

COUNCIL DESCRIPTION

City Council members are public officials appointed or elected to represent a district or ward of a city as the municipal governing body typically known as a Council.

A district or ward may refer to a Council member as a "supervisor," "alderman," or "councilwoman/councilman."

The Council serves as a legislative body with power to enact all ordinances and resolutions. Council members determine policy, initiate legislation, and administer duties set forth in the City Charter. The Council serves as the link between the citizens and their municipal government.

Council member responsibilities generally involve responding to constituent's calls and letters, holding community meetings, and attending civic organization meetings. The member also participates in determining city government and administration policies, as well as adopting budgets and legislation. They may spend most of their time in committee and subcommittee meetings discussing city business with citizens and representatives of groups affected by city government.

The Council is organized into standing committees having specified legislative oversight responsibilities. Council members usually lead a committee that reports to the Council. Examples of committees include:

- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Parks and Planning Committee
- Housing Committee
- Economic Development and Planning Committee

Each committee has a specific statement of function and purpose. The committees meet periodically, usually once a month. Committee members serve as volunteers without compensation. While members work directly for the Council, assistance and support may be provided by the Clerk's Office and staff liaisons.

The Council welcomes public participation through direct contact with the Council offices or through testimony at public hearings of the various Council committees. Ways you voice your opinions on the issues that matter to you might be in person, e-mail, fax, and U.S. mail.