



What is the council-manager form of government?



The city of Sedona operates on a council-manager form of government. The mayor and six council members are elected at large, and establish the policies for the city.

Some of the motivation to use the council-manager form of government is to avoid the potential for political cronyism, influence peddling, and hiring based on connections rather than objective qualifications. The system is designed to ensure that professional municipal employees are responsive to the public and that government resources are spent in the most efficient, objective manner possible, while elected officials set policy direction and priorities.

Once policies are set by the council, the city manager and staff members implement these policies. The city manager is hired by the mayor and council, and is responsible for hiring all of city department directors except the city attorney and magistrate judge, who are hired by city council.

What are the duties of the mayor and city council?

The mayor and council:

- ▶ Enact ordinances, set policies, and develop an annual legislative agenda for the city.
- ▶ Oversee the city budget and capital improvements program.
- ▶ Hold regular meetings to address issues and concerns in the community.
- ▶ Respond to constituents' concerns at neighborhood and group meetings, through written correspondence, and telephone communication, and by providing staff assistance.
- ▶ Serve on subcommittees to discuss specific issues such as public safety, grants, community services.

How do I contact the mayor and council members?

Visit the city council web page at sedonaaz.gov/council, where you can find email addresses for the mayor, vice mayor and each council member as well as a form to send a message to the entire council.

You can also send a letter to: Mayor/Council [member name], 102 Roadrunner Dr., Sedona, AZ 86336.

You can visit any city council meeting and speak during the public comments portion of the meeting; please note that Arizona open meeting law prevents the council from discussing matters that are not on the agenda although you can request that the council agendaize a topic for a future meeting.

When does city council meet?

The city council holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 102 Roadrunner Dr. Work sessions and special meetings may be scheduled for the Wednesday following a regular council meeting or at other times deemed necessary.

What is the council's legislative agenda?

The Arizona State Legislature addresses many matters of concern to cities. Each year the city council members discuss issues and bills of concern to the city and whether or not to advocate, oppose or make comment on particular matters or legislation before the Arizona House or Arizona Senate.

How does an idea become a city ordinance?

The steps are:

- ▶ A council member, citizen or city staff member may propose an ordinance to address a need or concern.
- ▶ The proposal is considered by the city council and then may be sent to staff members for further research and possibly public discussion.
- ▶ A draft ordinance will be written by the city attorney and placed on a city council agenda. A public hearing may be scheduled to receive additional public input.
- ▶ The city council will vote on the ordinance. Majority approval—at least four out of the seven members—is required for adoption of the ordinance.

This document updated Aug. 6, 2019