Municipal Government 101

Agenda



01. **City of Winnipeg Responsibilities**

02. **How Winnipeg is Structured**

03. **How Decisions are Made**

04. **How Can You Create Change!**

05. **Q & A**

What Level of Government is Responsible?

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

- Waste management
- Local roads
- Parks and recreation
- Zoning and land use
- Public transportation
- Urban planning (shared)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

- Education
- Healthcare
- Natural resources
- Property and civil rights
- Highway infrastructure
- Public health (shared)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- National defence and security
- Foreign affairs
- Immigration & citizenship
- Criminal law
- Interprovincial transportation
- Environmental protection (shared)

Winniepg Responsibilities



Local Economic, Social & Environmental Well-being



Roads, Parking, & Transportation



Waste Management



Parks & Recreation Facilities



Environmental Conservation & Climate Change



Drainage and Flood Control



Local Emergency Services (Fire, Police, EMTs)



Social Housing, Homelessness Programs, and Childcare



Economic Development & Zoning



Utilities (Water & Sewer)

Provincial Responsibilities



Social Assistance & Long Term Care



Hospitals & Healthcare



Education



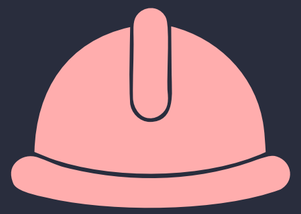
Provincial Parks & Conservation



Natural Resources*



Provincial Law & Courts



Setting Labour Standards



Highways (Except Private 407)

Municipal Structure: Manitoba

Urban Municipalities

includes: cities, towns, villages

Has at least 1000 residents and a population density of at least 400 residents per square kilometer

Rural Municipalities

includes: “incorporated areas”

Has at least 1000 residents and a population density of less than 400 residents per square kilometer (With some exceptions)

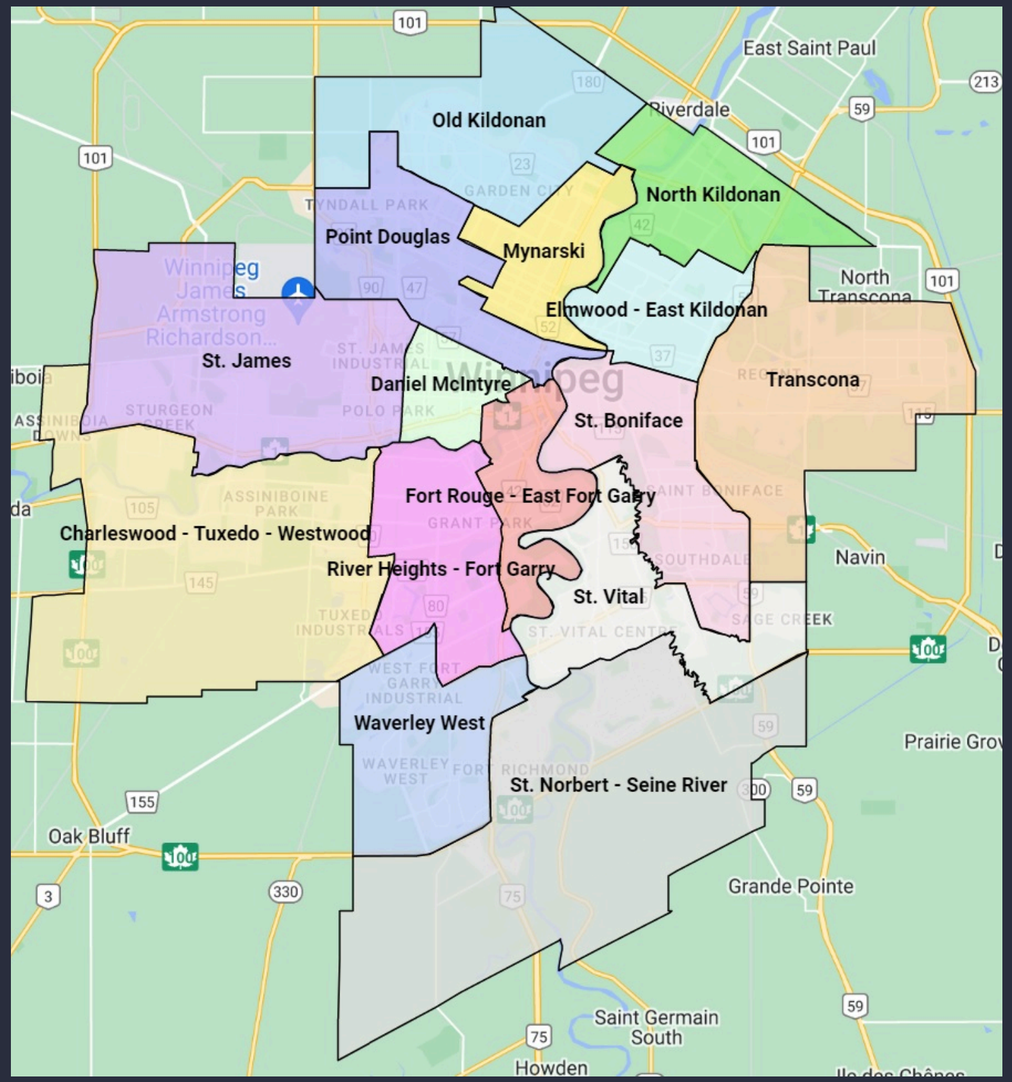
Local Government Districts

includes: special designated regions (Mystery Lake, Pinawa)

Disorganized populated regions that are incorporated as municipalities through legislation under the 1987 Local Government Districts Act

Manitoba has 137 municipalities

City of Winnipeg Municipal Election



1 Mayor

1 Deputy Mayor

Appointed By Mayor

15 Councillors

1 Councillor/Ward

Municipal Government Structure

GROUP OF ELECTED MEMBERS WHO MAKE DECISIONS BY MAJORITY VOTE ON THE SERVICES AND FINANCES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

MANAGE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON WHICH ACTIONS TO TAKE

COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

HEAD OF COUNCIL

Mayor, Reeve, or Warden

COUNCILLORS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Usually an elected councillor and several appointed citizens

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

CORPERATE OFFICER OR CLERK

OTHER STAFF

Planning Department, Engineering Staff, Front Office Staff

Responsibilities

Primary role is governance and decision making

Primary role is administration and implementation

Office of the CAO

COUNCIL

- Establish municipalities strategic direction
- Pass by by-laws, policies, and resolutions
- Represent the residents' interests
- Financial Oversight - approve budget, tax & levy rates, and long-term plans

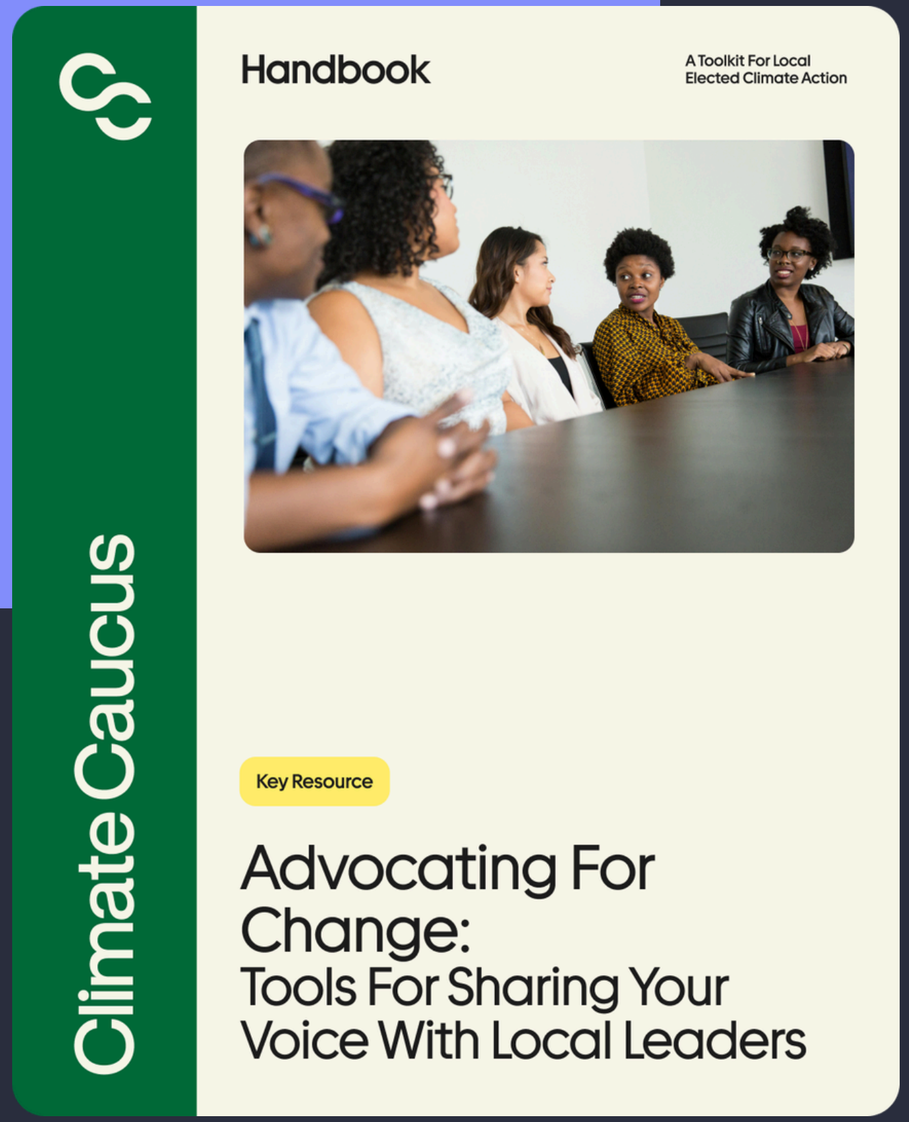
STAFF

- Provide expert, evidence-based recommendations to council
- Implement Councils decisions, by-laws, and policies
- Deliver municipal services (e.g. roads, transit, fire, admin)
- Financial Management - spend within the budget, manage investments

How Decisions Are Made



How Can you Create Change on the Municipal Level?



climatecaucus.ca/resources

Identify Your Local Network

A good starting point is to identify people or groups who have the same interest.

This is important as it will give you an idea of who the key leaders are in your community, what barriers will be in place, and who your potential supporters will be.



Engaging with Council

Creating change at the municipal level means understanding how to engage with council and participate in local decision making processes

SHOW UP

- Attend council and committee meetings
- Stay informed and follow council agendas

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

- Speak during public delegations
- Participate in public consultations and open houses
- Organise petitions and community campaigns

Talk 1-on-1 with a Councillor

If traditional outreach methods feel ineffective, consider building relationships with your Councillors through direct 1-on-1 conversations.

Councillors don’t often listen as a Council, but they do listen as **individuals who represent you**

- Build trust
- Find common ground
- Give them easy wins
- Build investment

Request a Meeting at Their Office

Attend Municipal Open Houses

Ask to Chat Over Coffee

Attend Public Events

Attend Campaign Events

Call Them (and leave a message)

Organizing in your Community

JOIN A LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUP

Learn what work is already being done by groups in your community

Plug into any ongoing campaigns, events, and advocacy work

Build relationships with members and community leaders

CREATE A LOCAL CHAPTER OF AN EXISTING GROUP

Bring established resources and tools into your community

Expand your network outside of your municipality to see how others are creating change

Adapt national/provincial campaigns to your local issues and decision makers

CREATE YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION!

Identify any gaps or unmet needs in your community

Focus on a specific issue or neighbourhood

Build your own network of local residents

Get Involved in Municipal Politics!

- Attend Council & Committee Meetings
- Speak with Elected Officials
- Become a Committee Member
- Run for Council

VOTE THIS OCTOBER!



Equity in Municipal Politics

Equity in Government

- A principle that promotes fair conditions for all persons to fully participate in society and feel represented by their local government. It aims to provide equal access to resources, opportunities, and benefits by addressing barriers, accommodations, & specific needs.

Some issues in equity

- As of 2023, women accounted for only 31% of elected municipal representatives
- Lack of resources and research available on racial representation in local governments

What equity can look like

Accessible public engagement and consultations

Youth, newcomer, and Indigenous engagement

Community-led decision making and outreach

Diverse representation on boards, committees, and leadership

Designing climate policies that consider affordability, accessibility, and social impact