

Northern European City Governance Directory 2018

Japan Local Government Centre
October 2018



JLGC London



The Japan Local Government Centre (JLGC) is the London Office of Japan's Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). CLAIR is a Japanese Government-affiliated incorporated foundation that works to support the internationalisation and revitalisation efforts of city and regional authorities in Japan.

In addition to the UK, JLGC is responsible for the following countries within the EEA: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

With thanks to Amsterdam City Council, Senate of Berlin, Dublin City Council, London Assembly, Oslo City Council, City of Stockholm and Vienna City Government.

Amsterdam

City Executive

The Mayor is appointed from the city council by the Dutch national Cabinet (nominated by the city council and provincial crown commissioner and formally appointed by the Crown) for a renewable six-year term. They are supported by Deputy Mayors as the College of Mayor and Alderpersons (municipal executive), chosen from among the city council (following local elections), each with a portfolio (the mayor leads on public security). The Mayor is currently Femke Halsema (**Green Left**, since 2018).



City Government

[Amsterdam City Council](#)



Population

851,573



Council Members

45



Election Term

4 years (last in 2018)

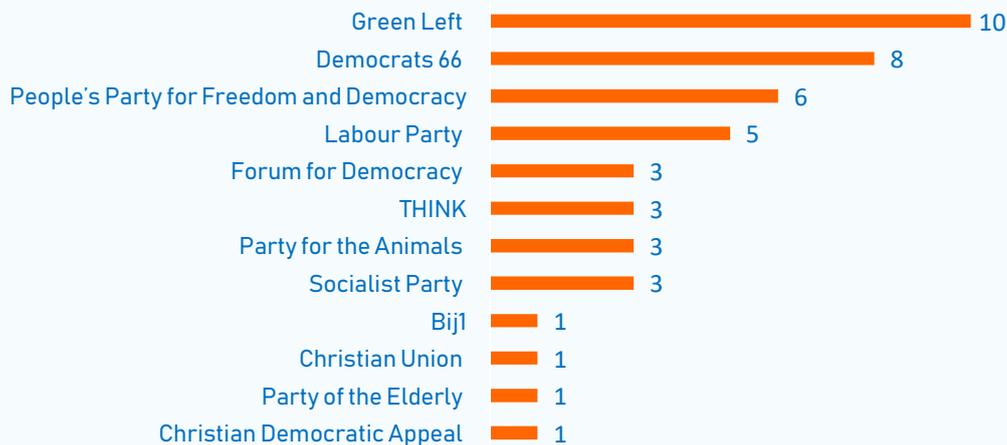


[@AmsterdamNL](#)

City Council

Elections use the party list system. EU citizens and foreign nationals registered as living in Amsterdam may vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Amsterdam is divided into seven **Districts** by municipal ordinance (since 2014), each with their own elected District Committee of 13-15 members (elected alongside city council). Each committee is mainly concerned with district-level environmental, street and basic social services delegated by the city council, with three committee members forming its executive board to oversee these.

Amsterdam

City Region

The [Amsterdam Transport Authority](#) consists of 15 municipalities cooperating around transport planning and traffic management, formed in 2017 following the abolition of the city planning region under a national Act rescinding statutory urban regions. It is governed by a 60-member Regional Council appointed from the constituent municipalities and is led by a Board chaired by the Mayor of Amsterdam, consisting of mayors or executive members, each with their own portfolio. The [Amsterdam Metropolitan Area](#) for spatial-economic planning and innovation further consists of 33 municipalities (enlarged since 2017), including the City of Amsterdam itself, within the provinces of North Holland (of which Amsterdam is the largest city) and Flevoland, as well as the Transport Authority.

City Marketing

[Amsterdam Marketing](#) is (since 2013) the city marketing organisation of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, which operates an independent organisation partly funded by the city council. Amsterdam Marketing also works closely with [amsterdam inbusiness](#), the official foreign investment agency of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, which comprise a region of 2.5m people globally marketed as the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area.

City Brand



The 'I amsterdam' campaign and platform has run since 2004, being conceived as an integrated marketing strategy for the city.

City Business

The [Amsterdam Economic Board](#) was established in 2010 as an alliance between business, universities and government in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area. The board is largely responsible for the production of metropolitan strategies for the city region, with a membership drawn from business, universities and city governments.

City Tech

StartupAmsterdam is a four-year (2015-19) public-private initiative of Amsterdam Marketing to develop and promote the city's startup ecosystem and tech scene.

Berlin

City Executive

The Governing Mayor is appointed to the Senate Chancellery by the state House of Representatives after each city election and leads the Senate (executive). The Senate consists of another 10 executive members heading state departments, two of whom act as Mayor (deputy). The Governing Mayor (also Senator for Higher Education and Research) is currently Michael Muller (**Social Democratic Party**, since 2014).



City Government

[Federal State of Berlin](#)



Population

3,711,930



Council Members

160



Election Term

5 years (last in 2016)

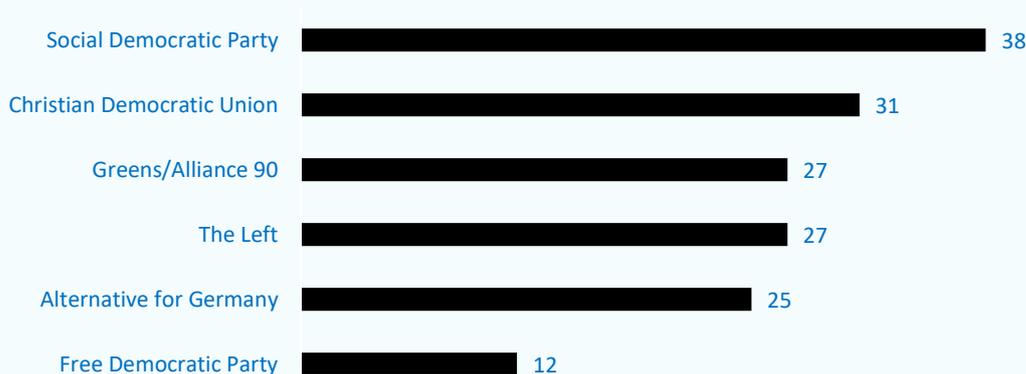


[@Berlin_de_News](#)

City Council (House of Representatives of the Federal State of Berlin)

Elections use the top-up list system. As one of Germany's 16 state parliaments it has equal legislative competence to other states, including representation in the Bundesrat (Mayor Muller is currently its President). EU citizens living in the capital can also vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Berlin consists of 12 boroughs, each with their own 55-member elected Assembly (alongside state elections) and a five-member Office (executive), led by a borough mayor, which provide basic municipal services. There is also the Council of Mayors of the 12 boroughs, chaired by the Governing Mayor, which advises the Senate.

Berlin

City Region

The Federal State of Berlin is both the capital city and one of Germany's 16 federal states. However, both Berlin and the neighbouring/surrounding state of Brandenburg cooperate on a number of policy areas, through either formal legal arrangements (e.g. spatial planning under federal law, courts systems) or informal consortia (e.g. airports, regional parks, EU rural development).

City Marketing

[Berlin Partner for Business and Technology](#) was established in 2013 following a merger between Berlin Partner (since 1994) and the Innovation Agency of the Technology Foundation Berlin (TSB). [Visit Berlin](#) was established in 1993 to act as the city's official destination marketing organisation as a public-private partnership consisting of the Berlin Senate, Investment Bank Berlin and companies associated with tourism and conventions.

City Brand



Berlin Partner has run the 'be Berlin' capital city marketing campaign since 2008 on behalf of the Berlin Senate. In 2017 it also launched the #FreiheitBerlin initiative to crowdsource images of freedom as city identity.

City Business

Berlin Partner for Business and Technology includes the following business leadership groups as stockholders within the organisation: Investment Bank Berlin (the business development bank of the state of Berlin), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin and the Berlin-Brandenburg Business Associations. The State Senator for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises sits on its supervisory board. Berlin Partner also provides dedicated business support and promotion services in partnership with each of the 12 boroughs.

City Tech

Berlin Partner for Business and Technology actively promotes the capital as a hub for startups and smart city specialism. As well as the Smart City Berlin network campaign, it hosts Startup-Hub Berlin, Start Alliance and Berlin Startup Unit on behalf of the State Senate.

Copenhagen

City Executive

The Lord Mayor is appointed from within the City Council and is supported by six Mayors, each of which heads a committee overseeing an administrative department of the municipality. The Finance Committee, led by the Lord Mayor, oversees the overall city administration however. The Lord Mayor is currently Frank Jensen (**Social Democratic**, since 2010).



City Government

[Copenhagen Municipality](#)



Population

775,033



Council Members

55



Election Term

4 years (last in 2017)

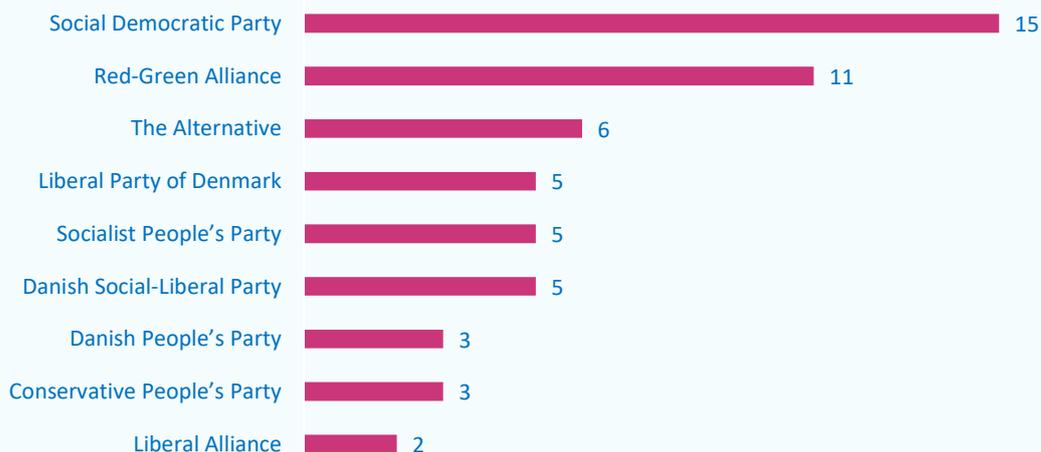


[@Koebenhavnner](#)

City Council

Elections use the top-up list system. The city council is responsible for setting the frameworks for its six standing committees supervising the city administrations. EU citizens and foreign nationals over 18 resident in the capital can vote in local and regional elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Copenhagen Municipality consists of 10 administrative districts which are used for tax and statistical purposes only.

Copenhagen

City Region

Copenhagen, Frederiksberg (surrounded by Copenhagen Municipality but independent of it as a separate municipality) and the island municipality of Bornholm are part of the [Capital Region of Denmark](#), one of the five Danish regions, which exist to provide hospitals/health services, public transport and unemployment support. It is governed by a 41 member Regional Council elected every four years (last in 2017).

City Marketing

[Copenhagen Capacity](#) was established in 1994 by the City of Copenhagen and other municipalities in partnership with Invest in Denmark (of the Danish Foreign Ministry) as the official investment promotion and business support organisation for these areas. It is now funded by the Capital Region of Denmark as an independent organisation. [Wonderful Copenhagen](#) is the official destination marketing organisation and travel bureau for the city and the surrounding area, which runs the Visit Copenhagen website, having been established between the city, region and local travel industry in 1992 operates as a non-profit public-private partnership.

City Business

Copenhagen Capacity works as a collaboration between the Municipality, Capital Region and Local Government Denmark, with independent business sector members appointed to its board. The Employment and Integration Administration of the municipality is responsible for business affairs in the city.

City Brand

GREATER COPENHAGEN

The [Greater Copenhagen](#) brand was launched in 2016 between Eastern Denmark and Southern Sweden in as a cross-cutting regional collaboration aimed at establishing Northern Europe's leading metropolis. It is managed by the Greater Copenhagen and Skane Committee (consisting of 46 Danish municipalities and 33 Swedish), with an 18-member Board drawn from both sides.

CityTech

Copenhagen Capacity has dedicated support services around tech startups, healthtech and smart cities. The [Startup Village CPH](#) tech hub is supported by the Danish Business Authority.

Dublin

City Executive

The Lord Mayor of Dublin is the first citizen and civic leader of the city, elected by the city council at its annual meeting. The current Lord Mayor is Cllr Nial Ring (**Independent**), who is elected for a term of one year (2018–19). Executive authority is vested in a full-time Chief Executive Officer, appointed for a term of seven years following a competitive recruitment process, who follows policy set by the city council and its committees.



City Government

[Dublin City Council](#)



Population

1,173,179



Council Members

63



Election Term

5 years (last in 2014)



[@DubCityCouncil](#)

City Council

Elections use the single transferable vote system. EU citizens living in the city can also vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Dublin is divided by the city council into five Local Areas for administrative purposes.

Dublin

City Region

The [Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly](#) (one of three in Ireland) replaced the former Dublin Regional Authority in 2015. This consists of 38 councillors nominated from the 12 member authorities of the region and is largely concerned with regional planning and inter-municipal cooperation, especially for EU regional development programmes.

City Marketing

Activities such as the [Visit Dublin](#) website and investment promotion for Dublin are undertaken by national government agencies such as [Failte Ireland](#) (National Tourism Development Authority) and [IDA Ireland](#) (Industrial Development Authority) respectively. [Dublin](#) is Dublin City Council initiative to promote Dublin as a place both domestically and internationally for business and tourism.

City Brand



Failte Ireland develop and support the 'Dublin – Surprising by Nature' brand.

City Business

The [Local Enterprise Office](#) at Dublin City Council is responsible for SME promotion and business support services on behalf of [Enterprise Ireland](#). As well as the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the [Dublin Business Innovation Centre](#) provides support to larger companies.

City Tech

The [Office of the Dublin Commissioner for Startups](#) (Startup Dublin) is an independent non-profit organisation established in 2014 to support and promote the city's tech sector. It is supported by Dublin City Council and the Irish state [Digital Hub Development Agency](#). There is also a supportive network of public and private co-working spaces for tech startups including the GEC (Guinness Enterprise Centre), Dogpatch labs and Talent Garden.

Helsinki

City Executive

The City Board is appointed annually by the city council on a cross-party basis and consists of 15 members: the Mayor, four Deputy Mayors and 10 other members. The Mayor is currently Jan Vapavuori (**National Coalition Party**, since 2017).



City Government
[Helsinki City Council](#)



Population
 642,045



Council Members
 85



Election Term
 4 years (last in 2017)

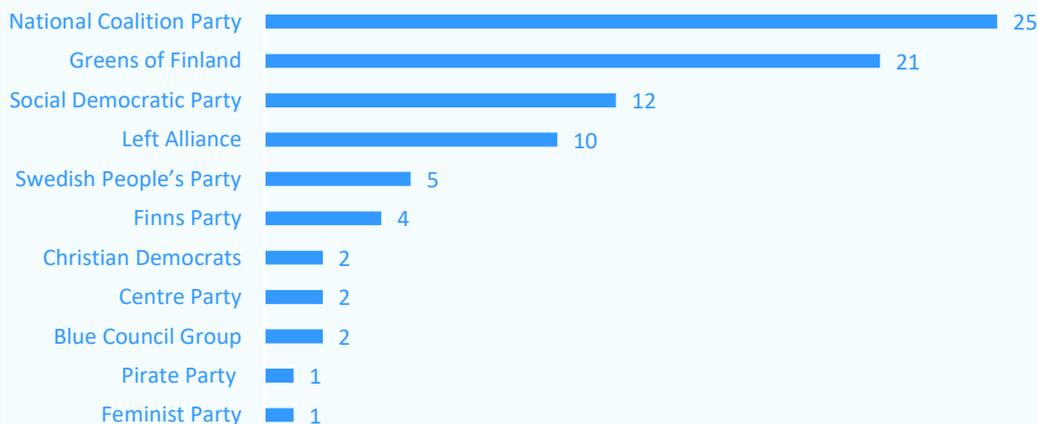


[@Helviestinta](#)

City Council

Elections use the open party list system. Citizens of EU states (plus Iceland and Norway) may also vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Helsinki is subdivided into 34 area districts for local public services, grouped by the city council into eight larger districts. It is further subdivided into 60 neighbourhoods for city planning, each designated a two-digit number, Finnish name and Swedish name.

Helsinki

City Region

Helsinki is part of the [Helsinki-Uusimaa Region](#), one of Finland's 18 regions (since 2009), which is responsible for regional development, regional land-use planning and international cooperation. The Regional Council consists of 80 members drawn from councillors of the 26-member municipalities, led by a President and also a Regional Mayor. For some purposes, Helsinki and four surrounding metro area cities are known by the Region as the Finnish Capital Region, while voluntary cooperation agreements and an assembly exist as [Helsinki Metropolitan Area Cooperation Group and Assembly](#) (since 2005). These are separate to [Helsinki Regional Transport Authority](#) (since 2010), a joint authority of Helsinki and eight neighbouring municipalities.

City Marketing

The [Helsinki Business Hub](#) was established in 2006 and is the investment promotion and business support agency for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, funded by these cities and the Uusimaa Regional Council. Since 2014 Helsinki Marketing Ltd is fully-owned by the Helsinki City Council and operates all city marketing activities across tourism, conventions and events.

City Brand



Under Project Brand New Helsinki (2015–16) the City Board formulated the [‘Helsinki 2020’](#) brand concept and marketing strategy, resulting in the ‘One Hel of an Impact’ actions launched in 2017. Separately the city council also launched its new visual identity in 2018.

City Business

As well as the Helsinki Business Hub, the City Development Office's Economic Development division is responsible for all aspects of policy and support for business. The [Helsinki Think Company](#), an project of the University of Helsinki, provides a range of soft services.

City Tech

Helsinki Business Hub offers a full range of tech startup support and promotion services on behalf of the city and region.

London

City Executive

The Mayor of London is directly elected every four years and appoints a mayoral team consisting of up to 10 Deputy Mayors, with a statutory Deputy Mayor who must be a Member of the London Assembly. The current Mayor is Sadiq Khan (**Labour**, since 2016).



City Government

[Greater London Authority](#)



Population

8,787,892



Council Members

25



Election Term

4 years (last in 2016)



[@LDN_gov](#)

City Council (Assembly)

Elections use the top-up list system. The Assembly can reject the Mayor's strategies and amend his draft budget on a two-thirds majority, as well as veto certain mayoral appointments. EU citizens registered as electors in the capital also can vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Greater London is subdivided into 32 London Boroughs and the City of London. The 33 London local authorities carry out most local government services within Greater London, with the exception of policing, fire and transport. Each London Borough (and the City) is governed by a council, elected every four years (lastly in 2018). The 33 councils are represented regionally by the [London Councils](#) organisation (since 2000). In addition to the Greater London Authority's primary role as regional strategic tier across the 33 London local authorities, the 33 leaders and the London Mayor meet regularly as the Congress of Leaders, under the London City Charter (since 2009).

London

City Region

The Wider South East group, which consists of 156 local authorities and 11 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across London and the South East and East England regions, convenes as a strategic collaboration around policy and infrastructure across London and its surrounding area, including for some statutory purposes around local development.

City Marketing

[London & Partners](#) was established in 2011 as the official promotion agency for London, operating as a non-profit public-private partnership funded by the Mayor of London and a network of commercial partners.

City Brand



#LondonIsOpen

The #LondonIsOpen campaign was launched by the Mayor of London in 2016 following the EU Referendum. It is supported by London & Partners.

City Business

The [London Economic Action Partnership](#) (LEAP) is the Local Enterprise Partnership for London, chaired by the Mayor and (re)launched in 2016 (previously London Enterprise Panel). Its membership consists of 16 board members drawn from business and the London boroughs. [London First](#) is the business leadership group for the capital and between 1994-2000 was the only promotional body for London.

City Tech

London and Partners includes promotion and support for London's tech sector among its range of activities, with overlapping interest between its tourism promotion remit through its Traveltech Lab for start-ups. The City of London Corporation actively promotes London's Fintech sector, including through co-sponsoring the [Innovate Finance](#) organisation. The UK's Tech Nation organisation was formed from a merger of London's Tech City (originally East London Tech City) and Tech North.

Oslo

City Executive

Oslo is led by the Governing Mayor who is elected from the city council for a four-year term to preside over and appoint the city government, which consists of eight Vice Mayors, each heading a department. The Mayor of Oslo is also elected from the city council but acts a ceremonial figurehead for the city council and the city, rather than the city government. The Governing Mayor is currently Raymond Johansen (**Labour Party**, since 2015).



City Government

[Oslo City Council](#)



Population

672,061



Council Members

59



Election Term

4 years (last in 2015)

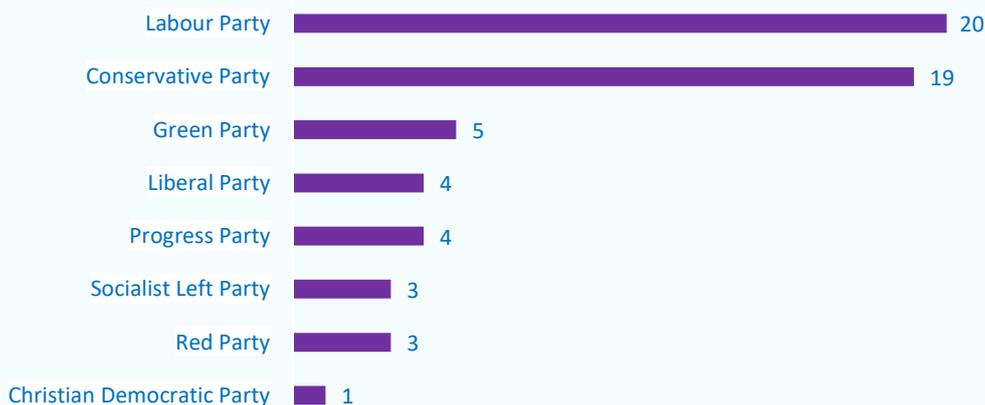


[@Oslobystyre](#)

City Council

Elections use the party list system. All foreign nationals resident and registered for minimum three years in the capital may vote in the city elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

As Oslo is unique in Norway in being both a county and municipality, it is subdivided into 15 districts which provide basic municipal services, delegated from the city council. 13 of the districts have their own elected district council, while the remaining two share their governance with neighbouring districts.

Oslo

City Region

The [Oslo Region Alliance](#) consists of 78 local authorities, including Oslo, Buskerud, Akershus and Ostfold counties and the municipalities surrounding Oslo. Established in 2005, it exists to market the Greater Oslo region and lobby nationally and internationally. It is governed by the mayors of its member authorities as the Oslo Region Council and is led by an 18-member Board drawn from its membership, chaired by the Governing Mayor of Oslo.

City Marketing

Established in 2012, [Oslo Business Region](#) is a company owned by the City of Oslo which works to promote the capital's global identity and offer business support. [VisitOSLO](#) is the official destination marketing organisation for Oslo and its surrounding region, owned as a limited company by local and national travel industry partners (partly funded by the city council) since 1992.

City Brand



The Oslo Brand Alliance is a collaboration between Oslo Business Region, VisitOSLO and Oslo Region. It issued its open source [Oslo Brand Toolbox](#) platform/strategy in 2017 from its earlier Oslo Region Brand Management Strategy.

City Business

Oslo Business Region is the business development and promotion agency of the City of Oslo, which reports to the Vice Mayor for Business Development and Public Ownership.

City Tech

As well as startup promotion, Oslo Business Region is also responsible for the Oslo Smart City joint public-private partnership aimed at making Oslo the world's first smart city accelerator programme.

Stockholm

City Executive

The City of Stockholm is led by a Mayor elected by the city council among its members, who heads the City Executive Board of 13 members (nine governing Vice Mayors and four opposition Vice Mayors). The Mayor is currently Anna König Jerlmyr ([Moderates](#), since 2018).



City Government

[Stockholm Municipality](#)



Population

952,058



Council Members

101



Election Term

4 years (last in 2018)

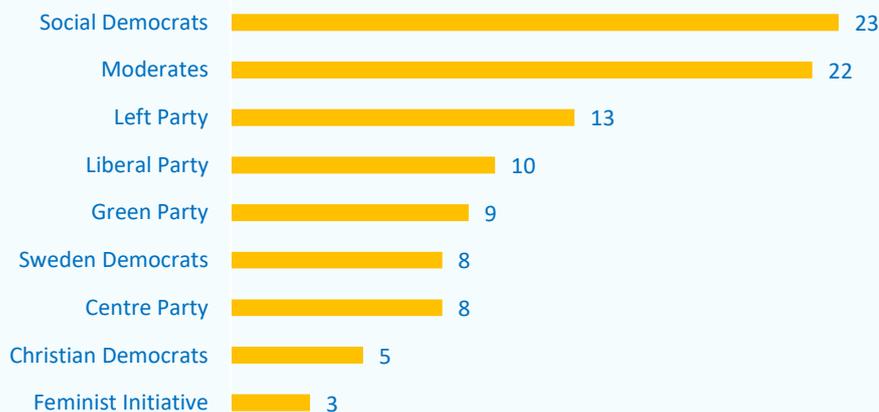


[@Stockholmsstad](#)

City Council

Elections use the open list system. Foreign nationals resident in the city may vote in local elections.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Stockholm Municipality is divided into 14 districts, which carry out many local public services on behalf of the municipality. However, the 14 districts are not incorporated local authorities but committees of the municipality with their members appointed by the city council.

Stockholm

City Region

[Stockholm County](#) (which covers Metropolitan Stockholm) includes 26 municipalities, including the City of Stockholm. The County Council consists of 149 members elected in general elections every four years (on the same day as the elections to the city council); while a County Administrative Board presided over by a Governor is appointed centrally every six years to oversee national government functions in the county.

City Marketing

Established in 2004 and owned by the City of Stockholm, [Stockholm Business Region](#) is the parent company of subsidiaries [Invest Stockholm](#) as the city's official investment promotion agency and [Visit Stockholm](#) as the official visitors' bureau and destination marketing organisation.

City Brand

 **Stockholm**
The Capital of Scandinavia

'Stockholm – The Capital of Scandinavia' was launched in 2006 by Stockholm Business Region as the city's brand platform.

City Business

Stockholm Stadhus AB is owned by the City of Stockholm and has coordinating role for many of the city's companies, including Stockholm Business Region.

City Tech

Stockholm Business Region is actively involved in tech and startup promotion globally, thanks to the city's globally significant tech scene.

Vienna

City Executive

As Vienna is both capital and one of the nine Federal States of Austria it is led by a Mayor and Governor elected from the City Council and Provincial Parliament following local elections. The City Senate consists of the Mayor, two Vice Mayors and six Executive City Councillors (from the largest party), as well as a wider cross-party membership (12 in total). The Mayor is currently Michael Ludwig (**Social Democratic Party**, since 2018)



City Government

[Vienna City Council and Provincial Government](#)



Population

1,889,083



Council Members

100



Election Term

5 years (last in 2015)

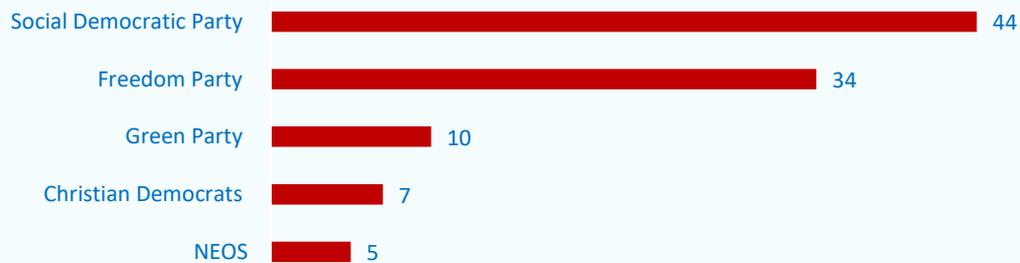


[@Stadt_Wien](#)

City Council

Elections use the top-up list system. Elected members of the City Council hold a dual mandate as members of the Provincial Parliament.

Distribution of Council Seats



City Districts

Vienna is subdivided into 23 historic districts, 19 of which (across several) are organised into district offices subordinate to the city administration and Vienna President of the Police (in turn a Federal Director of Security). Districts are represented by elected district councils, each of which elects its own district president – while city functions are delegated to districts (such as schools and parks), the city council can overturn districts' decisions. EU citizens resident in the city may vote in district elections only (not city council). Vienna's districts also perform residents' registration and issue passports.

Vienna

City Region

Interregional cooperation exists with its hinterland via the Planning Cooperation East and Transport Cooperation East organisations which consist of Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland states.

City Marketing

The [Vienna Business Agency](#) was established in 1982 by the city council and chamber of commerce as the Vienna Economic Development Fund and is responsible for promoting the city globally as a business location and offering business support. The [Vienna Tourist Board](#) is the tourism office and destination marketing organisation for the City of Vienna, established in 1955 under the Vienna Tourist Support Law and part-funded by hotel taxes.

City Brand

V I E N N A
NOW ♦ FOREVER

The 'Vienna: now or never' campaign and marketing strategy was launched by the Vienna Tourist Board in 2009. This was refreshed to 'Vienna: Now. Forever.' in 2016.

City Business

The city council and chamber of commerce cooperate through Vienna Business Agency.

City Tech

As well as the startup promotion undertaken by Vienna Business Agency, the [Vienna Smart City Agency](#) is an agency of the city which works with others through the city-owned [Urban Innovation Vienna](#) public-private partnership.