



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL AUGUST 2023 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

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/189/Albany-Common-Council>

By Phone: (518) 434-5087

By Email: commoncouncil@albanyny.gov



Upcoming Public Meetings

August 2, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
August 7, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
August 14, 5:30 PM	PEG Access Ad-Hoc Committee
August 15, 5:30 PM	Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee
August 16, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
August 21, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
August 30, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
August 31, 5:30 PM	Housing & Community Development Committee

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](#).

A Constituent’s Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 2: How does an idea become a law?

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

Whether it’s a problem that needs solving, a standard that needs setting or a wrong needs that righting, the work of a legislature comes back to the will of its constituents. When community members speak up, it’s [a councilmember’s](#) job to listen hard and help think up ideas that address constituent concerns.

If those ideas can be turned into legislation—if they can become a local law, ordinance or resolution that can be carried out here in Albany—then it’s time to start writing. Councilmembers, City staff and constituents are all involved in the initial drafting process. They might start from scratch, look to other municipalities for inspiration or consider whether a particular part of [the City’s laws](#) needs changing. Each of these options involves figuring out how the Common Council can legally take action on an issue here in Albany.

The type of action, in turn, helps determine whether legislation is drafted as a local law, ordinance or resolution. If the Council needs to declare its position on an issue or complete a routine task like confirming an official appointment, councilmembers will write a resolution. If the Council needs to change [the City Code](#)—its collected laws—ordinances are the go-to option. If the Council needs to amend a previously passed local law, make certain state-specified changes or adopt a change to its Code that needs extra public input, councilmembers will write a local law.

Once a piece of legislation is written, it’s time to introduce it. The councilmembers involved in drafting or presenting a law to the entire Common Council are called its sponsors. One of the sponsors’ tasks is to submit legislation to City staff so that it can be reviewed and included in a packet of newly introduced laws before each Regular

Meeting. This packet is called the Supporting Legislation, and you can always find it in the Council's [Agenda Center](#).

During a Regular Meeting, sponsors ask the Council President to introduce their legislation. At this point, the Clerk of the Common Council reads the legislation's title, and the law is considered to be in possession of the entire body.

Common Council News

[Common Council Recognizes July as Disability Pride Month in the City of Albany](#)

Legislation Passed

Ordinance 22.61.23 Sponsored by Balarin

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to the parking of electric vehicles

Ordinance 23.61.23 Sponsored by Flynn

An ordinance restricting access to city landfill facilities

Ordinance 30.71.23 Sponsored by Love

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of hair texture and style

Resolution 65.62.23R Sponsored by Balarin

A resolution reappointing Andre Lake as a member of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Resolution 66.62.23R Sponsored by Balarin

A resolution reappointing Daniel Kirk-Davidoff as a member of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Resolution 69.62.23R Sponsored by Johnson

A resolution recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Doctor Ornella Sathoud

Resolution 71.71.23R Sponsored by Keegan

A resolution designating July as Disability Pride Month

Resolution 72.71.23R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution celebrating July 4, 2023 as Independence Day

Resolution 73.71.23R Sponsored by Zamer

A resolution condemning the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court of the United States and reaffirming the Council's commitment to reproductive rights

Resolution 74.71.23R Sponsored by Frederick

A resolution authorizing the City of Albany to accept grant funds from and enter into a contract with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regarding the restoration of the City Hall roof

Resolution 78.72.23R Sponsored by Love

A resolution supporting Capitalize Albany Corporation in its application to New York State Homes and Community Renewal for state assistance in funding the Liberty Park Downtown Stabilization Project

Resolution 79.72.23R Sponsored by Romero

A resolution supporting the City of Albany in its application to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund for state assistance in funding the Washington Park Playground Improvements Design Plan

Resolution 80.72.23R Sponsored by Love

A resolution supporting the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District in its application to New York State Homes and Community Renewal for state assistance in funding the North Pearl Street Target Area Project

Resolution 81.72.23R Sponsored by Clarke

A resolution supporting the City of Albany in its application to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for state assistance in funding a Citywide Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

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