

Strong Mayor Powers Overview

Bill 3, [Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022](#) ("Bill 3") amends the [City of Toronto Act, 2006](#) ("COTA") to provide specific powers and duties to the Mayor (Head of Council). The changes to COTA as a result of Bill 3 are in effect as of November 23, 2022, along with the release of [regulations](#) related to the Act.

The following provides an overview of the new powers and duties of the Mayor. 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 will be found at a publicly-available [repository of Mayoral decisions](#) online.

A. Council Committees

The Mayor has the following powers with respect to Council 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". City officials excluded from this authority 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

Bill 3 introduced new 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 his veto the amended budget is deemed 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 deemed adopted.
- If Council does not exercise an override of the Mayor's veto the proposed budget is deemed adopted.

D. Mayor's Veto and Provincial Priorities

The Act introduces the power for 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 prescribed provincial priority. The Mayor may also introduce new matters without notice to a Council meeting in order to advance a provincial priority.

The powers to veto a by-law and introduce new matters without notice will be in force when regulations are released that define the provincial priorities. As of November 24, 2022, those regulations are not yet released.

E. Bill 39, Municipal Governance Act, 2022

Additional powers for the Mayor have been introduced through Bill 39, *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022*. As of November 23, 2022, Bill 39 is being considered by the Ontario Legislative Assembly and has not been passed.