How Stockholm is governed
The democratic process

You and all other Stockholmers eligible to vote in the local elections decide who governs our city. This way, you are an important part of the democratic process.

Results of citizen suggestions

Södermalm:

Now we can sit and enjoy the sun in Bergsgruvan without having to bring our own chairs.

Spånga-Tensta:

It’s really nice that we can now sit and have a cup of coffee at a table in Elinborgsparken after playing boule.

Hägersten-Liljeholmen:

It’s wonderful that we can now have a barbecue at the amphitheatre!

Fagersjö, Farsta:

The new basketball baskets are great!

Skärholmen:

I can finally ride in Ängens skatepark, even if I’m a beginner.

Skarpnäcks allé, Skarpnäck:

It’s great that the park is now used by everyone – both boys and girls. I feel safe when I’m there.

The City Council Chamber at the City Hall.
City Council

In the City Council Chamber, located at the Stockholm City Hall, the 101 elected representatives in the City Council make decisions that affect everyone who lives in the City of Stockholm.

The City Council members are elected every four years when national, county council and local elections are held. The party that gets the most votes also gets the most representatives in the City Council. One representative in the City Council equals one seat. To achieve a majority on the City Council, 51 seats are needed. After the 2014 elections, the Social Democrats, the Green Party, the Left Party and Feminist Initiative make up the majority. The other parties in the City Council form the opposition, and often have a different opinion. The opposition consists of the Moderates, the Liberal Party, the Centre Party, the Christian Democrats and the Sweden Democrats.

The City Council sets objectives and guidelines for the City of Stockholm’s operations. The City Council meets approximately every third Monday under the direction of the Presidency. The meetings are open to all and you are welcome to listen on site in the City Hall. You can also follow the meetings by webcasts or radio. You will find more information about this on the City’s website, stockholm.se.

City Executive Board

Most City Council members have other jobs alongside of their political office. Therefore, they cannot investigate all of the details of a matter themselves. This responsibility instead rests with the City Executive Board. The Stockholm City Executive Board consists of 13 members from both the majority and the opposition. They ensure that the City Council members receive a compilation of all facts and proposals before they make decisions. The City Executive Board has the overall responsibility to ensure that the decisions are executed, monitored and evaluated. It is also responsible for the City’s finances and how the City will be developed in the future. The City Executive Board meetings are not open to the public, but you can read what is decided on the City website.

The City Executive Board is assisted by an administration, the City Executive Office, which helps the City Executive Board to manage and coordinate city operations. The office focuses on overall strategic issues and assumes responsibility for implementation of policy decisions.

The City Executive Office also serves as the secretariat for the City Council and the City Executive Board, and is in charge of the registries of all documents, and the archive in City Hall.

![City Council Election Results]

The City Council consists of 101 members. The Presidency consists of the President, as well as the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. The City Commissioner serves as the City Council’s secretary. The distribution of seats after the 2014 election is shown above.

![City Executive Board Members]

The City Executive Board consists of 13 members, from both the majority and the opposition. It is responsible for the execution, monitoring and evaluation of all decisions. The Mayor is the Chairman of the City Executive Board.
Mayor, Vice Mayors and Divisions

Thirteen politicians in the City of Stockholm are full-time employees; the Mayor and Vice Mayors. They are appointed by the City Council. The Mayor and eight of the Vice Mayors represent the majority, and four of the Vice Mayors represent the opposition. The Mayor or a Vice Mayor in Stockholm is comparable to a Municipal Commissioner elsewhere in Sweden.

Each mayor in the majority is the head of a division – a department responsible for a certain area of operations, such as the Schools and Education Division, or the Mayor’s Office. Together, the 13 mayors form the Council of Mayors. They draft matters for the City Executive Board.

The Mayor has a special position among the mayors as the Chair of both the Council of Mayors and the City Executive Board.

The Stockholm of tomorrow

The Stockholm of tomorrow is shaped in the City Council Hall through the long-term decisions made there. The City’s vision describes what the city should be and look like in the future.

According to the vision, the future Stockholm should be a sustainable and coherent city, with a strong focus on the best interest of all stockholmers. All City operations should work towards the vision.

If the vision makes out the operations’ direction, the City Council operational goals describe the next steps of that direction. The goals, which are based on the annual budget, are decided by the City Council and apply to all administrations and City-owned companies.

Divisions are responsible for a certain area of operations, and are headed by one of the Vice Mayors of the majority. The Vice Mayors from the opposition do not head divisions.
Stockholm's political organisation

**Mayor’s Office**
Karin Wanngård (S) Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Development Committee
- Real Estate Committee
- Election Committee
- DC: Overall and finances
- Stockholms Stadshus AB and other companies not mentioned below
- Stockholms Hamn AB
- Mässfastigheter i Stockholm AB
- Stockholm Business Region AB
- Council for Protection of Ecological and Aesthetic Matters
- Greater Stockholm Fire Brigade
- City Executive Board
- CEB: Finance Committee

**Group Leaders**
Karin Ernlund (C)
Erik Slottner (KD)
Per Ossmer (SD)

**City Planning**
Jan Valeskog (S) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- City Planning Committee

**Labour Market, Sports Division and Culture Division**
Emilia Bjuggren (S) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Labour Market Committee
- Sports Committee
- Culture Committee
- SGA Fastigheter AB
- DC: Labour market measures
- DC: Children, culture and leisure activities
- Stockholms Stadsteater AB
- Council for Human Rights

**Schools and Education Division**
Ole Burell (S) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Education Committee
- DC: Pre-school
- Skolfastigheter i Stockholm AB (SISAB)

**Environment Division**
Katarina Luhr (MP) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Environment and Health Committee
- Traffic and Waste Management Committee
- Service Committee
- Stockholm Vatten AB

**Social Affairs Division**
Åsa Lindhagen (MP) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Social Services Committee
- Public Trustees Committee
- DC: Individual and family care
- DC: Support and services for people with disabilities
- DC: Financial aid
- CEB for the Disabled
- Stiftelsen Hotellhem i Stockholm

**Traffic Division**
Dorset Holldén (MP) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Traffic Committee
- Cemeteries Committee
- DC: Urban environment
- Stockholms Stads Parkenings AB

**Elderly and HR Division**
Oana Lindblom (V) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Elderly Services Committee
- DC: Elderly care
- Micasa Fastigheter i Stockholm AB
- CEB: Personnel and Equal Opportunities Committee
- CEB: Council of the Retired

**Housing and Democracy Division**
Ann-Margarethe Livh (V) Vice Mayor

**Responsible for**
- Housing agency
- CEB: Suburbia and Democracy Committee

**Oppositional Vice Mayors**
Anna König Jerlmeyr (M)
Joakim Larsson (M)
Cecilia Brinck (M)
Lotta Edholm (L)

**In charge of human rights issues for the majority**
Sissela Nordling Blanco (Fi)
Chair, Council for Human Rights

DC = District Council
CEB = City Executive Board
Day-to-day operations

The daily work is done by the City’s administrations and companies. They are managed by politically governed committees and boards. The members of the committees and boards are appointed by the City Council.

The employees of the administrations and companies, who are politically unaffiliated, execute the decisions of the committees and boards.

The specialist administrations take care of operations that concern the City as a whole, such as education, sports, environment, libraries, traffic management and city planning.

The district administrations deal with the municipal services and care for those who live in the district. Some of the issues they are responsible for are municipal pre-schools, elderly care, support and service for those with disabilities, urban environment work, social psychiatry, individual and family care, consumer guidance and leisure and cultural activities.

Some of the City’s operations are carried out by City-owned companies. They are coordinated through the Group Board of Stockholms Stadshus AB. The companies focus on areas such as housing, water and sewage, parking, culture and tourist information.

At insynsverige.se/stockholm you find documents outlined by the Stockholm City Council, City Executive Board and the City’s committees and companies. Agendas and meeting minutes are published here (in Swedish). Here, you can subscribe to the agendas and meeting minutes of a committee, automatically receiving them by e-mail.

Read more about the City’s organisation, policies and finances at stockholm.se/omstockholm (in Swedish), or international.stockholm.se
How it works

1. **Proposal:** A member of the City Council submits a proposal, a motion, to the City Council for better lighting in one of the City’s parks.

2. **Pronouncements:** The motion is sent to the committees in charge, which submit their pronouncements. In this case, the pronouncements come from the Traffic Committee, and the relevant District Council.

3. **Summaries:** Assessments and opinions on the proposal are sent to the division in charge at the City Hall (the Traffic Division in this case), where they are summarised so that a specific motion can be put together.

4. **Drafting:** The proposal is sent to the Council of Mayors where it is drafted.

5. **Proposed decision:** The Vice Mayor in charge presents the proposal to the City Executive Board, which suggests that the City Council approve it.

6. **Decision:** The City Council approves the motion to install better lighting in the park.

7. **Implementation:** The project is referred to the relevant committees for implementation.

8. **Results:** With the new lighting, the park is brighter and safer at night.

This is one example, but proposals are often also sent directly from a committee.

Get involved and have a say

Vote in local elections, submit your comments and suggestions or participate in civic dialogues. This is some of the ways you can influence the development of Stockholm.
Stockholm politicians make decisions that affect your daily life. By voting in the local elections, you are involved in choosing which politicians will govern the City of Stockholm, but you can also have an influence between the elections.

If you live in Stockholm, you can submit a citizen suggestion directly to your District Council. All Stockholmers, including children and foreign citizens not eligible to vote in local elections, have a right to submit citizen suggestions. Citizen suggestions aim at changing something in the City’s areas of responsibility. They must always be submitted in writing by letter, e-mail or fax and you have to state your name and address. You always receive a written confirmation and information on how your citizen suggestion will be handled. You can read more about citizen suggestions that have become reality in the beginning of this pamphlet and on the next page. Associations in the City districts can also submit suggestions.

You can also participate in the civic dialogues that the City offers, such as when a new housing area is being planned. The City also has exhibitions on current and future projects. On the City website, you can find more information on civic dialogues and current projects in the City.

If you want to submit comments or suggestions on any operation, it is best to first talk to the staff of that operation. You can also phone or visit any of the City’s civic affairs offices, write a letter or send an e-mail to the administration concerned. You can also submit comments on the City’s website. You can always be anonymous, but if you provide your name and address, the administration can let you know how your comments are addressed.

Do you have a good idea?

Anyone is welcome to submit a citizen suggestion! A few residents in Bredäng did and now their idea has taken shape.

Some Bredäng residents came up with the idea of creating a collective city garden – a place where everyone can enjoy what nature can offer, that encourages new encounters, picnics, outdoor experiences and knowledge exchange.

Skärholmen District Council welcomed the suggestion as an excellent opportunity to increase interest in cultivation, biology and environmental issues. They recognised an opportunity to exchange knowledge and traditions in our multicultural society through common cultivation. Open green spaces that are cared for together can also increase the sense of security and community.

Today, a city garden that welcomes everyone has been founded. The city gardening collective is run as an NGO that the District Council has signed an agreement with.

What would you like to see realised in your city district?
You can get involved and have a say!

• Vote in local elections.

• Submit citizen suggestions to your District Council.

• Attend meetings arranged by the City.

• Submit comments and suggestions to operations such as schools, pre-schools or homes for the elderly.

Read more on how you can get involved on the City’s website: stockholm.se