Thank you for your interest in information regarding running for City Council in the City of Vernon. We hope the following FAQ’s offer you a general understanding of some of what is involved in running for a City Council seat. Please keep in mind that the following FAQ’s are only meant to provide general information. If you would like additional information, we invite you to contact the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 583-8811, Ext. 546, or send us an e-mail at CityClerk@ci.vernon.ca.us.

Q: What are Councilmembers' terms of office?
A: Councilmembers serve five-year terms. An individual may not serve as a councilmember for more than two terms. Completion of an unexpired term is not considered a term.

Q: How often is there an election for a Vernon City Council seat?
A: City of Vernon holds annual elections on the second Tuesday of the month of April each year.

Q: If I want to run for Vernon City Council, what do I need to do?
A: City of Vernon registered voters (residents) interested in running for City Council should contact the Office of the City Clerk. The City Clerk is the Elections Official. Interested individuals can make an appointment to come in and pull a Candidate Nomination Packet, 113 days to 88 days before the election.

Q: What is a Candidate Nomination Binder?
A: The Candidate Nomination Binder is a set of forms that must be completed and returned to the Elections Official in order to formally qualify and register as a candidate running for office.

Q: What happens if I do not complete a Candidate Nomination Binder?
A: If you do not complete and return the required forms from the Candidate Nomination Binder you will not be eligible to run for a Council seat.

Q: Are there deadlines for running for a Council seat?
A: There is a formal candidate filing period, 113 days to 88 days before the election. For more information, please contact the City Clerk Office at (323) 593-8811 Ext. 546.

Q: Is there a fee to run for a Council seat?
A: The City of Vernon does not have a Candidate Filing Fee. The only fee associated with running for a Council seat is if the Candidate chooses to submit a Candidate Statement. There is a required deposit of $250, with the final cost determined after the election. Any outstanding balance will be billed and if the cost is less than $250, the balance will be refunded.

Q: What is a “Write-In Candidate”?
A: If after the close of the nomination period a person wishes to run for City Council, they may run as a “Write-In Candidate.” A Nomination Packets is still required and it is important to note that the
“Write-In Candidate” will not have their name printed on any elections’ materials including the ballot and

The filing period for Write-In Candidates for the April 14, 2020 Election is: February 18 @ 7 a.m. thru March 31, 2020 @ 5:30 p.m.

Q: If elected to City Council, is there compensation?

A: City Councilmembers are entitled to monetary compensation and benefits while in office. For the most up-to-date information please request a copy of the City’s latest Fringe and Benefits Resolution. [http://www.cityofvernon.org/images/hr/schedules/2019-2020_Management_Confidential_Executive_City_Council.pdf](http://www.cityofvernon.org/images/hr/schedules/2019-2020_Management_Confidential_Executive_City_Council.pdf)

Q: How do Vernon Elections take place?

A: The City of Vernon holds ALL MAIL BALLOT elections. There are no polling locations. This means that ALL election materials are mailed to you. You have several options to cast your vote:

- Vote your ballot, and place in the secrecy sleeve, and enclose it in the RETURN POSTAGE PAID envelope provided, postmarked on or before Election Day.
- You or someone else can return your sealed ballot (voted ballot in secrecy sleeve enclosed in the return envelope) in person to the Office of the City Clerk during normal business hours up until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Q: Where can I find more information about City of Vernon Council duties?

A: Regular City Council meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Vernon’s City Charter and Municipal Code are available online at [www.cityofvernon.org](http://www.cityofvernon.org), “Vernon City Charter & Code” link. Under Article III. City Council, you will find information regarding the City of Vernon City Council.