



How do I run for Vernon City Council?

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in information regarding running for City Council in the City of Vernon. We hope the following FAQ's offer you a general understanding of what is involved in running for a City Council seat. If you would like additional information, contact the City Clerk Department at (323) 583-8811, Ext. 546, or send us an e-mail at CityClerk@cityofvernon.org.

Q: What are Councilmembers' terms of office?

A: Councilmembers serve full five-year terms. An individual may not serve as a councilmember for more than two terms. Filling an unexpired term is not considered a full term.

Q: How often is there an election for a Vernon City Council seat?

A: The City of Vernon holds annual elections on the second Tuesday in April.

Q: If I want to run for Vernon City Council, what do I need to do?

A: Pursuant to City of Vernon Charter Section 3.3, No person shall be eligible to hold the office of Council member unless he or she has resided in the City of Vernon and **been registered to vote for at least thirty (30) consecutive calendar days immediately preceding the date nomination papers are issued** to such person by the City Clerk, and remains a resident and registered voter continuously in the City until the election and throughout his or her term as Councilmember. (Adopted and ratified by voters at election of August 31, 2010). City of Vernon registered voters (residents) interested in running for City Council should contact the City Clerk Department. The City Clerk is the Elections Official. Interested individuals can make an appointment to come in and pull nomination papers, 113 days to 88 days before the election.

Q: What is a Candidate Nomination Binder?

A: The Candidate Nomination Binder is an informational packet containing a set of forms that must be completed and returned to the Elections Official in order to formally qualify and register as a candidate running for office.

Q: What happens if I do not complete the forms in the Candidate Nomination Binder?

A: If you do not complete and return the required forms from the Candidate Nomination Binder you will not be eligible to run for a Council seat.

Q: Are there deadlines for running for a Council seat?

A: The nomination period begins 113 days prior to the election and closes the 88th day before the election.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk Department at (323) 593-8811 Ext. 546.

Q: Is there a fee to run for a Council seat?

A: The City of Vernon does not have a Candidate Filing Fee. The only fee associated with running for a Council seat is if the Candidate chooses to submit a Candidate Statement. There is a required deposit of \$300, with the final cost determined after the election. Any outstanding balance will be billed, and if the cost is less than \$300, the balance will be refunded.

Q: What is a “Write-In Candidate”?

A: If, after the close of the nomination period, a person wishes to run for City Council, they may run as a “Write-In Candidate.” A Nomination Packet is still required but the “Write-In Candidate” will not have their name printed on any election materials, including the ballot.

The filing period for a Write-In Candidate is 57 days to 14 days before the election.

Q: If elected to City Council, is there compensation?

A: City Councilmembers are entitled to monetary compensation and benefits while in office as provided in the [Fringe Benefits Policy](#) and [Compensation Schedule](#).

Q: How do Vernon Elections take place?

A: The City of Vernon holds all Mail Ballot elections. There are no polling locations. All election materials are mailed to registered voters. There are several options to cast a vote:

- Mark your ballot and enclose it in the postage paid envelope, postmarked on or before Election Day.
- You, or someone on your behalf, can return your sealed ballot in person to the City Clerk Department during normal business hours or until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Q: Where can I find more information about City of Vernon Council duties?

A: Regular City Council meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. [Vernon's City Charter and Municipal Code](#) are available online. Information regarding the City Council is found in Article III of the City Charter.