

Meet your local council



[leipzig.de/
stadtbezirksbeirat](https://leipzig.de/stadtbezirksbeirat)

*“All state authority is
derived from the people.”*

Dear Leipzig residents,

Article 20 of the Federal Republic of Germany's Basic Law states that **“all state authority is derived from the people”**. These are not just empty words; they are meant to and need to be brought to life. They should also be understood as an invitation. Get involved!

Democracy is more than just turning up to vote every four or five years. It starts with you, on your doorstep, in how you shape your neighbourhood, at school, in your association ... Our democracy is only as good as the people who breathe life into it.

Local democracy is put into practice in Leipzig's urban and local districts. You know best where improvements are needed and where there are problems. Don't wait for someone else to do something – take action yourself.

The local councils are where your neighbourhood's problems are brought to the table, discussed and solutions are sought. This brochure will provide you with information on the work carried out by the local councils in the area where you live. You will find telephone numbers and people to contact.

This is your city – I am looking forward to your ideas and your commitment.

Burkhard Jung

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Burkhard Jung'. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name 'Burkhard' in a more formal script and the last name 'Jung' in a more fluid, stylized cursive.

How the local council fosters democracy at a local level

Do you have suggestions on how to make your neighbourhood an even more pleasant place to live? Then you can contact your local council. It is one of the direct points of contact where you can address ideas, problems and changes happening on your doorstep.

Elected residents from your district regularly discuss motions submitted by the city council and proposals by the city administration that concern your

immediate surroundings – from the footpath to the primary school, to the local park. And they listen very closely to all of their neighbours: if there is a pressing issue at hand, the local council can present it to the city council, where it has to be discussed.

Your local council is newly assembled every five years. In total there are 24 local councils in Leipzig.

How local politics work:

Each local council represents one of Leipzig's local districts. The local council advises the city council on local matters. It has the right to discuss motions by the city council on local issues and to submit proposals to the city council.

Local councils

Leipzig residents

attending meetings of your local council to receive information on current plans and voice your concerns

Forwarding of your requests

Local council advises city council

Mayor of Leipzig and his administration

Orders to implement decisions

City council

debates and decides on all matters

How the local council works

Public meetings once a month

Once a month, the local council holds a meeting that members of the public can attend. This is where you can learn about current plans at an early stage and make your own enquiries.

Debates that concern your neighbourhood

The meetings cover issues and problems affecting your district. The agendas are published in the Official Gazette (Amtsblatt) and online. Minutes are also made public.

Direct line to city council and authorities

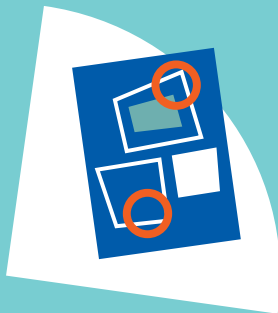
The local council has the right to refer motions to the city council. In addition, staff members from the various departments present their plans at local council meetings.



What topics does your local council deal with?



Social matters and cultural events in your district



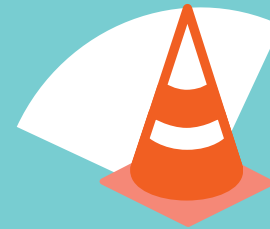
The drawing up and amendment of **development plans** in your direct vicinity



Planning new uses or tasks of municipal facilities such as **libraries, schools or sports halls**



Naming of streets, squares and facilities



Measures on **traffic and routing policies** in your district



Location and design issues in the construction or renovation of **public sports fields, playgrounds and parks**

A member of the local council can be anyone who

- is a citizen of the European Union,
- is at least 18 years of age and
- has had their main place of residence in Leipzig for at least three months.

However, anyone can attend local council meetings. The meetings are held in German.

What political influence does your local council have?

Although the local council is unable to adopt legally binding decisions, it does have the right to be consulted. This means that on all issues that affect your district, the city council must take into account the interests and recommendations of the local

council. Only then may a decision be made. Your council can also submit motions from your neighbourhood to the city council – the relevant committees within the city council and departments are then required to address the issue.

What are your ideas for your neighbourhood?



All information on the **local council budget**, the procedure and applications can be found on this website:
leipzig.de/stadtbezirksbudget

Service

Where to find information on local politics

City office (Stadtbüro)

Regular consultation hours with all of the mayors take place here. You can also find out more about urban development and submit your comments. In addition, the city office provides comprehensive informational material on matters concerning the city.
www.leipzig.de/stadtbuero

Public affairs helpline

Something disturbing or negative has come to your attention in the urban environment? Simply contact the public affairs helpline (Ordnungstelefon).
Phone: 0341 123-8888

Public helpline

Public helpline staff will answer any questions you may have about the city administration between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Friday. You can also reach the public helpline by dialling [115](tel:115).

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