

Value of Citizen Advisory Committees

Dear Reader:

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with municipal government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other MTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
Municipal Technical Advisory Service
1610 University Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921-6741
865-974-0411 phone
865-974-0423 fax
www.mtas.tennessee.edu

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Reference Number:
MTAS-1112

Properly appointed, a citizens advisory committee can provide two valuable services to city government:

- First, the committee can offer specialized, practical expertise that may not be available from the city council or city staff. Such citizens often can help guide city leaders on important issues, usually at little or no cost to the city.
- Second, the committee can lend legitimacy and credibility to the ultimate decision made by city government. Properly advised by the committee, the city council's decisions are more likely to be seen as fair and considerate of all people having a stake in the outcome. Ideally, the committee can even help "sell" the council's decision to the public.

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Source URL (retrieved on 01/26/2021 - 9:18am): <https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/reference/value-citizen-advisory-committees>

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