

The Mayor and City Council at Work

The Mayor of a Town

Mayors are elected as the leader of a town.

Each town can decide the duties of the mayor. Many towns include most of the following duties of their mayors:

- Preside over the city council meetings
- Represent the town in ceremonies
- Listen to citizens' opinions when they speak at city council meetings
- Keep up with problems and needs of the people of the town
- Recommend ordinances (city laws) to the city council that would help solve the town's problems
- Vote with the city council on new ordinances
- Veto (say no) an ordinance passed by the city council*
- Sign all the ordinances made by the city council

*Note: In towns where the mayor votes with the city council, the mayor does not have veto power.

The City Council of a Town

Members of the City Council are also elected. Some towns are divided into sections called wards. The citizens of each ward elect a council member to represent them. In some towns, other council members represent all of the citizens, not just one ward. Some towns have both council members from wards and council members who represent all of the town's citizens.

City Council members usually have the following duties:

- Attend all of the city council meetings unless they are ill or unless they are conducting city business
- Listen to citizens' opinions when they speak at city council meetings
- Consider the mayor's recommendations for new ordinances
- Give their opinions about how to solve the town's problems
- Vote on new ordinances
- Override the mayor's veto if a majority of the council members vote disagree with the mayor