

EMAIL

Thinking about running for council?

If you or someone you know is considering serving on your local council, this webinar is for you! Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) are hosting free webinars to help prospective candidates understand what it's like to serve on a municipal council.

During this interactive webinar, you'll learn about:

- What decisions councils are responsible for
- How municipal government differs from federal and provincial governments
- The impact and rewards of serving your community
- Firsthand experiences from current municipal leaders

There will also be a Q&A session where you can ask questions and gain valuable insights into the experience of being a municipal elected official. Each webinar is catered to different municipal structures, but you are welcome to attend any session that fits your schedule. Invite your family or friends to learn with you!

Visit the [ABmunis events page](#) for the full schedule.

For additional election-related resources, visit the ABmunis [Running for Municipal Office page](#) and [Insert link to your municipal webpage on elections]

Social Media Post Option 1

Are you interested in running for **Municipality name** council?

Alberta Municipalities and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta are hosting a series of webinars to help you prepare for this year's election.

Pick which times below apply to your municipality.

- **Summer Villages** (applicable to villages too)
 - April 23 & May 6
- **Rural Municipal Districts and Counties**
 - April 25, May 7, June 5, June 17, July 18 & August 13
- **Small to Midsize municipalities** (villages, towns, and cities under 20,000)
 - April 29, May 5, June 3, July 16, August 14, September 9 & September 16
- **Midsize to Large municipalities** (towns and cities over 20,000)
 - April 30, May 8, June 4, June 19 & July 1

Visit the [ABmunis events page](#) for the full schedule.

For additional election-related resources, visit the ABmunis [Running for Municipal Office page](#).

Social Media Post Option 2

Do you know someone who would make a great local leader? Great leaders come in all forms and shapes. If you do know one, be sure to share this information with them! Help spread the word and encourage more Albertans to consider running for seats on our council! Visit ABmunis [Running for Municipal Office Page](#) to learn more.

Newsletter/ Newspaper

Headline: **Thinking of running for council? Do we have a webinar for YOU!**

Do you know someone who would make a great local leader? If you do, the [INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY HERE] council and administration encourage you to share this information with them!

Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) are hosting a one-hour webinar for people interested in running for council in this fall's municipal elections. Participants will discover:

- What local councils control
- The actual time commitment (most councillors work regular jobs, too)
- How decisions in small municipalities create immediate, visible and long-lasting impacts
- How skills acquired from work, community activities and family life apply to serving on municipal council.

Prospective candidates can register for a webinar that corresponds with the size of the municipality in which they will run. Numerous one-hour sessions are being offered from April to September.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.abmunis.ca/events>

For additional election-related resources, visit the ABmunis [Running for Municipal Office page](#).

For information about our municipal election, head to our **INSERT MUNICIPAL PAGE**

SO YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT **RUNNING** **FOR COUNCIL?**



A practical guide to understanding
elected roles in local government.

Voices from Alberta Councils



I ran because I saw opportunities to build a better future for our community. My background in small business gave me useful skills, but what really mattered was simply caring about my town and wanting to be part of its growth. – Alberta councillor, small municipality

The most rewarding aspect of serving on council is seeing projects come to fruition that improve residents' quality of life. When you help solve a long-standing problem or bring a new amenity to your community, the sense of accomplishment is incredible. – Alberta councillor, rural municipality

What Municipal Councillors Do

Municipal councils are responsible for:

- Setting the direction and future vision for your community
- Establishing policies and bylaws to set the quality and level of local services
- Approving annual budgets and determining tax rates
- Making land use, zoning, and development decisions
- Providing oversight of the municipality through the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Engaging with the community to understand their needs and concerns

Typical Monthly Duties

- 2-3 Council meetings per month
- Committee meetings (hours dependent on the community)
- Reading reports and preparing for meetings (6-10 hours per month)
- Public events and resident interactions
- Email and phone correspondence with constituents

**The workload often increases during budget season and important public hearings.*

Understanding Local Jurisdiction

One of the most important aspects of municipal governance is understanding what falls within local jurisdiction:

Within municipal authority:

- Local roads and transportation
- Water, wastewater, and waste management
- Parks, recreation, and community facilities
- Fire services, peace officers, and bylaw enforcement
- Land use planning and development permits
- Property taxation
- Local economic development

Outside municipal authority:

- Healthcare system and hospitals (Provincial)
- Education and school curriculums (Provincial)
- Highways (Provincial)
- Social services (Provincial/Federal, with municipal partnerships)
- Criminal code and justice system (Federal)
- Income tax and GST (Federal)

Working effectively within your jurisdiction means focusing on what you can control while advocating for your community's interests with other levels of government when needed.

Working With Administration

Council sets policies, and municipal administration implements them. Understanding this relationship is crucial:

- Council works as a collective body (individual councillors have no direct authority)
- The CAO is Council's only employee
- Staff report to the CAO, not to individual councillors
- Respecting administrative expertise improves governance outcomes

Common Misconceptions vs. Reality

- ✗ Councillors run day-to-day operations
- ✓ Council provides direction; staff handles operations
- ✗ You need specific qualifications
- ✓ Your willingness to learn and a commitment to serve all members of your community matters most
- ✗ Being a councillor is a full-time job
- ✓ For most councillors outside of large cities, it's a part-time role you can balance with other commitments
- ✗ You'll make decisions alone
- ✓ Council decisions require a majority vote
- ✗ You should know everything going on
- ✓ You'll learn through orientation and experience

Practical Skills That Help

While there are no formal qualifications required to serve on municipal Council, the following skills will help you to be an effective councillor:

- Strong communication and listening abilities
- Ability to understand budgets and financial documents (training provided)
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse perspectives
- Time management and organizational skills

Challenges and Rewards

Challenges you might face:

- Balancing diverse community interests, dealing with public scrutiny
- Managing time between various commitments
- Learning municipal processes and legislation

Rewards you'll experience:

- Making real improvements in your community
- Building meaningful relationships
- Being part of critical decisions creating a legacy for future generations

Ready to Learn More?

Join our webinar series:

At [Events](#) | [Alberta Municipalities](#), [RMA's Webinar Calendar](#)

Additional resources:

- Explore online resources about the Municipal Government Act
- Visit [ABmunis'](#) and [RMA's](#) Running for Municipal Office webpages

Contact us with questions:

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