We need to hear from you

Each Common Council meeting starts with a public comment period during which you may speak on any subject related to city government. Speakers are asked to keep their remarks to five minutes and will be called in the order in which they ask to speak.

Public hearings are held on some city ordinances and take place before the public comment period. Speakers are asked to sign up to speak at the beginning of the hearing and will be called in order. The public hearing ends when all have been heard.

Speakers are encouraged, but not required, to call the Clerk's Office at 518-434-5090 in advance of a meeting.

The President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Albany Common Council which serves New York’s capital city!

I and the fifteen members of the Common Council are proud to represent the citizens of Albany. As elected officials, we know it is our duty to serve our constituents to the best of our ability, as well as to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life for city residents.

As president I place a great deal of importance on governing in a manner that is both open and transparent. My goal is to facilitate discussion that results in good governance. Broadly defined, good government includes the ability to bring innovative solutions to long-established challenges and create effective partnerships with all communities in our diverse city. Effective partnerships are characterized by government empowering individuals and groups to step forward and dedicate themselves and their ideas to wrestling with and solving the challenges we may face now and in the future. Your participation is vital to accomplishing our goals. I hope you will work with your Common Council by attending our meetings as well as to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life for city residents.

The President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader are elected by the Council members at the beginning of each term. The President Pro Tempore appoints standing and ad hoc committees, assigns legislation and refers legislation and other matters to those committees. The President Pro Tempore is assisted by the Majority Leader in these duties.

Albany, NY 12204
518-476-6441

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the Dais

At Common Council meetings, five people sit on the dais. They are, from left: Michele Andre, Senior Legislative Aide; keeps minutes of the meeting and assists speakers; Danielle Gillespie, Clerk of the Council (and City Clerk), keeps official records; Corey Ellis, President of the Common Council; and John-Raphael Richards, Esq., Research Counsel and Parliamentarian. On the dais, you will also see a member of the Corporation Counsel’s legal team.

ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS - 2020

President Pro Tempore

Ward 4

Hon. Kelly Kimbrough
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Ward 13

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Ward 11

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Ward 15

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Standing and ad hoc committees meet as needed to discuss legislation before the Council and to review governmental policies and procedures. You can find out the time and location of meetings by contacting the Common Council office at 518-434-3087 or on the city website at www.albanyny.gov.

Committees are appointed biennially. The first named person in the appointment is the Chair.

Council Operations and Ethics
Members: Conti, Igoe, Kimbrough, Hoey, Frederick

Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement
Members: Igoe, O’Brien, Farrell, Anane, Frederick

Finance, Assessment and Taxation
Members: Farrell, O’Brien, Doesschate, Robinson, Balarin

Public Safety
Members: Kimbrough, Igoe, Balarin, Hoey, Frederick

Planning, Economic Development and Land Use
Members: Fahey, Doesschate, Balarin, Love, Hoey

Parks, Recreation and Family Services
Members: Flynn, Fahey, Anane, Love, Johnson

Human Resources and Human Rights
Members: Robinson, Conti, Flynn, Johnson, Farrell

General Services, Health and Environment:
Members: O’Brien, Fahey, Flynn, Johnson, Anane

Housing and Community Development
Members: Doesschate, Conti, Kimbrough, Robinson, Love

There are several important city boards that meet regularly to make decisions about city issues. These meetings are also open to the public. Below are the schedules of some of them, where they meet and a contact person if you would like more information.

Board of Contract & Supply
Meets: At 1:30 PM on the day following regular Common Council Meetings
Place: Mayor’s Conference Room, 1st floor of City Hall
Purpose: To open and award city contracts
Contact: Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk 518-434-5092

Board of Estimate and Apportionment
Meets: At 1:30 PM on the day following regular Common Council Meetings
Place: Mayor’s Conference Room, 1st floor of City Hall
Purpose: Reviews and makes changes to the city budget
Contact: Dr. Deroye Applys Chief City Auditor

Board of Zoning Appeals
Meets: At 6:00 PM on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month
Place: 200 Henry Johnson Blvd
Purpose: Reviews and considers exceptions to the city zoning ordinance
Contact: Luis Roldan - 518-465-6066

Historic Resources Commission
Meets: At 5:30 PM on the first and third Wednesdays of the month
Place: 200 Henry Johnson Blvd
Purpose: Reviews changes to buildings in and near historic districts
Contact: Erin Glennon - 518-242-7714

Planning Board
Meets: At 6:00 PM on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month
Place: Community Room at 200 Henry Johnson Boulevard
Purpose: Approves projects of large scale projects
Contact: Zach Powell - 518-434-5271

Water Board
Meets: At 9:30 AM on the fourth Friday of each month
Place: 10 North Enterprise Drive, 1st floor conference room
Purpose: Oversees the administration of the city’s water supply
Contact: Charles G. Houghton, III, Vice Chairman 518-434-3300

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Blue shaded dates are official meetings of the Common Council. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the Common Council Chamber. (A 6:30 PM Caucus precedes each meeting in the courtroom). Orange shaded dates are Common Council Caucuses. These are also open to the public, but there is no public comment period. Caucuses begin at 5:30 PM and are held in the city courtroom.