

How to Apply
for
Stamford Appointed
Boards & Commissions



Appointment Process to City Boards and Commissions

There are approximately 30 volunteer appointed Boards (Boards and Commissions) in Stamford, with a total of just over 150 members. These do not include the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Representatives, which are all elected. If you are interested in applying for a Stamford Board or Commission, please follow the steps listed below. This is the most common process; a few Boards may differ somewhat.

A list of recent agendas, minutes, and videos are posted on the Stamford City website for all Boards and Commissions. Please take time to review before applying.

<https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions>

1. Application: The initial step for anyone who wishes to serve on a Board is filing an application. The application can be found on the City of Stamford website, and can be filed online <https://stamfordct.seamlessdocs.com/f/6l9fpao9de1b>, where it is sent to the Mayor's Office. A resume of life and career experience is also required, but it can be informal.
2. It is important to note that for most Boards it is necessary to be a resident of Stamford and a registered voter.
3. There are City and State restrictions on how many people of one party can be on a Board. E.g., a five-person Board can have no more than three of any one political party. A small number of positions are ex officio, meaning they are reserved for city officials of varying types. There are some Board positions, but not many, that require special experiences or circumstances.
4. Several Boards have a group of Alternate members who are available when the full panel of Regular members is not available. Their appointment process is the same.
5. By long-standing practice, members of the Democratic Party are approved by the Democratic Party (DCC), and members of the Republican Party are approved by the Republican Party (RTC). People who are registered as Unaffiliated, or with a small Party, are also eligible for appointment.

For the Democratic Party, that process includes submitting a resume, interviewing with the Appointments subcommittee, and receiving an affirmative vote by the entire Democratic City Committee before moving ahead to the Board of Representatives. There are some Boards and Commissions that the political parties do not approve.
6. Applicants can be recruited by their political party (DCC or RTC) for recommendation to the Mayor. All candidates are interviewed by the Mayor.
7. Once the applicant is approved by the Mayor and the political party, the Mayor submits the name to the Board of Representatives for final approval. The Board of Representatives Appointments Committee interviews the applicant and then the full Board of Representatives votes on the appointment. The Board of Representatives has final approval.
8. Most appointments are for a term of three years. When the term expires, the member stays on the Board until they are replaced or resign.

Appointed Board/Commission	Public Members	Term	Approximate meetings/year	Website
<p>Arts & Culture The Stamford Arts & Culture Commission is charged with stimulating, facilitating, coordinating, and cooperating with Stamford's arts and cultural organizations for the development of the creative, performing, and visual arts. It serves as an information center and focal point in the city for activities in the arts.</p>	9	3 yrs.	3rd Wednesday of every other month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/arts-culture-commission
<p>Board of Assessment Appeals The Board of Assessment Appeals is an official municipal agency. It is designed to serve as an appeal body for taxpayers who believe that town or city assessors erred in the valuation of their properties or erroneously denied them exemptions. The Board enables taxpayers to be heard by their peers at no expense. No fees are charged for the appeal process. Furthermore, taxpayers do not have to be represented by counsel.</p>	5	3 yrs.	Once per month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/board-of-assessment-appeals
<p>Board of Ethics The Board of Ethics has the responsibility of investigating any complaints of violation of the Stamford Code of Ethics by an officer or employee of the City government. Officers include elected and appointed officials. In addition, the Board, when requested, issues Advisory Opinions to officers or employees of the City who seek guidance about their contemplated actions which might be considered a violation of the Code.</p>	7/2 alts	5 yrs.	Third Wednesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/board-of-ethics
<p>Economic Development Commission The Economic Development Commission is an advisory board that conducts research into the economic conditions and trends in Stamford. The commission makes recommendations to appropriate officials and agencies in Stamford city government regarding action to improve the economic condition and development of the City. It renders written opinions on the economic impact and advisability of any decision to be made on any matter pending before any board, commission, agency, department, or member of the executive branch, but only after requested by the decisionmaker on that particular matter, the Board of Representatives or the Mayor.</p>	5	3 yrs.	Every month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/economic-development-commission

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<p>Environmental Protection Board The Environmental Protection Board regulates and protects inland wetlands and watercourses throughout the City, exercises the powers of a Municipal Conservation Commission under state statutes, exercises the powers of a municipal flood and erosion control board under state statutes, and holds hearings and reviews applications for building permits that might impact inland wetlands.</p>	5/3 alts	3 yrs.	3rd Thursday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-protection-board
<p>Golf Commission (E. Gaynor Brennan) The Golf Commission operates, maintains, and manages the Golf Course at Hubbard Heights now known as E Gaynor Brennan.</p>	5	3 yrs.	Once per month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/golf-commission-e-gaynor-brennan
<p>Golf Authority (Sterling) The Stamford Golf Authority operates, maintains, and manages the Sterling Farms Golf Course and related activities on the premises.</p>	9	3 yrs.	Once per month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/stamford-golf-authority
<p>Harbor Management The Stamford Harbor Management Commission regulates and monitors shoreline development and reviews and makes recommendations to various land use boards on issues within their area of jurisdiction. They also manage the shellfish pits in the harbor.</p>	7/2 alts	3 yrs.	3rd Tuesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/harbor-management-commission
<p>Health Commission The Health Commission function is advisory to the Health Director in formulating health policies for the City. They are also able to investigate new policies and avenues of service for the Health Department as well as hear and act on appeals of decisions made by the Health Department.</p>	5	3 yrs.	2nd Thursday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/health-commission

Appointed Board/Commission	Public Members	Term	Approximate meetings/year	Website
<p>Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC) The role of HPAC is to advise officials, boards, commissions and departments of the City of Stamford regarding the protection of local cultural resources; recommend properties and sites for the designation of historic districts or landmarks; liaise on behalf of City of Stamford with individuals and organizations concerned with historic preservation; and advise on the design of structures, improvements and cultural resources in the city's historic districts, as well as those adjacent to historic properties. Catalogue the cultural resources in Stamford and educate Stamford residents about historic preservation issues and concerns.</p>	5/3 alts	3 yrs.	1st Tuesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/historic-preservation-advisory-commission
<p>Park & Recreations Commission The Parks & Recreation Commission's objective is to oversee the policies and procedures for the administration and management of parks and programs in the City of Stamford. In addition, they oversee the care and maintenance of parks and advocate for the preservation and expansion of green space and natural resources within the City.</p>	5	3 yrs.	3rd Wednesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/parks-and-recreation-commission
<p>Parking Citation Officer Hear appeals of parking violations and either uphold or deny the appeals. They do not meet as a board but hear the appeals as individual officers. There must be at least 2 officers.</p>	2 to 5	2 yrs.	Hearings monthly	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/parking-violations-hearing-board
<p>Patriotic & Special Events Commission the Patriotic and Special Events Commission is authorized to arrange for all patriotic and special events for which the City provides funds or otherwise participates, such as observances of patriotic and other holiday celebrations. The Commission shall specifically make arrangements for appropriate observance of Memorial Day, Flag Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, and other national holidays and for receptions of distinguished visitors to the City.</p>	5	3 yrs.	1st Wednesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/patriotic-special-events
<p>Personnel Commission The Personnel Commission represents the public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in the Civil Service and maintains the integrity of the merit system in the administration and hears appeals in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.</p>	5	3 yrs.	4th Thursday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/personnel-commission

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<p>Planning Board The Planning Board is responsible for planning and coordinating the development of the City. The Board has two main tools to plan for the City's future. The Master Plan is a vision, policy and implementation plan that guides the City forward. Based on the analysis of existing conditions and anticipated needs, it is a comprehensive plan that addresses economic development, transportation and mobility sustainability and other issues. The second tool the Planning Board has available is the Capital Budget . The Capital Budget lays out the City's investments in streets, schools, parks and other infrastructure and facilities. The Planning Board drafts the Capital Budget which is then reviewed and approved by the Mayor, the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives. Other responsibilities include maintaining the City's official map, reviewing subdivision applications, and hearing and making recommendations on most zoning board and zoning board of appeals applications.</p>	5/3 alts	3 yrs.	Every Tuesday	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/planning-board
<p>Social Services Commission The Social Service Commission deals with social welfare concerns facing the residents of Stamford including, but not limited to programs which address shelter, sustenance, and health needs. It promotes coordination between those city departments concerned with social welfare, including the Board of Education, and nonprofit organizations. It also holds hearings on fair rent complaints</p>	5	3 yrs.	2nd Tuesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/social-services-commission
<p>Stamford Transit District The Stamford Transit District manages and maintains the bus shelters throughout the City and distributes income from the advertising to various public benefit organizations.</p>	4	4 yrs.	2nd Wednesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/stamford-transit-district
<p>Urban Redevelopment Commission (URC) The URC is authorized to prepare and/or approve plans for urban redevelopment and urban renewal projects, as well as certain other projects. Those plans must be approved by several City Boards, and ultimately by the Board of Finance and the Board of Representatives in order to become effective. The URC is designated as the Development Agency for the City of Stamford.</p>	5	3 yrs.	2nd Thursday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/urban-redevelopment-commission

Appointed Board/Commission	Public Members	Term	Approximate meetings/year	Website
<p>Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) The WPCA manages and maintains the City water treatment plant. It sets rates for water usage and bills and collects payments from property owners.</p>	5	3 yrs.	Once per month (Mondays)	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/operations/water-pollution-control-authority
<p>Zoning Board The Zoning Board plays a critical role in shaping the city. It regulates the height, bulk and uses of property based on Stamford's Zoning Regulations. The Zoning Board reviews applications for changes to the Zoning Map, Zoning Text, Special Exceptions, Site and Architectural Plans and Coastal Site Plans. The board conducts public hearings and administrative review of applications based on rules defined in the City Charter.</p>	5/3 alts	3 yrs.	Twice per month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/zoning-board
<p>Zoning Board of Appeals The Zoning Board of Appeals considers variances of the zoning regulations where there is an unusual hardship. It also hears applications for special exceptions and hears appeals from the City zoning enforcement officer.</p>	5/3 alts	3 yrs.	Twice per month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/zoning-board-of-appeals
Not Subject to DCC Approval	Public Members	Term	Approximate meetings/year	Website
<p>Police Commission The Police Commission Holds the power of appointment and promotion of police officers after consideration of recommendations made by the Chief of Police; hears and determines appeals of disciplinary actions of police officers; and approves rules and regulations concerning operation of the Police Department; conducts hearings and investigations relating to the general welfare of the Department.</p>	5	Coincide with Mayor	First Monday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/police-commission
<p>Fire Commission The Fire Commission holds the power of appointment and promotion of career members after consideration of any recommendations made by the Fire Chief; hears and determines appeals; approves rules and regulations concerning the operation of the Department and the conduct of all members of members of the Department; conducts hearings and investigations relating to the general welfare of the Department.</p>	5	Coincide with Mayor	Second Tuesday of each month	https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/boards-commissions/fire-commission

Please note that all Board and Commission descriptions have been considerably edited for brevity and should not be relied on as complete. The full descriptions of powers and duties can be found in either the City Charter or City Code of Ordinances:
https://library.municode.com/ct/stamford/codes/code_of_ordinances

For additional information, please contact the Stamford Democratic City Committee:

www.stamforddems.com

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