



Electoral Education Centre

www.elections.wa.gov.au

Local Government Elections

Local governments represent the local community. They are made up of elected councillors, and a Mayor or Shire President. The number of councillors and how the Mayor or Shire President is elected is decided by the council based on the rules outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Local governments are called shires, towns or cities, depending on population size and density.

Some local governments are divided into wards. In this case, councillors are elected to represent the people in a particular ward.

The local government will discuss and vote on matters that affect the local community. The people who are employed to administer local government are responsible for implementing the council's decisions and are led by the Chief Executive Officer.

Enrolling for local government elections

When you enrol to vote, you will typically be enrolled on the Commonwealth, State and local government rolls for your home address.

For local government elections, you may be eligible to vote in other local government districts or wards if you own or occupy property in an area different to where you live. Contact your local council for more information.

Local government elections

Councillors are elected for four year terms. Local government elections are held every two years, to elect half the members of the council. Polling day is the third Saturday in October.

Local government elections can be conducted by post, or in person. If an election is conducted by post, the election must be conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

The Commission will send all electors a postal voting package. Postal voting packages contain voting instructions, ballot papers, an elector certificate, a reply paid envelope and the candidate profiles for that election.

If an election is held in person, electors go to a polling place to vote on polling day. Normally, individual local governments will manage their own in person elections, but sometimes they request the Western Australian Electoral Commission to conduct an election on their behalf.

When a councillor dies or leaves the council before their term has ended, there is a casual or extraordinary vacancy. An extraordinary election is held to elect someone to fill the vacancy.

Nominating for a local government election

The *Local Government Act 1995* outlines the criteria a candidate must meet to be eligible to nominate. To nominate for a local government election, a candidate must submit a completed nomination form, a deposit of \$80.00 and a 150 word candidate profile to the Returning Officer before nominations close.