

About City Councils

Why should a member want to serve on council?

There are many reasons to be part of a city council. The most important one is that being on council gives you the opportunity to make new friends and connections by getting to know other sisters in other chapters in your community. It gives you the chance to see how things are done in other chapters in your town. It is an honor for your chapter to think enough of you to elect you to represent them in a city wide body. As a member of council, you have the opportunity of sharing ideas with other members, sharing your chapter's ideas and desires with the council and sharing other chapters' ideas and feelings with your chapter. You not only represent your chapter to council, but you represent all other chapters in council to your chapter.

As a member of council, you represent the best of Beta Sigma Phi. You can encourage your chapter to be involved in all aspects of the sorority through council, you can help publicize special events or achievements of your chapter or other members and chapters to council and to your community.

And as a member of council, you can help remember that the most important entity in Beta Sigma Phi is the member, then her chapter and then city council as a whole and make sure all decisions made in council reflect this balance. Remember that your sisters have limited time and money and make decisions based on this knowledge. Council is there to guide the community of chapters and members, enhancing the Beta Sigma Phi experience for them, and to help enhance your community through Beta Sigma Phi.

What is the purpose of a City Council?

The purpose of a City Council is to promote inter-chapter harmony and good will. It is there to nurture the friendship between chapters of Beta Sigma Phi in your community, through cooperation and harmony in keeping with the ideals of Beta Sigma Phi. Council is to help members get acquainted with members of other chapters. Council will provide a way for chapter members to discuss and correlate their planning of city-wide events in which all chapters participate. Founder's Day, Beginning Day, Valentine's Day, First Lady of the Year, Christmas and Mother's Day are examples of city-wide events in which your council may coordinate efforts of several chapters to insure a well organized event. Council will also help chapters coordinate individual efforts, so chapters can avoid finding themselves with three different ways and means events on one weekend, thus helping all chapters have a successful project, but council does not have a voice in chapter decisions. Council may recommend, when asked, encourage and nurture, but never legislate.

Can any degree member be elected to represent her chapter or hold office?

Of course, all members of sorority have full rights and privileges from the moment they join the chapter as stated in "*The Book of Beta Sigma Phi*". It would not be fair if they didn't have all rights, including the right to serve as an officer.

Do WE need a City Council?

A City Council can be a great asset to a community of Beta Sigma Phi chapters. It gives your members a feeling of the wider purpose of the organization than just being in your chapter does. It gives you the opportunity to meet and get to know other chapters and other members. It gives you the ability to have large events like Founder's Day and to get more recognition in your community through city-wide events and service projects. It is also very important as a means of keeping up the strength of your Beta Sigma Phi community. Councils can help with city-wide rushes, with Friendly Venture, with sharing transfer information and prospective member names and with something that is priceless, advice from other members who have greater experience with different areas of sorority. Council can and should be a storehouse of knowledge, experience and dedication to the organization and the needs of the members in the city.

How many chapters should you have in council?

A council isn't really necessary if you have fewer than four chapters. You might consider an Executive Coordinating Committee. You can get information on that from International. If you have four or more chapters, then a council is a good idea. If you have a very large geographic area, you may need more than one council within a metropolitan area. Many large cities have multiple councils, such as Kansas City, Houston, and areas in Virginia, wherever there is too much area to cover for one group.

A council can be a mighty force in a city if it remembers that it is there for the individual member, for the chapters and for the organization, not for itself. If it remembers the needs of the members and the chapters and makes plans and budgets accordingly and supports events that make the members truly wish to support them, it is a successful council. When a council has the support of its members, it can move mountains!

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Getting your City Council off to the right start — Election Procedures for the first two called meetings

Know Your Representatives' Qualifications:

1. The existing City Council prepares sufficient copies of the information form on the last page of this bulletin for each incoming city council representative to use to report her experience in Beta Sigma Phi. The copies will be given to outgoing representatives. They will present these to the incoming council representatives before the first called meeting. This information will help to qualify her for some special responsibility in the incoming council.
2. The City Council President should get names of the incoming representatives and chapter officers, regular and alternates as soon as possible.

Procedure at First Called Meeting of Incoming City Council Members:

NOTE: Except for the Outgoing City Council President, only incoming city council representatives attend this meeting.

(The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Nominating Committee)

1. City Council President calls the meeting to order, leads the opening ritual and appoints someone to call roll.
2. Distribute listing of all incoming representatives (with chapters designated) and collect all completed forms.
3. Nominations for the Nominating Committee are made from the floor. Each nominee is asked to stand so all will know who she is and what chapter she represents.
4. The President appoints two members to collect, tally and report tally.
5. Proceed with ballot voting to elect nominating committee. All regular representatives cast ONE vote. (An elected alternate may cast a vote only in the absence of a regular representative from the alternate's chapter. The alternate may not be nominated for office or to serve on the nominating committee.)
6. The ballots are collected, tallied and the report given to the President. She will announce the new nominating committee members.
7. After the election results for the nominating committee are announced, the forms collected earlier by the President are given to the nominating committee to use for consideration of the candidates.
8. The Current City Council President calls a second meeting of all incoming city council representatives.

Procedure at Second Called Meeting of Incoming City Council Representatives:

NOTE: During their deliberations for officer candidates, the nominating committee should consult with the members they wish to nominate, to determine if they are receptive to accepting the nomination.

1. The President has name tags prepared for each representative.
2. The President calls the meeting to order, leads the opening ritual and appoints someone to call roll.
3. The President then asks the chairman of the nominating committee to read aloud the committee's report. The President then calls for any nominations from the floor, in succession, beginning with the presidency.
4. Nominations from the floor do not require any second. No member shall make additional nominations from the floor for each office, until all members have had the opportunity to do so.
5. Voting is by secret ballot, paper for ballots should be prepared in advance. The outgoing president has no vote, unless she is to be a voting representative in the incoming council.
6. When ballots are tallied, their report, stating name and number of votes, is signed and handed to the President, who announces the new officer's name.
7. The report and the ballots are given to the Secretary, who keeps them in a sealed envelope for one month before they are destroyed. This is in keeping with parliamentary procedure.

Note: The incoming City Councils use this procedure to elect their nominating committee and officers. This procedure is effective and helpful in maintaining good will among all the council members.

New Council Information

Name _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Postal Code _____ Work: _____

Chapter Name _____ Degree Held _____

Offices held previously in chapter, council or other organizations: _____

Committees upon which you've served in chapter, council or other organizations (indicate if chairman):

Special committees (list fully) _____

Hobbies/Interests/Talents? _____

Are you interested in an office? _____

or committee? _____

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