



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

# **Local Government Elections – October 2019**

## **Information for prospective candidates**



# About the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



- **Role and responsibilities**
  - Provides advice and support to local governments.
  - Oversees the administration of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
  - Works in partnership with local governments to improve the capacity of local governments.
  - Not involved in the day to day operations of individual councils.



# Local Government Act Review

- In 2017 the McGowan Government announced a review of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Objective is for Western Australia to have a new, modern Act that empowers local governments to better deliver for the community.
- Priority reforms have recently been passed by Parliament.
  - Candidate induction
  - Universal training for council members
  - Council member code of conduct
  - Improvements to CEO recruitment and performance review
  - Simplified gift framework
  - Changes to the Standards Panel
  - Greater transparency as more information will be easier to access



# Reforms relevant to Candidates

- **New candidate online induction**
  - All candidates must complete this PRIOR to nominating.
  - Available at [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au)
- **Universal training for council members**
  - All council members will need to complete training within 12 months of being elected.
- **Gifts Framework**
  - Will be introduced before the end of 2019.
- **New Code of Conduct**
- **Best Practice Standards for CEO Recruitment, Performance and Termination.**



# Hands Up Research Project

- **Collaboration involving DLGSC, UWA and WALGA**
- **Research project to find out more about elected members**
- **Aims to:**
  - Establish benchmark data about elected members
  - Determine the motivators and challenges of people putting their hands up for election and re-election
  - Identify success factors that support elected members' contributions to councils and enhance the quality of decision making.
- **Will collect data over four years starting with an online survey of both newly elected and nominated members.**
- **UWA research team led by Dr Jacqui Hutchinson.**

# Any Questions?

**Further information:**

**Department's website – Fact Sheets**

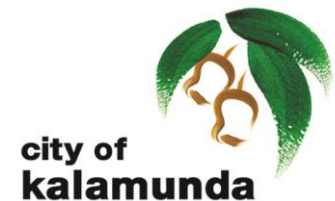
**[www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au)**

**Don't forget to do the online candidate induction prior to nominating!**





# 19 October 2019 Ordinary Election



# Eligibility

- 18 or over
- Enrolled as an elector of the district
- Cannot be a nominee of body corporate
- Have completed the mandatory online candidate induction course <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/>
- Is not a candidate in another election for councillor





# Disqualifications

- A member of parliament
- An insolvent under administration
- Convicted of a crime and is in prison serving a sentence for that crime
- Convicted in the preceding 5 years of a serious local government offence
- Have been convicted of an offence for which the penalty was imprisonment for more than 5 years
- An elected member of another local government
- Misapplication of funds or property



# Candidate Information USB

- Information for candidates and scrutineers
- Relevant forms
- Ballot paper Formality Guide



# An effective nomination

- Completed and signed nomination form
- Candidate profile
- Deposit \$80 cash
- Received by Returning Officer before closing of nominations



# Online WAEC nomination builder

- Online nomination builder available from <https://lgportal.waec.wa.gov.au/nomination/new>
- You can prepare the nomination form, profile and upload photograph online
- You **can not** nominate online
- Provide reference number at RO interview when submitting nomination



# Nominating for Election

## Online WAEC nomination builder



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

**Election Management System**

### Candidate Nomination

Create a new nomination, or retrieve and edit a nomination that you created previously.

Create New Nomination

Retrieve Existing Nomination

### Nomination Builder



# Profile

- Not more than 150 words
- Biographical information about the candidate
- Statement of candidate's policies or beliefs
- Not to be false or misleading
- Passport size photograph, head or head and shoulders (optional)
- Profile will be placed on the Council's noticeboard as well as included in the postal package



# Electoral Rolls

Free to candidates for campaigning purposes

- 1 Residents Roll
- 1 Owners and Occupiers Roll
- (for the ward or district they are contesting)



# Postal Voting

## Mail-out of packages

- Election packages to be lodged with Australia Post from Wednesday 25 September 2019
- Last weekend for effective campaigning  
5-6 October 2019





# Postal Voting

## Return of Voting Packages

- Packages can be posted to the Returning Officer or hand-delivered to the local government office
- Australia Post returned numbers posted on the Commission's website daily
- Typically about 50% of packages are returned within the first 5 business days after being received



# Postal voting

## Candidate Rules

- You cannot assist the elector to mark their ballot paper
- You or a representative cannot take custody of an envelope in which there is a postal vote
- Penalties apply



# Issue of Replacement Voting Packages

Local Government staff can issue replacement voting papers – the original election package will need to be cancelled first



# Election Day – Close of Poll 6.00pm

- Count process – first past the post; manual or electronic count (CountWA)
- Scrutineers
- The Returning Officer declares the results on the night
- Results are posted onto the Commission's election website [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)



# Post-Election Procedures

## Refund of deposits

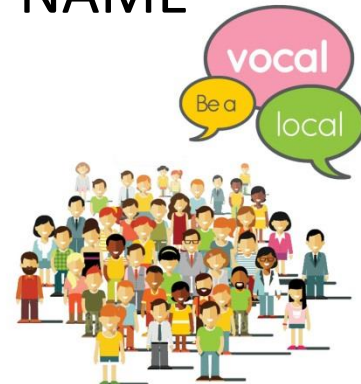
Deposits are refunded to:

- Any candidates elected
- Any non-elected candidates who receive at least 5% of the total number votes included in the count



# Electoral Material

- All election material must be properly authorised:  
This is Good Electoral Practice
- Handbills, pamphlets, notices, letters and other printed articles – must have NAME and ADDRESS of person authorising and the NAME and ADDRESS of printer
- The address must NOT be a post office box
- Newspaper advertising only requires the NAME and ADDRESS of the person authorising the advertisement



# Electoral Offences

- Bribery and undue influence
- Printing and publishing of unauthorised electoral material
- Print, publish or distribute misleading or deceptive material
- Canvassing in or near polling places
- Offences relating to postal votes
- Interference with electors and infringement of secrecy



# Scrutineers

- Appointment Form
  - Must be appointed by a candidate
- Refer to *Information for Scrutineers* for rights and obligations





# Disclosure of electoral gifts

- Chief Executive Officer maintains electoral gift register
- Gift Register is available for public viewing
- Refer all questions to the Chief Executive Officer



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# 19 October 2019

## Ordinary Election

Bayswater Returning Officer – Tony Thompson  
Mobile – 0419 042 268  
Email – LGro\_bay@elections.wa.gov.au

Bassendean Returning Officer – Andrew Wilson  
Mobile – 0428 888 401  
Email - LGro\_bas@elections.wa.gov.au

Belmont Returning Officer – Diane Gearon  
Mobile – 0419 048 637  
Email – LGro\_bel@elections.wa.gov.au

Kalamunda Returning Officer – Geoff Webb  
Mobile – 0414 771 291  
Email – LGro\_kala@elections.wa.gov.au

Swan Returning Officer – Adrian Malkovic  
Mobile – 0422 323 915  
Email – LGro\_swa@elections.wa.gov.au

