

## About Mayor and Council

The Independence City Charter, passed by voters in November, 1986, provides that the government of the city shall be vested in a council and a mayor. The council is composed of 6 members, elected at large, with each position numbered one through six. Councilors serve for 4-year terms; the Mayor serves for a 2-year term.

The Mayor is the presiding officer of the council, and may not vote except in the case of a tie. The Mayor has the authority to preserve order, enforce the rules of the Council and determine the order of business at meetings.

Elections are held at the General Election in November in even-numbered years, with the positions staggered so that 3 are elected during each election cycle. The newly-elected officials are sworn in at the first regular council meeting in January. Also at the first meeting of the year, the Council elects a President from its membership. In the Mayor's absence from a council meeting, the Council President shall preside. Whenever the Mayor is unable to perform the functions of office, the Council President shall act as Mayor.

Qualifications for Office: To run for city council or Mayor, you must be a qualified elector (registered voter) at the time of the election, and must have resided within city limits for the 12 months immediately preceding the election.

If you have any questions about city elections or offices, please contact City Recorder Karin Johnson at 503.838.1212 or [kjohnson \[at\] ci \[dot\] independence \[dot\] or \[dot\] us](mailto:kjohnson@ci.independence.or.us).

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