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Municipal councilors - local politicians or social activists

Abstract

The article focuses on defining the role of a councilor in a local government taking into account the role of a local politician and / or social activist. Six factors have been described which determine the perception of the councilor in these roles, i.e. the size of the commune in terms of the number of inhabitants, negative perception of politicians in Poland, transfer of nationwide disputes to the local ground, identification of the councilor, his motivations and conflict in the commune. Two research hypotheses were positively verified. The first research hypothesis assumed that none of the interviewees perceives the councilor primarily as a local politician. The second hypothesis was: the larger the commune, the more often the councilor is perceived as a politician and social activist.

In the theoretical part of the article, the behavioral and institutional-analytical methods will be used. In the empirical part, the author of the article relied on her own research, using in-depth interviews conducted in 2019-2021.

Key words: council, social activist, local politicians