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City Council Work Session

Council Work Session

Council Committees

📅 January 8, 2025 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Available Online

Council in attendance:

- Councilor Avalos
- Councilor Dunphy
- Councilor Smith
- Councilor Kanal
- Councilor Pirtle-Guiney
- Councilor Ryan
- Councilor Koyama Lane
- Councilor Morillo
- Councilor Novick
- Councilor Clark
- Councilor Green
- Councilor Zimmerman

 [Council Committee Draft List](#) 287.76 KB

Council Chamber doors open to the public 15 minutes before the meeting starts. Learn more about [visiting City Hall to attend a Council meeting](#). Watch the live broadcast on [YouTube](#), on the [Open Signal website](#), or on cable TV (Xfinity Channels 30 and 330, CenturyLink Channels 8005 and 8505).

Work sessions are public meetings related to a specific topic where information is presented to Council. Council does not vote or take any action; public testimony is not taken. The public and press may attend work sessions when held in person or watch the live broadcast online or on cable TV.

Location

City Council Chambers

1221 SW Fourth Avenue
Second Floor Auditorium
Portland, OR 97204

[Get Directions](#)

[More about this location](#)

Contact

Natalie Sept

Senior Aide, Office of Councilor
Pirtle-Guiney

📞 [971-710-2914](tel:971-710-2914)

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Council Committee Proposal

Committee overviews are not exhaustive – there are many things we’ll need to do that are not yet listed here and we’ll develop our practices as we move through the next few months.

Standing Policy Committees (6)

- **Transportation and Infrastructure**
 - May have two subcommittees – Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Addresses ratepayer concerns and rate setting, as well as related policy areas and questions around transportation planning “Veins of the city”

- **Homelessness and Housing**
 - May have two subcommittees – Homelessness and Housing
 - Addresses housing investments, permitting, the continuum of housing supports and needs, sheltering, and homeless services (inasmuch as the City is involved in services)

- **Climate, Resilience, Planning, and Urban Canopy**
 - Includes zoning, climate change prevention and mitigation, resilience, parks, urban forestry (part of parks and rec), and superfund site cleanup

- **Public Safety**
 - Includes community safety, office of violence prevention, Portland Street Response, Police, Fire, BOEC

- **Arts and Economy**
 - Includes Prosper, work with small businesses, TIFF districts, RACC, work with Venture, other arts and culture conversations, tourism, and sports

- **Labor and Workforce Development**
 - Includes internal and external investments in internships, apprenticeships, and job training, apprenticeship and workforce utilization goals and standards, and workforce, workplace, and labor policies

Other Standing Committees (2)

- **Finance and Investment**
 - Make recommendations on the budget to full Council (which serves as the official Budget Committee), as well as considering other finance and investment policies
- **Governance and Accountability**
 - Review appointments to City boards and committees and auditor reports that are not related to specific policy areas, provide internal operational support, and other non-policy needs as they arise. May review Council rules and procedures and make recommendations to the full body *in the long term* (this work will be done by a temporary workgroup in the short term)

Temporary Workgroups (1)

- **Transition Oversight**
 - Finish review and development of rules, hear testimony from GTAC on their recommendations and feedback on the transition, provide other guidance on the creation of the Legislative branch of the City. This subcommittee will conduct a review of their work by June 30 to determine a sunset date between June 30 and December 1, 2025.
- **Other temporary workgroups may be created, as needed**

Principles:

- Committees will create, review, amend, and take testimony on policy proposals, hold public hearings on topics within their jurisdiction, and provide oversight to Bureaus and city programs, among other workstreams.
- Committees are not designed to align with service areas, but instead are designed to allow us to tackle interconnected issues and successfully plan for Portland's future.
- Committee jurisdictions are never free from overlap with other committees – there will always be topics that could fit elsewhere.
- To that end, most policies will only go to one committee, but some may be discussed in multiple committees or at joint hearings.
- Committees should be created as a Council policy but not placed in Code.
- The number of Committees is limited by available space, staffing, and Councilor capacity – we should create as many committees as we need, but no more.
- Finance Committee membership should include Councilors who serve on each policy committee to ensure continuity between policy and financial decisions.
- Generally, members of a policy committee will be appointed to serve on commissions and committees outside the City that are related to that policy area.