

CITY OF MCKINNEY
POLICY ON BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBER
APPOINTMENT AND ELIGIBILITY
(Amended September 17, 2013)

I. Overview.

The City Council is very interested in citizens serving as members of City of McKinney boards or commissions. As interested community leaders, citizens can provide an invaluable service to the City of McKinney through board membership and participation. Board and commission members volunteer many hours annually, sharing their time and expertise, and learning more about the City through their membership. Boards and commissions are established to offer citizens an extraordinary opportunity to participate in the City's governmental affairs and influence public policy in many areas. The City has several boards, commissions and committees that endeavor to reflect the varied interests of our City's citizenry.

Some of the City's boards and commissions are required and established by state statute, while others result from provisions of the City of McKinney Home-Rule Charter or from local ordinances. Where discrepancies exist between individual board and commission bylaws and this policy, this policy shall apply, subject however to any superseding state law. A number of the bodies exercise legal authority in some aspect of City government. Boards and commissions address such subjects as planning and zoning, transportation, parks, libraries, buildings and airports. Although many boards and commissions are advisory only, their influence and value can be significant. They make recommendations on a wide range of topics that eventually come before the City Council.

II. Appointment Process.

City Council members shall actively recruit candidates for service on City boards and commissions. Recognizing the City has four City Council districts, the City Council will strive to have adequate representation from all geographic areas of the city in the overall appointment process. The City Council shall endeavor to appoint Board and commission membership shall reflective of the City of McKinney's diversity of residents.

On or before June 30th of each year, the Mayor shall designate interview committees comprised of two (2) City Council members that will thereafter interview candidates for designated Boards or Commissions. The City Council shall set interview dates and times upon such designation. All Board and Commission interviews shall be held in an open public meeting with a posted agenda. Meeting agendas shall contain information stating that there may be a potential quorum of the City Council in attendance at each particular interview session, and any City Council member may attend; however such City Council members shall not participate as an interview committee member.

Council member interview committees are encouraged to confer upon and prepare a list of recommended nominees from the applicants/interviewees of their committees' respective Boards or Commissions. When there are sufficient numbers of qualified applicants, it is recommended that each interview committee propose to the entire City Council a nomination list of twice the number of openings on each particular board. After the interview process is complete for any or all Boards or Commissions, the entire City Council will consider the recommendations and nomination lists of the interview committees, as well as any other council member nominations for Eligible Applicants, during a posted public meeting in open session. The City Council shall make appointments through an "open preference procedure" wherein each City Council member's preferences are openly registered prior to the presiding officer's acceptance of any motion for approval of an appointee(s) for an unfilled position(s). Council discussion regarding applicants during the preferencing process is limited to information contained on the applicant's application or resume. Orientation sessions for new board or commission members shall be held annually for new appointees.

The Mayor shall establish liaison assignments consisting of two (2) City Council members for each the following Boards or Commissions: MEDC, MCDL, CCADC, MCVB, Main Street, McKinney Housing Authority, and Planning and Zoning. City Council liaison assignments shall be of varying length, as the Mayor shall determine, rotating in accordance with a matrix or other method determined by the Mayor.

The role of the liaisons is to attend meetings and report to the City Council any information related to action taken by the Board or Commission at said meeting. In the event the Board or Commission requests input from the City Council, the liaisons shall advise the Board or Commission that the City Council will be briefed on the issue and the position of the City Council will thereafter be relayed to the Board or Commission, by the liaisons or the entire City Council, as the case dictates. The liaisons shall use best efforts not to communicate during a Board or Commission meeting a) his or her personal opinions regarding any issue before the Board or Commission; b) suggested actions to be taken by the Board or Commission; or c) opinions pertaining to actions previously or subsequently taken by the Board or Commission. The liaisons shall be responsible for communicating to the Board or Commission the position of the City Council only upon the City Council providing information or direction to the liaisons after the City Council has been fully apprised of the issue. The liaisons shall also communicate to the Board or Commission any requests for information from the City Council and shall report back to the City Council the response to said requests based on the position of the entire Board or Commission and not of any single Board or Commission member.

Each Board or Commission having liaisons shall report in its respective minutes submitted for approval by the City Council any and all comments made by both Board or Commission members and City Council liaisons during any Board or Commission meeting.

The provisions herein for communications between the Board or Commission members and the liaisons shall apply to all Council members attending a Board or Commission meeting.

III. Eligibility and Membership Criteria.

- (a) Written Application/Eligible Applicant. A signed, current application form for all boards and commissions is required for consideration for service on a board or commission. Applications are considered current for one (1) year after original submittal, after which the application will be removed for consideration. The applicant may reapply and submit a new application. The City Council shall consider any person an “Eligible Applicant” who has met the above criteria and, in addition, has on file an application with the City Secretary prior to the last Friday in June of any year (for annual appointments). All applicants shall be qualified voters, registered to vote in the City. Non-resident board position applicants shall be qualified voters, registered to vote in the precinct in which they reside. Mid-year vacancies shall be filled with any applicant having a valid application on file at the time of appointment. An Eligible Applicant may be appointed to any board or commission regardless of the applicant’s stated preference; however the City Council endeavors to duly consider the preferences of all applicants.

- (b) Residency. Unless the authorizing ordinance or law creating a Board or Commission specifically allows otherwise, all applicants and appointees must continuously reside within and be qualified voters of the City of McKinney, Texas. All applicants shall provide their voter registration number on the application, and applicants and appointees shall be registered to vote in the City. The residence address contained on an applicant’s or appointee’s voter registration shall be determinate of residency unless a question of resident is presented to the City Secretary. If a question of residency is presented to the City Secretary in writing, the affected board or commission member shall submit to the City Secretary any utility account statement in the name of the board or commission member for a residence address within the corporate limits along with a sworn statement (notary not required) that such residence address is the applicant’s residence. The receipt of the foregoing by the City Secretary shall be conclusive proof of residency under this subsection. Board and commission members shall notify the City Secretary of any change in residency status at least two (2) weeks prior to such change. Failure to provide proof of residency when required by this subsection within ten (10) business days of notice to the board or commission member by the City Secretary shall be grounds for removal by the City Council.

- (c) Term. All terms shall be two (2) years unless otherwise modified by the City Council, provided by State law, or ordinance.
- (d) Appointments. Appointments shall be made once a year, and are effective on October 1 unless the appointment is made for filling a vacancy in which case the appointment shall be for the remainder of the term filled.
- (e) Attendance. Attendance shall be reviewed annually during the board appointment process. A board or commission member shall attend seventy-five percent (75%) of the board meetings to be considered for continuation of any current term and for reappointment to any subsequent term.. Failure to attend 75% of the meetings shall result in the board member not being reappointed by the City Council unless the City Council finds good cause for such reappointment based on special circumstances presented by the board member..
- (f) Term Limits. Effective for new members appointed in 2013 and in subsequent years, the limit for consecutive service on a board or commission is three (3) consecutive, full two-year terms. Members reappointed in 2013 or appointed prior to 2013, shall be limited to two (2) full consecutive terms, regardless of term length.
- (g) Continued Service. A board or commission member is immediately eligible for all other boards and commissions upon completion of term limits on current board or commission.
- (h) Multiple Service. Board and commission members shall not serve concurrently on more than one board or commission.
- (i) Spousal Service and Nomination/Voting Procedures. Spouses may serve concurrently on separate boards or commissions; however no concurrent spousal service shall be permitted on any combination of the following boards and commissions: McKinney Economic Development Corporation, McKinney Community Development Corporation, Collin County Airport Development Corporation, Main Street Board, McKinney Housing Finance Corporation, and McKinney Convention and Visitors Bureau. Spouses may serve concurrently on any separate board or commission not listed herein. City Council members shall not knowingly participate in voting for or appointing any relative within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity to any board or commission¹. In the event a relative of a City Council member is recommended for a board or commission position at

¹ Second Degree of Consanguinity and Affinity relatives: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, granddaughter, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, stepdaughter, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, spouse's grandmother, spouse's grandfather, spouse's granddaughter, spouse's grandson.

the time of preferencing, the City Council member who is related shall step down from the vote for such board appointments. City Council members shall not knowingly nominate, appoint or vote to nominate or appoint any person who is a member or employee, whether compensated or non-compensated, of a business entity of which the City Council member is also a member or employee. "Business Entity" shall mean a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, unincorporated association, or any other business entity recognized by law. Applicants shall disclose on the application any membership or employee status in a business entity involving the applicant and a City Council member.

- (j) Commitment. Board and commission members shall support the annual goals of the City of McKinney.
- (k) Removal. The City Council may remove any board member at any time, with or without cause, including but not limited to the failure to attend seventy-five percent (75%) of board meetings. Failure to adhere to any of the policies contained this Section III or in Section IV below may subject the member to immediate removal by the City Council.

IV. Practices

- a) Disclosure of Vendor Relationships. All members of any board or commission shall complete the required annual disclosures under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 whenever they contract with or are otherwise doing business with the City under applicable sections of this state law.
- b) Disclosure of interests. A City Council member or a board or commission appointee shall not participate or vote on a matter involving any entity on whose board the City Council member or appointee serves in any capacity or for which he/she is employed.
- c) Appointed board or commission members appearing before any board or commission. Board or commission members may not appear on behalf of a business, client, or other private or public interest before any City board or commission, save and except for an appearance concerning a business or property owned in whole or in part by such member, where approval by said board or commission is required for action by the business, client, private or public interest during their term on such board or commission.
- d) Appointed board or commission members doing business with the City. A board or commission member is prohibited from contracting or otherwise doing business with any board or commission during the member's term on any board or commission.

- e) Appointed board or commission member using board position status in public forum. Except while acting in a meeting on his/her appointed board or commission, a board or commission member shall not use his/her board title or position in communicating opinions or issues in a public forum, either written or oral. The purpose of this provision is to avoid confusion regarding the attribution of the member's statements, whether intended or not, to the member's board or to the City of McKinney.

V. Official Notification.

- (a) A letter of appointment shall be sent to each member appointed to a board or commission.
- (b) A letter of gratitude shall be sent to each retiring member.