

## **City Council**

### **Department Description**

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

The Council works closely with the administrative branch of city government in the formation of policy, including work force and economic development initiatives, tax incentives, annexation and land use, and efforts to serve Columbus families. As well, City Council initiates and facilitates on-going cooperative efforts with other governments, the business community, and other institutions to ensure a safe environment and a high quality of life for all Columbus citizens.

Legislative Research Office (LRO) activities include public policy analyses, including the budget and city programming, public information efforts, and research and application efforts to reduce operating costs, both on a citywide basis and within the offices of City Council and the City Clerk.

Legislative aides and the LRO provide Council members advice and information regarding budgetary, neighborhood, community, and economic development matters.

Council appoints the City Clerk, who maintains the journal of Council activity, codifying general ordinances and maintaining custody of deeds, abstracts, and titles owned by the city. Council also appoints the City Treasurer, whose duties include the investment of all city funds.

### **Department Mission**

Members of the staff of Columbus City Council believe our first priority is to provide high quality, responsive service to the people of Columbus. We strive to demonstrate the utmost respect for our citizens and for each other in a workplace that highly values teamwork, personal integrity, and competence. Our overriding goal is to always do our best for the citizens of the City of Columbus.

## **Strategic Priorities for 2011**

City Council's 2011 strategic priorities will be met by its continued focus on four areas: working to better serve the needs of all Columbus families, including keeping public safety as the city's top priority; job creation efforts through fostering effective partnerships; continued financial oversight to maintain fiscal health; and keeping our commitments to Columbus residents with the passage of the 2009 income tax increase.

- Council believes that creating and maintaining jobs is essential to a vibrant city. Council will continue to work with the administration to develop innovative collaborations to incentivize significant private investment. Prime examples include ongoing development of a Technology Corridor and high-tech start-ups, revitalization of Northland and other commercial corridors, support for major hospital expansions and investment in downtown as the commercial and employment core of the region. Project partners include the Ohio State University, Battelle, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, and Tech Columbus, among many others. Additionally, the expansion of the convention and visitors sector with the construction of the full service downtown hotel will receive Council support in 2011 as will improving roadway and rail access to Rickenbacker Airport to enhance the city's logistics agenda.
- Other key points of an overall job creation strategy include working to keep homegrown talent through investments that support entrepreneurial startups; making targeted capital investments to bring idle properties back into production; and providing seed money for targeted economic development initiatives, such as traffic studies and retail studies, to improve job growth prospects in specific neighborhoods. Council seeks to continue working with the Departments of Technology and Development to enhance the city's fiber optic network and utilize it as an asset for economic development incentives.
- Council also looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of Public Safety to properly prepare for the DROP program, which will trigger automatic retirements among police and fire personnel beginning this year. This will consist of targeting funds for payouts to the DROP program as well as providing for additional fire and police classes to maintain critical manpower levels.
- To enhance citizen safety, in addition to working with the administration to better equip police officers and firefighters with the best equipment and vehicles, Council will continue to work to fund expansions of the Community Crime Patrol.
- Council continues to identify and implement better policies and practices to make government more effective and accessible to the public. Support for citizen input and community organizations will be a Council priority both for better city information and for input on major projects such as the I-70/71 highway project.
- Council continues to work with the administration to secure downtown and adjacent neighborhood stability through the creation of greater downtown and neighborhood housing opportunities and related investments. City assistance may include various incentives for developers, such as tax abatements or targeted use of city capital monies to leverage private investments.
- Council will also continue working with the administration to expand the city's environmental and "green" agenda as demonstrated in the efforts to preserve the Big Darby watershed. To protect this important natural resource, Council

imposed a moratorium on city sewer and water line extensions in the watershed through June 2006. This allowed for completion of a comprehensive, intergovernmental planning accord (the Big Darby Accord Watershed Master Plan) which Columbus approved in July 2006 along with other jurisdictions. The accord allows for the exercise of personal property rights while being sensitive to preservation and environmental protection objectives.

- The city's most vulnerable citizens will continue to receive Council attention as it works with community advocates such as the Columbus Medical Association, the United Way, the Community Shelter Board, the Neighborhood Health Center System, and the YWCA. These organizations and others bring needed social services and accessible health care to low-income families and populations within the community. Council will continue to bring added focus and more effective response to homelessness through the Office of Homeless Advocacy.
- One of the most important priorities for the 2011 budget will be the continuation of the implementation of the first phases of the Reform and Efficiency plan to strengthen the city's long-term fiscal outlook and begin restoring the Economic Stabilization Fund, or "rainy day" fund. Council will also work with the City Auditor to continue sound fiscal policies to maintain Columbus' AAA bond-rating.

### **2011 Budget Notes**

- The recommended general fund budget for City Council includes continuation of funding for a contract with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the annual maintenance on the automated legislation system (Legistar), and codifying services for the City Clerk's office.

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**Budget and Program Summary**

<b>CITY COUNCIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>					
<b>DIVISION SUMMARY</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2010 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2011 Proposed</b>
City Council	\$ 11,534,768	\$ 9,809,733	\$ 10,890,309	\$ 11,232,280	\$ 11,343,084
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,534,768</b>	<b>\$ 9,809,733</b>	<b>\$ 10,890,309</b>	<b>\$ 11,232,280</b>	<b>\$ 11,343,084</b>

<b>DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER</b>					
<b>CITY COUNCIL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2010 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2011 Proposed</b>
Personnel	\$ 2,830,747	\$ 2,672,447	\$ 2,854,245	\$ 2,707,577	\$ 2,975,031
Materials & Supplies	27,386	27,489	33,000	21,600	15,489
Services	842,624	235,929	563,064	583,103	252,564
Transfers	30,000	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,730,757</b>	<b>\$ 2,935,865</b>	<b>\$ 3,450,309</b>	<b>\$ 3,312,280</b>	<b>\$ 3,243,084</b>
<b>CITY COUNCIL HOTEL/MOTEL EXPENDITURES SUMMARY</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2010 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2011 Proposed</b>
Services	\$ 7,804,011	\$ 6,873,868	\$ 7,440,000	\$ 7,920,000	\$ 8,100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,804,011</b>	<b>\$ 6,873,868</b>	<b>\$ 7,440,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,920,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,100,000</b>

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY BY FUND					
<b>FUND SUMMARY</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Original Appropriation</b>	<b>2010 Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>2011 Proposed</b>
General	\$ 3,730,757	\$ 2,935,865	\$ 3,450,309	\$ 3,312,280	\$ 3,243,084
Hotel/Motel Tax	7,804,011	6,873,868	7,440,000	7,920,000	8,100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,534,768</b>	<b>\$ 9,809,733</b>	<b>\$ 10,890,309</b>	<b>\$ 11,232,280</b>	<b>\$ 11,343,084</b>

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SUMMARY					
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>FT/PT*</b>	<b>2008 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2010 Authorized</b>	<b>2011 Authorized</b>
City Council	FT	34	33	38	38
	PT	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>

\*FT=Full-Time PT=Part-Time

2011 Operating Budget  
City Council

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed	2008 FTEs	2009 FTEs	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs
Administration	To approve all appropriations and laws for Columbus, and to provide a public forum for the discussion of issues by the citizenry.	\$ 3,901,434	\$ 3,180,687	\$ 3,450,309	\$ 3,243,084	36	35	35	35
Hotel/Motel Tax	To provide support for Experience Columbus and for expanding cultural services.	\$ 9,580,000	\$ 8,880,000	\$ 7,440,000	\$ 8,100,000	0	0	0	0
		\$ 13,481,434	\$ 12,060,687	\$ 10,890,309	\$ 11,343,084	36	35	35	35