



Becoming a Common Councilman (Councillor)

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding and privileged form of public service. It enables people to play a valuable part in the running of the Square Mile, contribute to civic life generally and make a difference to the quality of people's lives. Unlike elsewhere, the position of a Councillor in the City is purely voluntary. It is **not** remunerated although there is a limited loss of earnings [Scheme](#). More detailed information of what is involved is available on its [website](#).

The [next City-wide elections](#) for Councillors are on **23 March 2017**.

What is involved

Decision making: Generally you participate by attending meetings of the [Court of Common Council](#) and its [various committees](#). Meetings take place during the working day and a modest lunch is provided before or after.

Time commitment: This depends on how much you want to get involved and the commitments taken on. Preparation time should also be factored in. At a minimum, Councillors can expect to spend the equivalent of half a day on City business spread over a working week.

The City Corporation has a comprehensive induction programme to assist new Members in becoming effective as soon as possible. **NB:** Employers have a duty under the [Employment Rights Act 1996](#) to allow employees time off during working hours for this purpose.

The election process: The qualifications for the office of Common Councilman can be found under the elections process heading [here](#). They are similar to that of local authorities with one exception, namely, that a person standing must also be a [Freeman of the City of London](#). The City Corporation will arrange this for prospective candidates and one or more open sessions for prospective candidates before each local election. The next session will be held in the Autumn of 2016, the date of which will be published on the City's website. **NB:** The requirements for becoming an Alderman are different from those of a Common Councilman.

Support and Finding out More

If you want to know more about the electoral process in general, contact the [Electoral Services Office](#) on 020 7332 1430.

Most Councillors are not representatives of political parties. There is nothing to stop political parties putting up candidates in the City but they rarely do. As independents Councillors do not have a party "machine" to help them therefore, if you are interested in becoming a Member, make your interest known to existing Councillors as vacancies can arise unexpectedly.

You could also consider becoming involved in one of the 25 [ward clubs](#), or a residents' association eg the [Barbican Association](#), [Golden Lane Estate](#) and [Middlesex Street Estate Residents' Association](#).



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More information can be obtained by attending the public session of the [Court](#) or a [Committee](#). Alternatively contact [Simon Murrells](#), Assistant Town Clerk, on 0800 587 5537.