

10 Chapter Ten Sources of Information

There is no comprehensive guide to everything there is to know about Texas cities, but there are many sources of information that can be helpful. Several are listed below.

Local Sources

Depending on the amount of time available, information on the finances, services, and other aspects of the city can be obtained by:

- ★ Reading the city's code of ordinances;
- ★ Reviewing the minutes of council meetings held during the past several months;
- ★ Studying the current budget, the previous year's financial report, and other key financial documents;
- ★ Visiting the various city departments to learn how the city conducts its day-to-day operations; and
- ★ Conferring with past and present members of the council, the local newspaper editor, civic leaders, and others who have followed the city's affairs over the years.

Texas Municipal League

The Texas Municipal League is an association of cities that exists for one reason: to serve city officials. TML offers councilmembers and other city officials a broad range of services—including training seminars and conferences, technical assistance, legal advice, and many other services. The League office welcomes all inquiries from its member officials, however ordinary or unusual. The League is also willing to assist members of the press in understanding cities.

National Resources

American Planning Association, 1030 15th Street N.W., Suite 750 West, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-872-0611. Major publications: *Planning*, *Journal of the APA*, *Planning and Environmental Law*, and *Zoning Practice*. APA also publishes a number of guides to zoning, subdivision development, and other aspects of municipal planning. www.planning.org

American Public Works Association, 2345 Grand Blvd., Suite 700, Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2625, 816-472-6100. Monthly publication: *APWA Reporter*. APWA also publishes several public works-related manuals. www.apwa.net

American Society for Public Administration, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004, 202-393-7878. Bi-Monthly publication: *Public Administration Review* features articles for councilmembers interested in municipal administrative and organizational processes and theory. ASPA's monthly newspaper, *PA TIMES*, covers developments in the academic and professional field of public administration. www.aspanet.org

Government Finance Officers Association, 203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210, 312-977-9700. Major publications: *GFOA Newsletter* and *Government Finance Review*. GFOA also publishes a wealth of excellent operating manuals on the topics of budgeting, debt management, financial forecasting, and related items. www.gfoa.org

International Association of Chiefs of Police, 515 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314, 703-836-6767. Major publications: *Police Chief* and *Police Chiefs Desk Reference*. www.theiacp.org

International Association of Fire Chiefs, 4025 Fair Ridge Dr., Fairfax, Virginia 22033, 703-273-0911. Major publication: *On Scene* newsletter. www.iafc.org

International City/County Management Association (ICMA), 777 North Capitol St. N.E., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202-289-4262. Major publications: *Public Management*, *ICMA Newsletter*, and *The Municipal Year Book*. ICMA also publishes a series of manuals on different aspects of city government. www.icma.org

International Institute of Municipal Clerks, 8331 Utica Ave., Suite 200, Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730, 909-944-4162. Major Publications: *IIMC News Digest*, *Consent Agendas*, *IIMC Meeting Administration Handbook*, and *Language of Local Government*. IIMC provides training and information to city clerks and city secretaries. www.iimc.com

International Municipal Lawyers Association,
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 1440, Bethesda, Maryland
20814, 202-466-5424. Bi-Monthly publication: *Municipal
Lawyer*. IMLA also publishes a variety of documents, such
as "Codification of Municipal Ordinances," of special
interest to city attorneys. www.imla.org

International Public Management Association for Human
Resources, 1617 Duke St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314,
703-549-7100. Major publications: *Public Personnel
Management*, *HR News*, and *HR Bulletin*. IPMA-HR is a
source of excellent information on productivity, employee
performance appraisal, and other aspects of municipal
personnel administration. www.ipma-hr.org

National Association of Towns and Townships,
1130 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C.
20036, 202-454-3954. Major Publication: *Washington
Report*. NATaT offers technical assistance, educational
services, and public policy support to local government
officials from small communities. www.natat.org

National Civic League, 1889 York St., Denver, Colorado
80206, 303-571-4343. Major Publication: *National Civic
Review*. NCL serves as a resource for information on citizen
participation in state and local government and provides
guides, model charters, and laws on specific subjects. NCL
also sponsors the All-America City Award. www.ncl.org

National League of Cities, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.,
Suite 550, Washington, D.C. 20004, 202-626-3100.
Major Publication: *Nation's Cities Weekly*. Additionally,
the organization conducts two national conventions of city
officials, the first of which focuses on city-related federal
programs, while the second emphasizes methods of
improving municipal operations. www.nlc.org

U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1620 Eye Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20006, 202-293-7330. Major
publication: *U.S. Mayor*. USCM provides current
information on federal policy developments of interest to
cities over the population of 30,000. www.usmayors.org