



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL NOVEMBER 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/2187/Albany-Common-Council>

By Phone: (518) 434-5087

By Email: commoncouncil@albanyny.gov



Upcoming Public Meetings

November 1, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
November 2, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
November 6, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
November 8, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
November 9, 5:30 PM	Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee
November 13, 5:30 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
November 15, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
November 16, 5:30 PM	General Services, Health and Environment Committee
November 20, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
November 29, 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](#).

A Constituent’s Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 5: How do committees work?

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

Most legislation heads to committee after its introduction. The Common Council [Rules of Procedure](#) outline the roles of the Council’s [nine standing committees](#), which consist of five councilmembers appointed biennially—that’s once every two years—by the President Pro Tempore. The first councilmember listed on each committee roster is that committee’s chair.

Committee chairs call meetings when legislation in the committee’s possession needs considering or when matters related to the committee’s jurisdiction need discussing. When it comes to considering legislation, committees are the site of the bulk of the Council’s conversations on proposed laws. Department heads, City employees, elected officials and constituents often join in on these conversations, and their result is usually one of a few possibilities: A committee might decide to hold a piece of legislation for future consideration, to recommend certain changes to the legislation or to move legislation forward with a favorable recommendation. In these last two cases, it’s back to the full council for a vote upon the legislation’s amendment and passage, respectively.

While some committees are more active than others—the Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee, for example, meets frequently during budget season in October and November—all committees must hold at least two meetings each year. You can find more on past and future committee meetings by visiting the Council’s [calendar](#).

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee

The committee met on October 3 to discuss Resolution 97.101.23R, Resolution 98.101.23R and Ordinance 5.21.23, each of which can be found [here](#). Resolution 97.101.23R moved forward with a favorable recommendation; Resolution 98.101.23R was held. Ordinance 5.21.23 moved forward with a favorable recommendation pending amendments.

The committee met on October 16 to discuss Resolution 98.101.23R and Ordinance 5.21.23. Both the resolution and the ordinance moved forward with favorable recommendations.¹

Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee

The committee met on October 4 for a budget discussion with Treasurer Darius Shahinfar, the Budget Office and the Department of Administrative Services. Their presentations can be found [here](#).

The committee met on October 10 for a budget discussion with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Albany Police Department. Their presentations can be found [here](#).

The committee met on October 18 for a budget discussion with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the Community Police Review Board. Their presentations can be found [here](#).

The committee met on October 19 for a budget discussion with the Albany Water Department and the Department of General Services. Their presentations can be found [here](#).

The committee met on October 23 for a budget discussion with the Law Department, the Department of Recreation and the Department of Youth and Workforce Services. Their presentations can be found [here](#).

Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee

The committee met on October 5 to discuss Local Law H of 2023, Local Law D of 2023, Local Law E of 2023, Ordinance 16.42.23 and Ordinance 38.101.23, each of which can be found [here](#). The local laws moved forward with favorable recommendations; the ordinances were held.

Legislation Passed

Local Law D of 2023 Sponsored by Anane

A local law amending Section 5 of Local Law 1-2016 in relation to the expiration thereof

¹ The version of Ordinance 5.21.23 that ultimately moved out of the Public Safety Committee was the version amended during the September 18 Regular Meeting. This is the same version that appears in the Public Safety Committee meeting notices.

Local Law E of 2023 Sponsored by Keegan

A local law amending Chapter 255 (Peace and Good Order) of the Code of the City of Albany by adding thereto a new article XI to be entitled "Harassment of a Code Enforcement Officer, DGS Worker, Public Service Officer, or Traffic Safety Aide"

Ordinance 29.71.23 Sponsored by Balarin

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany establishing standards for cannabis dispensaries and consumption sites

Ordinance 5.21.23 Sponsored by Anane

An ordinance amending Code of the City of Albany in relation to clarifying the standards and modifying enforcement guidelines for loitering

Resolution 100.101.23R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution declaring October 20, 2023 to be Community Media Day in the City of Albany

Resolution 101.101.23R Sponsored by Kimbrough

A resolution declaring the week of October 2nd through October 6th, 2023 to be Digital Inclusion Week in the City of Albany

Resolution 102.101.23R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution declaring October 16, 2023 through October 22, 2023 as Free Speech Week in the City of Albany

Resolution 103.101.23R Sponsored by Romero

A resolution honoring October 9, 2023 as Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Albany

Resolution 104.101.23R (MC) Sponsored by Flynn

A resolution commemorating October as National Italian-American Heritage Month

Resolution 105.102.23R Sponsored by Romero

A resolution authorizing the implementation, and funding in the first instance, 100% of the federal-aid and state "Marchiselli" program-aid eligible costs, of a transportation federal-aid project, and appropriating funds therefor

Resolution 106.102.23R (MC) Sponsored by Zamer

A resolution condemning the October 7, 2023 terrorist attack in Israel and expressing support for the Jewish community and those affected by the violence

Resolution 107.102.23R (MC) Sponsored by Anane

A resolution commending the United Auto Workers for their resilience in their strike and honoring the labor movement for their continued efforts making America a better and safer place to work

Resolution 97.101.23R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution reappointing Nairobi Vives as a member of the Community Police Review Board

Resolution 98.101.23R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution reappointing Paul Collins-Hackett as a member of the Community Police Review Board

Resolution 99.101.23R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution supporting the preservation of the Burdett Birth Center of Samaritan Hospital in Troy

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