



Dresden.
DresdeN

Actively shaping city life

Ideas for becoming involved



What you want

Is Dresden dear to your heart? You want to play an active role in shaping the city's development? You'd like to exert a direct influence? Want to have a say on important topics? To contribute your knowledge, experience and interests? Express your opinion and offer suggestions and ideas? You want to help other people or work for specific goals and projects? If so, there are all kinds of ways for you to find out more and take action.

Everyone benefits

The City of Dresden welcomes and supports your participation. After all, the city lives from its residents' active involvement. Among other things, your volunteering work is much appreciated, as well as your participation in important topics related to city life or urban development. Municipal decision-making processes are often complex and seldom have just one proposed solution. There are opportunities to get involved almost everywhere. The sooner citizens offer ideas, and the more specific they are, the more balanced and workable the results. In the end, everyone benefits.

So get helping

Your support, your comments and even your objections are welcome. But only those who get informed and actually take action can get involved and have an influence. On one hand, that means you need to be prepared to deal with city issues. On the other hand, it means that the city's authorities and decision-makers have to provide balanced, clearly explained information as the most important foundation for any civic participation. This is the only means of helping people understand the problem, pointing to solutions and providing reasons and background information. That is exactly what we aim to achieve, alongside effectively recording the results of civic participation and integrating them in the long term.

Ways to get involved

There are many levels on which you can become personally involved in social concerns, and many means of doing so. These extend from taking part in elections, polls or surveys, initiatives restricted to certain times or topics, a wide variety of clubs or ways to help your neighbours, as far as long-term involvement, e.g. to get projects moving in the city which might otherwise fall by the wayside. If you look for partners and allies to work with, that not only raises your chances of success but also makes that work more pleasurable.

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Elections

Regularly use your right to vote! If you can, help out the Citizens' Office as an electoral clerk. Contact the elected representatives of your constituency.

- Bundestag elections every 4 years, next in 2021
- City council elections, municipal council elections, Foreign Citizens' Advisory Committee elections every 5 years, next in 2019
- State parliament elections every 5 years, next in 2019
- European elections every 5 years, next in 2019
- Mayoral elections every 7 years, next in 2022

→ www.dresden.de/wahlen

Please note:

Naturalised persons are German and have full voting rights. Non-German EU citizens living in Germany may not take part in federal or state elections, but may vote in district and municipality elections. In Dresden, they can thus vote in elections for the city mayor, city council, municipal council, and the Integration and Foreign Citizens' Advisory Committee. Persons immigrating from non-EU countries may only elect the Integration and Foreign Citizens' Advisory Committee



City, municipal and district councils

Keep up with city council issues, meetings and resolutions! Get in touch with city councillors and parties. Find out about local key topics at municipal and district council meetings. Take advantage of the city council's residents' question time, or your right to submit a petition on paper or online.

→ www.ratsinfo.dresden.de

→ www.dresden.de/livestream

- www.dresden.de/amtsblatt
- www.dresden.de/pressemitteilungen
- www.dresden.de/newsletter
- www.dresden.de/satzungen
- www.dresden.de/wegweiser
- Residents' question time
- Petitions
- www.dresden.de/epetition



We follow events at the city council!

Mayor, deputies

There are different means of coming into personal contact with Mayor Dirk Hilbert, for example at his monthly citizens' consultations, on visits to local administrative offices and during civic dialogue events. The head of the city can also be contacted via Facebook. Some of the deputy mayors responsible for specific departments also regularly hold consultations. Anyone wanting to take advantage of these opportunities should register in advance.

- www.dresden.de/oberbuergermeister
- www.facebook.com/hilbert.fuer.dresden

Municipal voting

Your signature can have an influence on a municipal level! For example, you can thus support residents' proposals, which can enable your issue to be dealt with at a residents' assembly or placed on the city council's agenda. Or you and other citizens can get together to push through a referendum by means of a public petition.

- www.dresden.de/wegweiser
- Residents' proposal
- Public petitions and referendums
- www.dresden.de/satzungen



Polls

Take part in polls carried out by the city authorities! Whether you have been randomly selected or approached as a group, your participation is called for. It is the only way to draw usable conclusions and gain representative results. These then guide the municipal authorities' work.

- Municipal opinion poll about every 2 years, next in 2018
→ www.dresden.de/statistik
- Data collection for statistics on cost of renting about every 4 years, next in 2018
→ www.dresden.de/mietspiegel
- Parents polled about childcare about every 3 years, next in 2018
→ www.dresden.de/elternbefragung

Assemblies

Make the most of residents' assemblies to get informed and have a say! Along with similar public information events and citizens' forums, they are used to introduce you to important plans and projects. Take the opportunity to pose your own questions, present your point of view or raise objections.

- According to Section 22 of the Saxon Local Government Charter (SächsGemO), residents' assemblies must be announced at least one week in advance
→ "Dresdner Amtsblatt" municipal journal usually comes out every Thursday
→ www.dresden.de/amtsblatt
→ www.dresden.de/pressemitteilungen



Planning, building

The public must be involved in most planning and building projects! Your input is thus requested within specific notice periods – for urban development, city renovation and transport planning, municipal zoning and land-use planning, flood protection and much more. There are forums for dialogue where you can always get involved in shaping our city of the future – the "Dresden Debates" and the "City of the Future" process.

- www.dresden.de/offenlagen
- www.dresden.de/verkehr
- www.dresden.de/hochwasser
- www.dresdner-debatte.de
- www.dresden.de/zukunftsstadt

Application as European Capital of Culture

Dresden is leading the public debate on the content of bids to be European Capital of Culture in 2025. Add to this process with your own ideas and suggestions! What is needed is propositions for cultural life and urban society.

→ www.dresden.de/kulturhauptstadt

Orderliness, cleanliness

Report littering, dirt and fly tipping in the city! It is only with your help that these public nuisances can be cleaned away as quickly as possible.

■ Anti-litter hotline

→ *Call central authorities on 115*

■ Dresden app

→ www.dresden.de/dreck-weg

Volunteering, civic involvement

Take on a volunteering position! Nowhere else are there so many possible ways to make yourself useful for the common good through the force of your own personality. Choose something that specifically suits you. Your involvement makes a difference, whether in the form of time, ideas, donations or even money. Working together, a lot can be achieved.

■ Types of organisation

- Clubs and associations
- Churches and foundations
- Public and private institutions
- Political parties and trade unions
- Initiatives, movements, projects
- Neighbourhood networks
- Self-help groups

I volunteer!



■ Selection of topics

- Democracy and human rights
- Representing political and occupational interests
- Culture of remembrance
- Federal Voluntary Service (BFD)

- Youth work and education
- Volunteer fire brigade
- Rescue services and disaster control
- Churches and religion
- Parenting
- Schools and day-care centres
- Career and university advice
- Social issues and health
- Helping the elderly
- Help for refugees
- Integration of people of immigrant origin
- Community interpreting
- Art and culture
- Leisure and companionship
- Helping out neighbours and local area
- Sports and exercise
- Environment and flood protection
- Protecting nature and animals
- Arbitration, victim support, helping prisoners
- Local history and conservation

→ www.dresden.de/engagiert-in-dresden

→ www.ehrenamt.sachsen.de

→ www.dresden.de/bfd

→ www.buergerstiftung-dresden.de

→ www.dresden.de/asyl

→ www.dresden.de/toleranz

Saxon civic participation website

Find out about current ways for citizens to get involved in Saxony!

→ www.dialog.sachsen.de

Saxon dialogue website

Continuation of the scheme run by the Saxon State Centre for Political Education (SLpB)!

→ www.lasst-uns-streiten.de

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www.dresden.de/buergerbeteiligung