



ABC Reform FAQs

The City of Minneapolis values active community participation in municipal decision-making processes. One of the most prominent means for such participation is through the City’s Appointed Boards and Commissions (ABCs). Since 1976, when the Open Appointments Policy was first adopted, the City has focused work related to ABCs on three primary goals:

1. Providing meaningful opportunities for community participation in government decision-making.
2. Diversifying ABC memberships to ensure they are as inclusive as possible and reflect the demographics of the community.
3. Standardizing processes associated with the creation, administration, and general operations of ABCs.

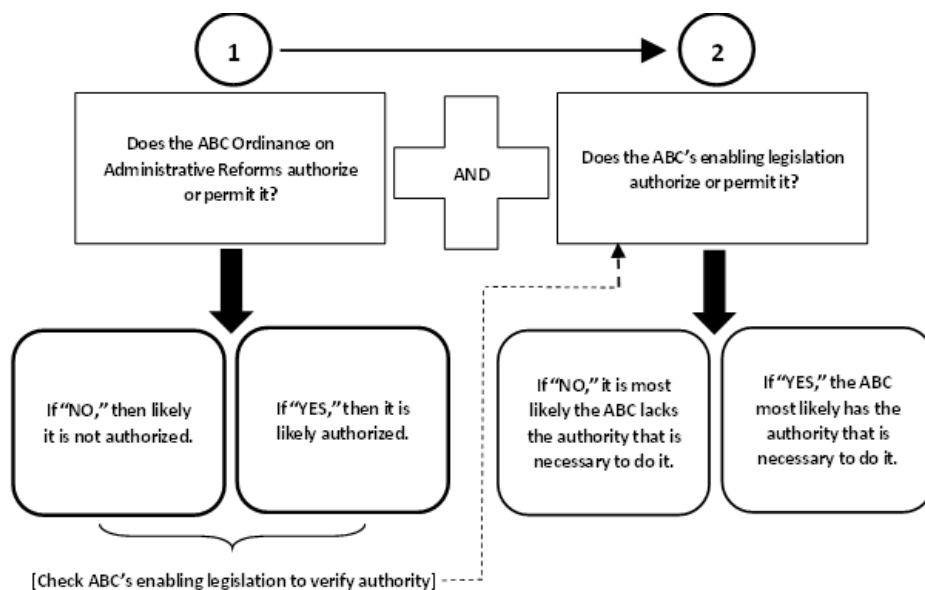
After more than a decade of work, the Clerk’s Office is bringing forward a series of proposed policies focused internally on how the City creates and administers ABCs, how ABCs operate within the enterprise, and service expectations for ABC members. These proposed reforms address improvements to the City’s existing Open Appointments Process as well as operational details to promote consistency in operations across the City’s 50+ appointed bodies. These reforms are intended to complement largely external-facing goals tied to diversity, inclusion, and representation by providing internal structures to support ABCs and their contributions to the City enterprise.

Some basic principles related to ABCs

1. Jurisdiction must be given; it cannot be assumed. An ABC’s jurisdiction is created through its enabling legislation, and the body has only that authority delegated to it and no more.
2. An ABC’s authority is vested in the body as a group; its individual members have no separate authority to act for the body.
3. An ABC takes action or makes decisions only by majority vote during proper meetings, assuming a quorum is present.
4. The action or decision of the body cannot violate or be in conflict with any law.

Flowchart of authority for ABCs

There are potentially hundreds of questions about how proposed reforms might impact existing ABCs. While there are no simple answers, all ABCs can find at least preliminary direction by consulting their enabling legislation. For ABCs in Tiers 3 and 4—which are the majority of ABCs—the following flowchart provides a bit more help in understanding how the basic governing framework applies and what authority, if any, is or is not delegated to it. After evaluating this flowchart, questions or concerns should be addressed to the Office of City Clerk for help in resolving the specific question.



The following answers respond to common questions and concerns about proposed policy reforms proposed to standardize the internal procedures to create, classify, and administer the City’s system of appointed boards and commissions (ABCs).



1) What is the “tier system” proposed in the reform ordinance?

The ordinance proposes a classification system for ABCs generally based on considerations that include: (1) source of authority; (2) mandate or primary purpose; (3) degree of independence and autonomy; and (4) general responsibilities (functions) of the body. A classification system will enable policymakers to craft policies, directives, and programs to specific ABCs based on tiers. The five proposed tiers in the classification system are—

- (a) **Tier 1.** Tier 1 Bodies—also referred to as “Independent Bodies”—are those which have a significant and substantive level of autonomy and independent decision-making authority, generally based in state law, city charter, or ordinance; they function with some level of independence from City Council. Examples of Tier 1 Bodies include the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.

Tiers 2 – 5 have historically been referred to as “Appointed Boards & Commissions”

- (b) **Tier 2.** Tier 2 Bodies include ABCs with a high-level of decision-making authority delegated by City Council within a limited sphere of municipal policy and operations. Tier 2 Bodies are intended to serve the City indefinitely as long-standing parts of the City enterprise. Examples of Tier 2 Bodies include the Ethical Practices Board; Community Commission on Police Oversight; Heritage Preservation Commission; and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- (c) **Tier 3.** Tier 3 Bodies include ABCs generally tasked with gathering information; generating, reviewing, and evaluating proposals; receiving public input on such proposals; and providing advice and recommendations to the City Council and Mayor. Tier 3 Bodies have no independence or autonomy and no discretionary decision-making authority; instead, their primary function is to provide advice and recommendations to the City’s elected officials in the most traditional sense as an “advisory body.” Examples of Tier 3 Bodies include the Bicycle Advisory Committee; Community Environmental Advisory Commission; Homegrown Food Council; Advisory Committee on Aging; Advisory Committee on Housing; Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities; Northside Green Zone Task Force; Southside Green Zone Council; Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Public Health Advisory Committee; Transgender Equity Council; and Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee.
- (d) **Tier 4.** Tier 4 Bodies are working groups that focus exclusively on a specific topic for a defined period of time and provide advice and recommendations to the City Council and Mayor. Tier 4 Bodies automatically cease to exist upon the completion of the assigned task and/or upon the expiration of the time stated in their enabling resolution. An example of a Tier 4 Body is the Housing/Rent Stabilization Working Group.
- (e) **Tier 5.** Tier 5 Bodies encompass the City’s Special Service District Boards which are established to advise the City about enhanced amenities and services made available in specific, geographically defined commercial areas (districts). Examples of Tier 5 Bodies include 48th & Chicago Advisory Board; Eat Street Advisory Board; and Uptown Advisory Board.

Most of the reforms will initially focus on ABCs in Tiers 3 and 4.

NOTE: Tier 1 ABCs (Independent Bodies) are unaffected by these reforms due to their independence and are only included for the purposes of classification. Tier 5 Bodies operate in a different manner than the traditional “advisory bodies” in Tiers 3 and 4 and therefore are also largely unaffected by these reforms. As a result, this document primarily concerns issues and concerns associated with ABCs in Tiers 2, 3, and 4. In this document, the terms “Appointed Boards and Commissions” generally refers to Tiers 2 – 4 only.

2) How will different ABCs be created in the future? Is that process significantly changed from what’s in place today?

If the ordinance is adopted, then the City Clerk will be directed to bring forward resolutions to re-establish ABCs classified in Tier 3 according to the standards of the new ordinance. Going forward, all Tier 3 and 4 bodies will be created by resolutions and ABCs in Tiers 2 and 5 will be created by ordinances. This reflects the differences in their delegated authority and responsibilities, which is explained in #1 above. The criteria for an ordinance or resolution creating a new ABC remains essentially the same as is provided today in MCO § 14.180(c).

Except for recognizing that Tier 1 ABCs (Independent Bodies) are part of the City enterprise and classifying them, these bodies are not subject to other proposed reforms—they are, as stated, functionally independent from City Council.

Existing ABCs classified in Tier 2 would initially be subject to the classification system and to the provisions related to the executive secretary and reporting requirements only. In a future phase, ordinances may be amended to bring Tier 2 bodies more fully in line with reforms currently proposed for ABCs in Tiers 3 and 4. Any new Tier 2 ABCs created after the effective date of the ordinance (July 31, 2024) would be subject to all the adopted policy reforms.

Prior to the creation of a new ABC, the City Clerk would be required to perform a needs analysis to determine if an existing ABC within the City enterprise could assume the responsibilities envisioned for a new ABC as well as determine the anticipated financial, staffing, and operational impacts of a proposed new ABC.

Finally, ABCs in Tiers 2, 3, and 4 would be reviewed on a rotating, three-year basis to verify that they continue to perform a valuable function for the City and determine if any amendments or updates to enabling legislation may be needed. ABCs may be dissolved by formal action of the City Council and Mayor, and ABCs which have not convened a meeting for 24 months shall automatically be dissolved unless prohibited by law.

3) When Tier 3 bodies (advisory boards) are recreated by resolution, will staff have input in drafting those new resolutions?

Yes, those enabling resolutions will be created with input from all interested stakeholders; that includes, but is not limited to, the appointing authorities (Council and Mayor), department leadership, ABC staff, and the offices of City Clerk and City Attorney. Feedback from ABC staffers has already been incorporated into the proposed administrative reforms that are included in the current ordinance.

The critical time for ABCs, departments, and ABC staffers to engage is in the drafting of the resolutions to create or recreate each ABC. The details in the enabling legislation will be tailored to the specific needs of each ABC within the general framework established by the proposed reforms in this ordinance. The ordinance primarily creates a classification system and certain service/performance expectations and uniform operational requirements. This ordinance—which addresses administrative reforms—provides a broad operating framework. Each ABC is and will continue to be established by separate legislation (ordinances or resolutions) that provide the actual details for those specific ABCs within that framework.

4) What role will staff have in the screening of applications? According to Section 10.50(b)(1), the appointing authorities (Council and Mayor) are responsible; will staff be involved?

Yes, as is generally true today, ABC staff will continue to have a role in recruitment and screening processes. It is not the intent of the ordinance to remove staff; however, it is the intent to inject consistent structure into those processes, as well as getting more engagement and active participation from appointing authorities. The envisioned selection process would involve an initial staff screening of applicants leading to a presentation of recommended nominations for the Council and Mayor, and the actual appointments would then be made from those recommended nominations. That subsection of the draft ordinance is just noting the appointing authorities are responsible for *overseeing* the process, not *managing* the process. The level of engagement for individual elected officials will—as always—vary and, ultimately, be left to their discretion. As professional staff, it is our goal to provide a process that will work consistently regardless of the level of individual engagement we achieve from elected officials. The Clerk's Office believes all elected officials are interested in improving these procedures and support having staff take an active role in driving recruitment and selection processes.

5) According to Section 10.50(e)(2), all appointments must be approved by the Council. Does that also include confirming the Mayoral appointments? Or would the enabling resolution specify otherwise?

As is true today, the City Council and the Mayor act in partnership to process appointments. Unless there is a legal provision to the contrary, all appointments are “official acts” that require an affirmative vote by the majority of City Council and approval by the Mayor as part of the standard legislative process. Thus, the ordinance doesn't propose any change from the existing appointment policy and how it functions today.

6) In the past, enabling legislation has provided for qualified seats appointed by outside agencies. Is that still possible in the future, if Council wanted to provide for additional representation and participation that way?

Correct, the City Council can establish the qualifications and appointing authority for any seat on any advisory body that it creates. It would depend on the enabling legislation in each case for each ABC.

7) Regarding next steps, is there a timeline yet for when those enabling resolutions will be ready?

The original goal was to have the ordinance adopted in June or July; however, due to many factors, that was not possible. The revised plan is to have the ordinance ready for adoption before the end of 2023 with the terms becoming effective by July 31, 2024. That delayed effective date will give the necessary time to implement the reforms. Assuming the ordinance is enacted along that general timeline, staff would begin work immediately to draft the necessary resolutions to recreate each ABC in Tier 3, as directed in the draft ordinance. As noted, the template resolution to establish an advisory body would be the starting point, with a resolution specific to each advisory body developed after input from all key stakeholders. The goal would be to complete all of that work prior to the effective date of July 31, 2024.

8) How will existing ABCs be adapted to fit into the new classification system?

Based on the appropriate tier, the City Clerk will bring forward either a new resolution or new ordinance to recreate the specific ABC in alignment with the new classification structure.

What is the timeline for that?

There is no specific timeline yet; see the answer to #7 above for general timeline. With the updated overall timeline, most of this work will carry forward into 2024, depending on how work is prioritized.

9) What are the requirements for members?

With the exception of Tier 1 ABCs, all ABCs shall operate under the general oversight and direction of the Mayor and the designated standing committee of the City Council, usually determined as part of the Council's formal organization at the beginning of each term. The ABC reform ordinance establishes requirements for newly appointed and reappointed members to Tier 3 and 4 bodies. Members must:

- (a) Complete an enterprise orientation program administered by the Office of City Clerk. That orientation program must include details about the general powers and functions of ABCs and applicable laws and policies as well as the City's expectations of ABCs and individuals appointed to ABCs.
- (b) All ABC members must take the oath of office.
- (c) All ABC members must complete training on the City's Code of Ethics [MCO Chapter 15] and abide by its provisions.
- (d) All ABC members must sign a participant agreement acknowledging the general service expectations, duties, and responsibilities of the appointment.
- (e) Members who fail to complete the requirements of (a), (b), (c), and (d) above within 90 days of appointment shall be considered to have resigned their appointment and the seat shall be declared vacant.
- (f) Any ABC member who fails or refuses to abide by the service expectations set forth in the participant agreement shall be brought to the attention of the Clerk who shall advise the appointing authority. The appointing authority may take any action it deems appropriate including removal of the member.

Similar requirements already apply to Tier 2 bodies – including orientation requirements, signing an oath of office, and completing ethics training – and those requirements will remain in effect. It is anticipated that requirements for Tier 2 bodies will be brought fully in line with Tier 3 and 4 bodies when their enabling ordinances are amended.

10) Why are there service restrictions being recommended for ABCs?

The primary purpose of the City's network of ABCs is to give community meaningful opportunities to participate in government decision-making processes. Meaningful opportunities to participate require access to a "seat at the table." To achieve that goal, certain restrictions have been incorporated into the reform ordinance to broaden access to meaningful opportunities for participation *by the community*. These restrictions for ABCs in Tiers 3 and 4 include:

- (a) No individual shall concurrently serve on two or more ABCs and shall not serve consecutive terms that exceed eight years. This restriction is intended to ensure there are opportunities for more community participation— which requires access.
- (b) No individual shall be appointed to serve concurrently on the same ABC as another member with whom they share a significant familial relationship (as defined in City Code).
- (c) The Mayor and Council Members may not serve as members of any City ABC unless provided by applicable law for a defined seat.

- (d) No current City employee shall be appointed to serve as a member of any ABC. Employees have ample opportunities to shape and influence City policies. Rather than reduce access for community participation, employees shall not be appointed as members of ABCs. That does not prohibit or prevent employees from being assigned to provide support for ABCs, including attendance at ABC meetings.
- (e) ABC members who choose to run for any elective office, or to seek appointment to fill a vacancy in an elective office, must take a leave of absence from serving on the ABC.

It is anticipated that Tier 2 ABCs will be brought in line with these requirements when their enabling ordinances are amended.

11) Is citizenship status a factor considered for appointments to ABCs?

No.

12) Is residency in the City of Minneapolis still a requirement for individuals appointed to ABCs?

Yes, residency is still a requirement for all appointments made through the Open Appointments process, as it is currently today. However, as is true today, the residency requirement may be waived by formal action by the City Council and Mayor.

13) Will appointments still be made in two cycles each year?

Yes, the intention is to retain the existing biannual appointment cycles, in the spring and fall, with ABCs divided and assigned to one of those cycles for regular appointments. The City Clerk would be authorized to open appointments outside of those set cycles based on need. Once appointed, a member retains their seat until a successor is appointed and has qualified, unless the enabling legislation provides otherwise.

14) How will appointed terms be standardized?

All appointments will be made for defined periods that are tied to the seat, not the individual. Terms will run continuously according to the ABC's enabling legislation, not by the service dates of any individual. As much as possible consistent with existing ordinances, terms shall be staggered so that no more than half of the total membership is up for appointment at any given time.

Unless provided otherwise in the enabling legislation, all appointments made pursuant to the City's Open Appointments Policy are made by the combination of a formal vote of the City Council and the approval of the Mayor.

15) How will membership move from being appointed all at once to half of the body being appointed annually? Will some seats be 1-year terms, and some be 2-year terms? How is that determined?

The ordinance does not specify how the transition to staggered terms will be accomplished. As typically done with the creation of new ABCs, there would likely be initial terms of one and two years for initial appointments. That would be addressed as part of the organizational process for the new or re-established ABCs.

16) If City employees are currently appointed to an advisory board, are they automatically and immediately removed from their seat or can they finish their term?

Recreating an advisory board with a new enabling resolution formally ends the old body and creates a new one. Thus, when the new bodies created under the new enabling resolutions are convened, they would not include employee seats and so employees would then no longer be members. The goal is to complete that work prior to the effective date of the ordinance, which is currently drafted to be July 31, 2024.

17) If members have been on the board for over eight years already, can they serve another eight years after the effective date, or will their existing service disqualify them?

The term limit allowing consecutive service of up to eight years would begin on the effective date of the ordinance (July 31, 2024), assuming the general timeline described above.

Is there a required amount of time they'd have to be off before they would be eligible to serve again?

The ordinance indicates only that a member cannot serve more than eight consecutive years. With staggered appointments, a member could theoretically be reappointed with the next term, so effectively the interim period would be a minimum of at least one year.

What if they reach eight years in the middle of their term?

They will be able to finish the term but would not be eligible to be reappointed for at least one year after the end of that term.

- 18) Section 10.60(c)(2) states that “[v]acant seats shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. If a vacancy occurs before the expiration of a term, the appointing authority may appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the term.” What does this mean in practice? Will applications still expire after twelve months?**

Applications will still be valid for a period of up to twelve months from receipt, and any valid applications could be used to fill an unexpected vacancy. The vacancy will be filled for the amount of time remaining on the term of the member who vacated the seat – usually referred to as the “unexpired term.”

- 19) Section 10.70(e) states in part “[i]f a member is consecutively absent from a number of meetings that is greater than one-third (1/3) of the body’s regularly scheduled meetings in the calendar year (January through December), the body must bring these absences to the attention of the city clerk, who will advise the appointing authority of the absences. The appointing authority may take any action it deems appropriate up to and including removal of the member, if not otherwise prohibited by law.” What about if a member has a health related or other personal issue that precludes them from serving for a period of time greater than allow by ordinance?**

While the ordinance requires absences to be reported, it does not mandate any particular action by the appointing authorities. The appointing authority can take any action it deems appropriate. Presumably, appointing authorities would wish to consider the reason for the absences when determining the appropriate action to take.

- 20) What does it mean to have standard bylaws and rules? Who is responsible for preparing those bylaws and rules? How are changes to bylaws and rules made?**

The City Clerk is directed to prepare a uniform set of bylaws and procedural rules. These bylaws and rules will become the standard for ABCs in Tiers 3 and 4 but can be adjusted to meet the needs of a particular body, if needed, with the prior approval of the Council and Mayor. Tier 2 ABCs will likely adopt bylaws similar to the standard version upon the amendment of their enabling ordinances.

- 21) What duties are assigned to the City Clerk as the Executive Secretary?**

Under the ordinance, the City Clerk would be designated as the Executive Secretary for all City ABCs unless otherwise provided by enabling legislation. In that capacity, the City Clerk, or a person designated by the City Clerk, is responsible for the following duties and functions:

- (a) Maintaining the ABC’s official membership roster.
- (b) Maintaining an official copy of the ABC’s bylaws and rules.
- (c) Publishing a calendar of the ABC’s public meetings, issuing any required notices, and ensuring compliance with the Minnesota Open Meeting Law (or the established policy equivalents) when applicable.
- (d) Supporting ABC meetings by overseeing the production of agendas, reports, minutes, and other records documenting the ABC’s work in accordance with uniform standards and procedures.
- (e) Preserving the ABC’s records and data in accordance with the City’s approved retention schedules and ensuring access to the same when required by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.
- (f) Coordinating training and staff support to assist the ABC in the performance of its delegated functions and duties, as required by law.
- (g) Coordinating reporting of the ABC’s work as required, including annual work plans and annual reports.
- (h) Assisting appointing authorities with the appointment process, including regular reporting to appointing authorities regarding vacancies and the status of nominations, and recommending procedures to improve and standardize the appointment process.

22) How does the Minnesota Open Meeting Law impact ABCs? Can you give more detail on what requirements exist and what is changing?

The City Attorney's Office has determined that ABCs with decision-making power are subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13D]. An ABC that is determined to be subject to the requirements of the MN Open Meeting Law, shall comply with all its provisions. Other bodies shall follow certain policy requirements that are similar to those of the statute to ensure public notice, access, and transparency. These requirements are: (1) meetings must be open to the public; (2) conducted in City facilities, and (3) subject to notice through an annual calendar of regular meetings that is available to the public. The minimum policy requirements for ABCs not subject to the MN Open Meeting Law include the following:

- (a) The body must adopt a calendar of all regular meetings that is filed with the Office of City Clerk prior to the beginning of each year, and special meetings may only be called with a minimum of at least three (3) days advanced notice in a manner prescribed by the City Clerk.
- (b) Meetings must be conducted in facilities that are owned, leased, or operated by the City and which are fully accessible to the public as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- (c) Meetings may only be closed to public access and observation if the subject of the meeting would permit or require closure under the Minnesota Open Meeting Law or the meeting requires discussion of data that is not classified as public data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act [Minn. Stat. Ch 13].

23) Why does the ABC reform ordinance require that meetings be held in City-owned facilities?

Both because we want to ensure all meetings are conducted in facilities that are known to be open and ADA-accessible and because there are legal questions or concerns about using privately-owned facilities to conduct public business. This use may constitute a gift to the City.

Some ABCs currently meet in parks or libraries; will they be allowed to continue to do that?

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is a City department created in the City Charter, so their facilities would be covered under this ordinance. We are considering whether the ordinance could be expanded to include use of county or state facilities such as libraries, as well as facilities that are leased by the City.

This restriction could create a barrier to access, especially since there is currently no hybrid meeting option.

Meetings need to be conducted in City-owned property to address potential risk and liability. Furthermore, if facilities are being provided, they must—under federal law—be fully accessible, and the City has no means of ascertaining and assuring that accessibility when facilities are used that are not owned or operated by the City. That includes accessible parking and entrances and other issues, beyond the obvious of the specific meeting space within any facility. Also, if facilities not owned by the City are used for the conduct of City business, it is possible that the use could constitute a “gift” to the City that must be formally accepted by the City Council *prior* to its use for a public meeting.

Finally, if a hybrid meeting solution were to be made available, it would only be available and accessible in City-owned facilities. Since this has been expressed as a very high priority for ABCs and ABC staffers, it is contrary to that outcome to conduct public meetings of the City in non-City facilities and spaces.

24) Will the required orientation program be available online?

It is the intent of the Clerk's Office to enable members to complete the required orientation online and asynchronously. This online orientation module is currently in development, but it may not be ready in time for the effective date of the ordinance (July 31, 2024). Until an online program is available, the City will provide in-person orientation. This mandatory orientation and training can—and should—be supplemented with training specific to each advisory body, usually provided by the staff assigned to support the particular body.

25) How will the new reporting requirements be implemented? What is the level of detail? What will the timing be for these reports?

The Clerk's Office will develop the forms to be used for the annual work plans and reports. These forms will be generic and adaptable enough to be used for any ABC. These are envisioned as a means of keeping the City Council and Mayor apprised of ABC activities and how those activities align with City goals and plans. It is likely that the work plan would be developed in the first few meetings each year and submitted during the first quarter with the annual reports being submitted in the final months of each year, certainly prior to the last regular meeting of the City Council each year.

- 26) **In Section 10.20(b)(3) it says the role of advisory bodies is to create and review proposals and make recommendations. Some advisory boards currently only review proposals and make recommendations. Will they be able to continue functioning as they currently are, only reviewing proposals and making recommendations, and not be required to also create proposals?**

The scope and nature of the work that any advisory board does will depend on the enabling resolution. The broader language in the ordinance is intended to cover a variety of potential functions appropriate to advisory boards. However, not all advisory boards will necessarily have to do all those potential types of work. Those are matters to be defined in the specific enabling resolution creating each advisory board. If there is consensus among stakeholders that *creating proposals* should be outside the scope of a particular advisory board, the Clerk's Office will not object.

- 27) **Are departments still going to be expected to provide support for ABCs in the future?**

Yes, as is true today, the enabling legislation creating (or recreating) an ABC must identify a department in the Administration, under the Mayor's supervision, that will provide primary support for each ABC. Departments must ensure compliance with the uniform standards for ABC procedures and operations established by the City Clerk to assure consistency across the enterprise and all ABCs.

- 28) **Are ABCs authorized to establish committees and/or subcommittees?**

A foundational principal of ABCs is that authority must be expressly given, it cannot be assumed. The ABC reform ordinance does not authorize the creation of standing committees, subcommittees, or other formal bodies that would be composed of a quorum or more of the body's members. If there is a business need to create a standing committee structure, a body could present that request as a proposed amendment to their bylaws for consideration by the City Council and Mayor.

- 29) **Are ABC members required to have a City-provided email account?**

That is not addressed in the ordinance. That is an operational issue that will be addressed on a case-by-case basis depending on the classification of each ABC and its purpose, delegated authority, scope of responsibilities, etc. Those types of decisions will be made by the City Clerk in conjunction with the relevant departments assigned to support specific ABCs.

- 30) **What about member compensation?**

Compensation, if any, will be determined by policymakers as part of the enabling legislation creating the body, as is true today. This is a decision that falls outside the scope of structural and procedural policy changes that are being proposed by the Clerk's Office, as communicated many times.

How about stipends for childcare, food, or parking/transit?

Same as above; this is a decision that is not contemplated in this ordinance.

- Childcare stipends would fall under the above compensation question and would need to be expressly provided for in the enabling legislation, as well as meeting all legal requirements.
- Funding for food is subject to the application of public purpose doctrine and the City's compliance with other relevant laws and policies.
- Within the funds allocated to them, and within all applicable laws and policies, departments have the discretion to use budgets to reimburse parking and transit expenses.

What if a board needs funding to fulfill its duties?

Any such funding would need to be addressed in the enabling legislation and coordinated with the supporting department on an annual basis.