



**Mayor:**

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Council/mayor](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Council/mayor)

– 4 year term (Any eligible Voter maybe elected)

Executive Branch: The executive powers of the city shall be vested in the mayor and may be exercised by him either personally or through the several city agencies under his general supervision and control. The mayor shall cause the laws, ordinances and orders for the government of the city to be enforced, and he shall cause a record of all his official acts to be kept.

The mayor's job can be compared to a CEO of a company. In fact, the city charter calls him the city's "chief executive officer". What that means is that the mayor is required to make sure that all of the laws and ordinances that the council enacts are carried out. That includes everything from criminal laws, traffic violations, to trash pick up. While the mayor does not, himself, put out fires, test drinking water or arrest criminals, he is the one who hires the people responsible for that and he is the one who, should those people not perform their duties, has the power to fire them. The power to hire and fire, it should be said, is tempered by the fact that the city council must approve those decisions by a simple majority in the case of hiring and a two-thirds majority in the case of firing. In short, every city official who is appointed and not elected is answerable to the mayor and therefore indirectly to you the voter.

An important thing to remember about the mayor is that his or her power to affect city laws and ordinances is limited. Any law or ordinance that the city council passes, must be signed by the mayor to be considered complete but, should the mayor decide he or she does not want to sign, the city council can overrule him or her with a two thirds majority. At this point the mayor would have to enforce that law whether he likes it or not.

So, while the mayor has some power to affect the laws of the city, his main job is to make sure that the laws that are enacted are carried out efficiently and properly.

**City Council:**

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Council/council](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Council/council)

9 members (6 are district Counselors 3 are Councilors at Large)– 2 year term; district counselors are elected by voters from the 6 districts, and At Large Councilors are elected by at large voters

City Council members are responsible for...

- Complying with the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as the Lawrence City Charter
- Creating city ordinances and or laws
- Identifying and addressing gaps in services
- Securing current information on resources, services and supports that can be used by constituents and/or to improve city government such as attending and addressing issues around the community’s quality of life, for example:
  - Covering potholes, garbage service pick-up and removal, snowplow service, etc.
- Articulating issues on behalf of those who cannot
- Increasing communications between residents ad local government
- Researching and studying in preparations to discussing agenda items
- Making use of conflict resolution and negotiation skills
- Seeking out experts to address and resolve issues
- Setting and maintain a vision for the City
- Participating in a decision-making process that can be lived with in which no one loses self-respect
- Working in collaboration with others–residents, organizations, elected and appointed officials
- Holding on the principle that government does not exist for the sake of government but to serve its people

## Legislative Branch

### Composition, Eligibility, Election and Term

- Composition:
  - City council of nine members that exercise the legislative powers of the city, the legislative body has the power to make laws
    - Six will be known as district councilors
      - Nominated and elect by and from the voters of six council districts
        - One district councilor will be elected from each district
    - Three members to be known as councilors at large
      - Nominated and elected by and from the voters of the city at large
- Eligibility
  - Any voter is eligible to hold the office of councilor at large.

- A district councilor shall be a voter and a resident of the district from which he elected at the time of is his election, provided. However if the said district councilor moves from the district he was elected to another districted in the city, he may continue to serve and to discharge his duties until the expiration of the term for which he was elected.
- Election and Term
  - The term of office of all members of the city council will be for two years that started at seven o'clock in the evening of the first secular day in January of each even number year following their election and will continue until their successor have been chosen and qualified.

**School Committee:**

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Council/S0096CAC7-0096CAF0](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Council/S0096CAC7-0096CAF0)

7 Members (6 are elected by voters at large & the Mayor serves as the 7<sup>th</sup> member). Any voter is eligible. The term is 4 years. The Mayors serves as Chairman, and the Committee officers elect the Vice Chairman and appoint the Secretary of the School Committee.

School Committee Membership is a voluntary role responsible for...

- Reviewing city plans for schools including the school budget this includes voting on decisions based on teacher union contracted such as pay raises
- Also responsible for developing and implementing school policies, i.e. School Vacation times, the recent decision to not allow water bottles in the school, etc...
- Deciding how the Department of Education should guide Teachers to teach students in hopes of improving the educational system
- Interviewing and electing the superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools
- Promotes and establishes relationships through schools and the community by attending public functions and ceremonial events

**Composition, Eligibility, Election and Term**

- Composition:
  - There shall be a school committee consisting of seven members, which shall exercise general management and control of the public schools of the city.
    - Six of the members, who shall be known as school committee members, shall be nominated and elected by and from the voter at large.

- The mayor will serve as the seventh member of the school committee and as its chairman with full power to vote
- Eligibility:
  - Any voter shall be eligible to hold the office of school committee members
- Election and Term:
  - The term of office of all members of the school committee will be for four years beginning at 7:00 o'clock in evening on the first secular day in January following their election and shall continue until their successors have been chosen and qualified. Three of the members shall be elected at each regular city election.

#### 5.4 Powers and Duties:

- School committee has all of the powers and duties which are given to school committees in the commonwealth by general laws. May have additional powers and duties that are given to them by the charter or by ordinance.
  - The powers of the school committee include, but need not be limited to the following:
    - To appoint a superintendent of schools, who shall be charged with the day to day administration of the public schools subjected to policy directives issued by the school committee.
    - To appoint all other officers and employees connected with the public schools, fix their salaries, define their duties, make rules concerning their tenure of office and to discharge them
    - Make all reasonable rules and regulations for the management of the public schools of the city and for conducting the business of the school committee as may be necessary or desirable
- The school committee will furnish all school buildings with fixtures, furnishings and equipment and shall provide ordinary custodial services for all school buildings and grounds.

Director of Department of Budget & Finance

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Finance/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Finance/index)

City Collector Treasurer

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Tax/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Tax/index)

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Treasurer/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Treasurer/index)

Comptroller

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Comptroller/S009225DA-023E0C13](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Comptroller/S009225DA-023E0C13)

Purchasing Agent

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Purchasing/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Purchasing/index)

City Engineer

Labor Relations Counsel

Chief of Police

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Police/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Police/index)

Fire Chief

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Fire/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Fire/index)

Director of Personnel

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Personnel/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Personnel/index)

Director of Public Works

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_DPW/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_DPW/index)

Commissioner of Inspector Services

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Inspection/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Inspection/index)

Director of Community Development

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_PlanDev/Index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_PlanDev/Index)

City Physician

Board of Health ( 3 Persons: 1 of the 3 must be the City Physician)

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_BOH/S0096C9E8](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_BOH/S0096C9E8)

Board of Trustees of Public Library (5)

[http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA\\_Library/index](http://www.ci.lawrence.ma.us/Pages/LawrenceMA_Library/index)

Other Municipal Offices as may be determined

