

**Who hires and fires department heads such as police and fire chiefs?**

Mayors have the exclusive right to appoint and remove any and all department heads subject to a two-thirds override by the city council. Ark. Code Ann. § 14-42-110. At no time may a city council initiate the appointment or removal of a department head under this statute. The same rules apply to the building inspector. See Ark. Code Ann. § 14-56-202. The statute (14-42-110) does not apply to city administrator forms of government.

An exception to mayoral appointment and removal of department heads exists for cities with civil service commissions. By ordinance, such cities may delegate to the civil service commission the authority to appoint and remove the heads of the police and fire departments. Ark.Code.Ann. § 14-42-110.