

Community Councils 101

What are Community Councils?

Community councils are independent, nonprofit, voluntary, self-governing associations composed of residents, property owners, business owners, nonprofits, and other entities located within geographical areas (districts) designated by the Assembly. Community councils serve an advisory function to the Assembly, the Mayor and the Administration. The purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs. Community councils are recognized in Anchorage's Home Rule Charter, and the Assembly authorizes each council by ordinance. *While community councils are not part of local government, they are an important part of the local government process.*

Anchorage Municipal Charter

ARTICLE VIII. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Section 8.01 Establishment and procedures

The assembly by ordinance shall provide for establishment of community councils to afford citizens an opportunity for maximum community involvement and self-determination. The ordinance shall include procedures for negotiation between the local government and each community council with respect to the duties and responsibilities of the community council.

Anchorage Municipal Code

Chapter 2.40 COMMUNITY COUNCILS

2.40.020 Purpose of chapter

"The purpose of this chapter is to implement the charter by providing a direct and continuing means of citizen participation in government and local affairs. Community councils are intended to give:

- A. The people a method by which they can work together for expression and discussion of their opinions, needs and desires in a manner that will have an impact on their community's development and services.
- B. Governmental agencies a method for receiving opinions, needs, desires, and recommendations of residents and groups.
- C. Local governing bodies an improved basis for decision-making assignment of priorities for all programs affecting community development and individual well-being."

Federation of Community Councils

The Federation of Community Councils, Inc. (FCC), is recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 exempt organization, and receives the majority of its operating revenue from the Anchorage Assembly as a grant to provide services to the independent community councils in Anchorage. The FCC is not recognized in the charter or municipal code; the organization is contracted by the Assembly to provide support to the community councils. The FCC is governed by a board composed of representatives of each community council. There is no statutory relationship between the community councils and the FCC, or between the FCC and the Municipality of Anchorage.

Relationship Building * Non-Partisan/Non-Political * Educate * Civility * Don't Make it Personal * Respect Everyone's Time * Listen * Be Welcoming * Be Inclusive