



vocal

Be a

local

Take a stand

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

As a local government councillor you will be responsible for representing the long-term interests of your community on a range of matters, including:

- Community wellbeing and development.
- Sport and recreation.
- Public health and safety.
- Essential community infrastructure.
- Future planning.

The best way to influence change is to be part of the decision-making process.

Be a vocal local

WA Local Government Elections 2017

Councillors play an important role in the community

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

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 community 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.

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.

A cartoon illustration of a young man with black hair, wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt and red pants. He has his hands in his pockets and is smiling. A large speech bubble is positioned above him, containing text.

Being a candidate will involve time, money and effort.

A big decision with many rewards

Becoming a councillor is a big decision and there are many rewards.

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

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, budgets, strategic community 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 what you can act on as a councillor.



Allow time for research and to find out local information.

Who can nominate as a candidate?

Local government elections are held every two years to elect councillors for four year terms. You are eligible to become a candidate, if you:

- are 18 years of age or older
- are an elector of the district
- are a current council member that has a term that ends on election day, unless you are standing for mayor or president directly elected by the public.

For more information about eligibility visit www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/elections.



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.

Nominations open Thursday 7 September 2017 and close 4.00pm Thursday 14 September 2017.

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.

Close of enrolments	1 September 2017
Nominations open	7 September 2017
Nominations close	14 September 2017
Election day	21 October 2017

To improve your chance of being elected:

- Get to know the local area and local issues well
- Attend some council meetings to get an idea of the meeting processes and issues being 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 your local council office and ask for information or contact the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

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

Freecall (Country only): 1800 620 511

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

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Telephone: 13 14 50



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



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