

Oshkosh has a Council-Manager form of government. This form of government was enacted by a charter change adopted by the citizens of Oshkosh in November, 1956. An important feature of this form of government is its separation of powers. The City Council is a policy-making body, while the City Manager performs the administrative duties required for the successful operation of the city.

The City Council establishes policy, enacts ordinances, adopts the annual budget and confirms appointments made by the Mayor to various advisory and administrative boards, commissions, committees and authorities. The City Council is comparable to the Board of Directors of a private corporation. The Council's policies are based upon its own study, as well as the advice of various special advisory boards appointed by the City Council. The City Council is the local legislative body elected to represent the citizens of the City of Oshkosh. It consists of seven Council Members, six elected to two-year terms, and a Mayor, also directly elected by the citizens, to serve a two-year term.

The Council holds hearings on matter of public interest and conducts investigations into matters in which the city has an interest. Council Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Room 406 of the Oshkosh City Hall, 215 Church Avenue, Oshkosh. These meetings are open to the public and are also televised live on Channel 10, the City's Public Access Channel. In addition, numerous "Council Workshops" are held to study city business.

The City Council also appoints the City Manager.