

Strong Mayor Powers Overview

The [City of Toronto Act, 2006](#) (“COTA”) establishes Toronto’s role and powers, including the powers and duties of the Mayor and Council.

The following overview outlines the additional powers and duties of the Mayor that came into force in 2022 through changes to COTA made by the Province through Bill 3, [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022](#) and Bill 39, [Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022](#).

More detailed information can also be found at: [Legislative Changes to City Governance – Bill 3 and Bill 39 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

A. Council Committees

The Mayor has the following powers regarding Committees that are composed of only Members of Council:

1. The power to establish or dissolve Committees.
2. The power to appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.
3. The power to assign functions to Committees.

B. Powers relating to the City Administration

1. The Mayor has the power to appoint and assign duties to the municipality’s chief administrative officer.
2. The Mayor has the power to hire or dismiss a "head of any division or the head of any other part of the organizational structure". Some City officials are excluded from this and are listed in the [legislation](#).
3. The Mayor may determine the City’s organizational structure.
4. The Mayor can make requests of City staff to undertake research and provide advice to the Mayor and City Council on City policies and programs.

C. Power to introduce the City Budget

COTA provides requirements for the adoption of a City budget:

- The Mayor may present a proposed City budget no later than February 1. If the Mayor does not present a proposed budget, City Council may do so.

- City Council has 30 days to amend the proposed budget after the Mayor presents it or may choose to shorten this period.
- The Mayor may veto Council amendments up to 10 days after Council adopts the amendment or may choose to shorten this period. If the Mayor does not exercise their veto, the amended budget is considered adopted.
- City Council may override the Mayor's veto with a 2/3 vote up to 15 days later in which case the amended budget is considered adopted.
- If Council does not exercise an override of the Mayor's veto the proposed budget is considered adopted.

D. Mayor's Veto and Provincial Priorities

COTA allows the Mayor to veto a by-law (not related to the City Budget, which is dealt with under a separate process) if in the Mayor's opinion a by-law or part of it could potentially interfere with a provincial priority that is set through legislation. The Mayor may also introduce new matters without notice to a Council meeting in order to advance a provincial priority.

[Provincial priorities](#) that have currently been set through legislation are:

- Building 1.5 million new residential units by 2031.
- The construction and maintenance of infrastructure to support the accelerated supply and availability of housing including, but not limited to, transit, roads, utilities and servicing.

Council is also able to make decisions with a 1/3 vote on matters relating to provincial priorities.

E. Public Repository of Mayoral Decisions

Mayoral decisions using these new powers are required to be provided in writing to the City Clerk and City Council, with requests to staff in writing to the City Manager and City Clerk. Mayoral decisions are available to the public [online](#).