

Facts for Kids about Nashville Government

- The Metropolitan Council is the legislative branch of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.
- Davidson County is divided into 35 districts. The voters in each district elect a council member every four years to represent them on the Council.
- The county as a whole elects five council members-at-large to represent all citizens of the county.
- There are a total of 40 council members in the council making the Metro Council the third largest council in the country.
- The Vice Mayor is the President of the Council and she/he is elected by the entire county every four years.
- The council meets year round every first and third Tuesday of the month in the David Scobey Council Chamber located in the Historic Courthouse in downtown Nashville.
- Council meetings are open to the public and can be viewed on cable channel, Metro 3 or on the Nashville.gov website.
- The “constitution” for Nashville is called the Charter.
- There are two types of legislation that the Council can pass: resolutions and ordinances.
- Resolutions only need to be considered by the Council one time before they become final.
- There are memorializing resolutions that are non-binding and are meant to honor groups or people.
- Ordinances (also known as bills) have to be considered by the Council three times before they become law.
- Resolutions and ordinances have to be sponsored by a council member before they can be considered by the Council.
- Before a resolution or bill can be passed by the council, it must first be considered by Council Committees.
- There are 15 committees of the Council.
- Two of the most important duties of the Council are to pass the annual city budget and to approve the zoning laws for the county. Zoning laws let a property owner know how his/her properties can be used or developed.