



The “job” of an Elected Official

As Novi citizens, you elect a Mayor and Council Members. Sure, you may see them at a Council Meeting, greeting community members at Fall for Novi, or cutting a ribbon at a Grand Opening. But, do you really know your government leaders or the invaluable role they play in guiding your City?



Most often, people run for office because they are deeply committed to their community and want to impact its direction. To be effective, elected officials must work as part of a team to establish a shared vision for the future, make plans that make that future possible, and work with their colleagues and constituents

to enact the local policies and laws that ultimately lead to accomplishment.

Holding an elected City office is an act of service to the public – that is, service to all the citizens, not just those who share your views or those who voted for you. It is a challenge that requires every office holder to rise above the fray, to reach beyond comfort zones, and to work with others with whom they may have

differences. Rising to that challenge is what makes democracy work. It’s what makes shaping our own shared future possible. It’s what others have done before us. And it’s what has made Novi a place to be proud of.

The City of Novi operates under the council-manager form of government. The elected governing body (City Council) is responsible for the legislative functions of the City, such as establishing policy, passing local ordinances, voting appropriations, and developing an overall vision. The City Council appoints a professional manager to oversee the administrative operations, implement its policies, and advise it.

City elected officials’ jobs don’t stop at the city limits. The City’s roads must connect with the County’s, the State’s, and with Federal highways. Similarly, Cities must work with other jurisdictions and levels of government to achieve many other regional goals. In some cases, this can involve complex, technical inter-jurisdictional agreements for services such as public safety, sewage treatment, or other utilities.

Cities must abide by many State and Federal regulations, and can benefit from special state and federal funding programs.

City elected officials also serve as champions for civic achievement. By appearing at ribbon-cutting ceremonies, participating in charity events, and attending celebrations of student

achievement, elected officials bring recognition and attention to the values of civic engagement and individual accomplishment. This might not be in the official version of the elected leader's job description, but it is an important part of how elected leaders can bring out the best in their communities and strengthen the traditions that build civic pride.



One of the most challenging, yet rewarding, tasks for City elected officials is the adoption of annual City budget. The budget document is an expression of a City's vision, values, priorities, and strategic goals. Budgets are also a tool for evaluating past performance, as elected leaders and staff make note of what was accomplished in the past year and how actual costs compared to projections made when the budget was adopted.



We thought it might be fun to take a look at "day in the life" of an elected official and get a glimpse into their duties beyond what we see on television at a Council Meeting or when they are shaking hands at a Ribbon Cutting.

- 5 a.m.** Early morning alarm goes off
- 5:15 a.m.** Check and respond to City email from citizens and staff while having coffee
- 6:30 a.m.** Head into day job office
- 11 a.m. – noon** Respond to City business during lunch hour
- 3:30 p.m.** Leave day job; return staff phone calls while on commute home to Novi
- 4:30 p.m.** Stop in City Hall to sign documents, attend meetings with staff/developers/citizens
- 5:30 p.m.** Meet citizen for coffee regarding complaint
- 6:15 p.m.** Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening
- 9 p.m.** Check and respond to City email

Next day...Happily start all over again.

Our Novi officials wear many hats on any given day and represent our community with honor and pride. They not only set policy and set the course for the future, but are ambassadors and cheerleaders, counselors and neighbors, economic developers and environmental stewards for the community. We are fortunate to have such dedicated leaders who embody the role of public service.



Off the Cuff With Your Elected Officials

Bob Gatt, Mayor
How long have you lived in Novi?
23 years



Three words to describe Novi:
Flourishing,
Exceptional,
Exciting

What do you like best about Novi? *The most unique thing about Novi is the citizen involvement, the camaraderie amongst the people...everyone who lives in Novi seems to genuinely CARE about Novi...and takes ownership in this great city.*

To those who have never been to Novi: *If you cannot find it in Novi, you probably don't need it. Novi has everything anyone could ask for.*

A little known fact about yourself: *He gave two...Growing up, Bob Gatt's passion was for baseball...and his hero was Mickey Mantle. In 1961, a battle ensued between Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, both players on the NYY. Would either of them break Babe Ruth's record for home runs? As the season drew to a close with both players nearly tied, Mantle sustained an injury that kept him sidelined while Maris went on to break the record. Bob's heart was broken... but his love for Mickey Mantle never waned.*

In 1963, President JFK was assassinated. That event triggered Bob's passion to become a law enforcement officer. Although he wanted to become a US Secret Service agent to make sure that nothing like JFK's death could ever happen again, life circumstances lead him to the Novi Police Department where he served for 27 years as a Novi Police Officer.

Dave Staudt, Mayor Pro Tem

How long have you lived in Novi?

21 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Progressive, multicultural.

Inclusive

What you like most about Novi:

Our parks

To those who have never been to Novi:

If you come. You may never leave.

One little known or unusual fact about yourself:

I am the founder of the Canine Advocacy program. It brings service dogs into the courthouse to assist children and vets during their time in courtrooms.



Andrew Mutch, Council Member

How long have you lived in Novi?

42 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Vibrant, Diverse, Balanced

What do you like best about Novi?

like that Novi offers so many choices to residents from the schools to housing to restaurants. Whether it's discovering a new place to eat or a new community group to join, opportunities abound for Novi residents.

To those who have never been to Novi:

Novi is not named after a stagecoach stop!

Actually, I share with them all the qualities that make Novi a desirable place to live -

good location, great schools, lots of choices in housing, a growing network of sidewalks and pathways, parks and open spaces and a diverse population.

A little known fact about yourself: My experiences on the water include going under the Mackinac Bridge, around the Statue of Liberty and through the Erie Canal.



Justin Fischer, Council Member

How long have you lived in Novi?

29 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Safe, Diverse, Snowy



What do you like best about Novi? To me it's the whole package; it's a safe community with great schools and shopping, eating, parks, and entertainment with close access to other great attractions like sporting events, etc. What more could you ask for?

To those who have never been to Novi:

8 Mile runs through Novi but it isn't like the movie starring Eminem

A little known fact about yourself: When

I was 15 I was on a cruise that caught fire shortly after leaving the port of Miami. I watched from my stateroom aboard the ship as the story was broadcast on all of the local Miami news stations; ultimately the ship had to be towed back to the port by Coast Guard tugboats.

Wayne Wrobel, Council Member

How long have you lived in Novi?

34 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Diverse, Vibrant, Home

What do you like best about Novi?

The quality of life in Novi

To those who have never been to Novi:

Come and visit...after you do, you will want to move here.

A little known fact about yourself: I was the first head coach of the Michigan State University Women's Rugby team



Laura Marie Casey, Council Member

How long have you lived in Novi?

14 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Vibrant, Forward-thinking, Welcoming

What do you like best about Novi?

The diversity of people, places and things to do.

To those who have never been to Novi:

Come see what you are missing!

A little known fact about yourself: I have been a vegan for 16 years.



Gwen Markham, Council Member

How long have you lived in Novi?

19 years

Three words to describe Novi:

Friendly, Diverse, Active

What do you like best about Novi?

All of the people I've met, so many of whom have become my good friends.

To those who have never been to Novi: I share about Novi's great schools and the wide variety of activities here.

A little known fact about yourself: I was a synchronized swimmer in high school.

