

### The local councillor (1)

- France has the biggest number of **towns** in Europe
- All towns have the **same status** -irrespective of their size (with the exception of Paris, which is also a department)
- Each town is governed by a team elected by the citizens. That team is led by a **mayor**.
- Local **elections** happen every 6 years
- The mayor is not elected by direct suffrage but is still considered as a '**strong man**'

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### The local councillor (2)

- The mayor and his advisors are elected during the first municipal council by **secret ballot** and **absolute majority**.
- The role of the **municipal council** is to deal with issues relating to the town (schools, garbage, cultural activities...) and support the mayor.
- The mayor acts as the **state representative** or the local executive.
- Besides his administrative duties, the mayor is also at the head of the **registry office** and the **local police**.

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### Steps for taking decisions (1)

1. Any project/request is examined by a **commission**. Melun has 6 commissions:
  - Education, youth and sports
  - Traffic, transport and car parking
  - Finances and budget
  - Town planning
  - Family and health
  - Culture, tourism and international relationsThe commissions **only** give their opinion.

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**Steps for taking decisions (2)**

2. The project is then examined by the **municipal council**. The mayor has different deputies - each one in charge of a specific area.

Melun has 11 deputies.

3. The **mayor** meets with his council at least once a term. They then vote on each project. To be accepted the project needs **absolute majority**.

The **sessions** of the council are **public** and a report is posted in the town hall after each session.

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**Steps for taking decisions (3)**

All decisions made by the town are finally validated or not by the State through the **prefect** -who is the State representative in the department.

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**'Intercommunal' status (1)**

- Since 1999, under a same territory different towns can join to make **communal** decisions.
- Melun is part of the **Melun Val de Seine** 'community' which counts 14 towns and 108 323 inhabitants.
- **Public Establishments for the Intercommunal Cooperation (EPCI)** are created as administrative bodies to deal with the issues relating to the 'community.'

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**'Intercommunal' status (2)**

- The members of an EPCI are **chosen** out of the respective local councils -not elected.
- The **president** of the 'Intercommunity' is elected by the members of the EPCI.

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**How are decisions made? (1)**

1. The **Communal Commissions** examine the projects/requests and give their opinion.

There are 6 commissions in charge of specific areas.

1. Decisions are passed on to the '**office**' -which includes the president, one or two vice-presidents and or or more members of the EPCI.

The '**office**' passes its decision to the vote of the **Communal Council**.

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**How are decisions made? (2)**

- The Communal Council is the **executive body** of the 'community.'
- There are **76 members** elected by the 14 local councils.
- The Community Council **meets** about 8-10 times each year.
- The **sessions** are public.

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