

# 2020 Council Elections

## Candidate FAQs

### Interested in becoming a candidate – what do I need to do?

The Victorian electoral commission (VEC) conduct the elections for all Victorian Councils and should be the first point of contact for individuals interested in registering as a candidate.

The VEC will be able to assist with:

- Determining candidates eligibility
- Provide information in relation to the election process
- Processing Nominations (must be lodged in person, at election office – details below)
- Conducting and declaration of the election

### Election Office (VEC)

- Located at 207 High Street, Shepparton
- Election office open to the public from Wed 16 Sept to Fri 23 Oct
- Weekdays, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, except for two late nights: 9.00 am to 8.00 pm on Thurs 22 Oct and 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Fri 23 Oct

### Do I need to live in the area?

Candidates must be on the voters roll for the council they wish to stand for.

### As a candidate, will I have access to voter's rolls?

Candidates may request access to the voters roll for election purposes. The voters roll will be provided to candidates using the VEC's secure data exchange server. Instructions on how to use the data exchange will be provided by email to the candidate.

### Where do I lodge my nomination form?

Nomination forms must be lodged in person by the candidate with the Election Manager at the election office situated at 207 High Street, Shepparton

### What is the nomination fee?

A nomination fee of \$250 must accompany each Nomination Form. The nomination fee must be paid in cash or by a cheque drawn on a bank, building society or credit union. Personal cheques or money orders cannot be accepted.

Cheque must be made payable to the Victorian Electoral Commission

### When do nominations open and close?

Nominations open 9am on 17 September and close at 12noon, Tuesday, 22 September.

Nominations must be lodged in person at the VEC Office.

Candidate statements and photographs, and the candidate questionnaires, are due by 12 noon on 23 Sept

### Do candidates have to undertake any compulsory training?

- Yes – All candidates must complete "Mandatory Candidate Training", this is being delivered through an eLearning module facilitated by Local Government Victoria (LGV).

### What Information Sessions are available for Candidates?

- **VLGA Candidate Information Session (General)**  
5.30pm, Wednesday 29 July  
To be held virtually
- **MAV Stand For Council**  
6.00pm, Monday 3 August  
To be held virtually
- **VLGA Local Women Leading Change**  
5.30pm, Thursday 27 August  
To be held virtually

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## Candidate FAQs (cont)

### What is the last date for posting a vote

Ballot packs must be lodged with Australia Post by 6.00pm, Friday, 23 October, 2020

### When is Election Day?

Saturday, 24 October 2020.

### When will results be declared?

Anticipate declaration will occur on (or prior to) Friday 13 November.

### How many Councillors will be elected?

Nine councillors will be elected at Greater Shepparton City Council

### Q – When will I know if I have been elected?

The Election Manager will publicly declare the result of the election at a suitable time following the completion of counting. Candidates will be advised of the declaration time and venue.

### What time commitment is required if I was successfully in becoming elected?

It is estimated that the time commitment of a Councillor would be between 15-30 hours per week. At a minimum, current Councillors attend weekly briefings (av. 2-5hrs) and monthly Council Meetings (Additional Meetings called as required) which require a significant amount of reading and preparation. Additional activities include participation on Committees and attendance at events and functions.

### Who can I contact for more information?

The VEC website will feature comprehensive information about local government elections generally, as well as specific information about each local council's election.

Content will be updated at each phase of the election cycle including information about enrolment, nominating for election, early and postal voting, redirection of ballot packs (postal), replacement of ballot packs (postal), details of how and when to vote, the close of voting and election results.

VEC can provide candidates with all information relating to the election process.

Council can advise on eligibility (enrolment on voters role only).

- [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au) (Victorian Electoral Commission)
- [www.greatershepparton.com.au](http://www.greatershepparton.com.au) (Council)
- [www.standforcouncil.com.au](http://www.standforcouncil.com.au) (Municipal Association of Victoria)
- [www.mav.asn.au](http://www.mav.asn.au) (Municipal Association of Victoria)
- [www.vlga.org.au](http://www.vlga.org.au) (Victorian Local Government Association)