.

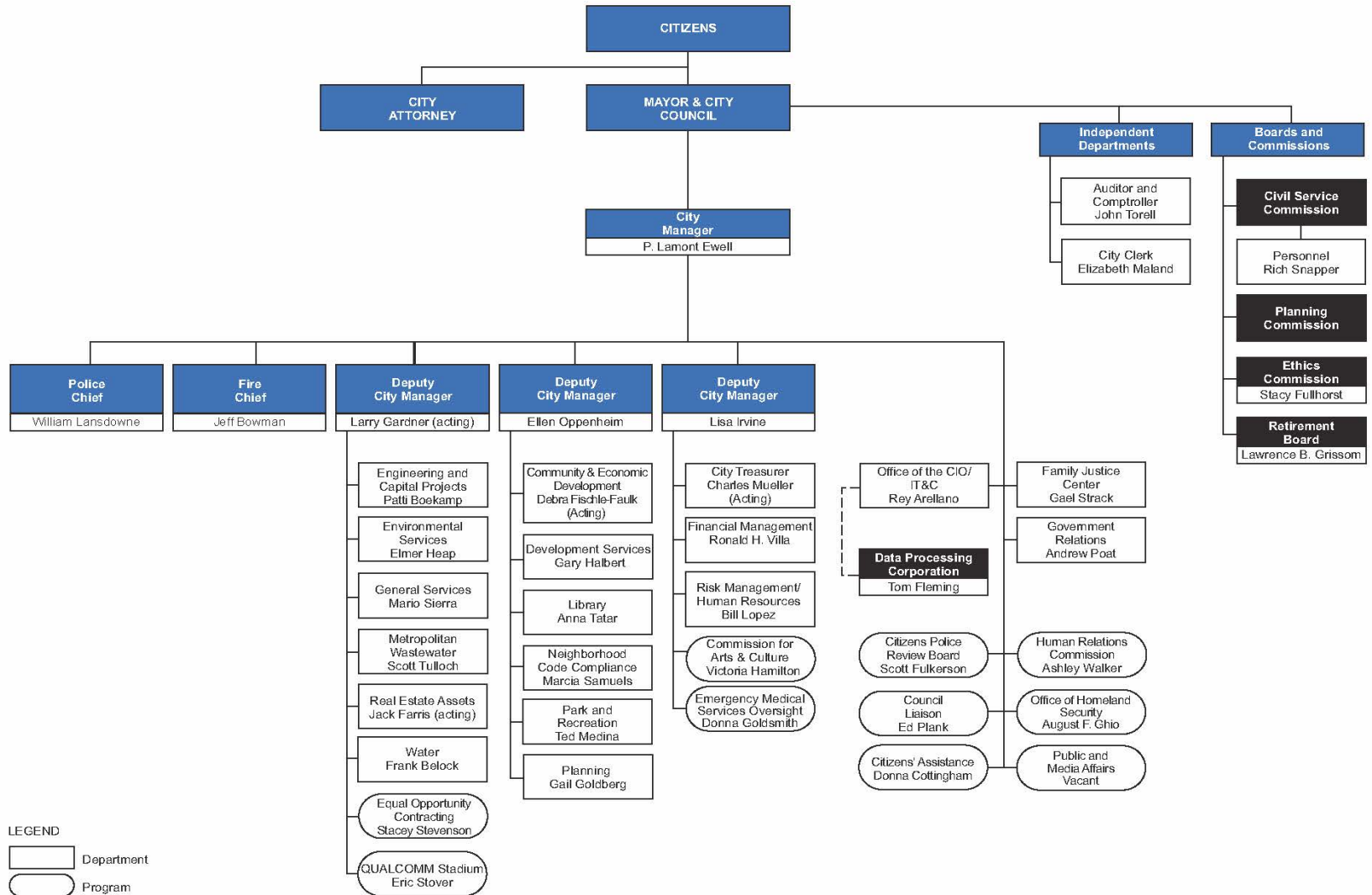
The Mayor does not have a vote or sit on the Council.

Council is the legislative body setting policy direction and providing checks and balances to the Mayor's authority.



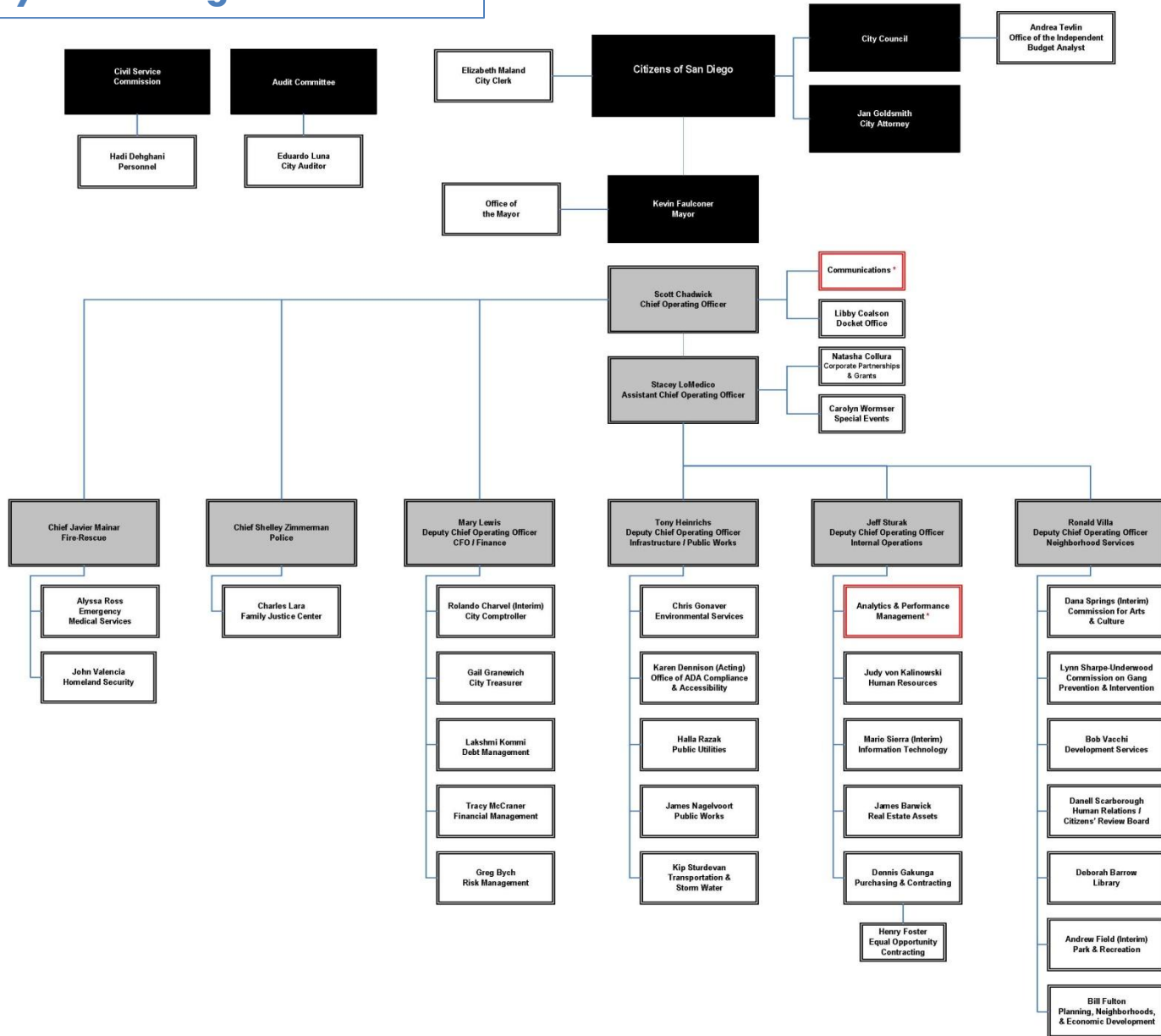
City Manager Form

City Organizational Structure



City of San Diego Organization (All City Functions)

Strong Mayor – Strong Council Form



What Were Proponents of the “Switch” Seeking?



- ✦ Whether right or wrong, many in the community blamed the City’s serious financial problems on the City Manager form of government.
- ✦ In converting to a Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government, proponents were seeking the following changes:
 - A leader who is accountable and responsible to voters
 - Greater transparency and accessibility to City Hall and the City’s leader
 - Clear agenda, vision and goals communicated by the City’s leader
 - Greater authority for the City’s leader, ability to act more quickly
 - Checks and balances between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Why our office's role is important...



It is important to have checks and balances between the Executive Branch (Mayor) and the Legislative Branch (City Council).



- ✦ To help ensure the City Council is coequal to the Mayor, Council needs its own executive-level position to:
 - Serve as independent advisor on proposals from the Mayor and all items before the Council;
 - Provide Council with the information needed to make informed, effective decisions;
 - Identify issues and make recommendations to approve, amend, or reject the proposal; and
 - Provide the public with clear, unbiased information needed to effectively participate in the process.

Our Mission...



To provide clear, objective and unbiased analysis and advice to the City Council and the public on important financial and policy issues.

- In order for us to provide clear, objective, and unbiased analysis and advice, we have to be independent.

What makes us independent..



- ✦ Independent from Mayor by definition of position.
- ✦ Independent from Council as a result of establishing ground rules and protocols.
- ✦ Function independently of Council on a day-to-day basis.
- ✦ City Council and its Committees may direct which topics to address, but they do not tell the IBA what to recommend or what position to take.

What makes us independent..



- ✦ We rely on objective research and analysis to support our conclusions and recommendations.
- ✦ We do not discuss positions or reports with Council Members as they are developed—Council sees our reports at the same time as the public.
- ✦ Recommendations may not match Council Members' positions.
- ✦ Independent Budget Analyst is an advisory office.

Even if individual Council members do not agree with our position, the City Council as a whole is relying on our office to be objective and unbiased, so they expect and respect our objectivity and independence.

About our office...

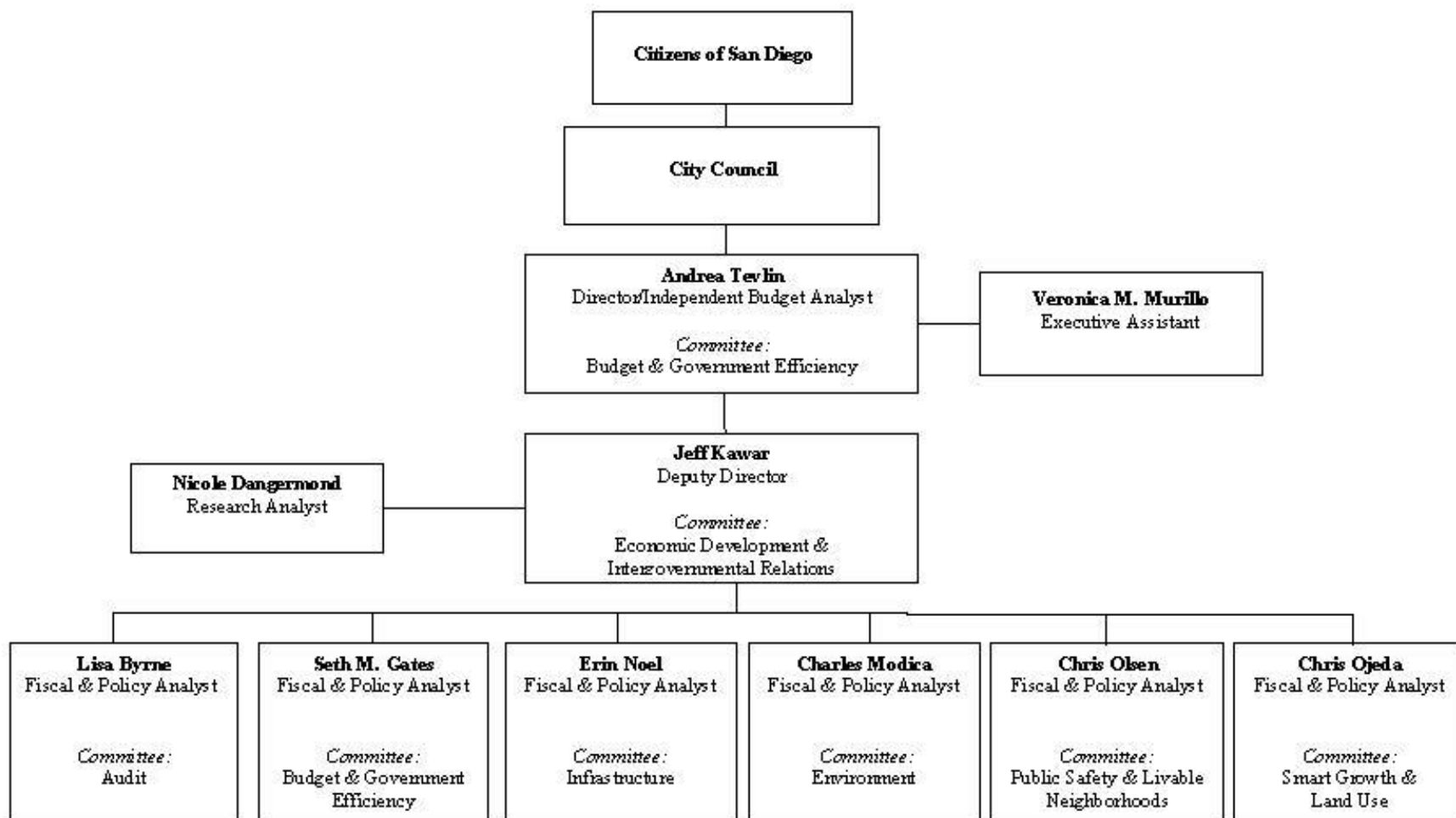


Small office of 10 staff members:

- + IBA
- + Deputy Director
- + Executive Assistant
- + 6 Senior Fiscal & Policy Analysts
- + Research Analyst



OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST



About the IBA...



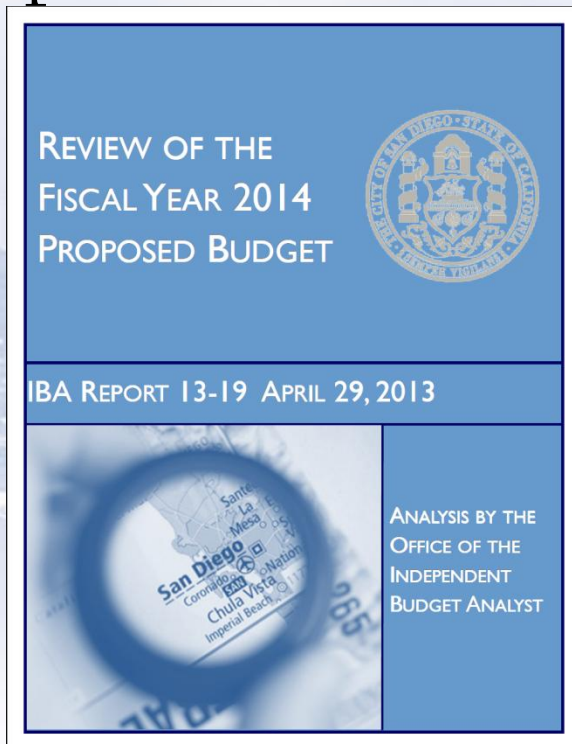
- ✚ The IBA is not elected, but appointed by the City Council, serves “at will” and can only be removed by a majority vote of Council.
- ✚ The IBA:
 - manages and leads the direction of our office, and
 - hires all staff in our office.

What we do...



Each analyst in our office has responsibility to monitor certain departments and issues. We review, analyze, develop recommendations and reports, and make presentations to Council on:

- ✚ Annual budget
- ✚ Financial reports
- ✚ Budget monitoring reports
- ✚ Legislative items (going to Committee or full Council)
- ✚ Proactive reports on issues we believe are important and warrant Council and public attention



Important Issues for the City



- ✦ Balancing the Operating Budget annually – balancing competing needs and priorities with limited resources
- ✦ Infrastructure
- ✦ Public Safety
- ✦ Economic Development and Neighborhood Vitality
- ✦ Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- ✦ Environment
- ✦ Transportation
- ✦ Dissolution of California Redevelopment Agencies

What else we do...



We serve as a resource for

Council and the public:

- ✚ Participate in all Committee and Council meetings
- ✚ Work with City staff as directed
- ✚ Participate on special task forces and other committees (such as labor negotiations team)
- ✚ Provide information on important issues to Council and the public

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO 

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE CITY'S BUDGET
PROCESS & THE
FY 2013 ADOPTED BUDGET



This guide aims to provide a solid foundation of knowledge for understanding the City of San Diego's budget process and the FY 2013 Adopted Budget.

IBA

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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO 



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE
TO INFRASTRUCTURE



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Updated: July 2013

This guide was developed by our office to provide a solid foundation of knowledge about infrastructure and the City of San Diego's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for interested citizens.

Informing the public...



Understanding the budget and other issues is important to enable citizens to effectively become involved and provide thoughtful input to Council, the Mayor, and City staff.

- ✚ City government provides services for citizens.
- ✚ Decisions made by Council and the Mayor affect lives of citizens.

Easily accessible and understandable information helps to lift the cloud of confusion from complex government issues, and facilitate public participation.

How can citizens access IBA reports



- ✦ Our Citizens' Guides, reports, and presentations are available on our website: www.sandiego.gov/iba.
 - The public can also subscribe to our mailing list on our website.
- ✦ Updates on our activities and links to our reports are announced on [twitter@SanDiegoIBA](https://twitter.com/SanDiegoIBA)
- ✦ Report presentations and comments at Council and Committee meetings are on City TV.
 - Archives are on the www.sandiego.gov home page.

Main Points to Remember



- ✚ The IBA was created to ensure the legislative branch and executive branch are co-equal, and to serve as Council's fiscal and policy advisor.
- ✚ The Office of the IBA's mission is to conduct *clear, objective and unbiased* research for the City Council and the Public.
 - We strive to provide information to help Council make informed decisions.
 - We advocate for transparency, disclosure, and complete, accurate, and balanced information.