

Chapter 1

City Government; Elections

2-1-1	City Government
2-1-2	Official Newspaper
2-1-3	Ward and Council Memberic District Boundaries
2-1-4	Appointment of Election Officials
2-1-5	Elections
2-1-6	Non-Partisan Primary for City Offices

Sec. 2-1-1 City Government.

- (a) **Mayor-Council Government.** The City of Onalaska is a body corporate and politic with the powers of a municipality at common law and governed by the provisions of Chapters 62 and 66 of the Wisconsin Statutes, laws amending those chapters, other acts of the legislature and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin. The City of Onalaska operates under the Mayor-Council form of government under Chapter 62, Wis. Stats.
- (b) **Division of Responsibilities.**
- (1) **Legislative Branch.** The Common Council is the legislative branch of City Government. Its primary business is the passage of laws in the form of ordinances or resolutions which shall prescribe what the law shall be, not only in relation to the particular facts existing at the time, but as to all future cases arising under it. The Common Council shall fix the salaries of all officers and employees of the City, and be charged with the official management of the City's financial affairs, its budget, its revenues and the raising of funds necessary for the operation of the City.
 - (2) **Executive Branch.** The Mayor shall be the chief executive officer. He/she shall take care that all City ordinances and state laws are observed and enforced and that all City officers, boards, committees and commissions discharge their duties. When present, he/she shall preside at the meetings of the Common Council. He/she shall from time to time give the Council such information and recommend such measures as he/she may deem advantageous to the City.

State Law Reference: Wis. Const., Art. XI, Sec. 3.

City Government; Elections

2-1- 2

Sec. 2-1-2 Official Newspaper.

The official newspaper of the City of Onalaska shall be the *Onalaska Holmen Courier-Life*.

State Law Reference: Section 985.06, Wis. Stats.

Sec. 2-1-3 Ward and Aldermanic District Boundaries

- (a) **Number of Aldermanic Districts – Wards.** The City of Onalaska shall be divided into three (3) Aldermanic Districts. There shall be twelve (12) wards within the three (3) Aldermanic Districts, with each Aldermanic District containing four (4) wards.
- (b) **Boundaries.** The Aldermanic Districts shall be numbered and bounded as shown on the City of Onalaska Aldermanic District and Ward Map in the form on file with the City Clerk. The City Council shall modify the City of Onalaska Aldermanic District and Ward Map when required by Wis. Stat. 5.15(2).

State Law Reference: Section 5.15(1) and (2), Wis. Stats.

Sec. 2-1-4 Appointment of Election Officials.

There shall be a minimum of three (3) inspectors for each polling place at each election held under Chapters 5 through 12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and a minimum of seven (7) inspectors for each polling place for presidential elections, except that the number of election workers may be reduced to three (3) at the City Clerk's discretion. When voting machines are used, the number of inspectors may be reduced to three (3). Inspectors shall be appointed as provided in Sec. 7.30, Wisconsin Statutes. The City Clerk may select alternate inspectors or two (2) sets of inspectors to work at different times on election day.

State Law Reference: Section 7.30, Wis. Stats.

Sec. 2-1-5 Elections.

- (a) **Annual City Election.** The annual City election shall be held on the first Tuesday in April.
- (b) **Polling Hours.** The polls for all elections shall open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
- (c) **Polling Places.** The designated polling place for all Wards and Council Memberic Districts of the City of Onalaska shall be at City Hall, or as designated by the Common Council.
- (d) **Combining Wards.** Wards may be combined for voting purposes if the Electors in the combined wards vote for the same offices, per Sec. 5.15(6)(b), Wis. Stats.

City Government; Elections
Sec. 2-1-6

Sec. 2-1-6 Non-Partisan Primary for City Offices.

Whenever three (3) or more candidates file nomination papers, candidates for elective City offices shall be nominated by a non-partisan primary conducted pursuant to Section 8.11, Wis. Stats. Such candidate shall file with his/her nomination papers a declaration that he/she will qualify for the office to which he/she may be elected.

State Law Reference: Section 8.11, WI Stats.