



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**

# Standing for council

Local Government Elections - October 2021



# What is local government?

- “Grass roots” level of government
- Closest to the community
- Local governments are established by the State Government to deliver services and facilities to communities.

# Why stand for council?

- Contribute to the development and well-being of your community
- Empower a sense of purpose and commitment to your community

# Role and responsibilities

- Represent the interests of all electors, ratepayers and residents
- Participate in council's decision making process
- Contribute to council's strategic direction and planning with community input
- Perform other functions as directed under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

# Values and characteristics

- Openness and transparency in decision making
- Tolerance and respect in all relationships
- Awareness of potential conflicts of interests
- Fairness in promoting community issues (consider diverse interests and needs across the community and make decisions in the best interests of the district)
- Observe principles of good governance and act with integrity

# Essential skills of a councillor

- Communicate, debate and actively participate in meetings
- Enhance discussion and assist discussions to reach closure
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships
- Manage interpersonal conflicts
- Exercise independent judgement

# Commitment to the role

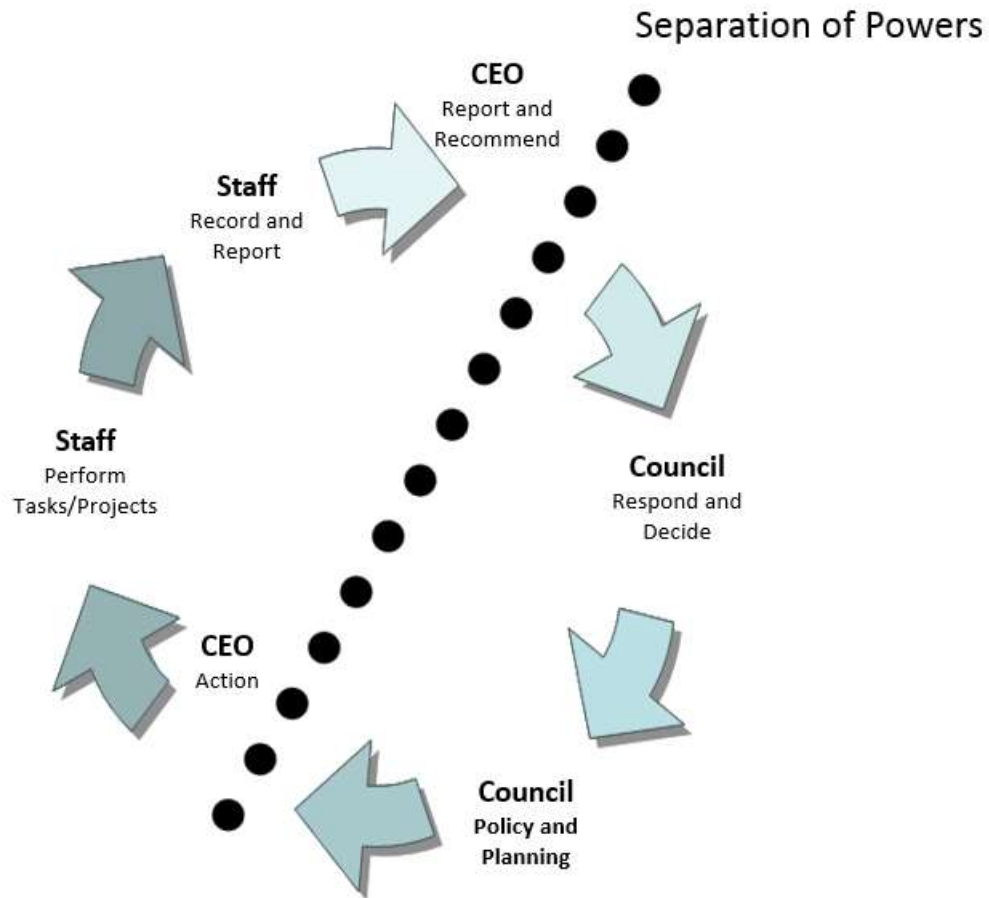
- Attend all meetings
- Listen to, and consider different points of view
- Participate in the decision making process at meetings
- Share the workload
- Networking and community consultation
- Participate in 'on the job' training and personal development opportunities

# Decisions you might make as a councillor

- Determining Policy
- Planning for the future
- Managing assets
- Governing finances
- Reviewing policy



# Local government decision making process



# What to expect if you are elected

- New councillors will need to:
  - Make a Declaration of Office
  - Complete universal training
- Be briefed by the Mayor/President and/or CEO during an induction
- Attend the first council meeting after election (this meeting usually introduces new council members and makes new appointments to various committees)

# Support for candidates

- **Department's website**

- Local Government Induction for Prospective Candidates

[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections/local-government-candidate-induction](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections/local-government-candidate-induction)

- Election information

[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/council-elections)

- General support

[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/support-and-advice](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/local-government/local-governments/support-and-advice)

- **Other websites**

- Each local government has information about its own election

- WA Electoral Commission for local government elections

[www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)

- For support provided by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA)

[www.walga.asn.au](http://www.walga.asn.au)

- WA local government legislation

[www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law\\_a465.html](http://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_a465.html)

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