

What does my local city council do?

- Approves the city budget
- Passes local resolutions and ordinances (laws)
- Establishes programs and public services for the city
- Establishes tax rates



City council members are elected in nonpartisan elections.

Other names for city council include “*board of alderman*,” “*city board*,” “*common council*,” “*village board*,” and “*selectboard*.”

The local city council makes an impact on your community by dealing with issues such as:

<p>Mass transit including bus systems and paratransit</p> 	<p>Zoning and planning</p> 	<p>Housing</p> 	<p>Public safety including police and fire protection</p> 
<p>Public works like - trash collection, municipal water services, snow removal, sidewalk and street maintenance</p> 	<p>Economic development</p> 	<p>Public health</p> 	<p>Taxes and fees</p> 

How do you decide who to vote for?

1. Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.

- What issues are important to you?
- What qualities do you want in a leader?



2. Learn about the candidates.

- Watch candidate forums and interviews. Look for news coverage of the candidates. Google the candidates. Seek other nonpartisan sources for information.
- Review candidate websites, campaign materials, or contact the campaign to ask questions.
- What are their qualifications?
- What are their priorities?

3. Sort it out.

- Which candidate’s priorities and views on the role of this position best match your own views?
- Who seems most prepared for the job?
- Who has the leadership qualities you are looking for?