The city of Aurora is governed by a council/manager form of government. This structure provides a balanced approach—combining the political leadership of elected officials with the managerial expertise of a professionally trained local government manager.

Council members are the policy makers, elected by popular vote. They focus their attention on Aurora’s goals, major projects, setting policy, and long-term considerations such as land use development, capital financing and strategic planning.

The city manager ensures that the direction set by the city council is carried out by the city and that services are provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The manager is hired by, and accountable to, the city council to oversee the day-to-day operations of the city. The manager’s duties include preparing a recommended budget for city council; recruiting, hiring and supervising city staff; enforcing ordinances; overseeing purchasing and contracting; supervising fiscal operations and providing the city council with complete and objective information to support the council in its decision-making process.

The city of Aurora touches your life every day by providing you with water, sewer and street services; fire and police protection; parks, recreation, cultural and library facilities; municipal court proceedings; business development assistance and neighborhood support. The city budget, which supports these services, is primarily funded through sales and use taxes.

There are a lot of wonderful things happening in Aurora, and you can play an important role. Be a volunteer, vote, serve on a board or commission, attend city events—participate! Your participation and opinions do matter, and you are what makes this city so remarkable.
getting INVOLVED

The Aurora City Council is composed of the mayor and 10 city council members. Of those 10 members, six are ward council members, representing one of the six wards that section the city. The remaining four council members are elected at-large, like the mayor, to represent the entire city. The 10 members of Aurora’s city council are part-time elected officials, meaning they may all have jobs in addition to their responsibilities as council members. The mayor’s position is full time.

The city founders chartered an excellent opportunity for you to participate in city government and help shape the future of our city, such as running for public office or volunteering to serve on any of the 30 city boards and commissions that advise city council and city management. During the “public invited to be heard” section of city council meetings, you may share your ideas and opinions with the city council on any subject, or in particular, those before city council.

City Council Meetings

Aurora City Council meetings take place on scheduled Mondays at the Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway. Council meetings are divided into three distinct segments:

- The executive session, which occurs prior to study session on scheduled meeting dates, is closed to the press and the public to allow city council to discuss matters involving property transactions, legal advice, negotiations, personnel matters or confidential documents. State law limits the topics that can be addressed in this meeting.

- Study sessions occur prior to the formal city council meeting on scheduled meeting dates, and are open to the public. Special, stand-alone study sessions also occur about once a month. The city council discusses policy issues at these less-formal meetings. The public is invited to listen, but public comments may not be made unless solicited by the city council. No formal vote of city council on policy matters is taken at this meeting.

- The formal city council meeting occurs in the City Council Chamber on the first floor of the Aurora Municipal Center at 7:30 p.m. on scheduled meeting dates. The agenda follows a set routine that allows city council to consider and vote on the formal business of the city. The public may fill out a form at the meeting and give it to the city clerk in order to speak on an agenda item. The public also may speak on any topic at the beginning and the end of the regular council meeting during the “public invited to be heard” agenda item. Every formal council meeting is broadcast live on AuroraTV, Aurora’s community television station broadcasting on Comcast Channel 8 and HD 880, as well as on AuroraTV.org. The city council meeting schedule is available at AuroraGov.org/Council.
City Council Policy Committees

The city council has established nine city council policy committees. Led by council members, each committee investigates and takes positions on matters that come before the full city council. Each year, the Mayor Pro Tem assigns three council members to each committee, meaning that each member of the city council will serve on three concurrent policy committees. Policy committees meet regularly and are open to the public. Agenda items discussed at policy committees are brought forward by council members from concerned citizens or city staff. These committees take the first step in addressing policy issues for the city. The recommendations of a committee are taken to city council meetings, where action is taken on a matter by the full city council. The press and public are invited to listen, but public comments may not be made at these meetings. Visit AuroraGov.org/Council for a schedule of policy committee meetings.

The city of Aurora has 30 boards, commissions, committees and authorities composed of citizen volunteers appointed by the Aurora City Council. These groups—crucial to the success of Aurora’s representative government—review new and existing operations in specific areas and suggest an appropriate course of action to city management and council. By sharing their experience, expertise and time, citizens provide valuable insight to the operations of the city and the city council’s decision-making process.

For more about volunteering for a board, commission, committee or authority at the city of Aurora, call 303.739.7140 or visit the Boards and Commissions web page at AuroraGov.org/Boards.
did you KNOW?

**Aurora sits in three counties.**
Most of Aurora is located in Arapahoe and Adams counties, with a small portion of Aurora in Douglas County.

**County governments provide many services.**
The counties provide Aurora citizens with many services, including social services programs like child support enforcement, aid to abused children, Medicaid and employment assistance. The counties also handle many court proceedings including divorce, child custody, name changes, small claims, and felony criminal and civil cases over $10,000.

**Sales taxes fund the bulk of city services.**
The majority of funding for city facilities and services comes from sales taxes collected on merchandise purchased in Aurora. Only a small percentage of funding comes from property taxes or other funding.

**Aurora makes a big impact in Colorado.**
- Third largest city in the state
- Encompasses 160 square miles of land
- More than 75 square miles of undeveloped land
- More than 381,000 people call Aurora home
- 54th largest city in the United States

**Five school districts serve Aurora.**
Most students in Aurora attend school in Aurora Public Schools or Cherry Creek Schools. Brighton Public Schools and Douglas County School District serve a small number of Aurora students. A portion of undeveloped land also falls within Bennett Public Schools.

**School districts are self-governed.**
State laws govern all school districts serving Aurora students through an elected board of commissioners. The city of Aurora does not fund or govern the operation of schools.

**Aurora sits high.**
Aurora’s official elevation is 5,471 feet—higher than a mile high. The highest elevation of 6,229 feet is in the southeastern portion of Aurora in Douglas County near Inspiration and Gartrell roads. The lowest elevation of 5,285 feet is in northwestern Adams County near 30th and Moline.

**Aurora’s healthcare is tops in the region, the state and even the nation.**
- Children’s Hospital Colorado
- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- HealthONE: The Medical Center of Aurora
- Rocky Mountain VA Regional Medical Center

and so much MORE!
your MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL

Mike Coffman – MAYOR
303.739.7015 (council office)
Email: mcoffman@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2023

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
- Adams County Economic Development (alternate)
- Aurora Economic Development Council
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority
- High Line Canal Working Group

Nicole Johnston (Mayor Pro Tem) - WARD II
303.739.7506 (council office)
Email: njohnsto@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2021

Council Policy Committees
Member, Amendment 64 Ad Hoc Committee

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
- Adams County Airport Coordinating Committee
- E-470 Authority (alternate)
- National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.)
- Spirit of Aurora
- Urban Drainage and Flood Control
- Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority

Crystal Murillo - WARD I
303.739.7502 (council office)
Email: cmurillo@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2021

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Housing, Neighborhood Services and Redevelopment; Vice Chair, Planning, & Economic Development; Member, Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committees

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
- Aurora Economic Development Council
your MAYOR
and CITY COUNCIL

Marsha Berzins – WARD III
303.739.7508 (council office)
720.838.3762 (cellphone)
Email: mberzins@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2021

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Water; Vice Chair, Parks, Foundations, and Quality of Life; Member, Transportation, Airports, & Public Works; Chair, Amendment 64 Ad Hoc Committee

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Accelerate Colorado
• Aurora Economic Development Council
• Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority
• Lowry Community Advisory Committee

Juan Marcano - WARD IV
303.739.7516 (council office)
720.634.6927 (cellphone; text preferred)
Email: jmarcano@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2023

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Transportation, Airports, and Public Works; Vice Chair, Management and Finance; Member, Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions, and Citizens Groups

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Arapahoe County Transportation Forum
• Aurora Sister Cities International

Alison Coombs - WARD V
303.739.7510 (council office)
720.505.3332 (cellphone)
Email: acoombs@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2023

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions, and Citizens Groups; Vice Chair, Water; Member, Housing, Neighborhood Services, and Redevelopment; Member, Amendment 64 Ad Hoc Committee

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Adams County Aging Network
• Denver Regional Council of Governments (alternate)
• Mile High Behavioral Health Care/Comitis Crisis Center
• Visit Aurora
Françoise Bergan - WARD VI
303.739.7015 (council office)
720.465.1830 (cellphone)
Email: fbergan@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2013

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Planning and Economic Development; Vice Chair, Housing, Neighborhood Services and Redevelopment; Member, Water

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Aurora Economic Development Council
• Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority
• E-470 Public Highway Authority

Curtis Gardener – AT LARGE
303.739.7524 (council office)
720.505.4312 (cellphone)
E-mail: cgardner@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2023

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Parks, Foundations, and Quality of Life; Vice Chair, Public Safety, Courts, and Civil Service; Member, Management & Finance; Member, Amendment 64 Ad Hoc Committee

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Aurora Economic Development Council

Dave Gruber - AT LARGE
303.739.7514 (council office)
Email: dgruber@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2021

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Management and Finance; Vice Chair, Public Relations, Communications, Tourism, Libraries, Boards and Commissions, and Citizens Groups; Member, Parks, Foundations, and Quality of Life

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
• Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority
• Adams County Airport Coordinating Committee
• Adams County Economic Development
• Aurora Economic Development Council
• Colorado Air and Space Port Advisory
• I-70 Regional Economic Advancement Partnership (REAP)
• National Organization to Insure a Sound-Controlled Environment (N.O.I.S.E.)
Allison Hiltz - AT LARGE
303.739.7524 (council office)
720.767.2685 (cellphone)
Email: ahiltz@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2021

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service; Vice Chair, Federal, State & Intergovernmental Relations; Member, Planning & Economic Development

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
- Aurora Economic Development Council
- Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority

Angela Lawson - AT LARGE
303.739.7518 (council office)
720.870.1948 (other)
Email: alawson@auroragov.org
Term Expires: November 2023

Council Policy Committees
Chair, Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations; Vice Chair, Transportation, Airports, and Public Works; Member, Public Safety, Courts, & Civil Service

Community/Intergovernmental Participation
- Aurora Economic Development Council
- Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee
- High Line Canal Working Group
- Lowry Community Advisory Committee
frequently requested NUMBERS
Note: Unless indicated, area code is 303

Access Aurora Information . . . . 739.7000
Animal Care (Dispatch) . . . . . . 326.8288
Aurora Center for Active Adults . 739.7950
Aurora Chamber of Commerce . 344.1500
Aurora Economic Development . 755.2223
Aurora Fox Arts Center . . . . . . 739.1970
Aurora Housing Authority . . . . . . 720.251.2100
Aurora Sports Office . . . . . . 326.8700
Aurora TV . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.6611
Billing: Water and Sewer . . . . . . 739.7388
Building Permits/Inspections . . . . . . 739.7420
Business Development Center . . . . . . 326.8690
Business/Liquor Licenses . . . . . . 739.7057
City Attorney’s Office . . . . . . 739.7030
City Clerk . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7094
City Manager’s Office . . . . . . 739.7010
Code Violations/Graffiti . . . . . . 739.7000
Communications . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7046
Community Development . . . . . . 739.7900
Community Relations . . . . . . 739.7580
Court, Municipal . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.6444
Cultural Services . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.6670
Development Assistance . . . . . . 739.7345
Finance/Budget . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7800
Fire Administration . . . . . . 326.8999
Forestry . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7177
Golf . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7888
History Museum . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.6660
Jail/Detention Center . . . . . . 739.6194
Jobs/Employment, HR . . . . . . 739.7225
Library, Aurora Central . . . . . . 739.6600
Library & Cultural Services . . . . . . 739.6640
Mayor/City Council . . . . . . 739.7015
Municipal Records . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7074
Neighborhood Services . . . . . . 739.7280
Parks, Recreation & Open Space . . . . 739.7160
Police Administration . . . . . . 739.6000
Police Records . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.6308
Recreation Registration . . . . . . 326.8650
Recycling Information . . . . . . 739.7173
Sports Office . . . . . . . . . . . . 326.8700
Streets Division . . . . . . . . . . . . 326.8200
Street Light Outages . . . . . . 800.895.4999
Taxes/Sales & Use . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7800
Trees/Forestry . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7177
Volunteer Office/Snow Busters . . . . . . 739.7759
Water Conservation/Rebates . . . . . 739.7195
Water Main Breaks . . . . . . . . . . . . 326.8645

Water Wasting:
  Report Violations . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7195
  Water/Sewer Bills . . . . . . . . . . . . 739.7388
  Watering & Lawn Permits . . . . . . 739.7195

Download the Access Aurora application for your cell phone or visit:

AuroraGov.org/ContactUs