

Serving on the City Council

Councilmember?

A candidate for City Council must be a:

- Resident of Mercer Island for at least one year
- Registered voter in Mercer Island (*to register to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Washington State and at least 18 years old by Election Day*)

Neither a Councilmember nor his/her spouse or interdependent family members may be employed by the City, except when the Councilmember's spouse was employed by the City before the election or appointment to the Council.

What are the primary election requirements?

Candidates who meet the legal qualifications above must file a Declaration of Candidacy with King County Elections within the filing period in May. There is no filing fee. The general election is in November, but the Primary Election Day is in August. If no more than two people file for a position, there is no primary election for that position.

What are the November election procedures?

Councilmembers are elected by registered voters of the City. Newly elected Councilmembers take office at the first Council meeting of the next year (following certification of election results by the King County Elections Officer).

What is the purpose of Council position numbers?

Washington State election law require that if more than one position with the same name (Councilmember) and district number (Mercer Island) will be voted upon during an election, the positions to be filled shall be designated by number. This means that candidates must file for a specific position on the Mercer Island City Council. Positions 1, 3, 5, and 7 are on the ballot in the same year and positions 2, 4, and 6 are on the same ballot two years later.

How often does the City Council meet?

Regular Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00¹ pm at the City Hall Council Chambers. Special Meetings are called as needed. The meeting schedule and start-times are subject to change. The Council also meets for annual Planning Sessions for goal setting and long-range planning purposes.

What time commitment is required?

The duties of a Councilmember involve an average minimum commitment of 30-40 hours per month for preparation, participation, and attendance at meetings (regular and special City Council meetings, Council subcommittee meetings, City board and commission meetings, community meetings and committee meetings for regional appointments). Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact a current Councilmember to ask what the experience is like and what is involved.

How long is a Councilmember's term?

Councilmembers are elected to a term of four years.

¹ [Ordinance No. 20C-27](#) Amending MICC 2.06.010 to extend the temporary change to the start time of Regular Meetings of the City Council to 5 PM.

How are vacancies filled when a Councilmember leaves prior to the end of his or her term?

In case of a vacancy, the remaining Councilmembers will appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled election pursuant to [RCW 42.12.070](#) and as outlined in the City Council Rules of Procedure. The Council will publish a notice of the vacancy, the procedure by which the vacancy will be filled, and the application form on the City’s website and distribute the information through other media channels. Interviews of candidates will take place during a meeting open to the public.

How are the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected? What are the roles of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor?

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected from among the Councilmembers for a two-year term. At the first Council meeting of the even calendar years, the City Clerk will entertain a motion for "nominations" for a Councilmember to serve as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Approval is by majority vote of Council members present. The Mayor presides at all Council meetings, votes as a Councilmember and does not have any veto power. The Deputy Mayor serves in the Mayor’s absence.

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Mercer Island Offices Subject to Election

Office	Current office holder
Council Position No. 2	Salim Nice
Council Position No. 4	Lisa Anderl
Council Position No. 6	Benson Wong

Important Dates

Prospective Council Candidate Workshop	Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:00-6:30pm Zoom
Candidate Filing	Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21
Deadline to Withdraw	Monday, May 24, 2021 at 4:30 pm
Council Candidate Orientation	Thursday, June 3 5:30-7:00 pm Zoom
Primary Election	Tuesday, August 3, 2021
General Election	Tuesday, November 2, 2021
Councilmember-Elect Orientation	December 2021
First City Council Meeting	Tuesday, January 8, 2021