



## **2020 General Municipal Election-FAQ's**

### **1. How much time must I commit to being a City Councilmember?**

The time commitment of a City Councilmember can be demanding. In addition to preparing for and attending regular and special City Council meetings, Councilmembers also represent Oakley on a variety of county and regional boards/commissions/committees that meet regularly and may require some travel. Meetings can be very brief or very long, depending on the length of the meeting agendas. Councilmembers also attend numerous community functions and sometimes trainings which can be held during days, evenings, and/or weekends. Attendance is extremely important. Please consider the time commitment before filing papers for this election.

### **2. Do I get to choose which regional boards/commissions/committees I will be involved with?**

Each year, the City Council, as a collective body, decides which Councilmembers will serve each board, commission and committee.

### **3. When are City Council meetings held?**

The City Council meeting schedule is decided upon by the City Council. City Council meetings are currently held twice each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, except in July, August, November and December when only one meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Special and emergency meetings may also be held with minimal notice for more urgent items. The City Council meeting schedule is subject to change at any time with consensus of the City Council.

### **4. What is the salary of a City Councilmember?**

The salary of a Councilmember is nominal and is based upon the City's population. The amount of time a Councilmember commits to serving the Oakley community far outweighs the salary received. The current monthly salary of a Councilmember is \$456.75. Councilmembers do not receive health, dental or retirement benefits.

## **5. Will I have an office at City Hall if I am elected?**

The Mayor and City Councilmembers do not have offices at City Hall. They conduct business by phone, email, fax, or in person with residents and other agencies. City Hall conference rooms may be used as needed, when available.

## **6. Will I have staff to assist me?**

City staff assists the City Council with questions and information as needed. The Assistant to the City Manager also serves in a role similar to that of "Chief of Staff" to the City Council.

## **7. How do I become Mayor or Vice Mayor?**

The Mayor and Vice Mayor seats are rotated each year in December. Typically, the current Vice Mayor becomes the Mayor. The Councilmember with the most continuous time of service on the Council who has not previously served as Vice Mayor and is not selected Mayor will be selected as Vice Mayor. If two or more members have equal time of continuous service, the member who received the highest number of votes at his/her election shall be selected. The other members with equal time of continuous service will have their rank on the rotation schedule determined by the number of votes that they received at their election, with the member having the higher number of votes receiving higher ranking.

When the Mayor completes his/her service as Mayor, he/she shall revert to the bottom of the rotation schedule. If a member was appointed to the City Council, he/she shall be placed at the bottom of the rotation schedule when appointed, and shall continue up the rotation schedule thereafter in the same manner as the other members. If a member voluntarily declines appointment as either Mayor or Vice Mayor, he/she shall then rotate to the bottom of the schedule.

The City Council may decline to appoint a member to serve as Mayor or as Vice Mayor if a majority of the City Council determines that the person has experienced or exhibited a violation of: law or City policy, or has been or is being investigated for a violation of law or of policy; intemperate, rude or disparaging remarks or conduct toward the public, staff or City Council; lack of leadership or communications skills; excessive absenteeism as a Council member; any other conduct that would be considered to be unprofessional or unbecoming of the position of Mayor or Vice Mayor; or determination that the person does not have the available time to assume the additional duties of Mayor or Vice Mayor.

## **8. What can I do to prepare to be a City Councilmember if I am elected?**

There are several resources available through the League of California Cities and its Institute for Local Government (ILG) that can provide information that will be helpful to understand the local government process. A list of ILG resources and other resources are provided on the City's website for potential candidates. Also, it may be helpful to attend or view City Council meetings as a spectator prior to the election. Council

meetings are recorded and live-streamed. You may view present and past Council meetings at <https://www.ci.oakley.ca.us/agendas-minutes-videos-archive/>

### **9. Will I receive training?**

An orientation will be scheduled after the election which will provide you with a basic understanding of the function of each City department and of the general operations of City Hall. Other educational opportunities include conferences, seminars, webinars, meetings with other elected officials and meetings with other agencies.