

10 Databases For Covering City Hall

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Personnel

- ✦ Name, position, department, salary, date of hire and residency.
- ✦ Good standard reference
- ✦ In-depth stories about pay levels and residency.

Payroll

- ✦ Provides more detail about hours worked and compensation.
- ✦ In-depth stories about overtime, use of sick pay.

Pensions

- ✦ Data about name, date last employed, pay when last employed and type of pension (disability or retirement).
- ✦ Good reference
- ✦ In-depth stories about pension abuses.

Budgets

- ✦ Detailed financial plan of city. Shows where city hopes to go.
- ✦ Good for reference.
- ✦ Stories about changes in priorities; winners and losers in city government.

Contracts

- ✦ Data about companies getting deals to sell or lease to the city. Name and address of company, purpose and amount of contract. Nature of contract (bid or “emergency”)
- ✦ Reference
- ✦ In-depth stories about no-bid contracts

Check register

- ✦ Data about every check issued by the city: amount, recipient, department and purpose.
- ✦ Good reference
- ✦ In-depth stories about travel, spending patterns, payments to contractors.

Real estate assessments

- ✦ Detailed information about all real estate. Parcel number, address, value, sale price, characteristics.
- ✦ Excellent reference
- ✦ In-depth stories about equity in assessments.

Taxed vehicles

- ✦ Detailed data about vehicles and their owners.
- ✦ Good reference

Tax collections

- ✦ Data about every tax-collection transaction (payments and credits)
- ✦ Excellent reference
- ✦ Great tool for finding tax-assessment breaks.

Voter registration & history

- ✦ Data about registered voters and their voting histories. Can get name, DOB, address, party affiliation, and separate table with voter history.
- ✦ Great reference tool
- ✦ Good for stories about voting patterns.