



Department Description

Columbus City Council is the legislative authority and chief policy-making arm of city government, empowered by City Charter to exercise control over city expenditures. Citizens elect the seven-member council at-large to four-year terms of office. Council's primary responsibilities include: reviewing and adopting the annual operating and capital budgets, authorizing certain contracts, and enacting amendments to the Columbus City Code. In addition to its fiscal control and regulatory authority, City Council establishes land use policy through its zoning powers.

The Council works closely with the administrative (executive) branch of city government in the formation of policy impacting public safety, finance, economic development, and the delivery of core city services. City Council also initiates and facilitates ongoing cooperative efforts with other government entities, the business community, and other institutions to improve the overall high quality of life for Columbus residents.

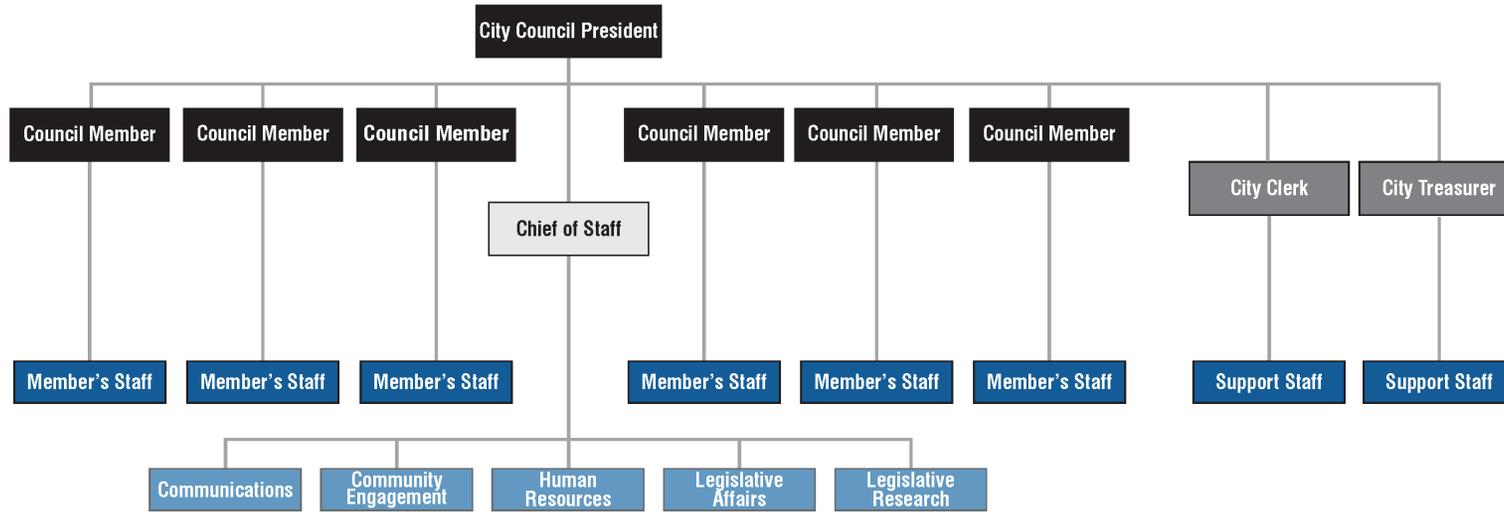
Legislative aides, legislative assistants, the Legislative Research Office, and the Office of Community Engagement provide City Council members information and guidance on public policy decisions impacting public safety, budgetary, economic development, and community matters.

Council appoints the City Clerk, who maintains the journal of City Council activity, codifying city ordinances in accordance with established guidelines. Council also appoints the City Treasurer, whose duties include the investment of all city funds.

Department Mission

To provide high quality, responsive service to the residents of Columbus, and to demonstrate the utmost respect for the citizens and for each other in a workplace that highly values teamwork, personal integrity, and competence. City Council's overriding goal is to always do what is best for the citizens of the City of Columbus.

City Council



Strategic Priorities For 2018

Columbus City Council's 2018 strategic priorities will focus on five areas: policies intended to support the health and welfare of all residents of Columbus; maintaining public safety; economic development and job creation; open, efficient, and effective governance; and prudent financial oversight and the maintenance of the city's fiscal health. In pursuit of these priorities, Columbus City Council will:

Support policies and programs that foster the growth and development of small businesses within Columbus, particularly among disadvantaged small business enterprises.

Continue to work with the administration on reviewing best practices for the most effective application of economic development agreements and job growth incentives.

Promote initiatives that provide for upward economic mobility and equitable labor policies for working-class families.

Continue the ongoing examination of the efficiencies and effectiveness of various mass transportation options in the context of the city's projected future growth. Coordinate with the Department of Public Service and other city agencies on the execution of Smart Cities program deliverables.

Ensure that all operating and capital budget measures are compatible with the need for retaining the city's top credit rating.

Continue to work with the administration to ensure proper staffing levels within the Divisions of Police and Fire to maintain the safety of Columbus neighborhoods, and to support the promotion of diversity recruitment within the city's safety forces.

Continue to work with the administration to stabilize neighborhoods through increased investment in infrastructure improvements, the elimination of vacant and abandoned buildings, and the development of affordable and inclusive housing.

Continue to partner with non-profit organizations and human services providers to deliver basic human services, emergency housing, and healthcare to low-income families and others within the community.

Continue efforts to promote Columbus as a destination for travel and tourism, and to retain Columbus-based talent, through continued investment in Experience Columbus and the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

Continue to work with the administration to expand the city's environmental agenda, including improvements to city vehicles and facilities, and the promotion of green strategies and incentives that encourage responsible, sustainable development.

Continue to identify and implement policies and practices to make government more effective, efficient, and accessible, including the ongoing implementation of the city's ethics policies and the adoption of new technologies that increase residents' access to public information.

2018 BUDGET NOTES

The budget for City Council includes continuation of the annual maintenance of the automated legislation system and codifying services for the City Clerk's office.

Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense					
Fund	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Projected	2018 Proposed
General Fund					
City Council					
Personnel	\$ 3,363,663	\$ 3,860,952	\$ 4,144,289	\$ 4,220,508	\$ 3,988,383
Materials & Supplies	16,046	44,179	28,500	24,591	28,000
Services	98,885	133,694	178,914	139,693	191,086
General Fund Subtotal	3,478,594	4,038,825	4,351,703	4,384,792	4,207,469
Department Total	\$ 3,478,594	\$ 4,038,825	\$ 4,351,703	\$ 4,384,792	\$ 4,207,469

Department Personnel Summary					
Fund	FT/PT	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Authorized	2018 Authorized
General Fund					
	FT	38	43	45	45
	Total	38	43	45	45

Operating Budget by Program				
Program	2017 Budget	2017 FTEs	2018 Proposed	2018 FTEs
Administration	\$ 4,337,589	44	\$ 4,190,883	40
Internal Services	14,114	0	16,586	0
Department Total	\$ 4,351,703	44	\$ 4,207,469	40



2018 PROGRAM GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

To approve all appropriations and laws for Columbus, and to provide a public forum for the discussion of issues by the citizenry.

INTERNAL SERVICES

To account for the internal service charges of the department necessary to maintain operations.

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