History
1905 The Association of German Cities is founded in Berlin
1933 Forced to merge with other national organisations involved in local government to form the Deutscher Gemeindetag (German Local Authorities Association)
1945 The Association of German Cities is resuscitated, headed by Dr. Herrmann Pünder, Lord Mayor of Cologne at that time

Subsequent Presidents of the Association of German Cities have included:
Prof. Dr. Ernst Reuter, Berlin
Willy Brandt, Berlin
Hans Koschnick, Bremen
Manfred Rommel, Stuttgart
Petra Roth, Frankfurt am Main
Christian Ude, Munich

Members
- 195 cities are direct members, including all independent German cities and three city states, and 16 member associations with about 3400 indirect member cities and towns
- 13 special members: regional groupings of local authorities, regional associations, professional associations

Executive bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between 750 and 800 delegates from direct member cities, indirect member cities and special members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meets every two years</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>around 135 members</td>
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<td>meets three times a year</td>
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<tr>
<th>Board</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>around 40 mayors, Executive Director and permanent representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>meets five times a year</td>
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President

Executive Director

Further information
Detailed information on the work of the Association of German Cities is available on our website: www.staedtetag.de.
@staedtetag

Contact

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Association of German Cities

The Association of German Cities is the voice of Germany’s cities. It is also the national association of all the country’s autonomous and most of its affiliated cities and towns. A community of solidarity, it acts as the cities’ advocate for the idea of local self-government in dealings with the Federal Government, federal states (Bundesländer), the European Union, and governmental and non-governmental organisations. The work and services of the Association of German Cities are primarily geared to the needs and interests of the direct member cities and their citizens.

The Association of German Cities is the country’s largest national federation of municipalities, comprising about 3400 cities and towns with nearly 53 million inhabitants. 195 cities are direct members, among them all independent German cities including the city-states of Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen.

Responsibilities

- The Association of German Cities actively represents the cause of local self-government. It upholds the interests of the cities and towns in their dealings with the Federal Government, the Federal Parliament and the Federal Council (Bundesrat), the European Union, and numerous other organisations.
- The Association of German Cities advises its members and keeps them informed on all matters and developments of importance to local government.
- The Association of German Cities facilitates the exchange of experience between its members and promotes it in numerous official bodies.

How we work

Article 28 paragraph 2 of the German Constitution guarantees local self-government. The Association of German Cities devotes itself to ensuring that the federal and state governments and the European Union respect and implement this guarantee in their work.

Main objectives of the Association

Cities and towns must remain effective actors, because it is they who provide most public services for citizens. To cope with the growing challenges, federal and state governments need to see cities as partners. And if new tasks are delegated to local authorities, then the relevant funds must also be provided.

The Association of German Cities

- influences lawmaking by stating its position on draft legislation, by holding discussions with the parliament and the government and through public-relations work,
- promotes modern public administration that is responsive to the needs of citizens,
- collaborates with the cities and towns to develop ideas to meet new challenges of local politics.

Organisation

President Burkhard Jung
Mayor of the City of Leipzig

Vice-President Markus Lewe
Mayor of the City of Münster

Executive Director Helmut Dedy

Areas of Activity

- finance
- school, culture, sports and equality
- work, youth, health and social affairs
- urban development, building, housing and transports
- environment and economy, energy, fire and civil protection
- law and administration
- refugees, immigration and integration
- Europe and international relations
- demographic change, city and citizens
- press- and PR-work

• The Association of German Cities relies on the unpaid work of innumerable representatives in the General Assembly, and on the Executive Committee and the Board. It is led by its President, who chairs these decision-taking bodies.

• Council members and full-time experts on urban administration meet on professional committees, in working groups, at conferences and on advisory boards. This is where opinions are formed within the Association of German Cities.

• We also employ a total of around 120 full-time staff at our two head offices in Berlin and Cologne, and our European office in Brussels. This workforce is organised into seven departments, headed by the Executive Director.