

2024 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 provide information about:

- Eligibility requirements
- The election process
- The nomination process
- Conducting and declaration of the election.

Election Office (VEC)

The Election Office is located at 132 Welsford Street, Shepparton and will be open to the public from 9 September to 25 October 2024.

The hours of operation are listed below:

Weekdays, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Please note on Thursday 24 October and Friday 25 October the office will be open from 9.00am to 8.00pm

Do I need to live in the area?

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

What is the electoral structure for Greater Shepparton?

This election, Greater Shepparton will be moving to a single member ward structure. This means that the Greater Shepparton Municipality will be divided into geographical areas known as 'wards'.

Do I need to live in the ward that I nominate for?

Candidates do not need to live in the ward they nominate for. Candidates may nominate for one ward within the municipality.

How many wards are there going to be?

There will be nine wards in total.

How many Councillors will be elected?

Nine councillors will be elected in total, with one councillor representing each ward of Greater Shepparton City Council.

What time commitment is required if I was successful 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 Scheduled 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 civic events and functions.

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 132 Welsford 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.

Cheques must be made payable to the Victorian Electoral Commission.

When do nominations open and close?

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

Do candidates have to undertake any compulsory training?

All candidates must complete Candidate Training prior to the close of nominations. This training is being delivered through an eLearning module facilitated by Local Government Victoria (LGV).

www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training

What is the last date for posting a vote?

Ballot packs must be lodged with Australia Post by 6.00pm, 25 October 2024. Voters

are advised to check the mail collection times in their area to ensure that their ballot is lodged on time.

When is Election Day?

26 October 2024.

Please note that as this is a postal election, there is no voting on Election Day.

When will results be declared?

Anticipate declaration will occur on (or prior to) 15 November 2024.

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 arrangements by the Election Manager.

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.

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

What Information Sessions are available for Candidates?

- **MAV x Greater Shepparton City Council – First Nations Stand for Council**
6:30pm to 8:00pm, 30 May 2024
Riverlinks Studios,
70 Welsford St, Shepparton
- **Candidate and Voter Information Session**
5:00pm to 6:00pm, 5 June 2024
MEAC, 23 Alexandra St, Mooroopna
- **Candidate and Voter Information Session**
6.00pm to 7.00pm, 18 June 2024
Tatura Senior Citizens Centre,
2 Memorial Place, Tatura.
- **Women's Candidate and Voter Information Session**
12.30pm to 1.30pm, 25 July 2024
Shepparton Art Museum,
Level 4 530 Wyndham St, Shepparton.
- **Shepparton Candidate and Voter Information Session**
5.30pm to 6.30pm, 26 August 2024
Greater Shepparton City Council,
90 Welsford St, Shepparton

Key websites are listed below:

www.mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024
(Municipal Association of Victoria)

www.vec.vic.gov.au
(Victorian Electoral Commission)

www.vlga.org.au
(Victorian Local Government Association)

www.greatershepparton.com.au
(Greater Shepparton City Council)

www.mav.asn.au
(Municipal Association of Victoria)