From politics to everyday life
How Stockholm is governed
Stockholm is the capital of Sweden and the country’s largest municipality. But above all – it is the home town of almost one million people who form the Stockholm of today and tomorrow. You and all other Stockholmers eligible to vote in the local elections, decide who governs our city. In this way, you are an important part of the democratic process. Let’s look closer at how it all works!
In the City Council Chamber, located at the Stockholm City Hall, 101 elected representatives make decisions affecting everyone who lives in the City of Stockholm. The City Council members are elected in local elections every four years. The party that gets the most votes will have the most representatives in the City Council. One representative in the City Council equals one seat. To achieve majority in the City Council, 51 seats are needed.

After the 2018 elections, the Moderate Party, the Liberal Party, the Green Party, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats make up the majority. The other parties in the City Council form the opposition, and often have a different opinion than the majority. The opposition consists of the Social Democratic Party, the Left Party, Feminist Initiative 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 watch and listen on site in the City Hall. You can also follow the meetings via webcasts or radio. You find more information on this at the City’s website: stockholm.se
The City Executive Board

Most City Council members have other jobs alongside their political office. Therefore, they cannot investigate all details of a matter themselves. This responsibility instead rests with the City Executive Board. The Stockholm City Executive Board is made up 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. The Board is also responsible for the City’s finances and how the City will be developed. The City Executive Board meetings are not open to the public, but you can read what was decided on the City website.

The City Executive Board is assisted by an administration, the City Executive Office, which helps with managing and coordinating city operations. The office focuses on overall strategic issues and is responsible 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 City Hall archives.
Fifteen 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 nine of the Vice Mayors represent the majority, and five 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 of the majority is also the head of an office responsible for a certain area of operations, such as finance, elderly care or education. Together, the 15 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 City Budget

The City budget is one of the City Council’s most important responsibilities. The annual budget is decided upon in the autumn the year before. That’s when it’s decided how your City tax will be spent and what the City’s operations and companies will focus on. That’s also when the municipal tax for the coming year is decided.

Distribution*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschools and other educational care</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory schools, schools for children with special needs, and care for school children</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper secondary school, and upper secondary school for students with special needs</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and sports</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly care</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support and services for people with disabilities</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual and family care, as well as labour market</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic, streets and environment</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City planning and home building</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate management</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure from the equalisation system</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximately SEK 60 billion

* Year 2019
Every day operations

The daily work is carried out by the City’s departments and companies. They are managed by politically governed councils, committees and boards.

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

The specialist departments are responsible for operations that concern the City as a whole, such as education, sports, environment, libraries, traffic management and city planning.

The city district departments deal with the municipal services and care for those who live in the respective districts; for example municipal preschools, elderly care, support and service for those with disabilities, urban environment work, social psychiatry, individual and family care, consumer guidance, leisure and cultural activities.

Some of the City’s operations are carried out by City-owned companies. They are coordinated through the Executive Board of Stockholms Stadshus AB. The companies focus on areas such as housing, water and sewage, parking, culture and tourist information.
Proposal: A member of the City Council submits a proposal, a motion, to the City Council. The proposal suggests that the City’s elderly should tell school children about the Stockholm they grew up in, in order to bring city development to life.

Pronouncements: The motion is sent to the committees and councils in charge, which submit their pronouncements. In this case, the pronouncements come from the Elderly Services Committee, Education Committee and three City District Councils.

Summaries: Assessments and opinions on the proposal are sent to the office in charge at the City Hall, in this case the Office for Elderly Care and Public Safety, where they are summarised so that a specific motion can be put together.

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

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

Decision: The City Council approves the motion that older Stockholmers should bring city development to life for school children.

Implementation: The project is referred to the relevant committees and councils for implementation.

Results: The older population is now sharing their stories about the Stockholm they grew up in to curious school children.
The Stockholm of tomorrow

The Stockholm of tomorrow is being shaped through the long-term decisions made in the City Council Hall. What the future Stockholm will look and feel like, is described in the City Vision. It tells us how the city should be developed and points out the directions of the City operations.

The Vision is the goal of the operations, and the City Council’s orientational goals are what leads them there. The orientational goals are decided by the City Council at the same time as the annual budget. They apply to all City operations and companies.
Get involved and express your opinion

Stockholm politicians make decisions that affect your daily life. By voting in local elections, you are part of choosing which politicians will govern the City of Stockholm, but you can also have a say between elections.

If you live in Stockholm, you can submit a citizen suggestion directly to your City District Council. Citizen suggestions should aim at changing something within the City’s areas of responsibilities. All Stockholmers, including children and foreign citizens not eligible to vote in local elections, can submit citizen suggestions.

You can also participate in civic dialogues offered by the City, for example, when a new housing area is being planned. On the City website, växer.stockholm, you find more information on civic dialogues and current City projects.

If you want to submit comments or suggestions on an operation, you should start by talking to the staff of that operation. You can phone, write a letter, or send an e-mail to the particular department. You can also visit any of the City’s civic affairs Offices or submit comments on the City’s website.
In 1910, the first two women became members of the City Council. Today, there is an equal amount of women and men in the City Council.

83.52% of Stockholmers voted in the municipal election in 2018. That was 1.39% more than in the 2014 election.

The first municipal election with general and equal voting rights was held in Stockholm in 1919.

The City weapon and logo is called S:t Erik. He has been the seal of Stockholm since the 14th century.

The City Hall was inaugurated on Midsummer’s day. Today – it is one of the most visited attractions in the city.

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Interested in the history of Stockholm? Visit Stockholmskällan at stockholmskällan.se

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