



Talking with a Thornton City Councilmember is pretty much like talking with your neighbor. That's because councilmembers ARE your neighbors. Like you, they live in Thornton, have families, have regular jobs or are retired, and are affected every day by the same issues you are. In short, councilmembers are Thornton residents just like you, and you could be a councilmember!

Want to be a member of Thornton City Council?

In November 2021, voters will elect one councilmember in each of the four city wards. To be elected to Thornton City Council, you must:

- be a resident of the city of Thornton
- have lived in your ward for at least a year
- be a registered voter
- be a U.S. citizen
- be at least 25 years of age
- not be a convicted felon

No person shall serve as councilmember while holding another elected position in government.

For more information, call the Thornton City Clerk's office at 303-538-7230.

*What's it like to be a councilmember?
How much time does it take? What are the rewards and demands?*



Serving on Thornton City Council



Duties

Council duties include:

- attending council meetings and planning sessions, typically two each per month
- attending strategic planning meetings
- participating in groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings and grand openings
- attending community events
- participating in local, regional and national organizations
- hosting an ice cream social and two ward meetings a year in the evening
- attending conferences away from the city

Structure

The city of Thornton is a home rule city operating under the Council-Manager form of government. This means that the city manager, who is hired by the city council, supervises the various departments and day-to-day activities of the city.

The council is a policy-making body, responsible for adopting and amending ordinances which create the city code, the collection of laws under which the city operates. They determine the annual city budget, approve intergovernmental agreements and conduct public hearings on zoning and other matters.

Thornton City Council consists of the mayor, elected at large, and eight councilmembers, two from each of the four wards. The mayor and councilmembers serve staggered four-year terms.



Rewards

Serving the community as the Mayor or a City Councilmember can be a very rewarding experience. These dedicated residents make decisions that impact the quality of life for the entire Thornton community by working on growth and transportation issues, improving public safety and recreation opportunities, and encouraging wholesome economic development to benefit the community.

Serving on council falls somewhere between a volunteer position and an actual job, with compensation of \$2000 per month for the mayor, \$1,750 per month for the Mayor pro tem, and \$1500 per month for councilmembers, plus a monthly stipend to cover city business-related expenses.

Demands

As satisfying as it can be to participate in the decisions that will affect Thornton now and in the future, the position of city councilmember is not an easy one. There is a tremendous time commitment involved. Every Tuesday, councilmembers participate in meetings that begin at 5:45 p.m. and often last until 10 p.m. or later. They typically attend at least one additional event during the week, and spend an average of three hours reviewing background information necessary for upcoming council meetings. There are also additional evening meetings that are scheduled as needed to review the budget and meetings with other governmental entities.

Councilmembers also devote at least six weekends per year to city meetings, community events, and training conferences away from the city. Moreover, citizens call councilmembers at their homes to seek information or express concerns about city projects or services. It certainly helps to have an understanding employer if you work outside the home, and an even more understanding family.

Opportunity

In November 2021, Thornton residents will elect one councilmember in each of the city's four wards. If you are a resident of the city of Thornton and have lived in your ward for at least a year, are a registered voter, a U.S. citizen at least 25 years of age or older, and not a convicted felon, you are eligible to run for election. No person shall serve as councilmember while also holding another elected position in government.

Ward maps and *Council Candidate Guidelines* are available on the city's website at gocot.net/cityclerk and click on Election Information, or from the City Clerk's office on the second floor of Thornton City Hall, located at 9500 Civic Center Drive, just off Thornton Parkway at I-25. If you decide to run, you will need to circulate a Nomination Petition beginning August 3, and return it to the City Clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on August 23.

Thornton City Council encourages all residents to become involved in their city in some way, either as a councilmember or through one of our numerous boards and commissions.

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