

2026 Schedule of Meetings

Date: July 16, 2025

To: City Council

From: City Clerk

Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to establish the 2026 meeting schedule for City Council and its committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. City Council approve the 2026 meeting schedule in Attachment 1 to the report (July 16, 2025) from the City Clerk and that the published schedule serve as notice for these meetings.
2. City Council request the City Clerk to distribute the approved schedule to the City's agencies and special purpose bodies with a request that they:
 - a. avoid scheduling meetings, whenever possible, that conflict with the approved schedule; and
 - b. avoid scheduling public meetings, forums, public consultations and large scale meetings on days of cultural or religious observance as noted in the approved schedule and listed in Attachment 2 to the report (July 16, 2025) from the City Clerk.
3. City Council shorten the 30-day period in which City Council may pass a resolution making an amendment to the Mayor's proposed budget to coincide with the completion of the special City Council meeting scheduled on February 10, 2026.
4. City Council add the following to the days of cultural or religious observance when Council does not schedule Council or committee meetings:
 - a. ending meetings before sundown on the day before Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha; and
 - b. ending meetings before sundown during the month of Ramadan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures requires the City Clerk to recommend an annual schedule for regular meetings of City Council and committees.

The Chapter requires that the schedule:

- permit City Council to meet at least 10 times for at least 20 meeting days per year;
- enable committees to meet at different times whenever possible; and
- comply with the Council policy on respecting days of cultural or religious observance.

COMMENTS

Election Year Considerations

2026 is an election year. Nomination Day is August 21, 2026, and the municipal election will take place on Monday, October 26, 2026.

Council may need to consider urgent heritage matters after Nomination Day

While it has been Council's practice to observe an election period recess and not meet past Nomination Day, the recommended schedule includes a special Council meeting in September to allow City Council to consider urgent heritage matters, if required, to meet legislative timelines.

Council's New Term starts in November

The 2026-2030 Council Term starts on November 15, 2026, and the First Meeting will be held on November 18 and 19, 2026. This date--the first Wednesday of November after the commencement of the Term of Council--is set out in the Council Procedures.

The recommended schedule includes a compressed Committee and Council cycle in November/December 2026 to consider urgent business.

Scheduling assumptions and principles

The proposed meeting schedule is guided by the following scheduling assumptions and principles:

- include regular meeting dates for the Board of Health;

- leave time in the schedule for special committees, agencies and special purpose bodies to schedule their own meetings;
- avoid meeting dates of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Annual Conference and Board of Directors;
- allow for March, summer and winter holiday breaks;
- leave time in the schedule for Members and staff to prepare and review meeting materials;
- avoid scheduling standing committees on Fridays where possible to enable Members to attend meetings of special committees and boards, and to look after constituency matters; and
- comply with the Council policy on respecting days of cultural or religious observance.

Features of the 2026 meeting schedule

- There are 10 Council meetings over 23 meeting days. Meetings will continue on additional days when necessary.
- The Executive Committee meets at the end of the committee cycle.
- Standing Committees are scheduled one per day. Two Community Councils will meet concurrently to allow additional days in the cycle for meetings of special committees and boards, and more time for Members and staff to prepare for meetings.
- The proposed schedule includes a compressed January committee cycle for urgent Community Council, Planning and Housing Committee and Executive Committee matters, to allow room for consideration of the Budget.
- A special meeting of City Council is scheduled in September for the purpose of considering urgent heritage matters, if required.
- Regular Council meetings are scheduled for three days.
- Council meeting times are as follows:
 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Committee meeting times are as follows:
 - 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Meetings end before sundown where noted on the schedule, and meeting end times have been included on Fridays.

Adding additional days where meetings end before sundown to accommodate Muslim days of observance

The list of days of cultural or religious observance includes the eves of Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Meetings end before sundown on these days, as well as on Fridays. Meetings end approximately 1 hour before sundown to allow Members of Council, staff and members of the public to travel home to observe their faith at sundown.

For greater inclusivity, Council should also end meetings at sundown on the day before Eid al-Fitr (Thursday, March 19 in 2026) and Eid al-Adha (Tuesday, May 26 in 2026), as observance of these days begins at sundown the day before.

Council should also consider ending meetings before sundown during the month of Ramadan, to accommodate the breaking of fast at sundown. In 2026, Ramadan is expected to take place between Tuesday, February 17 and Wednesday, March 18 and sunset would be between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, and the days of observance/religious holidays depend on the sighting of the moon. Therefore, the dates indicated above are subject to change by a day or two.

2026 Date for Consideration of the Mayor's Proposed Budget

Under Part VI.1 Special Powers and Duties of the Head of Council of the City of Toronto Act:

- the Mayor is required to propose a budget by February 1 in each year;
- City Council has 30 days to consider the budget and propose any amendments it considers appropriate; and
- City Council may shorten the 30-day period to accelerate the adoption of the budget.

As it did in 2024 and 2025, City Council should shorten its 30-day window to coincide with the conclusion of the Special Council meeting on the budget, currently proposed for February 10.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - 2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule
Attachment 2 - Days of cultural or religious observance