

Section 179.01 - Purpose.

The Columbus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Affairs Commission is hereby established to advise Council and the Mayor on LGBTQ+ matters and recommend legislation, policies, programs, procedures, and administrative actions that advance social, economic, and political equality for the LGBTQ+ community.

Section 179.02 - Appointment & Membership.

- a. The Commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members, each of whom shall serve for a term of three (3) years with the exception of the initial board who shall be appointed to staggered one-, two-, and three-year terms as established by ordinance of Council. Six members shall be appointed by Council, six members shall be appointed by the Mayor, and one member shall be jointly appointed by the Council and the Mayor, such member serving as chair of the Commission. The members shall be representative of the diverse communities within the City of Columbus on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic region. Membership shall be open to all and shall not be restricted on the basis of any of the aforementioned identities.
- b. The Council President shall appoint a member of Council to serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Commission.
- c. The Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, shall serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Commission.
- d. Upon expiration of a Commission member's initial term, the member may be reappointed by the original appointing authority to a new three-year term not more than once.
- e. A Commission member may be disqualified from service for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, in accordance with Section 61 of the Columbus City Charter.
- f. Any vacancy caused by death, resignation, disqualification, or other means shall be filled for the unexpired term by the original appointing authority.
- g. Members shall serve without compensation.
- h. The Commission shall meet at least four times annually, and seven (7) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Section 179.03 - Duties.

- a. The duties of the Commission shall be to:
 1. Serve as an advisory body to Council and the Mayor on issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community;
 2. Serve in an advisory and consultative capacity to Council and the Mayor, as well as other local government officials designated by Council or the Mayor, to improve the ability of the city and its vendors, contractors, and consultants to serve, support, and employ members of the LGBTQ+ community;
 3. Recommend to Council and the Mayor measures designed to enhance the health, safety, economic opportunity, affordability, and mobility of members of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as to enhance cultural and learning opportunities, access to government, and government accountability on matters pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community;
 4. Coordinate and participate in educational programs to promote equal treatment, opportunity, and understanding of persons within the LGBTQ+ community and facilitate gatherings such as meetings, institutes, fora, or courses of instruction designed to lead to greater understanding and crafting of solutions for matters concerning the LGBTQ+ community;

5. Create an engagement strategy to build awareness of the Commission's work and to increase interaction with members of the LGBTQ+ community, including planning and executing the pride illumination ceremony and Shellabarger illuminator award ceremony each year;
 6. Monitor and report out on federal and state policies or legislative activities relevant to the LGBTQ+ community to Council and the Mayor;
 7. Support community involvement in and discussion of regional issues and decisions about the city's future as it relates to members of the LGBTQ+ community;
 8. Create, guide, support, and evaluate LGBTQ+ quality of life initiatives;
 9. Provide an annual report to Council and the Mayor detailing the Commission's activities, as well as summarizing its recommendations on matters and city programs affecting the LGBTQ+ community in the City and region.
- b. The Commission shall adopt by-laws or rules of procedure to govern the conduct of its business which shall include provisions for regular or special meetings, voting procedures, amendment of its by-laws or rules, minutes of meetings, or any other procedural matters the Commission deems necessary to regulate the conduct of its business. Questions of parliamentary procedure, not covered by these rules, shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.
 - c. The Commission may, by majority vote, establish committees in furtherance of its duties. A committee shall consist of three or more members of the Commission. For each committee established by the Commission, the Commission shall appoint a committee chair by majority vote.

Section 179.04 - Staff Assistance.

- a. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion shall provide staff support to the Commission to the extent practical and necessary in relation to planning programs, budgets, and priorities, as well as retaining public records and issuing public meeting notices.
- b. Council President may appoint an employee of Council to facilitate communications with the Commission, liaise between the Commission and Council, and otherwise assist the Commission as needed.