

How can residents get involved?

Residents can participate in local government in a variety of ways:

Public Hearings:

Residents can register to speak at all public hearings. They can also request a public hearing be held. Find a schedule of upcoming hearings as well as information about requesting and speaking at them at www.pittsburghpa.gov/council

Council Meetings:

Residents can speak at the beginning of every regular and standing committee meeting. Residents have three minutes to address Council with topics of their choice.

Council Offices:

City Council offices are staffed to respond directly to residents about their concerns. Always feel free to contact an office to advocate.



Office of City Councilwoman Deb Gross

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What is City Council?

A guide to understanding the key functions of Pittsburgh's legislative branch



How City Council Works

There are four essential functions carried out by City Council during the legislative process:

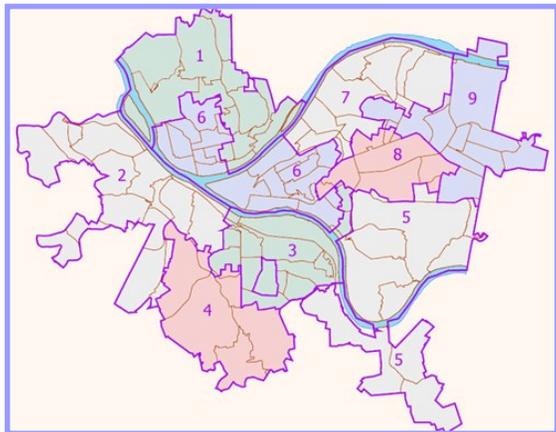
At **Regular Meetings** on Tuesdays at 10 am Councilmembers introduce new legislation and perform final actions and votes. Newly introduced legislation is referred to standing committees for further discussion.

At **Standing Committee Meetings** on Wednesdays at 10am Councilmembers discuss pending legislation (legislation introduced during a previous regular meeting) and hold preliminary votes. Council can hold or defer legislation pending further information.

At **Post Agendas** or information gathering meetings experts and other invited guests share information during a roundtable discussion. These are held at the request of City Council Members. The public can not comment during these sessions, but are welcome to attend.

Public Hearings are held as a result of citizen petition or as specifically required by law on specific issues (zoning, land use, or taxation)

All of these functions are televised on the city channel and can be streamed online.



Overview

Pittsburgh City Council is the popularly elected legislative body of the City. It is comprised of 9 districts, each representing around 35,000 residents. Members serve in office for four year terms and are appointed as the chairperson of a committee corresponding to city departments.

As the legislative branch of government. City Council carries out duties in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and the laws of the state, and is primarily responsible for making laws which govern the City of Pittsburgh. It proposes, debates, and votes on legislation governing and/or affecting the city. This body also approves appointments as provided by the Charter, regulates revenues and expenditures, incurs debt, and approves the final operating and capital budgets for the city. Council is responsible for the introduction of legislation generated by the administrative branch of city government. Council may also introduce legislation generated by individual Council Members or Council as a body.

Pittsburgh City Council

510 City County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

(412) 255-2138

For more information visit:
www.pittsburghpa.gov/council

Helpful Definitions

The following list of definitions can help explain the key functions of City Council.

Ordinances are formal laws that make up the City Code.

Resolutions handle the day-to-day activities of City Council. They authorize action on the part of the Mayor's office or the city in general, reorganize city departments, pass the city's budget, and other legislative activities.

Proclamations honor people or organizations for their work or presence in the Pittsburgh community. They are presented at the beginning of regular meetings.

A Will of Council expresses City Council's support or opposition for certain local initiatives as well as state and federal activities.

Pittsburgh's **Home Rule Charter** permits the city to perform legislative action without seeking permission from Harrisburg. It allows the City to pass ordinances and resolutions not expressly forbidden by state law or the Constitution.