



The geographic location of Fukuoka:
33°, 35'24" North latitude,
130°, 24'06" East longitude

CITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

A secretariat has been established in order to help the Chairperson and Councilors in their activities. The secretariat is comprised of the General Affairs & Secretary Section, the Procedure Section and the Research & Legal Affairs Section. They are in charge of paperwork and investigations for the plenary and committee meetings.

History of Fukuoka City Council

Date	Event
April, 1889	Fukuoka City was established. The first election was held to elect 30 City Councilors. The term was six years. Suffrage was limited, and half of the quorum was subject to election every three years. The population of Fukuoka was 50,487 as of the end of 1889. The first City Council meeting was held within the same year.
April, 1911	As a result of the revision of the municipal system, the term of City Councilors was extended to four years.
April, 1929	As a result of the first general election with only male voters, 40 people took the office of City Council. The population of Fukuoka at the end of 1929 was 213,751.
April, 1947	Under the new electoral system of male and female voters, 48 City Councilors were elected. The population of Fukuoka City at the end of 1947 was 328,458.
May, 1947	The committee system was introduced.
April, 1972	Fukuoka City was upgraded to a government-ordinance designated city by the national government. The number of City Councilors increased to 60; the population of the City was 912,059.
July, 1982	Construction of a new City Council chamber was completed.
September, 1982	City Councilors met for the first time in the newly-built chamber.
May, 2013	Fukuoka City's population reaches 1.5 million. The number of City Councilors is 62, and the City's population is 1,500,899.

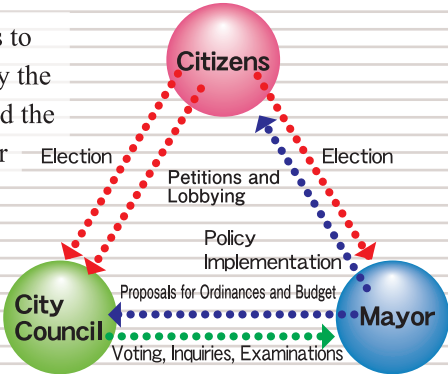
Fukuoka City Council

AN OUTLINE OF FUKUOKA CITY COUNCIL

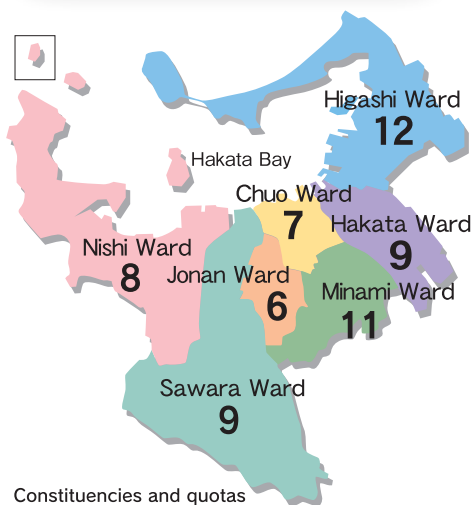
JAPAN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

In Japan's local government system, prefectures and municipalities administer local affairs in accordance with a provision of the Japanese Constitution. For example, municipalities are focused on the operation of public services such as education, social welfare, water and sewage services, while prefectural responsibilities may cover multiple municipalities over a wider area. Fukuoka City, on the other hand, is authorized to perform some of the prefectural responsibilities. This is because a city with a population of over 500,000 is entitled to greater authority than other municipalities and is designated as such by a government ordinance.

Local public entities are comprised of a decision-making assembly and a leader of an executive body. The assembly has the supreme authority to make decisions on agenda submitted to the assembly for discussion. The leader's role is to instruct and supervise government employees to execute what has been decided by the assembly. Assembly members and the leader are both elected, and better governance is ensured through separation of powers, checks and balances, and cooperation.



CITIZENS AND THE CITY COUNCIL



Elections

Citizens aged 18 years and older have a right to vote in City Council elections. Citizens aged 25 years and older are eligible to run for council. The Fukuoka City Council consists of 62 members elected from seven electoral constituencies coinciding with the City's administrative wards, each of which has a set quota of Councilors to elect.

Petitions and Lobbying

Citizens can make their requests about public administration to the City Council. If they go through a City Councilor, such an act is called a petition. Otherwise they are allowed to directly lobby the City Council. The contents of petitions are reviewed by a council committee before the Council itself chooses to adopt the petition or not. Petitioners are notified of the outcome, and adopted petitions are passed to the relevant department, such as the Mayor, through which they will be implemented. Lobbyists can send their proposals directly to a committee, which will distribute the contents to each member, but a decision on



City Council Chambers' Observer Seats

whether or not to adopt a proposal will not be issued.

Observing a City Council Session

Council sessions are open to the public, and anyone can come to observe. The public can also sit in on committee meetings.

Direct Petition

Citizens, after having obtained a specific number of voters' signatures, may petition for a dissolution of the City Council, or a dismissal of a council member.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two types of meetings the Mayor convenes: ordinary sessions, which take place at regular intervals, and extraordinary sessions for when the necessity arises. Both sessions have to be ended within the predetermined period, during which plenary as well as committee meetings are held for the examination and adoption of proposed agenda. Ordinary meetings are held four times annually, in either February or March, and in June, September and December. In principle, the City Council has to reach its conclusion on items on the agenda by the due date. However, if they are unable to do so, they are allowed to convene committee meetings and continue their work.

Plenary Assembly

The plenary sessions involve all Councilors, and make the final decisions on all items on the agenda. A session cannot be convened without at least half of all Councilors present. A majority of votes is required to pass bills.

Committees

Committees of a small number of people are established for the technical review of proposed legislation. There are three types of committees: Standing Committees, Special Committees and City Council Management Committees.

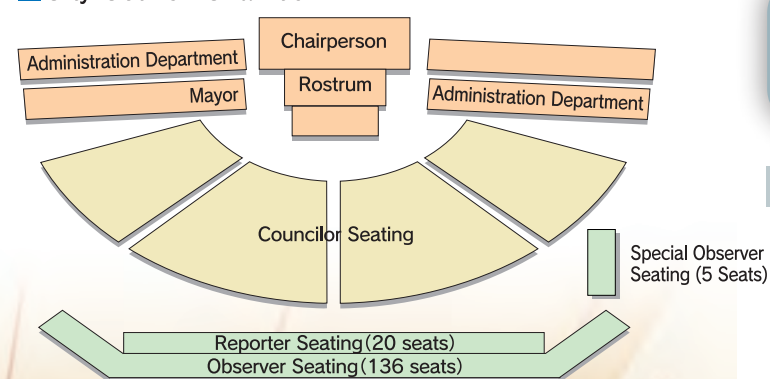
Standing Committees

These are five standing committees in the City Council. Each City Councilor belongs to one of five committees.



Standing Committee Chamber

City Council Chamber



Legislative Power

The most fundamental duty of the City Council is to make decisions on important matters such as ordinances and the budget.

Elections

The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and members of the Election Management Committee are elected by the City Council.

Approval

The City Council decides whether to approve of Deputy Mayors and City auditors appointed by the Mayor.

Inspection and Auditing

The City Council has the power to inspect

official documents and request auditing.

Investigative Power

The City Council can make investigations into City administration, and it may summon related persons with investigative matters for testimony or request a submission of records when it deems necessary.

Submission of Opinions in Writing

The City Council may submit a written opinion concerning the public interest to relevant administrative organs of the national and prefectural governments, such as the Diet.

POWERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

In order to ensure that the City Council has sufficient authority to perform its duties as representatives of the people, it is vested with various powers, the most important of which are as follows:

STRUCTURE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City Councilors

The Fukuoka City Council is comprised of 62 members. The tenure is four years.

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the City Council are elected from among the members of the council. The Chairperson of the City Council represents the City Council and presides over its meetings. The Vice Chairperson of the City Council takes over the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence.

Political Groups

In the Fukuoka City Council there are several political groups formed by Councilors who share similar opinions and ways of thinking.



First Committee (13members)	General planning, international relations, finances, local communities, disaster prevention, etc.
Second Committee (13members)	Child-rearing, social welfare, health and hygiene, education, etc.
Third Committee (12members)	Commerce and industry, tourism, culture, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, port facilities, etc.
Forth Committee (12members)	Housing, construction, urban planning, parks, fire prevention, subways, etc.
Fifth Committee (12members)	Environment, waste and recycling, roads, sewerage, rivers, waterways, etc.

Special Committees

When an issue which requires special examination or investigation arises, a special committee is set up. A special committee is also set up for review of initial budgets and financial closing.

City Council Management Committee

This committee is convened to discuss matters relating to the order of the agenda and procedure of meetings to ensure smooth management of the City Council. The committee consists of 13 Councilors.

Activities of the City Council during an ordinary session

Plenary Assembly

Opening of the plenary session

Submission of a bill

Explanation and discussion on the bill

Submission of the bill to a relevant committee for deliberation

Questions from City Councilors

Committees

Examination of the bill at a committee

Plenary Assembly

Reports by a committee
Chairperson

Discussion on bills

Voting

Closing