



## ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL OCTOBER 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

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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

October 2, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
October 3, 5:30 PM	Public Safety Committee
October 4, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
October 5, 5:30 PM	Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee
October 10, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
October 11, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
October 16, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
October 18, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
October 19, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
October 23, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation 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](#).

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## A Constituent’s Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 4: How does budget season work?

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

Budget season is upon us. In fact, it never quite left: you are always welcome to approach [your councilmember](#) with ideas on how to prioritize funding in your ward and across the City. But with the beginning of October comes the official introduction of the City’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and with it, the official start of the budget process. So says the [City Charter](#), which outlines the entire process from start to finish.

On September 29, Mayor Sheehan presented the first draft of the City of Albany’s 2024 Budget. At its October 2 Regular Meeting, the Common Council will introduce Ordinance 37.101.23, which can be found [here](#). This ordinance is the Council’s means of considering the budget, and from here, it’s the Council’s responsibility to either accept the budget as proposed or amend it based on department needs and constituent priorities.

The Council dedicates most of its October meetings to hearing from each City department. Departments present on their budget needs and wants, and it’s up to the Council to weigh these asks against one another and against input from constituents. On October 16, the Council will hold its first public hearing on the proposed budget. Following the hearing and additional Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee meetings, the Council must either adopt or amend the budget. It has until November 30 to send its decision—including a list of all amendments and their related explanations—back to the Mayor for approval.

From here, the process quickens. The Mayor has until December 10 to adopt the budget as amended or veto any of the proposed amendments. If the Mayor vetoes any of the Council's amendments, the Council has until December 20 to override those vetoes. At this point, the budget is finalized, and the City's forecasted revenues and expenditures for 2024 are set.

You can find a detailed schedule of department presentations, public hearings and potential votes [here](#). If you are interested in learning about or speaking on an area of city government that matters to you, there's no better time to get involved.

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## **Common Council News**

Looking for us online? We've updated our website! Our new homepage makes engaging with the Common Council easier than ever. You can find the updated website [here](#).

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## **Committee Reports**

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

The committee met on September 5 to discuss Resolution 88.82.23R, which can be found [here](#). It moved forward with a favorable recommendation.

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

The committee met on September 6 to discuss Ordinance 33.82.23 and Resolution 89.82.23R, each of which can be found [here](#). The resolution moved forward with a favorable recommendation; the ordinance was held.

The committee met on September 18 to discuss Ordinance 33.82.23. It was held.

### **Public Safety Committee**

The committee met on September 11 to discuss Ordinance 5.21.23 and Local Law M of 2022, each of which can be found [here](#). Both pieces of legislation were held. The committee also discussed violence prevention activities, the proposed school speed zone camera demonstration program and the proposed body-worn cameras for code enforcement officers.

### **Housing and Community Development Committee**

The committee met on September 21 to discuss quality of life issues faced by residents of Parkview Apartments.

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## **Legislation Passed**

### **Ordinance 18.52.23 Sponsored by Kimbrough**

An ordinance changing the zoning classification of 27 Main Street from "Mixed-Use Neighborhood Center" (MU-NC) to "Light Industrial" (I-1) and amending the zoning map accordingly

**Ordinance 36.92.23 (MC) Sponsored by Frederick**

An ordinance amending Article I (Tax Districts for Real Property) of Chapter 333 (Taxation) of Part II (General Legislation) of the Code of the City of Albany about the filing of certain tax exemption applications

**Resolution 76.71.23R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution consenting to the appointment of Shadi Khadivi to the City of Albany Planning Board

**Resolution 77.71.23R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution consenting to the appointment of Rachel Breidster to the City of Albany Planning Board

**Resolution 82.72.23R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution consenting to the reappointment of Paige Barnum to the Board of Zoning Appeals

**Resolution 83.72.23R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution consenting to the appointment of Jellisa Joseph to the Board of Zoning Appeals

**Resolution 89.82.23R (MC) Sponsored by Kimbrough**

A resolution confirming the appointment of Ann Marie Salmon as Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services

**Resolution 90.91.23R Sponsored by Adams**

A resolution celebrating September 4, 2023 as Labor Day

**Resolution 91.91.23R Sponsored by Kimbrough**

A resolution recognizing September as Suicide Awareness Month in Albany

**Resolution 93.91.23R Sponsored by Romero**

A resolution recognizing August 31, 2023 as International Overdose Awareness Day and September 13 as New York’s statewide Overdose Awareness Day

**Resolution 94.91.23R Sponsored by Balarin**

A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos to the United States

**Resolution 96.92.23R Sponsored by Love**

A resolution recognizing and honoring the ingenuity and courage of Breea Anissa Bulgin, Zalaya Lipscomb, and Zyanna Lipscomb in assisting with finding a missing child

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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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