



Upcoming OAA Council Elections

Important Information: What You Need to Know



There will be [seven seats up for election or re-election](#) on OAA Council this fall, comprising six seats for Architects and a non-voting seat for an Intern Architect.

This email offers additional insight into the roles of Councillors, and shares some of the individual skills and competencies sought to complement the current Council.

About Council

[OAA Council](#) sets policy direction for the Ontario Association of Architects, making critical decisions regarding the future of the profession and directly, tangibly affecting practices and the individual careers of members.

While elections are based on geographic representation across the province, **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 that the provincial government entrusts to the profession.

From developing educational requirements and expected standards of practice to Act enforcement, Continuing Education, and government relations, **you** can help shape the future of the architecture profession.

An effective OAA Council must have diversity among its members and skills, and be representative of the profession. A good Councillor is able to:

- focus on the big picture and material issues;
- consider regulatory issues and make decisions without being influenced by pressure from external sources; and
- participate effectively at the Council table, which includes respecting alternative viewpoints.

Finding the Ideal Candidates

To ensure good governance, it is important to have a well-rounded Council with a wide variety of competencies. Current Councillors recently participated in a self-assessment exercise that asked them to rate their knowledge and expertise in various areas. To complement the current Council's existing skill sets and strengths, experience in any of the following areas has been identified as being particularly important in rounding out the competencies of Council:

- insurance;
- communications;
- finance; and
- governance.

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.

In keeping with the OAA and Council's position on equity and inclusion, high value is also placed on additional cultural, racial, gender, and age diversity.

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; the nomination period is then open until the fourth Monday of that month.

In an effort to continue to adopt best practices around good governance, there will be an information session available to all eligible candidates. This virtual meeting will ensure a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Council, as well as 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 takes place in November, with new terms beginning on January 1, 2022.

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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