

**There is no better measure of the condition of a city than population change. After thousands of people individually weigh all the pros and cons that a city has to offer, population change shows whether more or fewer people choose to live there.**

**To recover from the 1900 Storm, the City of Galveston implemented the Commission form of Government, and by 1960, the population had grown 78%. Unfortunately, in 1960, the City switched to the City-Manager form of government. From 1960 to 2010 the population declined 29%, so either the City is still trying to recover from Hurricane Carla, in 1961, or this form of government does not work in this city.**

**More recently, the population declined 5% from 1997 to 2007, before Hurricane Ike, and 21% from 1997 to 2010, which includes the population loss after the Storm.**

**Some people argue for a return to the Commission Form of government, and there is little doubt that this would be an improvement. However, the Strong-Mayor form of government offers the option for there to be a single elected chief executive officer for a city rather than the spilt responsibility of the Commission-Form of government.**

**It is very difficult to make a case in favor of the City-Manager form of government. On a national level, the people have always elected the nation's CEO as their President. We don't elect the Congress and then let them hire and fire the President.**

**At the state level, the people elect their governor; he is not selected by the legislature, so why would a city allow its city council to select its CEO?**

**A great deal of the controversy over the last few days arises from the fact that many people don't want this Council to have the authority to fire the City Manager; they want to make that decision themselves. The voters can be given the power to do just that by changing the form of government.**

**Who knows; if this change is made, Steve LeBlanc may be elected as the first CEO Mayor since the 1900 Storm; and that should be acceptable to everyone, because it would reflect the choice of all the voters, through a secret ballot, not just the ones who showed up here tonight, and the CEO Mayor would be subject to term limits like the Council.**

**No matter how you vote tonight, Galveston's City-Manager form of government will very likely become even more openly dysfunctional since the issue of who is ultimately responsible for the fate of the City has become even more contentious, and this form of government does not often allow a quick and orderly transition of power.**

**Therefore, we call upon the Mayor, as the elected leader of this city, to use this crisis as an opportunity to begin the process of changing the form of city government, and to implement other reforms such as redistricting, and making the Mayor and City Council full-time paid positions which will give many additional people the opportunity to run for office.**

**David Stanowski**  
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