

Engage with Your Community

Opportunities for public service abound! Local government units are run by elected officials and staff who are assisted by numerous citizens serving on boards and commissions. In our area citizens are needed to serve in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and all of the area townships (e.g. Pittsfield, Scio, Superior, etc.), as well as the Ann Arbor Public Schools. You can use your knowledge, expertise, listening skills and thoughtfulness to make our communities better places to live and work.

From the City of Ann Arbor's Boards and Commissions Handbook:

"The City of Ann Arbor appoints over 200 people to over 50 boards and commissions that advise and assist in carrying out the functions of local government. These boards and commissions provide a critical reservoir of knowledge and community input that inform City policy decisions and operations."

"Most boards and commissions are created by City resolution or ordinance and serve as advisory bodies to the City Council or City Administrator. They provide information, analysis, and recommendations to inform the City Council's and City Administrator's decisions on matters pertaining to the board or commission's specialized knowledge."

"Appointees to boards and commissions perform a public service to their community and have both an obligation and an opportunity to provide wise input that will help shape their government."

City of Ann Arbor

Boards and Commissions information is online at:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/city-clerk/Boards-and-Commissions>

You can read about what all the different commission do, find out which have vacancies, and complete an online application. Here are some examples of Ann Arbor Boards and Commissions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airport Advisory Committee• Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority Board• Ann Arbor Public Art Commission• Board of Insurance Administration• Board of Review• Building Authority• Building Board of Appeals• Cable Communications Commission• Center of the City Task Force• Ann Arbor Water System Advisory Council• City Planning Commission• Commission on Disability Issues• Design Review Board• Downtown Area Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC)• Economic Development Corporation Board• Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees• Energy Commission• Environmental Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenbelt Advisory Commission (GAC)• Historic District Commission• Housing Affordability and Equity Task Force• Housing and Human Services Advisory Board• Housing Commission• Human Rights Commission• Independent Community Police Oversight Commission• Park Advisory Commission• Public Market Advisory Commission• Recreation Advisory Commission• Retiree Health Care Benefit Plan & Trust Board of Trustees• Summer Festival Board• Transportation Commission• Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Advisory Board (WCCAB)• Washtenaw Metro Alliance• Zoning Board of Appeals
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Washtenaw County - County-wide boards and commissions are listed here:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/1228/Boards-Committees-Commissions>

Examples of County boards and commissions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee• Area Agency on Aging Executive Board• Broadband Task Force• Coalition for Action Remediation of Dioxane (CARD)• Community Action Board• Community Corrections Advisory Board (PDF)• Criminal Justice Collaborative Council• Foster Grandparent Advisory Board• Historic District Commission• Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks & Recreation Commission• Police Services Steering Committee• Sheriff's Community Relations Advisory Board• Social Services Board• Solid Waste Management Consortium• Solid Waste Planning Committee• Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority• Space Plan Committee• Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Committee• Washtenaw County Food Policy Council• Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs Committee
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Townships – If you live, vote and pay taxes to a township instead of a city, there are also citizen boards and commissions to serve on.

All townships appoint citizens to serve on these boards:

- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Board of Review
- Compensation Commission

Many Townships also have other committees such as Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, Construction Board, Farmland Board, etc. For more information about opportunities if you live in a township, visit your township's website; boards and commissions will be listed.