



"Where the North Begins"

Alderpersons in the City of Portage

Portage Municipal Building
115 West Pleasant Street
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: (608) 742-2176
www.portagewi.gov

ABOUT COMMON COUNCIL

- Common Council is made up of nine alderpersons that each serve three-year terms, beginning in April.
- Alderperson district maps can be viewed at City Hall or at the City of Portage website: www.portagewi.gov.

WHAT IS AN ALDERPERSON'S ROLE IN THE CITY OF PORTAGE?

- Attend and participate in Common Council meetings
 - Portage Common Council meets twice a month, the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Attendance is important so that important business brought before the council can be addressed.
- Serve on additional city boards, committees, and commissions, as appointed
 - These may include one of the City's standing committees (Finance/Administration, Legislative & Regulatory, Human Resources, Municipal Services & Utilities, and Park & Recreation Board) or one of the other various committees created to address specific needs of the community.
- Advocate for your district and your constituents in the City process.
- Communicate actively with your constituents in multiple ways about City resources and issues, policy debates, development proposals, and other relevant information.
- Participate fully in the process of developing and approving the annual City Budget.
- Communicate the needs and views of your constituents to City staff, committees and the Council.
- Act as a liaison between the committees you serve on and the Council
- Prepare and educate yourself and your constituents on city-wide and/or controversial policy topics or issues that come before the Council, and engage in the debate and decision-making process around them.
- Advance policy issues important to your district and the City.
- Help make City government accessible and welcoming to all Portage residents.

GENERAL POWERS OF COMMON COUNCIL

- *Chief Elected Officials for City*
Council can levee taxes and fees, acquire and sell property, regulates streets, and order within city.
- *Mayor presides over Council*
Mayor appoints board, commission, and committee membership, sets Council agenda, and may veto Council actions.
- *Council elects a President* whom acts in the absence of the mayor.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, & COMMITTEES WITH ALDERPERSON REPRESENTATION

- AdHoc Canal Committee
 - Airport Commission
 - Cable TV Commission
- Columbia County Economic Development Corporation Board
 - Community Development Authority
 - Economic Development Loan Fund Committee
 - Historic Preservation Commission
 - EMS Advisory Board
 - Plan Commission
 - Steering Committee for Veteran's Memorial Field
 - Tourism Promotion Committee

Other City-Appointed Boards, Commissions, & Committees

- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Business Improvement District
 - Library Board
- Police & Fire Commission

HOW DO I GET ON THE BALLOT?

- Be a resident of the City of Portage
- Must be 18 years of age and older
- Obtain at least 20 signatures on nomination papers