
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU MEMORANDUM

TO: ALD. MICHAEL MURPHY
FROM: TERRI GABRIEL – LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH ANALYST-SR. X8532
SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/COMMISSIONER QUALIFICATIONS
DATE: 4 JUNE 2004

This memo and attachment is in response to your request for the qualifications of public works directors or commissioners of 15 cities in the United States.

Attached is a table summarizing the requested information for Milwaukee and the following cities: Madison, WI; Green Bay, WI; Racine, WI; La Crosse, WI; Des Moines, IA; St. Paul, MN; Chicago, IL; Boston, MA; Las Vegas, NV; Denver, CO; New Orleans, LA; Spokane, WA; San Francisco, CA; and Little Rock, AR.

- Of the 15 cities, 3 codify the educational, credential or experience required for the position. Those cities are Milwaukee, LaCrosse and St. Paul.
- Three cities do not state an educational or credential requirement in their job descriptions. Those cities are Chicago, Boston and Denver.
- Five cities do not state the quality and quantity of experience requirement in their job descriptions. Those cities are Chicago, Boston, Denver, La Crosse and New Orleans.
- Ten cities require a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in engineering or related field in their job descriptions. Those cities are Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Racine, Des Moines, St. Paul, Las Vegas, Spokane, San Francisco and Little Rock.

LRB 04213
Attachment

Municipality	Job Title	Educational/Credential Requirements per Job Description	Experience Required per Job Description	Educational/Credential Requirements by Ordinance
1 Milwaukee	Commissioner of the Department of Public Works	Bachelor's degree in engineering and registration in Wisconsin as a professional engineer	Seven years of progressively responsible management experience overseeing a large multi-function public works or engineering organization	Must be a qualified registered professional engineer
2 Madison, WI	Public Works Director	Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration or related field	Minimum three years of responsible managerial experience in the local government public works	none
3 Green Bay, WI	Director of Public Works	Bachelor's degree in civil engineering; registration with the state as a professional engineer	Minimum eight years progressively responsible municipal engineering including four years progressively responsible experience as chief administrator or principal assistant to chief administrator of a public works department of comparable size	none
4 Racine, WI	Commissioner of Public Works	Bachelor's degree in civil engineering; registration as a professional engineer in the state	Ten years work experience in the civil engineering field, including five years in management of public works organization	none
5 LaCrosse, WI	Director of Public Works	Knowledge of civil engineering principles and practices; knowledge of administrative policies, practices and procedures; must be a registered professional engineer in Wisconsin	Level of experience required but not specified in terms of quantity or quality	The director shall have a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering and at least five years of municipal engineering experience, three of which shall have been in the supervision of a municipal department and shall be a registered civil engineer in the State of Wisconsin
6 Des Moines, IA	Public Works Director	Master's degree in engineering or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work	Extensive experience in public works operations with a management role or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the work	none
7 St. Paul, MN	Director - Department of Public Works	Bachelor's degree and seven years responsible experience in public administration involving planning, organizing and budgeting	Bachelor's degree and seven years responsible experience in public administration involving planning, organizing and budgeting	Bachelor's degree and seven years responsible experience in public administration involving planning, organizing and budgeting

Municipality	Job Title	Educational/Credential Requirements per Job Description	Experience Required per Job Description	Educational/Credential Requirements by Ordinance
Chicago, IL* *majority of Milwaukee's DPW functions performed by the Department of Transportation and Department of Streets and Sanitation	Commissioner of the Department of Transportation; Commissioner of the Department of Streets and Sanitation	none - requirements determined by the mayor	none - requirements determined by the mayor	none
9 Boston, MA	Public Works Commissioner	none - requirements determined by the mayor	none - requirements determined by the mayor Six years of increasingly responsible experience in public works management, municipal engineering, public administration, construction or a related field, including two years of administrative and supervisory responsibility	none
10 Las Vegas, NV	Director - Public Works Department	Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or training equivalent to a Bachelor's degree with major course work in civil engineering or a related field	none	none
11 Denver, CO	Manager - Public Works Department	none - requirements determined by the mayor Comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of engineering programs and modern methods and practices in engineering administration, as applied to public works; college degree in civil engineering desirable	none - requirements determined by the mayor	none
12 New Orleans, LA	Director - Department of Public Works	none	Level of experience required but not specified in terms of quantity or quality	none
13 Spokane, WA	Director - Public Works and Public Utilities Department	Bachelor's degree in engineering or business/public administration or related subject	Ten years experience in public sector or working with the public sector, including progressively responsible supervisory positions	none
14 San Francisco, CA	Director - Public Works	Requires completion of a four-year college or university, with a baccalaureate degree, with major course work in one of the common fields of engineering; requires registration as a professional engineer in California	Requires fifteen years of progressively responsible professional engineering experience, including at least ten years of management level administrative experience; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.	none

Municipality	Job Title	Educational/Credential Requirements per Job Description	Experience Required per Job Description	Educational/Credential Requirements by Ordinance
15 Little Rock, AR	Director - Public Works	Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related area; must have valid Arkansas driver's license and registration as a professional engineer in the state of Arkansas OR any equivalent combination of experience and training	Four years of managerial or administrative experience in planning and directing public works programs and services; two years of supervisory experience including supervision of management level staff OR any equivalent combination of experience and training	none