



## Upcoming OAA Council Elections for 2024



### Important Information: What You Need to Know

**For architects, there will be five seats up for election or re-election on OAA Council this fall.** This email includes important information about the roles of Councillors and explains how you can participate in the electoral process. It also explores ideal candidates for the coming election.

#### About Council

**OAA Council** sets policy direction for the Association, guided by a five-year [Strategic Plan](#), making critical decisions regarding the future of the profession that directly, tangibly affect practices and the individual careers of members. It includes both elected members from the profession as well as Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) appointees from the public.

Under the OAA's strategic plan, the Intern Architect seat on Council (and the composition of Council as a whole) is being considered as part of an *Architects Act* modernization project. Since 2017, Council has recognized a non-voting Intern seat on Council through policy. The timing is optimal to advance the position toward one recognized through legislation. However, to ensure the continued presence of an Intern Architect at the Council table, OAA Council will be considering an alternative process for inclusion at its September meeting.

#### This Year's Elections

This fall, there will be elections among the membership in three regions:

- **Eastern Ontario** (one seat);
- **City of Toronto** (two seats); and
- **Province of Ontario** (two seats).

Candidates must have an address of record in one of those above areas, and members will similarly vote within their own "home" electoral district. (All OAA members are eligible to run and vote for the two provincial seats.) You can see the electoral district boundaries on the [OAA Website](#).

While elections are grounded on geographic representation across the province, it is important to note **Councillors do *not* represent a member constituency—rather, they govern on behalf of the public interest.**

Serving on Council is an excellent opportunity to participate in the privilege and responsibility of self-governance the provincial government entrusts to the profession. From developing educational requirements and expected standards of practice to *Architects Act* enforcement and policy and government relations, **you** can help shape the self-governing of the architectural profession.

An effective OAA Council should have diversity among its members and skills, and be representative of the profession. Councillors have a fiduciary duty to the Association; they must be able to focus on the big picture and material issues while considering regulatory matters. They need to make decisions without being influenced by pressure from external sources. They must also participate effectively at the Council table, which includes respecting alternative viewpoints.

**The open sessions of Council meetings are accessible to all members, and are hosted simultaneously in-person at the OAA Headquarters and virtually over Zoom.** Attending the open session virtually is a great way to learn more about how Council operates. If you are interested in watching the **September 21** meeting, contact **Tina Carfa** at [tinac@oaa.on.ca](mailto:tinac@oaa.on.ca). The [OAA Website](#) also collects agendas, minutes, and information packages for all meetings.

### **Finding the Ideal Candidates**

To ensure good governance, it is critical to have a well-rounded Council that includes a diversity of voices, opinions, skills, and knowledge. Experience in any of the following areas can be particularly important:

- corporate leadership/management;
- strategic organizational change and development;
- governance (including understanding the principle of self governance and the OAA's [provincial mandate](#));
- financial literacy, accounting, and investment management;
- previous volunteer work on OAA Committees;
- legal issues and risks; and
- other areas of focus around architecture and practice.

**If you feel you have strength in any of these areas, consider running for Council this fall. If you know someone else who might be ideal, please encourage them to participate.**

To see an FAQ on running for Council, [click here](#).

### **The Elections Process**

The [OAA Council elections](#) process occurs using a dedicated online system, with an email sent out on the first Monday of October (i.e. **October 2**); the nomination period is then open until the fourth Monday of that month (i.e. **October 23**).

**In an effort to continue to adopt best practices around good governance, there will be a virtual information session held with all eligible candidates.** This virtual meeting is highly recommended, as it will ensure a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Councillors, and the mandate of the OAA.

As part of the nomination submission process, nominees will be able to provide a text-based candidate statement as well as links to other sources, such as social media or a brief video speaking to issues related to serving on Council. This will be available on the OAA Website after the nomination period. Voters will also be able to ask candidates questions by [clicking here](#).

Voting by OAA members takes place in November, with new three-year terms beginning on **January 1, 2024**. (Please note: only architects may vote in the Council elections—this Regulatory Notice is also being provided to those on the path to licensure to keep them informed of the Association’s electoral processes.) An individual may be elected for up to three successive terms, and some current Councillors may be seeking re-election.

The OAA Registrar will announce the results by **December 1, 2023**. Additional information can be found on the [OAA Website](#), and further details will be shared in upcoming editions of the *OAA News* e-newsletter and on social media.

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