In accordance with the City Charter, Albany is divided into (15) Wards. Each Ward is represented on the City’s Common Council by an elected resident.

The Common Council serves as the legislative branch of Albany’s government. Each Common Council Member functions to regulate and protect the interests of residents within their Ward, and is authorized to introduce, adopt, amend or repeal local laws, ordinances, resolutions and regulations pertaining to property and government affairs within the City.

Ward boundaries are reviewed every ten years, in coordination with demographic information from the latest U.S. Decennial Census. Redistricting represents one of the most important undertakings of our democracy. Currently, these Ward boundaries have been adjusted to better represent protected groups and a community of interests, based on information from the 2010 Census survey.