



The Town of Westlake will order a general election to be held on May 4, 2024, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two (2) Council Members to serve two-year terms (expiring May 2024) and a joint Special Election to fill a Council Member vacancy one (1) year term. (expiring May 2025)

Below are the qualifications and duties of the office of Mayor and Council Members:

The Mayor and Council Members serve dual roles as the Town's legislators and the Board of Trustees to Westlake Academy. Their primary duty is policymaking, which includes identifying the needs of local residents, teachers and students and formulating programs to meet the changing effectiveness of ongoing municipal and academic services.

Each Council Member is entitled to vote on every question decided at a meeting. The Mayor votes in the event of a tie. All Council Members have full parliament privileges in Council meetings – including the right to speak and make motions when recognized by the Mayor, and the right to introduce new ordinances and amendments to existing ones.

Though foremost in importance, lawmaking is just one of many functions the Mayor and Council Members perform which one writer describes as follows:

Regulator – The Council exercises regulatory powers over the conduct and property of its citizens. It has the power to declare certain conduct to be criminal, to require that certain businesses and activities be licensed, and within limits, how and for what purposes property may be used.

Financier – The Council may choose to levy taxes, assess fees and charges, and sell bonds in order to finance the many functions of the Town Government. The Council also has to budget the expenditure of the Town's funds.

The real challenge is in providing leadership and direction for the community, in deciding what needs to be done and helping plan what the Town will be for future generations.

Qualifications

Mayor

Residence -- 1 year in state prior to the filing deadline; 1 year in city prior to election day

Age -- 18

Must be a registered voter in territory elected from by the filing deadline

Council Member

Residence -- 1 year in state prior to filing deadline; 6 months in the city (or ward) prior to filing deadline

Age -- 18

Must be a registered voter in territory elected from by the filing deadline