

Application For A Sister City Relationship*



City Clerk's Office
 City Hall, Room 205
 200 E. Wells Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Name Polish-American Congress, WI-Division
 Mailing Address 703 S. Lake Shore Dr., Unit 1E, Lake Geneva, WI 53147
 Website pacwisconsin.com

PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION

Name David Rydzewski, President Phone 414-964-2447
 Mailing Address 5423 N. Diversey Blvd. Whitfish Bay, WI 53217 Email david.rydzewski@att.net

PROPOSED SISTER CITY

Name LUBLIN Country POLAND Population 350,000

EXISTING OR PRIOR U.S. SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

Existing _____ Prior _____

Please attach the following information:

Information about the proposed sister city:

- Demographics
- Geographic description
- Historical background
- Governmental structure
- Educational system
- Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and the proposed sister city in the areas of culture and business
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the proposed relationship
- Information regarding the local organizational structure in the proposed sister city that will support the relationship

Information about the applicant organization:

- Organizational status (e.g. 501c-3). List Board of Directors and attach bylaws
- Number of members and their professional and business background
- Goals of the organization regarding the proposed sister city relationship
- Current activities of the organization in relation to the proposed sister city
- Methods the organization will use to meet the goals of the proposed sister city relationship
- Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship
- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange programs

**Note: Prior to filing an application, a letter of intent to establish a sister city relationship should be submitted to the Sister Cities Committee.*



BY-LAWS

POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS – WISCONSIN STATE DIVISION

BY-LAWS

Article I

General Provisions

Sec. 1. Name: Wisconsin State Division of the Polish American Congress, Inc.

Sec. 2. Status: the Wisconsin State Division is a part of and is subject to the rules and By-Laws of the Polish American Congress, Inc. The State Division may form one or more Chapters in accordance with the provisions in the By-Laws of the Congress.

Sec. 3. Nature: Civic, Social, Cultural and Educational

Sec. 4. Definitions: Certain words used in these By-Laws have the following meaning:

a) “State Division” means the Wisconsin State Division which is a division of the Polish American Congress, Inc., whose national office is in Chicago, Illinois. “Congress” means the Polish American Congress, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois.

b) “Organization” means a corporation or an unincorporated association of persons. Such an organization may be a component part of another organization.

c) “Member” means an organization or an individual who has been certified to be an adult member of the Congress by the National Executive Committee.

d) * “Delegate” means a person who is designated as a delegate by an organization member in the State Division or an individual member of the State Division, and who is subject to the By-Laws of the Wisconsin State Division and the Polish American Congress, Inc.

e) The use of the word “person” shall mean individuals of the masculine and feminine gender.

*The main office of the Wisconsin State Division shall be located in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

Article II

Purposes and Objectives

Sec. 1. To give complete support of the government of the United States in its efforts to win and maintain a just and durable peace and to fight the infiltrations of Communism, Nazism and other subversive ideologies.

Sec. 2. To stimulate and unify action of persons of Polish ancestry in the United States within the lawful limit of their rights and duties as citizens, permanent residents and visitors to this country.

Sec. 3. To concern itself with the welfare of Americans of Polish ancestry in political, religious, educational, social and economic matters with the view of encouraging the growth of their fraternal, professional, ideological and civic associations:

(a) To support and protect their publications, schools, parishes, particularly those which teach the Polish language, history and culture.

(b) To support the industry and trade in the United States conducted by persons of Polish ancestry.

(c) To educate and instruct persons of Polish ancestry with their rights, privileges and duties of American citizenship.

(d) To support the efforts of Americans of Polish heritage in their effort to achieve those goals as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

Sec. 4. To protect the good name of Americans of Polish ancestry and the people of Poland against defamation and discrimination.

Sec. 5. To take a positive stand in matters pertaining to the people of Poland and assist them in demanding and in establishing their national independence, civic, religious and cultural developments free from any interference of their neighbors.

Sec. 6. To furnish information to the American public of Poland's historic role, her aims, needs, right to independence and integrity of her frontiers.

Sec. 7. To be active in the direction of closer and deeper cooperation of American democracy with the people of Poland in the fields of civic, ideological, cultural, social and economic life.

Sec. 8. To establish a special fund for the purpose of carrying out the aims and objectives defined by the Polish-American Congress, Inc.

Article III

Members

Sec. 1. Composition of the Division: The Wisconsin State Division shall be composed of members of the Congress residing within the state or in close geographical proximity to it. Only organization members or individuals certified to be members of the Congress by its Executive Committee shall be members of the Division.
(National By-Laws, Art. VI, Sec. 1)

Sec. 2. Classes of Members: the Wisconsin State Division shall have three classes of members as established by the Congress: 1) Polish American Organizations (represented by delegates), 2) Individual, and 3) Associate.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, Sec. 1)

(a) Polish-American Organization shall be defined as any organization consisting of a substantial number of persons of Polish origin or of Polish ancestry.

Representation of Organizational Members in the Division.
(National By-Laws, Art. VI, Sec. 1)

1. Parishes and representative component sections of National Organizations shall be entitled to three (3) Delegates plus one (1) for each one hundred (100) members, but no more than ten (10) Delegates.

2. All Independent societies, clubs and various other not-for-profit organizations shall be entitled to two (2) Delegates plus one (1) for each one hundred (100) members, but no more than ten (10) delegates.

3. Educational, religious and charitable institutions shall be entitled to two (2) delegates.

(b) Individual member is defined as any individual person of Polish ancestry or anyone related by blood or marriage to a person of Polish ancestry.

(c) Associate member is defined as a supporting member without the right to vote. This class may include individuals, corporations and labor organizations.

(d) Honorary membership may be conferred by the National Executive Council upon selected individuals. The Division may submit names of appropriate persons to the National Executive Council for its consideration.

Sec. 3. Qualification for membership: The qualification for each class shall be the definition of that specific class as given in section 2. In addition, all members must be either citizens or permanent residents of the United States of America, except for Associate members.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, sec. 2)

Sec. 4. Acceptance of Members: All applications for membership of classes (a), (b) and (c) shall be on a form supplied by the Congress, which shall include such information as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The application for membership, together with the applicable dues, shall be submitted to the executive body of the Division.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, Sec. 3)

(a) The Division shall consider the application and make its recommendation by simple majority vote.

(b) After consideration by the Division Executive Board, the application and its recommendation shall be forwarded to the National Executive Committee to accept and certify the applicant as a member. If the recommendation is for rejection, no reason need be given. All applications shall be treated and considered in a confidential manner.

(c) The National Executive Committee shall notify the applicant and the Division of its decision, and issue a membership card upon receipt of the applicant's dues.

Sec. 5. Voting Rights: Each Organization Delegate and Individual member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter that is submitted to a vote of the members.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, Sec. 4)

Sec. 6. Termination of Membership: The Division, by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the Executive Board, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing and, by a majority vote of those present at any regularly constituted meeting of the Division, may terminate the membership of any member who becomes ineligible for membership, or suspend or expel any member who shall be delinquent in the payment of dues. Procedure for said termination shall be pursuant to article IX of the National By-Laws.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, Sec. 5)

Sec. 7. Transfer of Membership: Membership in the Polish American Congress is not transferable or assignable to another individual.
(National By-Laws, Art. II, Sec. 6)

Article IV

Dues

Sec. 1. Members of the Wisconsin State Division shall pay annual dues in the amounts as designated by the Congress and such additional amount set by the Division.

Sec. 2. The State Division or Chapter shall collect dues and forward the required portion to the National Treasurer.

Sec. 3. All dues shall be paid no later than January 30 of each year. Thereafter, a member who is delinquent in dues may be suspended upon a written thirty day notice, and remain suspended until all past dues are paid.

Article V

The Governing Bodies of the Wisconsin State Division

1. Annual Membership Meeting
2. Periodical and Special Meeting
3. Executive Board
4. Executive Committee
5. Audit Committee

Article VI

Annual Membership Meeting

Sec. 1. Time of Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin State Division at which the election of officers is held, shall take place once a year in the month of April.

Sec. 2. Officers of Meeting: The president of the Division shall call the meeting to order and preside until special officers for the meeting are elected: chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, secretary, sergeant-at-arms, and as many assistants as the assembly deems needed, and three election judges.

Sec. 3. Verifying Committee: One vice-president, the treasurer, and the sergeant-at-arms of the Division shall constitute the Verifying Committee (also known as the Mandates Committee), which will verify the legitimacy of delegate members at the meeting. Organizational delegates and Individual members shall be given name tags properly identifying them.

Sec. 4. Agenda/Order of Business of the Meeting:

- (a) Opening
- (b) Roll call of officers
- (c) Report of Verifying Committee
- (d) Election of officers to conduct the meeting
- (e) Reading of Minutes of last Annual Meeting
- (f) Report of officers and committees
- (g) Report of Audit Committee
- (h) Discussion acceptance of reports
- (i) Report of Nominating Committee
- (j) Election of Officers and Audit Committee
- (k) Election of Directors to the National Council 1
- (l) Approval of budget for the fiscal year
- (m) Old Business, subject submitted in writing
- (n) New Business, subject submitted in writing
- (o) Adjournment

Sec. 5. Quorum: Twenty-five percent (25%) of eligible delegates present shall constitute a quorum. Otherwise, with a delay of thirty (30) minutes, the meeting will be considered valid and may be conducted.

Article VII

Officers of the Executive Board and Their Duties

Sec. 1. There shall be the following officers:

- (a) President
- (b) Two Vice-Presidents (a man and a woman)
- (c) General Secretary
- (d) Recording Secretary
- (e) Treasurer

Footnote 1, re Sec. 4 (k). The National By-Laws (Art. 5) provide for a two-year (2) term for each Director to the National Council.

- (f) Sergeant-at-Arms
- (g) Executive Board (six Directors or more at option of delegates)

Sec. 2. If necessary, the Board may fill vacancies by appointment.

Sec. 3. The President presides at all meetings (the Annual Meeting until it is organized) and shall make a report at each meeting. The President has the right and duty to appoint all committee chairpersons and members, except the Audit Committee. He shall serve as ex-officio member on appointed committees except Audit and Nominations Committees.

Sec. 4. The Executive Board, at its first meeting following election to office, shall designate one vice-president as the Executive Vice-President to serve as President when the elected President is absent or unable to perform the duties of office.
(Enacted at Annual Meeting of 4-26-86)

Sec. 5. The General Secretary shall maintain the membership list, general mailing list, and is responsible for correspondence and such other duties as assigned.

Sec. 6. The Recording Secretary shall take the minutes of board and membership meetings.

Sec. 7. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Receive dues and donations
- (b) Maintain an accurate record of receipts and disbursements
- (c) Maintain the checking and savings accounts
- (d) Pay out all obligations within the budget or by approval of membership meetings
- (e) At the end of the fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st) and before the Annual Membership Meeting, report the status of all accounts and present all books to the Audit Committee

Sec. 8. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall verify all membership cards and let no non-members into attendance at a meeting. He shall maintain order and parliamentary conduct during meetings. He also serves on the Verifying Committee at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Sec. 9. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members elected at the Annual Membership Meeting for a term of one year. It shall be their duty to monitor the economic and financial status of the Wisconsin State Division. They shall audit all books at the end of the fiscal year and report at the Annual Membership Meeting, recommending approval (or disapproval).

Sec. 10. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the General and Recording Secretaries and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee is responsible for steering all activities and implementing the policies and programs prescribed by the Annual Meeting of the delegates.

Sec. 11. The Executive Board shall prepare and submit at the Annual Meeting a budget for the next fiscal year. Expenditures outside of budget shall be subjected to the approval at membership meetings.

Sec. 12. Board members who miss three meetings without an excuse shall be retired from their office.

Article VIII

Election of Officers

Sec. 1. At the Annual Membership Meeting delegates may nominate, from among the verified members, candidates for the offices listed in Article VIII, Sec. 1. If more than one candidate is nominated for office, there shall be a secret ballot.

Sec. 2. All officers shall be elected for one year until the next Annual Meeting.

Sec. 3. Members of the Executive Board shall carry out such duties as are assigned to them by the President or by the Board (e.g., duties on various committees).

Article IX

Periodic and Board Meetings

Sec. 1 There shall be held at least one Membership Meeting each quarter by and through written notice. The time and place of such meeting shall be determined by the Executive Board or by the Membership.

Sec. 2. Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin State Division are to be held as required on the call of the President. Three Board members can also request a Board Meeting to consider specific agenda items or by request of the Audit Committee.

Sec. 3. The President can call an emergency special meeting of the membership after consultation with the Executive Board.

Sec. 4. In order for financial transactions to be considered at a meeting, a quorum of at least 25% of eligible delegates is required.

Sec. 5. Agenda/Order of Business at meetings shall be:

- (a) Opening of the meeting
- (b) Roll call of officers
- (c) Reading of minutes
- (d) Report of officers and correspondence
- (e) Report of committee chairmen
- (f) Old business
- (g) New business
- (h) Adjournment

Sec. 6. Delegates, members and officers can address the meetings either in Polish or in English. Any statement or communication shall be translated to either language when requested.

Article X

Committees

Sec. 1. There may be the following committees:

- (a) Polish Affairs
- (b) Membership
- (c) Programs
- (d) Culture and Education
- (e) By-Law and Regulations
- (f) Press and Radio
- (g) Complaints

The President may establish other committees with the approval of the Executive Board.

Article XI

Violations

Sec. 1. The following are declared to be the offenses against the Congress or State Divisions for which a member or delegate may be punished by removal from office he may hold, or reprimanded, suspended or expelled:

(a) Violations of the National By-Laws of the Congress, the By-Laws and Regulation of the Wisconsin State Division, or enactments of the Congress. Actions that impair the purpose and objectives of the Congress and the purposes and objectives of the Wisconsin State Division.

(b) Embezzlement or willful withholding of any funds or other property of the Congress or of the Wisconsin State Division upon demand therefore by proper authority.

(c) Giving willful untruthful information in the application for membership to the Congress.

Article XII

Remarks

Sec. 1. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order unless they are preempted by the By-Laws.

Sec. 2. All complaints by the membership or delegates shall be directed to the Executive Board for decision. Such decisions shall be final unless they are appealed to the National Executive Committee within sixty days. The National Executive Committee shall have the final decision.

Sec. 3. All payments must be signed at least by two of the authorized officers who are: President, Treasurer and Executive Vice-President.

Sec. 4. All members of the Board shall turn over property of the Wisconsin State Division to the new Board after their terms expire.

Sec. 5. All delegates shall take an active part in all activities of the Wisconsin State Division.

Sec. 6. Any member or chairman of a committee engaged in a fundraising campaign for the benefit of the Polish American Congress must obtain consent from the Executive Board for such an undertaking.

Sec. 7. All monies collected from solicitations or other fund-raising functions for the benefit of the Polish American Congress shall be deposited in the bank in the PAC's account and at the final disposition of said function all records of receipts and disbursements must be submitted to the Audit Committee for checking and its approval within thirty days.

Sec. 8. Any publication or communication pertaining to cultural or political matters shall be written on the official letterhead of the Polish American Congress. At no time shall a member use his or her name in any form or fashion for personal gains or benefit without consent of the Executive Board.

Sec. 9. The President of the Board, known also as President of the Wisconsin State Division of the Polish American Congress, officially represents the Wisconsin State Division before the public.

Sec. 10. These By-Laws may be changed by two-thirds vote at the Annual Membership Meeting. Delegates may propose changes in writing to the By-Laws and Regulations Committee no later than fifteen days before the Annual Membership Meeting or by the By-Laws and Regulations Committee's recommendation.

Sec. 11. To dissolve the Wisconsin State Division of the Polish American Congress, a majority of two-thirds of eligible delegates is required in a Special Membership Meeting for this purpose. In case of dissolution, all assets shall be disposed according to the National By-Laws of the Polish American Congress.

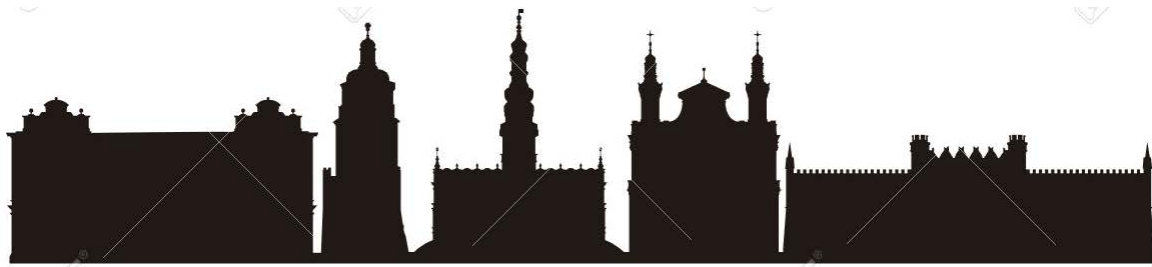
This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the By-Laws of the Wisconsin State Division of the Polish American Congress.

Dated: April 24, 1993.

_____(S)_____
President

Countersigned:

_____(S)_____
General Secretary



ABOUT LUBLIN

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Lublin has over **340,000 residents**, making it the **9th Polish city in terms of the population size**. More than twice the number of residents (712,000) live in the Lublin Metropolitan Area, which is comprised of the City of Lublin and 41 boroughs with 4 adjoining districts (Lubelski, Lubartowski, Łęczyński and Świdnicki).

Lublin has over 70,000 students (around 25% of city residents), which encompasses 4,500 foreigners from nearly 100 countries. Lublin is a young city. 52% of the population is below 40 years of age, while 62.4% are working age.

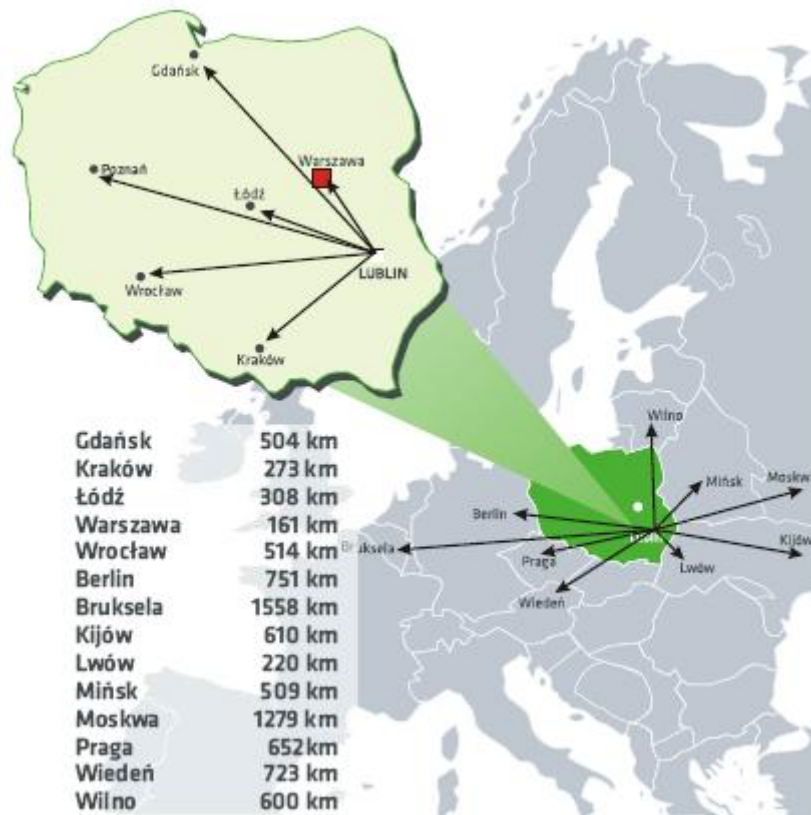
LOCATION:

Lublin is the largest city in Eastern Poland, and the capital of the Voivodship (province) of Lublin; it is the 'Gateway of the European Union into the East', the capital of Eastern Poland.

The city is located in Eastern Poland near the northern end of the Lublin Upland. The valley of the river Bystrzyca divides the city into two parts, different in terms of their landscape: the left bank, with its varied natural topography, deep valleys and old loess gorges, and the right bank which is part of the Świdnicki plateau. Historically, Lublin

belongs to Lesser Poland and is the capital of the region of Lubelszczyzna. A great advantage of the city is its location close to the eastern boarder of the European Union.

Important international transit routes meet here. Thanks to the constantly developed transport infrastructure, convenient road and rail connections with Central and Southern Poland have been established, while Lublin Airport, opened in December 2012, ensures easy access to key European cities and transport hubs: Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Oslo and Stockholm.



Lublin is well connected to other regions thanks to the extensive **rail and road network**, created through regular investments in the infrastructure.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Lublin is an academic center recognized in Poland and abroad, with a rich educational offer. The city's main assets are five universities: University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska,

Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin University of Technology, Medical University, University of Life Sciences; and a number of other higher education institutions.

- more than **70,000 students** (about 25% of the city's population)
 - **9 higher education institutions**, including 5 public and 4 private universities
 - **148** undergraduate, master's, and straight-to-master's programs
 - **40** doctoral programs
 - **4,500 foreigners** from nearly **100 countries**
 - more than **20,000 graduates** each year
 - students are multilingual: **91%** speak English, **20%** Russian and **31%** German
-

ECONOMY

Economically, Lublin offers a rapidly developing services sector, with favorable conditions for making profitable business. Buoyant international cooperation brings many benefits to the city's multidimensional development, as Lublin signed agreements with numerous cities with its eastern and the western neighbors.

Lublin is a city of active and ambitious people. 71% of its residents are aged between 15-64, while as much as 27% of the population have completed higher education. Similar to the rest of the country, the employment rate in the services sector is growing in Lublin. This is confirmed by the statistics for individual branches which indicate an increase of nearly 14% in the number of employees at service companies between the years 2005-2012. The unemployment rate remains stable, oscillating between 8.6-10%. According to the statistics, the local market is characterised by a low employee turnover rate – native Lublin residents are not willing to migrate for work. 1 in 5 city inhabitants changes their employer only once in their lifetime and 1 in 3 works at the same place all their life.

Currently, there are over 43,000 companies registered in the city, among which as much as 96% are micro-companies employing less than 10 people. Small companies

constitute a minor group - 3%, with less than 50 employees; this guarantees a high diversification of the local economy.

Important international transit routes meet here. Thanks to the constantly developed transport infrastructure, convenient road and rail connections with Central and Southern Poland have been established, while Lublin Airport, opened in December 2012, ensures easy access to key European cities and transport hubs: Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Oslo and Stockholm.

Lublin is well connected to other regions thanks to the extensive rail and road network, created through regular investments in the infrastructure.

STANDARD OF LIVING

According to 'The Report on big Polish cities' by PwC of 2011, **the state of the natural environment in our city is very good**. The sense of security is another aspect of the quality of life which received high marks from the PwC experts. Factors such as quality of healthcare and the quality of education are ranked well above average. In practical terms this means that the residents are more satisfied with the place where they live, work and spend their free time.

Our residents are happy and experience a higher standard of living than the inhabitants of many other Polish cities. For investors this means just one thing – the possibility to employ good, trustworthy and effective employees.

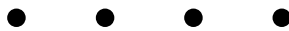
The sectors with the highest employment potential in Lublin are: transport, logistics and warehousing, real estate, educational services and grocery services. The best dynamics in terms of employee growth are apparent today and may be visible in the near future in the sectors of grocery services, counselling, management, accounting, finance, the automotive industry and IT.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Lublin City Council

The City Council is a law-making organ at the local administration level that also performs auditing functions. City Council is made up of elected Councilors who act under the provisions of Act on Commune Self-government and Act on Powiat Self-government.

The Lublin City Council is comprised of 31 councilors – 15 affiliated to Law and Order [pol. Prawo Sprawiedliwość], 13 from Civic Platform [pol. Platforma Obywatelska] and 3 from Common Lublin [pol. Wspólny Lublin].



Mayor of Lublin City



Dr. Krzysztof Żuk

The following, in particular, falls within Mayor's brief:

1. drafting resolutions of the City Council;
2. defining in what manner such resolutions are to be implemented;
3. managing of municipal property;
4. implementing city budget;
5. employment and dismissal of managers heading city's organizational units.

The Mayor manages the on-going activities of the City and represents the City in external contacts; moreover, the Mayor develops Emergency Response Plan in the event of Floods as well as issues and revokes flood warnings. He also overlooks proper financial management of municipal finances utilizing a number of competencies that fall within Mayor's prerogative only.

The Mayor carries out his tasks by means of the City Office. He also acts as Director of the Office and fulfils duties of the official superior to the Office employees as well as to Heads of Municipal Organizational Units. The Mayor, as an executive body and Director of the City Office, issues by-laws, administrative decisions, resolutions and certificates.



Election:

Elections are held every 4 years (always on Sunday). Next municipal election is on November 11, 2018.

Right to vote: each Polish citizen and a citizen of the European Union countries (not a Polish citizen), who is 18 years old on the Election Day, permanent resident and registered to vote.



HISTORY



[the oldest image of Lublin's coat of arms (1401)]

In 2017 Lublin celebrates the 700th anniversary of being granted city rights by the King of Poland Władysław I the Elbow-high. Accordingly, the entire calendar year is filled with numerous celebratory events, and the grand culmination of various festivities will be taking place in August.

General information about Lublin

Lublin, administrative center of the voivodship and the capital of the Lublin Region, and home to 365 thousand inhabitants, is the biggest town in Eastern Poland. The location of the town atop loessial rolling hills of the Lublin Upland in the valley of the Bystrzyca and its tributaries is one of its assets. During the 5th and 7th centuries the inhabitants of Lublin grew in numbers, and by 1317 Lublin was granted municipal status. In 1474 Lublin became the capital of the voivodship, a role it has continuously played to this day. During the years of the first Republic, Lublin, which was centrally located, was inhabited by different nationalities and religious denominations that constituted a rich and varied community.

Lublin is an academic center recognized in Poland and abroad, with a rich educational offer. The city's main assets are five universities: Maria Curie-Skłodowska-University,

Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin University of Technology, Medical University, University of Life Sciences; and a number of other higher education institutions.

On an international scale, Lublin is the winner of the Golden Star of Partnership, the European Diploma, the Flag of Honor and the Plaque of Honor of the European Council for international cooperation.

In more detail:

Archaeological finds indicate a long presence of cultures in the area. A complex of settlements started to develop on the future site of Lublin and in its environs in the 6th-7th centuries. The oldest historical document mentioning Lublin dates from 1198, so the name must have come into general use some time earlier

The location of Lublin at the eastern borders of the Polish lands gave it military significance. During the first half of the 13th century, Lublin was a target of attacks by Mongols, Ruthenians and Lithuanians, which resulted in its destruction.^[3] It was also ruled by Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia between 1289 and 1302. Lublin was founded as a town by Władysław I the Elbow-high or between 1258 and 1279 during the rule of prince Bolesław V the Chaste. Casimir III the Great, appreciating the site's strategic importance, built a masonry castle in 1341 and encircled the city with defensive walls.^[4] From 1326, if not earlier, the stronghold on Castle Hill included a chapel in honor of the Holy Trinity. A stone church dated to the years 1335-1370 exists to this day.

Situated on Europe's major routes that connected the West with the countries of the North and South-East, in the mid-14th century Lublin became a hub of brisk international trade.

Lublin, until the partitions at the end of the 18th century, was a royal city of the Crown Kingdom of Poland. Its delegates and nobles had the right to participate in the Royal Election. In 1578 Lublin was chosen as the seat of the Crown Tribunal, the highest appeal court in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth and for centuries the city has been flourishing as a centre of culture and higher learning, together with Kraków, Warsaw and Lviv.

Since the second half of the 16th century, Protestant Reformation movements devolved in Lublin, and a large congregation of Polish Brethren was present in the city. One of Poland's most important Jewish communities was also established in Lublin around this time. Jews established a widely respected yeshiva, Jewish hospital, synagogue, cemetery and education centre (kahal) and built the Grodzka Gate (known as the Jewish Gate) in the historic district. Jews were a vital

part of the city's life until the Holocaust, during which they were relocated to the infamous Lublin Ghetto and ultimately murdered.

The yeshiva became a centre of learning of both Talmud and Kabbalah, leading the city to be called "the Jewish Oxford"; in 1567, the rosh yeshiva (headmaster) received the title of rector from the king along with rights and privileges equal to those of the heads of Polish universities.

In the 17th century, the town declined due to a Russo-Ukrainian invasion in 1655 and a Swedish invasion during the Northern Wars. After the third of the Partitions of Poland in 1795 Lublin was located in the Austrian empire, then since 1809 in the Duchy of Warsaw, and then since 1815 in the Congress Poland under Russian rule. At the beginning of the 19th century new squares, streets and public buildings were built. In 1877 a railway connection to Warsaw and Kovel and Lublin Station were constructed, spurring industrial development. Lublin's population grew from 28,900 in 1873 to 50,150 in 1897 (including 24,000 Jews).

Russian rule ended in 1915, when the city was occupied by German and Austro-Hungarian armies. After the defeat of the Central Powers in 1918, the first government of independent Poland operated in Lublin for a short time. In the interwar years, the city continued to modernise and its population grew; important industrial enterprises were established, including the first aviation factory in Poland, the Plage i Laśkiewicz works, later nationalised as the LWS factory. The Catholic University of Lublin was founded in 1918.

After the 1939 German and Soviet invasion of Poland the city found itself in the General Government territory controlled by Nazi Germany. The population became a target of severe Nazi repressions focusing on Polish Jews. An attempt to "Germanise" the city led to an influx of the ethnic *Volksdeutsche* increasing the number of German minority from 10–15% in 1939 to 20–25%. Near Lublin, the so-called 'reservation' for the Jews was built based on the idea of racial segregation also known as the "Nisko or Lublin Plan".^[6]

The Jewish population was forced into the newly set Lublin Ghetto near Podzamcze. The city served as headquarters for Operation Reinhardt, the main German effort to exterminate all Jews in occupied Poland. The majority of the ghetto inmates, about 26,000 people, were deported to the Belżec extermination camp between 17 March and 11 April 1942. The remainder were moved to facilities around the Majdanek concentration camp established at the outskirts of the city. Almost all of Lublin's Jews were murdered during the Holocaust in Poland. After the war, some survivors emerged from hiding with the Christian rescuers or returned from the Soviet Union, and reestablished a small Jewish community in the city, but their numbers were insignificant. Most left Poland for Israel and the West.^[7]

On 24 July 1944, the city was taken by the Soviet Army and became the temporary headquarters of the Soviet-controlled communist Polish Committee of National Liberation established by Joseph Stalin, which was to serve as basis for a puppet government. The capital of new Poland was moved to Warsaw in January 1945 after the Soviet westward offensive.

Although Lublin was not spared from severe destruction during World War II, its picturesque and historical Old Town has been preserved. The district is one of Poland's official national Historic Monuments, as designated May 16, 2007, and tracked by the National Heritage Board of Poland.

In the postwar years, Lublin continued to grow, tripling its population and greatly expanding its area. A considerable scientific and research base was established around the newly founded Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

❖ Areas of Mutual Interest

At its initial stages the cooperation shall focus primarily on cultural exchanges. This would encompass the presence of representatives of Lublin's local government at the Polish Fest. Subsequently, a reciprocal visit of the Milwaukee delegation could take place in August of 2017.

PAC anticipates participation of several organizations that expresses interest in the Sister Cities initiative:

Polish Fest

Polanki

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Jewish Federation

Currently, we are involved in a variety of talks regarding possible projects and anticipate at least some of the cultural exchange initiatives come to fruition during the 2017 Polish Fest. Details are not certain at this time as bulk of arrangements depend on the ability of individuals from Lublin to travel to the United States, as well and their ability to transport equipment, art, etc.

At the future stages it is our goal to explore and establish business relations in the following areas:

- Food and beverage industry
- Craft beer
- Medical Equipment Solutions
- Technology and Research - IT sector
- Automotive and Engineering
- Biotechnology and Bioscience for Agriculture Industry

❖ Information about the applicant:

Polish – American Congress, Wisconsin Division

MISSION STATEMENT

The Polish American Congress, ever mindful of its unswerving past record of civic action on behalf of its founding aims, is dedicated to:

- Supporting the cause of Poland as a faithful ally of the United States.
- Promoting and supporting the success of worthy Americans of Polish descent in all areas of American life, particularly the political arena.
- Working with Americans of all backgrounds to build knowledge and appreciation of the rich Polish and Polish American cultural heritage and the historic friendship between the Polish and American peoples.

STRATEGY FOR WISCONSIN

Strategy for Polish American Congress Wisconsin Division

The Polish American Congress Wisconsin Division has the following aims for 2010. We invite you to become involved and thank you to those who have already given their time and energy!

- Increasing membership by organizing membership drives and holding public events,
- Connecting to all Polish organizations operating in Wisconsin,
- Connecting Wisconsin and Poland by increasing “sister city partnerships”
- Utilizing the internet resources to increase visibility for the Polish American Congress,
- Promoting Poland and Polish culture by showing the movie “Katyń” in Wisconsin throughout the year,
- Promoting Polish Saturday School in Milwaukee,
- Creating new fundraising strategies to underwrite initiatives and provide organizational support,
- Adapting the by-laws to allow for organizational mobility,
- Advocating for the preservation of Polish documents and memorabilia and cooperating with relevant institutions.

Attached: PAC-WI By-Laws

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