

# Seattle City Council Members

<https://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/seattle-facts/city-officials/city-council-members>

The City Council is the legislative authority for the City and makes all of its laws, subject to the initiative and referendum powers of the people as established by City Charter. In addition, the City Council has the authority to amend and approve the City's budget. Any candidate for City Council must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified elector of the State of Washington, and a registered voter of the City of Seattle at the time of filing his/her declaration of candidacy.

Seattle was first incorporated as a town by an act of the Territorial Legislature on January 14, 1865. The act was repealed January 18, 1867, after most of the town's leading citizens petitioned for its dissolution. During its first tenure as an incorporated entity, Seattle was governed by a Board of Trustees. Seattle was again incorporated, this time as a City, on December 2, 1869.

## Current City Council 2016-2017



Left to right: Sally Bagshaw, Rob Johnson, Kshama Sawant, Lorena Gonzales, Mike O'Brien, Debora Juarez, Bruce Harrell, Lisa Herbold, and Tim Burgess

### [1869-1882](#)

The Common Council under the First City Charter

### [1884-1890](#)

The Ward System is Established

### [1890-1896](#)

First Home Rule Charter and the Bicameral City Council

### [1896-1910](#)

The 1896 Charter and Return to a Unicameral City Council

### [1910-1946](#)

End of the Ward System and Start of Non-Partisan Elections

### [1946-2015](#)

A New Charter and Creation of Four-Year Terms

### [2016-present](#)

District Elections Begin

## **2016-Present**

The City Charter was amended by voters in November 2013 via Charter Amendment 19. This provided that City Council would consist of nine members, with positions 1 through 7 elected by districts and positions 8 and 9 elected from the city at large. District boundaries were included in the charter amendment and can be redrawn every ten years by a five-member Districting Commission. The first election held under the new system was in November 2015, in which the seven district Councilmembers were elected to four-year terms and the two at-large Councilmembers were elected to two-year terms. Those elected to at-large positions in 2017 will fill four-year terms.

### **2016-2017**

District 1: Lisa Herbold

District 2: Bruce Harrell (President)

District 3: Kshama Sawant

District 4: Rob Johnson

District 5: Debora Juarez

District 6: Mike O'Brien

District 7: Sally Bagshaw

Position 8: Tim Burgess

Position 9: Lorena Gonzalez

- Tim Burgess resigned from Council on September 18, 2017, to serve out the remainder of Ed Murray's mayoral term. Kirsten Harris-Talley was appointed on October 6, 2017, to complete Burgess's term.