

Government

Form of Government

City Officials:

Ron Payne, Mayor

Charlie Castlen, Mayor Pro-Tem

John Kazlauskas, Commissioner

Candance Brake, Commissioner

David Johnson, Commissioner

Bill Parrish, City Manager



Form of Government

The City of Owensboro operates under a **City Manager form of Government**. This form of government was first instituted in Owensboro on January 1, 1954, as a result of a referendum approved by the people in the 1952 November election.

Under this form of government the people of Owensboro elect a Mayor and four Commissioners, who together, make up the Board of Commissioners, which possesses the legislative and executive powers of the city. Administrative powers are vested in the City Manager who is appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners for an indefinite term.

The Mayor, as a member of the Board, presides over all meetings, calls special meetings, and executes all bonds, notes, contracts, and written obligations authorized by the board. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the city and exercises the executive powers and functions delegated by ordinance and statute.

Legislative Body (Board of Commissioners)

The Mayor and four commissioners are elected by the citizens to act as their representatives in all legislative matters. Their primary duties are to enact ordinances and make policies that are for the ultimate good of the community as a whole. The mayor is elected for a four-year term and the Commissioners are elected for two-year terms. In cities of the second class with the City Manager form of government, non-partisan elections are mandatory.

The City Commissioner, the legislative and policy making body of the City, is comprised of five citizens elected at large for a two-year term except for the Mayor, who is elected for a four-year. The Mayor serves as the presiding officer at official meetings and as ceremonial head of the City.

Under the City Manager form of Government, the City Commission, as representatives of the people, determines the goals and objectives of the City and policies that shall be followed in attaining those goals and objectives.

The Commission appoints a City Manager who is responsible for carrying out its established policies as well as the efficient administration of City activities. The City Commission also appoints a City Attorney who provides legal assistance to the City Commission, City Manager and department managers, and represents the City of Owensboro in legal matters. The City Commission also appoints a City Clerk who provides administrative assistance to the City Commission and City Manager. The Clerk is responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of the permanent records of the City and performs such other duties and responsibilities as required by law. The City Commission conducts its business in public sessions that are held at City Hall, Commission Chambers, Fourth Floor, the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

City Officials

Mayor Ron Payne

Ron Payne retired as an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Brescia University in May of 2008. Prior to this position he was City Manager of Owensboro Kentucky, the City's Chief Administrative Officer, for six years until his retirement in August of 2003. He served as Director of Finance & Administration for the City from September 1993 until taking office as City Manager on February 1, 1997. Previously Ron served 14 years with the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, first as Controller and Deputy City Auditor and eventually as Director of Finance. He was Owensboro's City Auditor from 1975 to 1979 and also worked for the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand.

Ron is a Certified Public Accountant. He holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Brescia College and a Masters of Science in accounting from the University of Tulsa. Ron is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in Vietnam. Ron and his wife Denise have two sons, Brian and Adam.

He is a member of the American Institute of CPA's, the VFW and has served on the Board of Trustees of the Riverpark Foundation, Board of Contributors of the Messenger & Inquirer, the Board of Directors of the Riverport Authority, PRIDE and a member of the Advisory Council of MISAS.

Mayor Pro-Tem Charlie Castlen

Charlie Castlen is the Mayor Pro Tem of the Owensboro City Commission. Charlie is serving his fifth term on the Commission, his fourth as Mayor Pro Tem. Charlie ran a frugal campaign, spending less than seven cents a vote when he was elected to his fifth term. This is down from eleven cents when he finished fourth in the November 1998 election.

Charlie, a Daviess County native, was born on November 11, 1961. He is the twelfth child of Paul and Gertrude (Calhoun) Castlen. In 1979, he graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School as a member of the National Honor Society. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting in 1983 when he graduated from Brescia University, receiving the first annual Brescia University Alumni Award. Charlie and his wife of twenty three years, Lisa, have three children - Sarah, Theresa, and Daniel.

Charlie brings a wealth of financial experience to the Owensboro City Commission. He has over twenty four years of experience in various accounting, auditing, and financial management positions. He gained over three years of experience auditing government agencies when he worked for the Kentucky State Auditor's Office in Frankfort, Kentucky, in the mid-1980s. Charlie and Lisa returned to Daviess County July 1, 1991 and today he is a self-employed CPA providing tax and accounting services for individuals and small businesses. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs.

Charlie has been involved in community and church activities for years. He currently serves as Treasurer of WIMM (107.7 F.M.) radio (a EWTN satellite station) and Secretary of the Right to Life of Owensboro, Inc. He is a past Treasurer and Board Member for the Boulware Center Mission, Inc. (Owensboro's oldest homeless shelter); past president and member of the Brescia University Alumni Association; past volunteer for Junior Achievement; and past volunteer and coach in the Blessed Mother Summer Sports Program. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a member, lector, and parish council member of Blessed Mother Church.

Commissioner John Kazlauskas

John Kazlauskas is serving his first term as Commissioner and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. After serving 42 years with the Owensboro Police Department, Chief Kazlauskas retired in 2007. He was instrumental in the development of the Polygraph Unit and the Evidence Collection Unit, which is now called the Special Services Bureau.

After graduating from Owensboro High School, John served three years in the U.S. Army, as a helicopter pilot. He then attended the FBI National Academy & FBI Bombing Crime Scene School in Quantico, VA and went on to graduate from Eastern Kentucky University with an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice.

He currently serves on the Healthy Horizons Board and is a member of the Owensboro Rotary Club. He is a past member of the following: KWC Advisory Board for School of Criminal Justice, Ayer Flying Club (President), Fundraising Committee for YMCA and Boy Scouts, Fraternal Order of Police, International Association of Identification, Ohio Chapter of Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency (President), and was a Lector at KWC and Brescia University. He is an Honorary Member of the Kentucky Polygraph Association.

Commissioner Candance Brake

Candance Castlen Brake is a native of Owensboro, Kentucky. She received a Bachelor's Degree in History from Brescia University and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Western Kentucky University. In 2005, she graduated from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Center for Public Leadership, Leaders of the 21st Century Program.

Candance was appointed Daviess County Deputy Judge/Executive. In this role she administered operations and personnel for an organization with 200 employees and a \$35 million budget. She also acted as chief of staff and worked daily in economic and community development. She was appointed through two separate administrations, Democrat and Republican.

In 2000, Candance left Daviess County Fiscal Court for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.'s Vice President of Workforce Development and Education, a position responsible for creating and developing a long-term community and economic development strategy through conceptualizing and building partnerships between business and education. Several of the programs have received statewide and national recognition and awards including the Kentucky Industrial Development Council's First Innovation in Economic Development Award.

In 2002, Brake was appointed the Chamber's Executive Vice-President.

In 2004 she was successful in her first bid for public office earning a seat on the Owensboro City Commission where she is serving her second term.

She has also served as an adjunct faculty member in Western Kentucky University's Department of Government.

Candance has served the community in various volunteer capacities throughout her career. Those include the following: Chair of Skills, Inc.; RiverPark Center Executive Committee; United Way Board and Allocations Panels; Girls, Inc. Board Member; Board Treasurer and volunteer, The Chamber of Commerce Board, Citizens Committee on Education, Greater Owensboro Learning Community; Greater Owensboro Alliance for Education; Brescia College Board of Trustees, Brescia College Alumni Association President; Owensboro Rotary Board and club member; and a founding member of Impact 100.

Commissioner David Johnson

David L. Johnson currently serves as Director of Pupil Personnel for the Owensboro Public Schools. This year marks his 20th year in the Owensboro Public Schools. He taught Political Science and coached football for eight years; served as the social studies department chair for three years; worked as a secondary curriculum specialist for four years; principal at Owensboro Middle School; and held the position of Director of Pupil Personnel for the last six years. David received his B.A. from the University of Kentucky; a Masters in Educational Leadership; a Rank I in Administrative Leadership; and has been accepted in the Western Kentucky/University of Louisville Doctoral Cooperative Program.

He has served on various local boards... Executive Committee of the Regional Alliance; the Owensboro Area Museum Board of Directors; the Mayor's Crime Prevention Commission; KY-ASAP Board; DJJ Crime Prevention Regional Board; the Owensboro Day Treatment Board; the United Way Campaign Board; President of the 3rd Region Kentucky Association of School Administrators; and as President of the 3rd Region Directors of Pupil Personnel. David is a 1984 graduate of Owensboro High School. He is the son of Bob and Del Johnson. He and his wife, Danna McEnroe Johnson, have been married for fourteen years.

City Manager Bill Parrish

Bill Parrish was selected by the City Commission of Owensboro, Kentucky, as the City Manager in December, 2007. He worked as the Street and Sanitation Superintendent from 2001 until his appointment as City Manager.

Previously, Bill had served in a variety of positions within the United States Marine Corps, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in September, 2001. His background includes human resources, operations, finance and logistics. Bill holds a bachelors degree in history from Old Dominion University and a masters degree in human resources management from Lindenwood University. He is also a graduate of the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Bill and his wife Vicky have two adult children; Joe and Amber.

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