

Becoming an Elected Official

Becoming an elected official is both a rewarding and challenging act of service. As an elected official you will work to make visions become a reality and help ensure proper, planning, oversight and delivery of essential public services to your community.

To govern well, elected officials must collaborate and stay focused on the common good of the community. Displaying excellent teamwork and respect for your colleagues is essential to the community's progression.

Elected officials must understand and abide by the laws put in place to avoid favoritism and make certain that elected officials are serving the public rather than using their positions for personal benefit. Some examples of state laws that elected officials should be familiar with are as follows:

- a. There will be no special privileges for elected officials. For example, one must pay the same fees for permits as any other resident. Elected officials may not receive or give special privileges or use city resources for personal benefit.
- b. No gifts or rewards from private sources are to be accepted.
- c. Elected officials should not disclose any confidential information or use it for personal gain.
- d. Elected officials may not have financial interest in any public contracts or vote on a topic that would financially affect them or their family.
- e. Open meeting law requirements should always be remembered when a quorum of the governing body is present. Municipal business should not be a topic of conversation unless the public has been notified and the public is welcome.
- f. All public communications as an elected employee are subject to open records law.

Becoming an elected official is a wonderful way to serve your community and help in creating a brighter future for the municipality in which you reside. With teamwork, dedication and the public's interest in mind you can help continue to make West Milwaukee a place we are proud to call home.