

# Participation Card Set

Use your say in Vienna!  
What opportunities do you have?

This card set shows you where and how you can get involved in Vienna.

Participation in democratic life in Vienna offers a wide range of opportunities to get informed, get involved, contribute, and get active.

This card set uses four categories,  
each with a distinct color:

### USE YOUR RIGHTS

Participation is a fundamental right, not just a 'nice to have'. Legally guaranteed forms include elections, referendums, or petitions.

### HELP SHAPE THE CITY

The City of Vienna offers various ways for people to have their say. One example is the Vienna Climate Team.

### GET SUPPORT TO GET INVOLVED

There are lots of services and organizations that can help you if you are living in Vienna. The goal is to help people help themselves.

### GET ACTIVE YOURSELF

Even without guidance from the City of Vienna, you can still help shape the city. For example, you could join a citizen initiative or association.

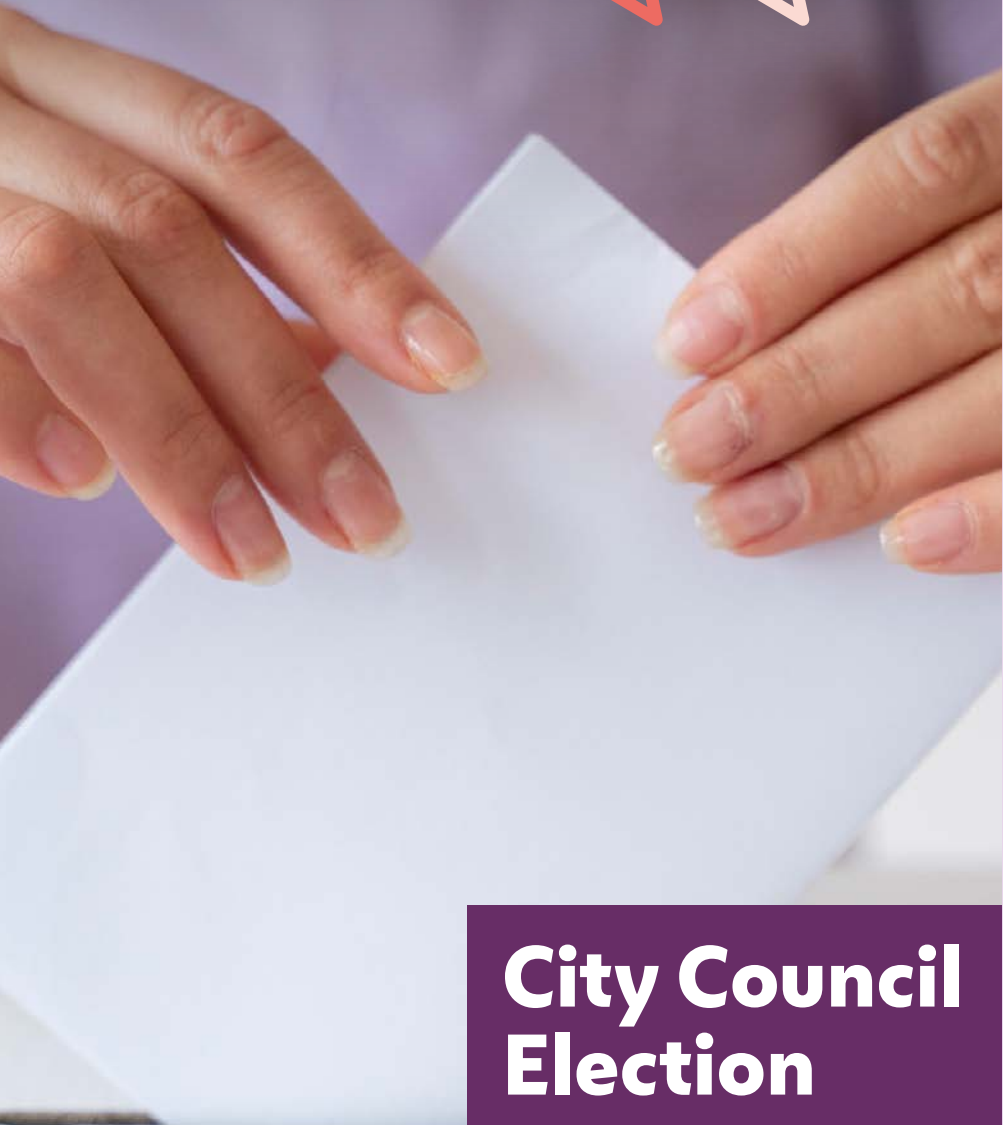


Find out more:  
[mitwirkung.wien.gv.at/  
mehr-beteiligung](https://mitwirkung.wien.gv.at/mehr-beteiligung)

Note: This card set only refers to participation opportunities in Vienna and does not claim to be complete. Information as of: 2025

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# City Council Election

Use your rights



Help determine the composition of the Vienna City Council (Gemeinderat) and State Parliament (Landtag)! The Vienna City Council and State Parliament is the city's highest governing body. It passes laws that apply only to Vienna and decides on the budget, for example.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship**



**Good to know:** More than one-third of Viennese aged 16 and older cannot vote because they do not have Austrian citizenship. More than one-fifth of eligible voters do not vote. This means less than half of Viennese determine the City Council.



Find out more:  
[wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen](https://wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen)



# District Council Election

Use your rights



Elect representatives at the district level. Districts have certain tasks and responsibilities and make decisions. They help shape life in the district.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**EU citizenship**



**Good to know:** In the 23 district councils, 40 to 60 seats are allocated per district. In 2025, that totals 1.160 seats. The election usually takes place simultaneously with the City and State Parliament election.



Find out more:  
[wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen](https://wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen)



# Vienna Referendum

Use your rights



Have your say on upcoming city decisions. A referendum can be initiated by the City Council or by 5% of eligible voters. In Vienna, that amounts to around 56.000 people.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship**



**Good to know:** There are also nationwide referendums. The last 'Vienna Referendum' took place in 2013.



Find out more:  
**[demokratiezentrum.org/ressourcen/  
lexikon/volksbefragung](https://demokratiezentrum.org/ressourcen/lexikon/volksbefragung)**



# Vienna Petition for a Referendum

Use your rights



Collect signatures for a topic. This can persuade the State Parliament to discuss it. 5% of eligible voters are required, about 56.000 people.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship**



**Good to know:** There has never been a Vienna-specific petition for a referendum, but there are regular national ones that can be supported online.



Find out more:

**[wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen/volksbegehren/](https://wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen/volksbegehren/)**



# Petition

Use your rights



Collect signatures to submit a petition to the City Council's petition committee. The topic can relate to a specific street or the whole city. You need to collect 500 signatures.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** So far, about 80% of petitions have been submitted by men. Two-thirds reached the required number of signatures. Topics often concern construction and traffic.



Find out more:  
**[wien.gv.at/petition/online/](https://wien.gv.at/petition/online/)**



# Citizen Assembly

Use your rights



Discuss any concerns you have with other residents and the district council.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** An assembly can be initiated by either 5% of residents or one-fifth of district council members. In the 1st district, about 830 residents are needed; in the 22nd district, over 11.000.



Find out more:  
[wien.gv.at/bezirke/dezentralisierung/](https://wien.gv.at/bezirke/dezentralisierung/)



# District Council Consultation Hour

Use your rights



Discuss your concerns directly with your district chairperson.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Anyone with a connection to the district**



**Anyone can contact the district council to arrange a consultation**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** Consultation hours are held regularly in all 23 districts.



Find out more:

**[wien.gv.at/bezirke/dezentralisierung/](https://wien.gv.at/bezirke/dezentralisierung/)**



# Have your say at work

Use your rights



Get involved to improve your working environment and share your ideas. You can elect Works Council representatives or delegates to the Chamber of Labour (AK), or join a union.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Employees in Vienna  
and all of Austria**



**Works council elections:  
All employees from age 16**

**AK election:  
All employees**

**National union elections:  
Members from age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** A works council can be established with 5 or more employees.



Find out more:  
**[oegb.at/themen/arbeitsrecht/  
mitbestimmung-im-betrieb](https://oegb.at/themen/arbeitsrecht/mitbestimmung-im-betrieb)**



Mit  
Wirkung

# Participation in School and University

Use your rights



Help shape your school or university. Elect your student representatives or members of the Austrian Students' Union (ÖH).

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**All those attending school or university in Vienna or anywhere in Austria**



**Pupils and students**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** The Vienna Student Parliament holds its sessions in Vienna's City Hall, where the City Council usually meets.



Find out more:  
**[wienextra.at/mitbestimmen](https://wienextra.at/mitbestimmen)**



# FSW Clients' Council

Use your rights



Elect the FSW Clients' Council and represent the interests of people with disabilities toward the Vienna Social Fund (FSW).

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**FSW clients receiving disability assistance from FSW**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** The first election for the FSW Clients' Council was in 2020. The council is elected every 5 years.



Find out more:  
**[kundinnenrat.fsw.at](https://kundinnenrat.fsw.at)**



# Tenants' Advisory Board

Use your rights



Elect the tenants' advisory board in your housing complex or run for election yourself. Represent your neighbors' interests to Wiener Wohnen.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**All main tenants of an apartment, business premises, studio, or practice (e.g., in municipal housing)**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** A youth advisory board can also be elected. It represents young people's interests in the tenants' advisory board.



Find out more:  
**[mieterbeirat.at/index.php?id=134](https://mieterbeirat.at/index.php?id=134)**



# Citizen Participation in Urban Development

Help shape the city



Help shape urban development projects such as parks or entire neighborhoods.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone with a connection to Vienna**



**Everyone (certain target groups may be addressed depending on the project)**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** As of 2025, nearly 200 projects are listed in the Vienna urban development project list. The city uses the Master Plan for Participatory Urban Development to define who should be involved, when, and how.



Find out more:  
[wien.gv.at/stadtentwicklung/partizipation/](https://wien.gv.at/stadtentwicklung/partizipation/)



# Participatory Budgets

Help shape the city



Submit ideas on how the district budget should be used—e.g., for traffic safety, mobility, neighborhood, greenery, or culture.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**District residents and people connected to the district**



**Everyone**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** Participatory budgets have already been used in districts 4, 8, and 14.



Find out more:  
**[mitgestalten.wien.gv.at/de-DE/  
folders/mitmachen-wieden](https://mitgestalten.wien.gv.at/de-DE/folders/mitmachen-wieden)**



# Vienna Climate Team

Help shape the city



Work with politicians and the administration to shape your living environment and implement ideas for a better climate in your neighborhood. Ideas are welcome on: climate-friendly public spaces, sustainable everyday life, renewable energy, and green mobility. New districts are selected every year.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**District residents and those connected to the district**



**Everyone**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** 53 projects from the first two rounds are in progress or already implemented.



Find out more:  
[klimateam.wien.gv.at](https://klimateam.wien.gv.at)



# Children & Youth Parliament

Help shape the city



Discuss topics that are relevant to you and other young people in Vienna, such as climate protection and education. The proposals are submitted to the city government.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Children and young people from all districts**



**Children aged 5–13 in the Children's Parliament**

**Youth aged 14–20 in the Youth Parliament**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** The citywide Children and Youth Parliament has existed since 2021. Most districts also have their own district Children and Youth parliaments.



Find out more:  
**[junges.wien.gv.at](https://junges.wien.gv.at)**



# Participatory Children & Youth Million

Help shape the city



Work with other children and young people to submit ideas. You can vote on project ideas, which are then submitted to the City Council and implemented by the city administration.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and people connected to Vienna**



**Aged 5 to 20**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** Every two years, €1.000.000 is available to implement projects.



Find out more:  
**[junges.wien.gv.at](https://junges.wien.gv.at)**



# Online platform 'mitgestalten'

Help shape the city



Learn about different participation projects in Vienna. You can submit ideas, comment on suggestions, vote on projects, and take part in surveys.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and people connected to Vienna**



**Everyone can get informed and participate**

**Some activities require a City of Vienna account**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** Over 11.000 users are registered. By spring 2025, you could contribute to 22 projects on the platform—with more to come.



Find out more:  
**[mitgestalten.wien.gv.at](https://mitgestalten.wien.gv.at)**



# Sag's Wien App

Help shape the city



Report a hazard, malfunction, or other issues to the City of Vienna via your phone.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and people connected to Vienna**



**Everyone**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** Almost 180.000 people use the app (as of 2024). Issues can be submitted without registering.



Find out more:  
**[wien.gv.at/sagswien/](https://wien.gv.at/sagswien/)**



# Wiener Linien 'Public Transport Think Tank'

Help shape the city



Help shape the future of mobility in Vienna. Join workshops, surveys, or discussions to develop solutions for buses, trams, and the subway.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and all public transport users**



**From age 16**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** In the youth think tank, 10- to 14-year-olds can submit ideas for the future of public transport.



Find out more:  
**[wienerlinien.at/oeffi-denkwerkstatt](https://www.wienerlinien.at/oeffi-denkwerkstatt)**



Mit Wirkung



# Participation workshop

Get support to get involved



Together with the Office for Participation and Empowerment of the City of Vienna, you can explore how to remove barriers, foster inclusion, and enable more participation in Vienna.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and those connected to Vienna**



**Everyone, especially those who are often unheard**



**Austrian citizenship not required**



**Good to know:** The workshop especially supports people who are often unheard—e.g., those who cannot vote or don't yet see a reason to participate.



Find out more:  
**[mitwirkung.wien.gv.at/  
werkstatt-fuer-mitwirkung](https://mitwirkung.wien.gv.at/werkstatt-fuer-mitwirkung)**



# Neighbourhood Treasure by the GB Urban Renewal Office

Get support to get involved



Submit ideas to improve your neighbourhood and strengthen togetherness. A jury of residents decides which projects will be implemented. The idea is carried out by those who submitted it.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Individuals, house communities,  
and neighbourhood initiatives with  
a local connection**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** Each district has €3.000 available for implementing ideas in the "Neighbourhood Treasure."



Find out more:  
**[gbstern.at/themen-projekte/  
nachbarschatz](https://gbstern.at/themen-projekte/nachbarschatz)**



# Neighbourhood Lab by the Local Agenda 21 Association

Get support to get involved



From community gardens to innovative mobility solutions – the labs help you put your ideas into action.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone connected to the neighbourhood**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** There are currently 12 neighbourhood labs in Vienna. The first was launched in the 9th district in 1998.



Find out more:  
**[la21.wien/graetzllabor/](https://la21.wien/graetzllabor/)**



Mit Wirkung

# Neighbourhood Oasis by the Local Agenda 21 Association

Get support to get involved



Get (financial) support for your idea, such as green seating areas on parking spots (“Green Parklets”), activities for kids and teens (“Young Grätzl”), or actions in your neighbourhood (“Grätzl Life”).

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone with a connection to Vienna**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** In 2024, over 100 green parklets were set up throughout Vienna for the first time.



Find out more:  
**[la21.wien/graetzloase](https://la21.wien/graetzloase)**



# Neighbourhood Budget 'Grätzlmarie'

Get support to get involved



Have your say in your neighbourhood! Submit your ideas to the 'Grätzmarie' budget of WieNeu+ and help make your community climate-friendly and future-ready.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone connected to the neighbourhood**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** The 'Grätzmarie' provides €3.000 for small projects. A neighbourhood council made up of residents and local stakeholders decides who receives funding.



Find out more:  
**[wieneuplus.wien.gv.at](https://wieneuplus.wien.gv.at)**



# Democracy Café by wohnpartner

Get support to get involved



Exchange ideas about democracy with your neighbours at the Democracy Café by wohnpartner.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**All residents of municipal housing**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** Vienna has 1.800 municipal housing buildings with around 500.000 residents – that's a quarter of the city's population (as of 2021).



Find out more:  
**[wohnpartner-wien.at/mitmachen/  
projekte/demokratiearbeit-/-erzaehlcafe](https://wohnpartner-wien.at/mitmachen/projekte/demokratiearbeit-/-erzaehlcafe)**



# Citizens' Initiative

Get active yourself



Join forces with others to pursue a common goal. Often it's about construction projects, nature protection, or traffic safety in your neighbourhood.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone with a connection to Vienna**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** With enough supporters, a citizens' initiative has legal rights in certain processes, such as environmental impact assessments.



Find out more:  
**[stadt-wien.at/politik/buergerinitiative](https://stadt-wien.at/politik/buergerinitiative)**



# Engaging in a political party

Get active yourself



Join an existing party or found a new one.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**All Viennese residents  
can join a party**



**Everyone**



**Only Austrian citizens can  
found a party in Vienna**

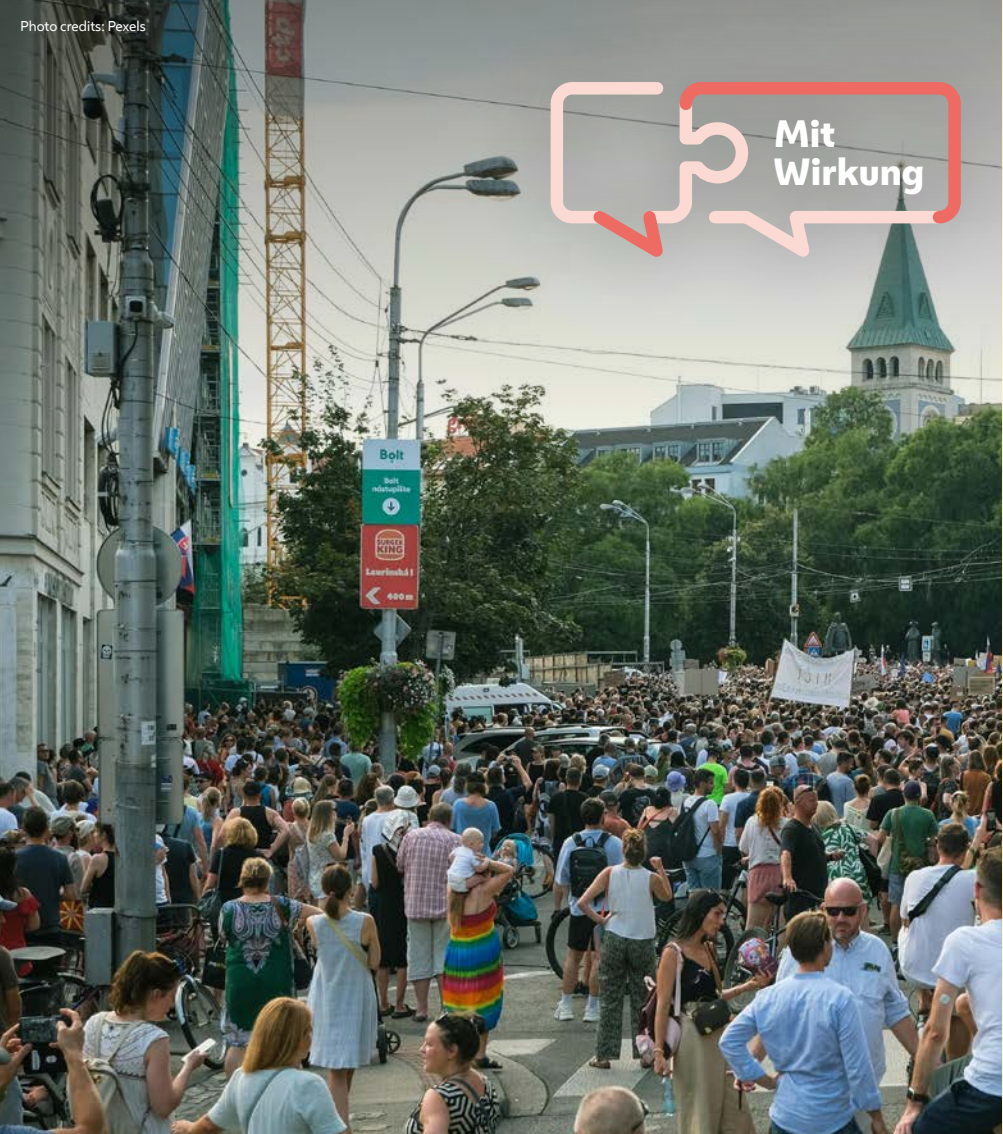
**Participation is possible  
even without citizenship**



**Good to know:** Over 1.300 political parties are registered in Austria. In the 2025 Vienna elections, 23 parties ran: 10 at the city level, 13 only at the district level.



Find out more:  
**[parlament.gv.at/verstehen/  
demokratie-wahlen/parteien/](https://parlament.gv.at/verstehen/demokratie-wahlen/parteien/)**



# Demonstrations & Rallies

Get active yourself



Take to the streets for a cause or raise awareness about an issue in your city.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



Everyone can take part



Everyone



All EU citizens aged 18+  
can register an assembly



**Good to know:** Freedom of assembly is a fundamental right. Around 1.500–2.000 demonstrations take place in Vienna each year.



Find out more:  
[wirmachen.wien/how-to/  
how-to-demo-anmeldung](https://wirmachen.wien/how-to/how-to-demo-anmeldung)



# Associations and organisations

Get active yourself



Contribute voluntarily to society. Find a suitable volunteer organisation or association and get involved.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



**Viennese residents and anyone connected to Vienna**



**Everyone**



**No Austrian citizenship required**



**Good to know:** There are opportunities in many areas, such as counselling, education, integration, disaster relief, child care, culture, tutoring, religion, rescue services, social work, animals, and the environment.



Find out more:  
**[diehelferwiens.wien.gv.at/  
ehrenamtlich-mithelfen](https://diehelferwiens.wien.gv.at/ehrenamtlich-mithelfen)**



## PARTICIPATION OPTION

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?



Find out more:

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