

**Municipal Management**  
**MPA 727**  
**About Your Instructor**  
**Mark Rohloff**

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and became interested in community affairs while volunteering at a local community arts center. I received my BA in Urban Studies with a Certificate (minor) in Business from Saint Louis University. I received my MPA from the University of Kansas, with an emphasis in Urban Administration. While at KU, I served a brief internship with the city of Independence, KS.

My career in local government began in 1983 in Fort Collins, CO, where I started as a graduate intern in the Fort Collins' city manager's office. I moved on to the city of Long Beach, CA, where I participated in their Management Assistant program out of the city manager's office. (Trivia: There are actually three former Long Beach management assistants that live in Oshkosh. Can you name the other two?!) I worked for Long Beach for 5 ½ years, working my way through the departments of public works, community development, and finance, finishing my stint in Long Beach as the Senior Budget Analyst for the city.

In 1990, I became Assistant City Manager for the city of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA (if you can believe it, a semi-rural community in Los Angeles County), in which I was responsible for administrative services, including personnel, finance, and treasury, and managing multiple agreements for public works and public safety in a "contract" city. I also served as Acting City Manager for the longest 10 days of my career (yes, there is a story to that!).

My wife is originally from Wisconsin, and we moved to the Badger state in 1992 when I was appointed the City Administrator for the city of Berlin, WI, a community 20 miles west of Oshkosh. In 1997, I became the Town Administrator for the town of Grand Chute (where the Fox River Mall and Fox Cities Stadium are located). I served Grand Chute for 11 ½ years, during which time the Town grew by approximately 50% while we undertook major projects to accommodate growth, including construction of a new Town Hall, a Fire Station, water tower, and numerous storm water management projects. In August 2008, I was appointed as City Manager of Oshkosh.

In my time in Oshkosh, I have work with Council in developing a series of strategic plans to address long needed capital improvements (particularly street and storm water), initiate riverfront development, a convention center renovation, a new public-private economic development organization, and multiple process improvement projects to improve service delivery to the residents of Oshkosh. I have thoroughly enjoyed these experiences.

I have been teaching as a guest lecturer and adjunct instructor for nearly 30 years. I began as a guest lecturer at California State University-Long Beach, served on the adjunct faculty at California Polytechnic University-Pomona, and began teaching in the MPA program at UW-Oshkosh in 1999. My first class at UWO was Municipal Management. In preparation for this semester I enjoyed revisiting my course materials from the last millennium to see how much local government management has evolved over those years. I will be sure to share some of these observations to compare and contrast the municipal management profession with you.

I have been fortunate in my career to have worked with some outstanding individuals, all of whom have contributed to my growth and influenced my leadership style and management philosophy. By last count, I have worked directly with or for 28 different individuals who are or have been city managers, including cities as large as Anaheim, CA, Evanston, IL, and Cincinnati, OH, and as small as Princeton, WI, Vassar, MI, and Junction City, KS. This number does not count literally dozens of other co-workers who have faithfully served the local government management profession in other capacities, as well as the countless other colleagues in professional associations, education, non-profit, business, and other governmental capacities who have shared their knowledge and talents with me. My goal is to share their stories and wisdom with you to help you gain a better understanding of how local government management works.