

Western Australian Local Government Elections

Take a stand

Passionate about your local community?
Stand for local council and make
a real difference.

As a local government councillor
you can influence decisions in your
community about:

- the environment
- community development
- sport and recreation
- public health and safety
- essential infrastructure
- future planning

The best way to
influence change
is to be involved in
the decision-
making process.

Local government
councillors are
elected by people
who live and do
business in the
local council area.



Councillors play an important role

Councillors play an important community leadership role and influence the decisions that councils make about what happens locally.

A councillor gets involved in:

- determining local government policies
- developing and monitoring strategic plans and budgets
- making sure the council's resources are used fairly for the benefit of all community members, and
- overseeing the allocation of the local government's finances and resources.

The best way to influence change is to be part of the decision-making process. Being on a council is a way you can make sure community perspectives are heard and considered. It's your community and your local government. Be part of both.



Being a candidate will involve time, money and effort.



A big decision with many rewards

Becoming a councillor is a big decision and for the extra work, there are many rewards.

Taking on a community leadership role means there are demands on your time to read local government documents and attend monthly council meetings, community functions and other meetings.

Many councillors also represent local government on boards and committees to be aware of community needs and goals. You may have to travel and speak publicly, but you also get to make decisions that are for the benefit of everyone in your local community.

Succeeding in this role is about balancing responsibilities, obligations and commitments.

You will receive training on being a councillor.

Your role as a councillor

Once elected as a councillor your role will involve:

- Presenting your arguments and debating with other councillors.
- Reading and understanding reports, plans, policies including budgets, strategic plans and local laws.
- Public speaking at community events and being in the public eye.
- Dealing with issues that sometimes may not seem important to you.
- Managing expectations from within the council and community on issues. It is the job of all councillors to represent everyone in their communities.
- Dealing with the reality of what issues you can influence, what you can achieve and act on as a councillor.



Who can nominate as a candidate?

Local government elections are held every two years to elect councillors for four year terms. People can nominate to become a candidate, if they are:

- 18 or older
- enrolled to vote
- a resident or ratepayer of the council area, or an occupier of rateable land in the area

Some people may be ineligible and cannot be a candidate if:

- they are already an elected member of state or federal parliament
- they have been bankrupt
- they are in prison
- they have been convicted of a serious local government offence within the past five years
- they have been convicted on indictment of an offence for which the indictable penalty was (or included) imprisonment for life or imprisonment for more than five years
- they are a member of another local government council



Allow time for research and to find out local information.

Your nomination checklist

To nominate to be a councillor you must:

1. Fill out and include a nomination form.
2. Attach a candidate profile.
3. Pay a deposit of \$80.
4. Sign an authorisation form.
5. Contact the returning officer at your local government about processing your nomination.

Your next Local Government Elections will be held in October 2021 with 3 seats opening up for the Shire of Trayning.

A call for Nominations will be advertised according to the Election Guidelines later in the year.

If the number of positions equals (or is less than) the number of candidates nominated, you will automatically be appointed as a councillor. If the number of candidates is greater, you will have to think about campaigning for a position on council.

Don't be afraid to ask if you have any questions and are interested in becoming a Councillor.

To improve your chance of winning:

- Get to know the local area and issues really well.
- Attend some council meetings and get an idea of the meeting processes and issues discussed.
- Work out your campaign theme. The theme needs to reflect what the voters want to hear based on community issues.
- The community will want to know what you stand for so they can decide whether to vote for you.
- You will need to plan and market your campaign, and promote yourself.
- You will need to develop a profile and be seen. Get involved in community groups and organisations.
- Listen to community and individual concerns.
- Encourage people to enrol and vote for you. Let them know why their vote is important.
- Work out who can help promote you as a candidate. Consider publishing brochures, door knocking, meeting with people and local media opportunities.

More information

Call into the Shire office and ask for information or contact the Department of Local Government and Communities.

Department of Local Government and Communities

Telephone: (08) 6551 8700 Fax: (08) 6552 1555

Freecall (Country only): 1800 620 511

Email: info@dlgc.wa.gov.au Website: www.dlgc.wa.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 15 50



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LET'S VOTE – Local Government Elections