



## ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024 UPDATES

Dear neighbors,

Welcome to the Common Council's official newsletter. Here you'll find resources to help you get involved with legislating in the City of Albany. You'll also find updates on legislation that the Council has recently passed and details on where to view the legislation that it's considering now.

We hope that these resources empower you to become an active part of the Council's work. Whether it's approaching [your councilmember](#) with an idea or commenting on pending legislation at a meeting, your participation makes the difference.

Please take a few moments to read through this newsletter, and please feel free to reach out to us.

Respectfully yours,

The Albany Common Council

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### Join the Conversation

The Albany Common Council relies on public participation in every step of its legislative process. If you're looking to speak or write on an item on the Council's agenda, head to our website to submit a public comment. Please note that any information that you provide will be shared with all Common Council members and/or read for the Record at our meeting. All public comment is memorialized on our website and our social media platforms.

**In-Person:** 24 Eagle Street, Room 202

**Online:** <https://www.albanyny.gov/2187/Albany-Common-Council>

**By Phone:** (518) 434-5087

**By Email:** [commoncouncil@albanyny.gov](mailto:commoncouncil@albanyny.gov)



## Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

February 5, 6:00 PM	Public Safety Committee
February 5, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
February 6, 5:30 PM	Public Safety Committee
February 7, 5:30 PM	Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee
February 12, 5:30 PM	General Services, Health and Environment Committee
February 13, 5:30 PM	Public Safety Committee
February 14, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
February 15, 5:30 PM	Black History Month Celebration
February 22, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
February 27, 5:30 PM	Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee
February 28, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session

All meetings are livestreamed and recorded on the Common Council's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. You can find meeting agendas, the active calendar, supporting legislation and more in the Common Council's [Agenda Center](#).

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## A Constituent's Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 8: Voting Rules

*Each month, we'll go back to basics on all things Common Council.*

If your idea becomes a law, earns a spot on the agenda, and makes it through the committee process, you might be ready to bring it to a vote. But a vote is not a vote is not a vote: The Council's votes are subject to different rules depending on the legislation in question. New York's [Municipal Home Rule Law](#), the [City Charter](#), and Article 5 of the Common Council's [Rules of Procedure](#) outline what it takes to pass different types of legislation.

The general rule is this: To pass a local law, ordinance, or resolution, a majority of the entire Council—eight members—must vote in favor of it. But the rules are different for legislation that authorizes the City to take on bond debt. These bills—usually bond ordinances that come out of the City's end-of-year budget process—require the support of two-thirds of the entire Council; 10 members must vote “yes” for bonding legislation to pass.

The same is true when it comes to overriding mayoral vetoes. At least 10 councilmembers must vote to override vetoed legislation to move it past the Council again. That number increases to 11 for vetoed bonding legislation.

A separate set of rules come into play when the Council is considering legislation that has yet to age properly (more on aging next month). If a newly introduced or amended

local law is pressing enough to include a message of necessity from the Mayor, a 10-member majority of the Council can vote to pass the law. If an ordinance is being considered at the meeting of its introduction, every councilmember in attendance must vote in favor of its passage.

For final vote tallies and more detailed recaps of the Council's business, you can read meeting minutes in the [Agenda Center](#). (Please note that Regular Meeting minutes are located within each meeting's [agenda page](#).)

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## **Common Council News**

The City's Violence Prevention Task Force is re-forming, this time with the help of the new Violence Prevention Coordinator. For more information on serving with Task Force, check out this year's [Call for Applications](#). For more information on the Violence Prevention Coordinator position, head to [jobs.albanyny.gov](http://jobs.albanyny.gov).

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## **Committee Reports**

### **Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee**

The committee met on January 9 to discuss Ordinance 76.122.23, which can be found [here](#). It was held.

### **General Services, Health and Environment Committee**

The committee met on January 17 to discuss Resolution 2.11.24R (MC) and Resolution 4.11.24R (MC), which can be found [here](#). They moved forward with favorable recommendations.

### **Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee**

The committee met on January 18 to discuss Bond Ordinances 39.102.23, 40.102.23, 41.102.23, and 69.102.23, each of which can be found [here](#). They moved forward with favorable recommendations.

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## **Legislation Passed**

### **Ordinance 39.102.23 Sponsored by Frederick**

An ordinance authorizing certain purchases by the City of Albany at a maximum estimated cost of \$9,825,000 and authorizing the lease financing or the issuance of \$5,000,000 serial bonds of said City to pay the cost thereof (DGS - Street Reconstruction)

### **Ordinance 40.102.23 Sponsored by Frederick**

An ordinance authorizing certain purchases by the City of Albany at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,000,000 and authorizing the lease financing or the issuance of \$1,000,000 serial bonds of said City to pay the cost thereof (DGS - ADA Compliance)

### **Ordinance 41.102.23 Sponsored by Frederick**

An ordinance authorizing certain purchases by the City of Albany at a maximum estimated cost of \$600,000 and authorizing the lease financing or the issuance of \$600,000 serial bonds of said City to pay the cost thereof (DGS – Sidewalk Reconstruction)

### **Ordinance 69.102.23 Sponsored by Frederick**

An ordinance authorizing certain purchases by the City of Albany at a maximum estimated cost of \$588,000 and authorizing the lease financing or the issuance of \$325,000 serial bonds of said City to pay the cost thereof (Recreation – Playgrounds)

### **Resolution 1.11.24R Sponsored by Hoey**

A resolution urging the New York State Department of Transportation to adopt a new policy that aligns with the intent of Chapter 496 and allows for the expedient adoption of safer 25 MPH speed limits throughout the state

### **Resolution 10.12.24R (MC) Sponsored by Frederick**

A resolution approving the addition of a Violence Prevention Coordinator position within the Common Council, which will affect a salary total

### **Resolution 113.112.23R Sponsored by Anane**

A resolution supporting redevelopment of I-787 and the Hudson Riverfront to increase the efficient use of space, economic development, river access, environmental conservation, and aesthetic beauty while maintaining reasonable traffic features that increase pedestrian, biker and motorist safety in the area

### **Resolution 2.11.24R (MC) Sponsored by Romero**

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Hon. Matthew T. Peter and renaming a portion of Lancaster Street in his honor

### **Resolution 3.11.24R (MC) Sponsored by Adams**

A resolution calling for a permanent end to violence in Gaza, immediate provision of sufficient humanitarian aid for Gaza, and sustainable peace and unity

### **Resolution 5.11.24R (MC) Sponsored by Frederick**

A resolution establishing the locally-adjusted base proportions of the Homestead and Non-Homestead classes for property tax purposes pursuant to Article 19 of the Real Property Tax Law

### **Resolution 6.12.24R Sponsored by Kimbrough**

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### **Resolution 8.12.24R (MC) Sponsored by Farrell**

A resolution recognizing the contributions of 518 Elevated and recognizing January as National Mentoring Month.

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For the latest information on introduced and held legislation, please visit the Common Council's [Agenda Center](#).

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