



FAQ's - Interested Volunteers

What are Boards and Commissions?

Boards and commissions are designed to give residents a voice in their government and provide a means of influencing decisions that shape the quality of life for the residents of our City. Participation on a board or commission is one of the most effective ways people can have an active voice in their local government.

The City of Asheville has more than 30 Boards & Commissions to which City Council appoints members. For a list and description of each board, please visit the [Boards and Commissions web page](#) under the City Clerk's office department at www.AshevilleNC.gov.

Why would I want to be a member?

Appointment to a board or commission gives residents an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the governance of the City. Board members help shape the future of Asheville by lending their lived experience, judgment, and expertise.

What is the typical role of a board/commission member?

While City Council appoints members to regional boards and quasi-judicial boards, the vast majority of appointments are for City advisory boards. As such, we will address the role of an advisory board member. Most boards meet monthly, while some meet every other month or quarterly. Some boards also have task forces or sub-committees that may meet in between

regular full board meetings. Members may be asked to bring information to their communities and to gather information that may be of interest to City Council.

Boards are requested to advise Council on policy matters, not on operations.

Who can serve on a Board or Commission?

City residents are given preference; however, Council may appoint a non-City resident to some hard-to-fill seats or seats requiring special skills or expertise. Some boards also have more specific requirements for particular seats. In addition, some boards have County-appointed members. Please contact the [Buncombe County Clerk](#) for more information.

ADA Accommodations

The City prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability with respect to all terms and conditions of access to its activities, programs, and services. If you need any reasonable accommodation to make your board service more effective, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator to discuss your accommodations request. The City will consider whether your request can be reasonably accommodated. This will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. For more information about the City of Asheville's ADA policy and contact information for the ADA coordinator, please visit the [Americans with Disabilities Act webpage](#).

Interpretation Services

Language accessibility is a priority for the City of Asheville as it ensures equitable access to essential services and information for all residents, regardless of the language they speak. If you want to participate in person at a Board or Commission meeting and need interpretive services at

that meeting, please [use this form to request services](#). Requests must be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

I want to apply, but I do not have access to reliable transportation. Does the City offer any accommodations for transportation?

Yes! City Council authorized the City Manager to issue annual transit passes to board members of city-managed boards and commissions as a token of appreciation for their time and service and as a way to address transportation barriers members may face in commuting to meetings.

Where can I learn more about a particular Board?

Please visit the Board's individual web page. You can navigate to the web page using the drop-down menu located at the top of the main [Boards and Commissions web page](#). You may contact the Board's Chairperson for information about the Board's mission and current goals and/or contact the Staff Liaison for information related to the agenda, past minutes, and upcoming meetings. All City Boards and Commission meetings are open to the public.

How do I become a member?

An application is required for consideration of an appointment to a board or commission. An application form can be found on the Boards & Commissions web page. It is an electronic form that will automatically be sent to the City Clerk's office once submitted. Applicants are also welcome to send a resume or cover letter directly to the Clerk's office at boards@ashevillenc.gov.

All information in an application becomes public information and is therefore subject to public records requests. After an application for an appointment has been filed with the City Clerk, it

remains active for one year from the date of submission. When vacancies arise, City Council reviews all active applications for consideration of appointment.

Sometimes an appointment requires special consideration such that Council may conduct interviews or request essay questions be answered. If you are in that type of grouping, you will be notified.

I submitted my application, now what?

Your application will be placed on the resource list for consideration of appointment.

You should receive a confirmation e-mail that your application was received within 48 hours. If you do not receive an e-mail, please email the Clerk's office at boards@ashevillenc.gov or call Assistant City Clerk, Alex Smith at 828-232-4555.

Can I apply to more than one Board at a time?

Yes, you may apply for up to **three** boards at a time.

How many Boards can I serve on at a time?

No person shall be eligible to hold concurrently more than **two** Mayoral or City Council appointments to standing boards or commissions; This limitation shall not apply to ad hoc (task force) committees appointed by Council.

How long does my application stay on file?

One year.

Do Board and Commission members get paid for their duties?

The majority of boards and commissions are volunteer positions and members do not receive compensation for their duties.

What time commitment is expected of a board member?

Time commitment varies depending on the board or commission. Most boards and commissions meet monthly, while others meet bi-monthly or only for hearings or appeals. Additionally, board members must be able to dedicate time outside of meetings to participate in working groups, do reading, research, etc.

What are the terms for members serving on a Board or Commission?

The term for most boards and commissions is three years but may vary for different boards and commissions. A member may serve two consecutive terms, after which the member would need to be off the board for one year before being considered for additional terms.