

## 2025 City Elected Officials Demographics Survey “Quick Results”

*LOC Members have expressed a desire to more quickly receive information on the results of surveys. To that end, LOC has prepared an executive summary of the results for the full Elected Official Demographics Survey report.*

### Key Findings:

- **Age & Retirement:** The majority of elected officials are over age 60, with retirees especially concentrated in smaller cities (64% in cities under 490 residents). However, some regions, like Northeastern Oregon, show a higher proportion of electeds under 40.
- **Gender:** For the first time, female elected officials outnumber males (53% vs. 47%), continuing a trend observed since 2018. Women are particularly overrepresented in smaller cities and certain regions like Central and Southern Oregon.
- **Race & Ethnicity:** Most elected officials (89%) identify as White/Caucasian, aligning with Oregon's demographic profile. Hispanic or Latino representation remains low at 6%, mostly in larger cities, though the numbers are too small for deeper analysis.
- **Education:** Most elected officials (60%) hold at least a bachelor's degree, though this marks a decline from 2022 (68%). Education levels correlate with city size—larger cities have significantly more college-educated officials.
- **Income:** Elected officials report higher household incomes than the general Oregon population. In 2025, 40% earned more than \$100,000, up from 28% in 2018.
- **Veteran Status:** Veterans are overrepresented among elected officials (13.8%) compared to the state's adult population (7.4%).
- **Residency & Origins:** A majority (59%) of elected officials were born outside Oregon but have lived in the state for an average of 31 years and in their current city for nearly 23 years.
- **Tenure & Leadership:** Officials average 5.6 years on city council. One-third have served as mayor, though average mayoral tenure has dropped to 3.7 years—possibly indicating recent leadership turnover.
- **Government Experience:** 41% have worked in a government role, and 57% have served on boards or commissions—highlighting common pathways to office.

- **Time Commitment:** Officials spend an average of 36 hours per month on city business. Smaller cities under 490 residents report the highest time commitments, likely due to limited staff.
- **Political Ideology:** Oregon city officials overall lean slightly liberal, with larger cities skewing more liberal and smaller cities more conservative. The 2025 data show a decline in moderates and an increase in officials identifying as "Lean Liberal."
- **Home Rule Sentiment:** Support for local control remains strong, with most officials favoring greater autonomy for cities. However, the average support for city control has declined slightly since 2018, possibly due to the ideological shift of respondents.

**Methodology:**

The survey was conducted between April 7 and May 2, 2025, using Qualtrics. Participation was voluntary, and responses were anonymized to ensure confidentiality. Despite broad representation, some regions and smaller cities were underrepresented. The full report may be accessed [here](#).