

GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEERS

Do you enjoy an active interest in your local government? Many community-minded Boomers do and find that joining a county or city board, committee, or commission is a rewarding experience.

Boards and commissions advise city and county agencies and bureaus on community issues and policies. They value the lifetime of experience and the variety of expertise that retirees and seniors bring to the local governing process.

Counties and cities stress the importance of citizen advisors who represent the full range of diversity in their communities.

Volunteers can opt to serve on standing committees or citizen advisory groups that deal with specific issues. Websites of each county and city describe the functions and the makeup of their boards, committees and commissions. Many identify vacancies and how to apply.

Board members are generally appointed by a Board of Commissioners for a specific term. Members of city advisory groups are generally appointed by a mayor or the city council.

You can find many counties and cities that also have Committees for Citizen Involvement that focus on getting diverse groups of citizens active in government processes.

County Government

As volunteers in county government, citizens take active roles in shaping policies, programs and decisions that support specific county activities and goals.

Advisory boards and committees deal with areas such as aging, animal control, bicycles and pedestrian safety, budgets, clean water, historic preservation, parks, public health, arts, building codes, telecommunications, community action, tourism, traffic safety and more.

Each county also offers opportunities based on the unique features of its communities. For example, the Clackamas County Hamlets and Villages committee encourages involvement from outlying unincorporated local communities. Washington County's Citizen Participation Organizations, or CPOs, provide venues for citizens and decision-makers to learn about and discuss livability issues facing their individual communities. They include matters related to transportation, parks and trails, housing and business developments, public health, safety, emergency planning, schools and libraries.

Following are links to citizen involvement pages of the four area counties:

- [Clackamas County](#)
- [Clark County](#)
- [Multnomah County](#)
- [Washington County](#)



City Government

Citizen volunteers serve on boards and commissions similar to those of counties. Depending on the size of the city, citizen committees typically support parks and recreation, budget review, libraries, arts and culture, tourism, architectural review, citizen involvement, finance, water, zoning, transportation and utilities.

Following are links to the citizen involvement pages of area cities:

- [Beaverton](#)
- [Camas](#)
- [Forest Grove](#)
- [Gresham](#)
- [Hillsboro](#)
- [Lake Oswego](#)
- [Oregon City](#)
- [Portland](#)
- [Tigard](#)
- [Tualatin](#)
- [Vancouver](#)
- [Wilsonville](#)

Law Enforcement Volunteers

Many communities need volunteers in special law enforcement programs. For example, Gresham Police Volunteer members create a visible presence in the city's parks, trails and residential areas. In Hillsboro, volunteers participate in projects such as bike safety and community outreach crafts and games. Beaverton police volunteers help with car seat clinics, clerical duties, home security and similar programs. In Portland, the Reserve Officers program trains volunteers for uniformed, armed duties or non-uniform, unarmed duties. Police in other area cities need citizen volunteers for similar activities.

Following are links to volunteer pages of area police departments.

- [Beaverton](#)
- [Gresham](#)
- [Hillsboro](#)
- [Portland](#)
- [Tigard](#)
- [Vancouver](#)

Help Us Stay Current

Please contact BOTLPORTLAND@gmail.com whenever you spot something we need to change, add or delete.