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ELECTIONS
Assistance Project

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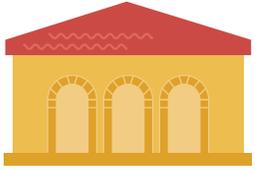
Women's Guide to Municipal and Mukhtar Council

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The Municipal Council

The municipality is a local administration independent of the central administration. It enjoys financial and administrative autonomy within the scope of its work, and is subject to the supervision and control of the central government.

Each work of public character or interest in the municipal area falls within the scope of the Municipal Council's competence. The rules promulgated by the Municipal Council regarding the issues falling within its competence shall be binding within the municipal area.

The municipal council is in charge of the following functions, *inter alia*:



The municipal budget, including transferring and opening credits



Cutting off budget accounts



Different types of loans for carrying out specific projects that have been studied



Assigning some of the municipal present and future returns to the borrower or the State in return for its guarantee of the debt and mentioning the annual due installments in the consecutive municipal budgets throughout the period of the said debt



Determining the rates of the municipal taxes according to the law



Specifications for deals regarding the supplies, works and services



Specifications for selling the municipal properties



Reconciliation



Approval and rejection of donations and ordered funds



Public programs for works, aesthetics, cleaning, health affairs, water projects and lighting



Establishing shops, parks, playgrounds, museums, hospitals, dispensaries, libraries, sewers, waste drainage and others



Naming the streets in the municipal area



Planning, improving and expanding the streets, establishing gardens and public places



Contributing to the tuition fees related to the public schools



Contributing to the fees of projects of public interest



Rescuing the needy and disabled people and assisting clubs and associations



Enjoying the right to enter into contracts to conclude agreements with municipalities

The Municipal Council is entitled, within its area, to establish or manage directly or indirectly, or contribute to, or help in the execution of the following works and projects:



Public schools, nurseries and technical schools



Public housing, toilets, laundries and swimming pools



Public hospitals, sanitariums and dispensaries



Museums, public libraries, theaters, cinemas, amusement centers and clubs



Local means of public transportation



Public shops for buying food, refrigerators for keeping them and threshing floors

The Municipal Council decides on the mentioned subjects within a period of one month as of the date of its notification of the papers related thereto; otherwise it is considered as having given a tacit approval of the subject in question.



Changing the name of the village



Changing the boundaries of the village



Organizing traffic and public transportation



Carrying out projects for improving and delimitating highways in addition to general master designs in the municipal area.



Establishing and transferring or closing public schools, governmental hospitals and dispensaries



Measures related to public emergency



Establishing charitable organizations and offices



Licensing applications for investment in classified shops, restaurants, swimming pools, coffee shops, amusement centers and hotels.

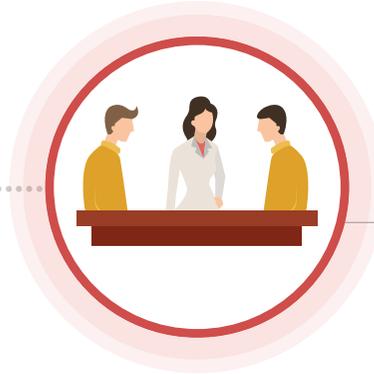


The municipal body consists of:

A Decision-Making Authority



held by



The municipal council

An Executive Authority



held by



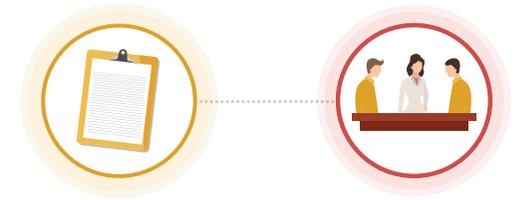
The president of the municipal council

The Decision-Making Authority: held by the municipal council

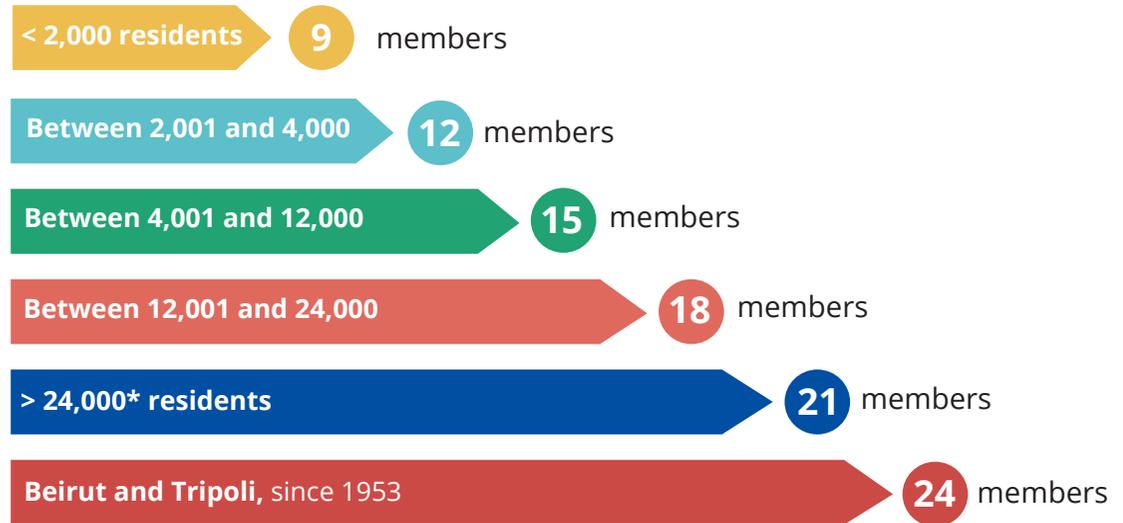
The municipal council supervises the executive authority and ensures the proper functioning inside the municipality. It is composed of a number of members not exceeding 24, depending on the number of registered residents in the municipal area.

The members of the Municipal Council are elected directly by the registered voters following the same procedure as in Parliamentary elections.

The mandate of the municipal council is for six years. During its first session, the Municipal Council shall elect, by secret ballot, a President and a Vice-President from among its members.



The Municipal Council comprises:



**Except for municipalities of Beirut and Tripoli*

The Municipal Council is convened by its President at least once a month, and whenever the need arises. The President includes the meeting agenda in the summons. The summons should be written and sent to the place of residence or elected domicile of each council member no later than three days before the meeting. The three-day period could be reduced if necessary.

Voting is carried out by open ballot, and voting by proxy is not allowed. Voting by secret ballot may be resorted to upon the request of the President or the majority of the present members or when the voting is related to an election.

The Head of the Municipality may invite any employee or person to attend and intervene in the meetings of the Municipal Council.

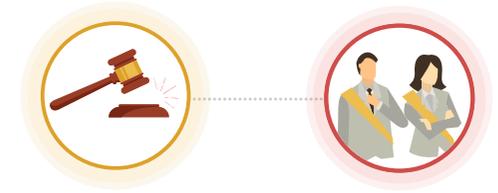
Every voter and interested party in the municipal area may request, at their own expense, a copy of the Municipal Council's decisions authenticated by the competent official.

The Municipal Council may be dissolved either by virtue of a decision issued by the Council of Ministers and initiated by a detailed proposal of the Minister of Interior, or in the event of loss of half of the Council members for various reasons.



The Executive Authority:

held by the president of the municipal council



The municipal council elects a President and a Vice-president from among its members, by secret ballot and absolute majority, for the same term of office of the municipal council. The election of the President and Vice-president are held during the municipal council's first session, at the time and place specified by the Governor (Muhafiz) or District Commissioner (Qaemqam), within one month following the date of announcement of the elections' results.

The Municipal Council is convened by its President at least once a month, and whenever the need arises. The President includes the meeting agenda in the summons. The Head of the Executive Authority is in charge of the following functions, *inter alia*:



Executing the decisions
of the municipal council



Preparing municipal
budget forecasts



Managing and supervising
municipal departments



Managing the municipal funds and real estate properties and carrying out all the works necessary to maintain the assets of the municipality



Granting construction permits, housing permits, certificates of completion for the routing of water, electricity and telephone, following the approval of the competent technical departments



Organizing and facilitating traffic and circulation in public streets, squares and roads as well as ensuring cleaning, lighting and litter and debris removal, and protecting all that relates to the environment, landscapes and monuments, maintaining trees and forested areas, and preventing pollution

(Except for Beirut municipality where the Governor holds the executive authority as provided for in Article 67 of the Municipality Law).

Control authorities

Being semi-independent, municipalities are subject to control by the central government. Municipal works are subject to restrictions and are expected to abide by the law and its general principles. Members of the municipal body shall not engage in any abuse of power or conflict of interest with the supreme interests of the state. The administrative control mechanism was established to protect the public interest. The decisions of municipal councils are subject to administrative control by the Qaimqam, Muhafiz and the Minister of Interior.



The Mukhtar Council

The mukhtar council in towns and villages is composed of one mukhtar and three council members. In neighborhoods, only a mukhtar is elected, without any council members. The mukhtar is elected by a general direct vote, along with council members whose number shall be specified in the Call for Election. The term of office for mukhtars and mukhtar council members is six years.

The mukhtar is in charge of processing papers that facilitate the needs of the citizens and issuing official and physical documents upon which are based all administrative registration entries including birth, marriage, divorce and death, in addition to residence and travel certificates. Mukhtars authenticate the identity of citizens who reside within their municipality area. They abide by the applicable laws and regulations on public administration and general security, personal status, financial affairs, real estate, agriculture, health, public schools and fine arts.

The mukhtars document all incoming and outgoing transactions on a record file which pages are signed and sealed by the Muhafiz or Qaimqam. They shall have their signature and seal registered with and recognized by the Caza (district) center. The seal of the mukhtar is made according to a standardized model approved by the Ministry of Interior. Should the mukhtar lose the seal, he/she shall request another one from the Ministry of Interior.



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وثيقة ولادة

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The mukhtar office is not salaried. However, mukhtars may collect fees, established by decree, in return for the original documents that they issue for:

- Traveling
- The devolution of estate
- The conclusion of mortgage or sale contracts
- The legal authentication of signatures
- Proving the attachment of property
- The registration of an estate inventory
- Confirming the devolution of estate
- Personal registration data
- The needs of individuals, subject to the applicable regulations.

If the mukhtar or mukhtar council member commits a crime related to their office, the Qaimqam or Muhafiz may order

an investigation of the matter and submit the investigation report to the Interior Minister who either authorizes a judicial investigation or freezes the mandate of the concerned mukhtar or council member pending the release of a judicial decision on the matter. The mukhtar or council member may not return to office until proven innocent or not guilty by the court.



Sources

The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities

- The Municipal Elections Law/ Legislative decree 1977 /118 and its amendments
- Law 665 of 1997 (amendments to certain provisions of the Parliamentary Elections Law, Municipality Law and Mukhtar Law)
- The Law on Mukhtars and Mukhtar Councils, issued on 1947/11/27
www.elections.gov.lb

The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)

- Results of Women's Participation in the 2010 Municipal Elections in Lebanon
www.nclw.org.lb/Statistic
- Fourth and fifth periodic reports of States parties – CEDAW 2014

The Lebanese Council of Women- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Women's Guide to Municipal and Mukhtar Elections 2010
<http://lcw-cfl.org/home>



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UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 170 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

www.lb.undp.org



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ELECTIONS
Assistance Project

The UNDP Lebanese Assistance Elections Project (LEAP) aims to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders for the conduct of transparent and inclusive elections in Lebanon. Through a multi-component approach, the project's intended outcomes is to provide a strengthened capacity for: (1) the management and administration of Elections (2) the supervision of election campaigns and accreditation of observers (3) the provision of voter education initiatives (4) the resolution of electoral disputes, and (5) initiatives to improve election opportunities for women. LEAP is funded by the European Union.

www.lebanon-elections.org



LEAP - Lebanese Elections Assistance Programme



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