

Who leads our City? Our elected officials...



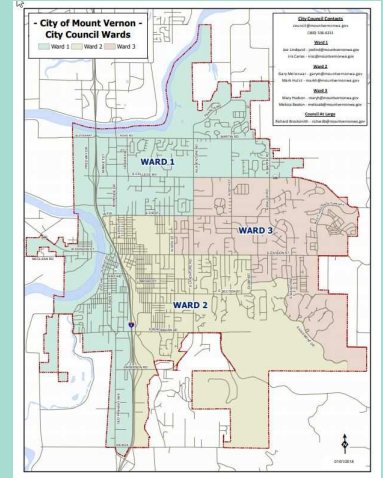
Mount Vernon, Washington is classified by the State as a code city with a Mayor/Council form of government

City Council

The City Council is the municipality's legislative body.

The City is divided geographically into 3 wards, with 2 council members elected from each ward. One council member is elected 'at-large' for a total of 7 council members. Council members serve a 4-year term with no term limits. The City Council has the authority to formulate and adopt city policies, City code (law), and the City budget.

City Council structure is regulated by Revised Code of Washington 35A.12 and Mount Vernon Municipal Code Chapters 1 & 2



Mayor

The Mayor represents the executive branch of government.

The Mayor is the city's chief administrative officer elected at-large to a four year term with no term limits.

The Mayor is responsible for all operations of the city departments. Mayor-council is the most common form of government in Washington State. The basic structure and organization of mayor-council cities is set out in the Revised Code of Washington 35A.12 and Mount Vernon Municipal Code Chapter 2

Voting Rights Act of 2018

In 2018 the State of Washington legislature passed ESSB 6002 known as the Washington State Voter Rights Act of 2018 which applies to Cities, Counties, School districts, Fire districts, Ports, and Public utility districts

The Legislature is trying to address any structure or practice of an election system that dilutes the votes or limits the rights of a protected class, resulting in an unequal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

The law defines polarized voting as “voting in which there is a difference [...] in the choice of candidates or other electoral choices that are preferred by voters in a protected class, and in the choice of candidates and electoral choices that are preferred by voters in the rest of the electorate”

The law defines a protected class as “a class of voters who are members of a race, color, or language minority group as ... referenced and defined in the federal voting rights act ...”

The City of Mount Vernon is now evaluating our election system to ensure we have a good process! You can participate in a survey, public listening sessions, or at City Council meetings. Visit www.mountvernonwa.gov for information or call 360-336-6211