

# 2024 local council elections

## Media handbook



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# **Acknowledgement of Country**

*The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation, as the traditional custodians of the lands on which the VEC works and where we conduct our business.*

*We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging. The VEC is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.*

# Media information

Keep up to date with the latest council election information via:

- [vec.vic.gov.au/Media](https://vec.vic.gov.au/Media)
- [x.com/electionsvic](https://x.com/electionsvic)
- [facebook.com/electionsvic](https://facebook.com/electionsvic)

## Media centre

The VEC [Media Centre](#) provides a hub of useful resources, links and media releases for journalists for the 2024 local council elections.

## Election information

### Individual elections

Local council elections will be held in Victoria by post this October for all councils except Moira Shire Council (dismissed by an Act of Parliament in March 2023). All 78 local councils undergoing elections during October will have a dedicated page on the VEC website, with information about enrolment, voting, candidates and results as they become available. Visit:

[vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections](https://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections)

For summary profile information on each council, see Appendix 3.

For electoral maps of each council, visit [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au). Please note that the electoral structure for a number of councils has changed following the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LG Act 2020).

### Results

Official results declarations are expected to be finalised by Friday 15 November.

The proposed counting and results timelines for individual councils will be made available before the close of voting.

## Media enquiries

### General enquiries

For general media enquiries, contact the VEC's Communication Team:

[communication@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:communication@vec.vic.gov.au)

### Manager, media and strategic communication

Phone: 03 8620 1189

Mobile: 0437 249 254

### Head of communication

Phone: 03 8620 1363

Mobile: 0419 366 889

### Contacting candidates

The names and contact information (where provided) of candidates will be progressively available on the VEC website, in nomination order, during the nomination period, Monday 9 September to 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.

The final list of candidates, in ballot paper order, will be available online on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 September (Thursday 19 September for Melbourne City Council elections).

Candidates can submit a photograph and a statement to be included in the ballot pack. Other information specific to Melbourne City Council elections, including indications of preferences and group voting tickets, will also be made available.

All candidates have the option of completing a questionnaire for publication on the VEC website, which will allow voters to make a

comparison of each candidate's experience.  
The questions are prescribed by legislation.

Answers to the candidate questionnaire will be published on the VEC website from Wednesday 18 September (Tuesday 24 September for Melbourne City Council elections).

The VEC does not gather or provide demographic information on candidates.

# Key changes since 2020

Recent legislative changes have resulted in several changes since the 2020 local council elections.

## Election timeline

Changes to the election timeline were made through amendments to the LG Act 2020, Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 and City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2022. These changes are now in force.

The close of roll deadline has been brought forward to 4pm on Wednesday 7 August.

The candidate nomination period has been brought forward and extended, with nominations opening on Monday 9 September and closing at 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September. The deadline for lodging of candidate statements, photos and questionnaires now coincides with the close of nominations. This allows the ballot draw to be conducted on the day after nominations close.

The candidate nomination period and the deadline for registering leadership team names and councillor group names for the Melbourne City Council elections is Thursday 19 September.

The deadline for team, group and ungrouped candidate statements, photos, questionnaires, group voting tickets and indications of preferences is 12 noon on Monday 23 September.

The changes were made to:

- allow more time to compile and certify voters rolls following the close of roll. Changes to local council electoral structures means there will be a higher number of individual wards and individual elections within councils. There are also changes to enrolment entitlements for council-enrolled ratepayers that require all these voters to enrol by application. Bringing the close of roll date earlier allows time to account for these changes

- allow 6.5 days for candidates to nominate (previously there was a window of only 3.5 business days for nominations to be received). We anticipate an increase in the number of candidates compared to 2020
- bring the provision of candidate statements into line with the close of nominations deadline, when previously it was the day after
- allow additional time for ballot paper print production and collation of ballot packs to be completed prior to the mail-out.

## Council electoral structures

The LG Act 2020 introduced several changes, including setting the types of electoral structures for local councils may have.

The Act includes 3 permissible electoral structures (single-member wards, uniform multi-member wards and unsubdivided), with single member wards as the 'default' electoral structure. Under the Act the Minister for Local Government can issue a notice in the Government Gazette notifying that a council is permitted to have either of the other 2 types of structures.

On 23 April 2020 a notice was gazetted which provides that all rural councils (31 in total) are permitted to have any of the three permissible electoral structures.

The electoral structures of 39 local councils and ward boundaries of a further 10 local councils will change at the October 2024 local council elections.

The following 30 council electoral structures will change to single-councillor wards for the October 2024 local council elections:

- Ballarat City Council
- Brimbank City Council
- Casey City Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council

- Corangamite Shire Council
- Frankston City Council
- Glen Eira City Council
- Greater Bendigo City Council
- Greater Geelong City Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Hume City Council
- Latrobe City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Melton City Council
- Merri-bek City Council
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Port Phillip City Council
- Stonnington City Council
- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- Whittlesea City Council
- Wodonga City Council
- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra City Council.

The following councils will change to an unsubdivided structure for the October 2024 local council elections:

- Campaspe Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Strathbogie Shire Council.

The following councils will change to a multi-member ward structure for the October 2024 local council elections:

- Buloke Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The following 10 councils will not change from their current structures for the October 2024 local council elections but have had ward boundary reviews:

- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Baw Baw Shire Council
- Boroondara City Council
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Greater Dandenong City Council
- Loddon Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council

- Pyrenees Shire Council
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Wellington Shire Council.

Details of council electoral structures for the 2024 elections are listed in [Appendix 2](#).

## Council-enrolled voters

Entitlement rules introduced in the LG Act 2020 now apply, except for Casey City Council, Whittlesea City Council and Melbourne City Council elections.

In previous elections, owner ratepayers who didn't live in the area were automatically enrolled – now they must apply if they want to vote in the October 2024 and future local council elections and by-elections.

Furthermore, it was not compulsory for council-enrolled voters to vote – now voting is compulsory for everyone on the voters roll, including council-enrolled voters.

For Casey City Council and Whittlesea City Council elections, people will be automatically enrolled as a council-enrolled voter if they were automatically enrolled at the 2016 election because they owned property but did not live in the council area, and if their circumstances haven't changed. This is because these councils did not have general elections in 2020 and were under administration.

Melbourne City Council has its own entitlement rules under the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* and these have not changed.

# Key dates

Time and date	Activity
4 pm Wednesday 7 August	<b>Close of roll</b> Voters must be on the roll by this date to be eligible to vote or stand as a candidate.
Monday 9 September	<b>Election offices open</b>
9 am Monday 9 September to 12 noon Tuesday 17 September	<b>Nomination period</b> Anyone wishing to stand as a candidate must lodge their nomination with the election manager during this period. Candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires also close at 12 noon Tuesday 17 September
10 am Wednesday 18 September	<b>Ballot draws</b>
Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October	<b>Ballot packs distributed</b> Ballot packs are mailed to all enrolled voters in a random order over 4 days.
6 pm Friday 25 October	<b>Close of voting</b> Completed ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the relevant election office by 6 pm.
12 noon Friday 1 November	<b>Deadline for inclusion of postal votes</b> The election manager will include ballot material if satisfied it was signed by voters before 6 pm Friday 25 October (close of voting).
Monday 4 November to Friday 15 November	<b>Results declarations (anticipated)</b> Results for all elections will be officially declared during this period.

Variations to this timeline apply for Melbourne City Council elections (see [Appendix 1](#)).



# Postal elections

The October 2024 local council elections will be held by post for all councils in Victoria as a result of the direction of the Minister for Local Government under the LG Act 2020.

The average voter turnout rate in the 2020 local council elections conducted by post was 81.47%, with an average informality rate of 4.76%.

To vote in a postal election, enrolled voters:

- receive a ballot pack in the mail with voting instructions, candidate information, a ballot paper (or 2 ballot papers for Melbourne City Council elections), ballot paper envelope and a reply-paid envelope for returning the completed ballot paper
- complete the ballot paper by following the instructions on the ballot paper
- insert the completed ballot paper into the ballot paper envelope, complete their details on the back, sign and date it, then insert it into the reply-paid envelope
- mail the completed ballot material by 6 pm Friday 25 October. Ballots received before 12 noon on Friday 1 November will be included in the count.

Moira Shire Council will not have an election this October as it is under administration.

# Roles and responsibilities

## Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is the statutory provider for Victorian local council elections. The VEC has conducted all local council elections in Victoria since 2004 and has a long history of working in partnership with the local government sector.

The VEC:

- prepares the voters roll for the election, compiled through council-enrolled (CEO list) voters and state enrolled voters
- appoints, trains and oversees election managers
- provides infrastructure and support for election managers and their offices, and manages centralised activity locations
- manages and oversees counting, results and declarations
- monitors for fraud prevention and conducts integrity checks
- provides compulsory voting enforcement services.

Media enquiries about the arrangements for the elections should be directed to the VEC.

## Local Government Inspectorate

The Local Government Inspectorate is responsible for investigating any alleged breaches of the LG Act 2020. Complaints received by the VEC that allege a breach of the LG Act 2020 will be referred to the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate works closely with the VEC as well as other integrity and law enforcement

agencies, including the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

## Local councils

Individual councils provide council-enrolled voter data to the VEC for inclusion on the voters roll.

Following the declaration of an election, the Chief Executive Officer of each council will arrange the swearing in of the incoming council and schedule the first council meeting. For general elections, elected councillors formally leave office at 6 am on election day.

## Local laws and public land

You must check with the relevant local authority (for example, the local council, Department of Transport and Planning) to see if there are any laws on the distribution and display of electoral material in public spaces, on public land or alongside highways or road corridors.

- the relevant local council about any local laws that may apply to the display of electoral material (including rules around public and private property)
- VicRoads for regulations that apply to the display of electoral material on and alongside freeways, highways, and major road corridors
- Public Transport Victoria about the display of electoral material at public transport locations (buses, bus stops, trains, train stations, trams, and tram stops)
- the Department of Education and Training in relation to the display of electoral material on government-owned schools.

# Enrolment

There are several entitlement categories and thus more people are entitled to enrol to vote in Victorian local council elections, compared to state elections.

Most enrolled voters will be Australian citizens, aged 18 or over, residing in a council area going to an election. People enrolled in this way are referred to as 'state-enrolled voters' or being on the state electoral roll.

The remaining enrolments are made up of council-enrolled voters including ratepayers who are property owners, occupiers and or corporations.

Enrolment in all categories closes at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August.

## Who must enrol?

Australian citizens aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October, living in Victoria, must enrol if they:

- have never enrolled
- have lived at their present residential address for at least a month and have not updated their enrolment details.

Australian citizens can enrol, check or update their state enrolment details at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au).

Enrolling is optional for council-enrolled voters, but once enrolled, they must vote or they may receive a fine.

## Who can apply to council to enrol?

People can apply directly to council if they will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and:

- a property owner, occupier or represent a corporation

- not a state enrolled voter within the council area.

To apply to enrol in one of these categories, people need to contact their council directly.

## Casey and Whittlesea City Councils

In Casey and Whittlesea City Councils, people will be automatically enrolled as a council-enrolled voter if they were automatically enrolled at the 2016 election because they owned property but did not live in the council area, and if their circumstances haven't changed. This is because these councils did not have general elections in 2020 and were under administration.

## Melbourne City Council

Melbourne City Council has its own entitlement rules under the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*.

People can apply to enrol directly with Melbourne City Council if they:

- own or occupy a property they pay rates on in the City of Melbourne, including if they are not an Australian citizen
- rent a property (like an apartment, house, shop or office) in the City of Melbourne, including if they are not an Australian citizen
- own and pay rates on a property in the City of Melbourne, but live overseas
- are a director or company secretary of a company that owns or pays rates on a property in the City of Melbourne.

They will be automatically enrolled if they:

- own a property that they pay rates on in the City of Melbourne, but live in another Victorian local council area or another Australian state or territory
- are a director or company secretary of a company that owns or pays rates on a property in the City of Melbourne and did not apply to enrol.

A maximum of 2 owners and 2 occupiers can be council-enrolled for any one property.

## **One vote per council**

A person is entitled to only one vote per council, regardless of how many entitlements they may have. Entitlements are hierarchical, with a person's state enrolment taking precedence.

People can enrol and vote in more than one council election if they have the necessary entitlements, for example, voting as a resident in one council, and as a ratepayer in another council area.

## **Provision of enrolment information to candidates**

On request, the VEC will provide each candidate with a copy of the voters roll for the election in which the candidate has nominated. The roll is provided for election campaign purposes only. This information contains names, addresses and voter status code, but not any other contact details. It also excludes silent electors.

Candidates who receive a copy of the voters roll must securely destroy or return it to the VEC within 30 days of the election day.

There are significant penalties for any candidate who misuses voters roll information.

# Nominations and candidates

## Nominations

To nominate, a person must be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for the council they are nominating for, and eligible to become a councillor should they be elected.

Certain conditions disqualify a person from nominating, for example if they are:

- a member of any Australian state or federal parliament
- a councillor for another local council in Australia
- a member of council staff for the council they are nominating for (can take leave from the role to nominate)
- convicted of certain criminal offences
- an undischarged bankrupt.

This list is not exhaustive; further details are outlined in the LG Act 2020.

Candidates in subdivided councils can stand for election for any ward, even if their enrolled address is in a different ward.

## Mandatory candidate training

All prospective candidates must complete mandatory local government candidate training before submitting their nomination form. Training must have been completed within 2 years before election day.

Candidates can access the mandatory training online through the Local Government Victoria website [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training](https://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training)

All candidates must complete the training, even if they are or have previously been a councillor.

## Nominating

Candidates must make an appointment during business hours with the election manager to lodge their nomination and pay their \$250 nomination fee.

The nomination period begins on Monday 9 September and nominations close at 12 noon Tuesday 17 September. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

A list of nominations (including candidate contact information, where supplied) for each election will be updated regularly during the nomination period on the VEC website.

## Ballot paper order

The order of names on the ballot paper is determined by a computerised single random draw. The election manager will conduct the draw at the election office on Wednesday 18 September or, for Melbourne City Council elections, Thursday 19 September.

## Candidate information

Candidates can submit a photograph and a statement to be included in the ballot pack.

All candidates have the option of completing a questionnaire for publication on the VEC website, which will allow voters to make a comparison of each candidate's experience. The questions are prescribed by legislation.

This information will also be available on the VEC website on Wednesday 18 September (Tuesday 24 September for Melbourne City Council elections).

## **Endorsements**

Candidate statements and questionnaire answers where a candidate claims endorsement or support from a person, organisation or party, must be lodged alongside written evidence of consent to the claim by the person, organisation or party.

The *LG Act 2020* does not recognise the formal participation of political parties in council elections, and no party affiliations are included on ballot material. Candidates are, however, free to seek endorsement from any party, group or organisation. Evidence is required if this endorsement is included in formal election material.

## **Uncontested elections**

If, at the close of nominations, the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacancies for any election, this results in an uncontested election.

The Election Manager will declare these candidates elected on or after election day and provide public notice of their election.

Voters in an uncontested ward will be mailed an uncontested election leaflet informing them of the outcome.

If there are no candidates for an election or where an uncontested election leaves further vacancies to be filled on the council, a by-election will be required to fill the vacancies.

# Voting and the election process

## Voting in postal elections

Ballot packs will be mailed to enrolled voters between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October, in random order. Voters in the same home may receive their ballot packs on different days.

### Voting deadline

Completed ballot material must be in the mail by 6 pm Friday 25 October. Alternatively, ballot material can be hand-delivered to the election office by the same deadline.

## Completing the ballot paper

In all council elections except the election of councillors for Melbourne City Council (see Appendix 2), voters receive the same kind of ballot paper, with candidates listed in the order determined by the ballot draw for the election. Full preferential voting is used, where voters complete their ballot paper by numbering all the boxes in order of their preference.

## Counting the votes

### Preferential counting

Preferential counting is used in single-councillor ward elections and for the Melbourne City Council leadership team election.

- To be elected, a candidate (or Team) must gain an absolute majority of the first preference votes (more than 50%) to be elected.

- If no candidate (or Team) receives an absolute majority of first preference votes, a preference distribution is required. The candidate or team with the fewest first preference votes is excluded and their votes are distributed to the other candidates according to voters' preferences.
- The process continues until one candidate (or Team) gains an absolute majority.

### Proportional counting

Proportional counting is used to elect councillors where there is more than one vacancy to be filled (so, in unsubdivided councils and in multi-councillor wards).

- To be elected, candidates have to obtain a 'quota', determined by dividing the number of formal votes by one more than the number of vacancies to be filled, and then rounding up to the nearest whole number or adding '1' to the result (for example, if there are 10,000 formal votes for 3 vacancies, the quota is 10,000 divided by 4, then adding '1', equalling a quota of 2,501).
- Each candidate who achieves the quota is elected, and then any surplus votes (votes above the quota) are transferred to the remaining candidates at a reduced value.
- If there are still vacancies to be filled once the surpluses for each elected candidate have been transferred, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded and their votes are transferred to the remaining candidates at the value received.
- This process continues until all vacancies are filled.

More information explaining preferential and proportional counting, is available on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au/voting/how-voting-works/counting-votes](http://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/how-voting-works/counting-votes)

## Manual and computer counts

In most circumstances, preferential vote counts will be conducted manually (the count for the Melbourne City Council leadership team election will be conducted by computer) and proportional vote counts will be conducted using computer data entry.

Candidates can appoint scrutineers to observe the counting process.

### Results and declarations

Results can only be calculated once all votes admitted to the count have been counted.

Official declarations are anticipated to take place between Monday 4 November and Friday 15 November, varying according to the electoral structure of each council, the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday for parts of Victoria, and requirements for any recounts.

Detailed counting and results timelines for individual councils will be made available before the close of voting on the VEC website.

## Compulsory voting

Voting is compulsory in Victorian local council elections for all enrolled voters, regardless of age.

Non-voters may be fined unless they have a sufficient excuse for failing to vote.

Compulsory voting enforcement, including the prosecution of non-voters, is a mandatory requirement under the LG Act 2020.

The VEC will commence a compulsory voting enforcement program in early 2025, with the mail out of an 'Apparent failure to vote notice' to voters who appear to have failed to vote. This notice is not a fine, but an opportunity to provide an explanation for having failed to vote or provide details if they did vote.

A person who receives an 'Apparent failure to vote notice' and does not respond with a

sufficient excuse for failing to vote, or those who do not respond at all, will be issued an Infringement notice. For the 2024 local council elections, the fine for not voting is \$99.



# Advertising and campaign material

Anyone may publish electoral campaign material during a council election campaign. All published electoral campaign material—such as advertisements, flyers, billboards and social media posts that contain electoral matter—must be authorised and comply with the LG Act 2020, to ensure voters are informed about the source of political advertising and not misled about how to cast their vote.

Electoral matter means matter which is intended or likely to affect the way someone votes in an election.

## Electoral campaign material

Electoral campaign material can take many forms, including:

- a pamphlet, flyer, handbill, or notice
- a billboard, poster, or sign
- a how-to-vote card
- paid or unpaid print, digital or online advertising
- social media posts or profiles
- websites
- certain electronic communications, like SMS or emails.

Car stickers, items of clothing, lapel buttons and badges, fridge magnets, pens, pencils and balloons are not considered electoral campaign material, and they do not need to be authorised.

## Television and radio

All electoral campaign material that appears on television and radio is regulated by the

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

Please contact ACMA if you have any questions about the rules and regulations that apply to television and radio advertising.

## Newspapers

Newspaper proprietors must print the word 'advertisement' as a headline (in at least 10 point font) to each article or paragraph printed in the newspaper containing electoral matter which is paid for, or for which compensation is to be made.

During an election period, all articles or letters containing electoral matter, which are printed, published or distributed in a newspaper, circular or pamphlet must include the name and address (not an email address) of the author at the end. However, letters to a newspaper simply have to include the author's name and the suburb or locality in which the author's address is located.

The identification requirement does not apply to a newspaper leading article or an article that is solely a report of a meeting.

## Authorisation

To authorise something is to include your full name and address somewhere visible on the electoral campaign material – that's what forms the 'authorisation statement'.

The address can be a street address or a PO Box but cannot be an email address.

If you are unsure whether something is electoral campaign material, it is always better to authorise it.

## More information

The Local Government Inspectorate is responsible for enforcing these rules and investigating breaches. Visit [lgi.vic.gov.au](http://lgi.vic.gov.au) for more information.

# Customer feedback and complaints

The VEC has robust processes for handling customer feedback and complaints. If a complaint relates to:

- a possible breach of the LG Act 2020—it will be referred to the Local Government Inspectorate
- the administration of the election, including the actions and behaviours of election managers and election staff—the VEC will manage it
- a possible breach of local laws—it will be referred to the CEO of the relevant local council
- alleges a criminal offence—it will be referred to Victoria Police.

A complaint that alleges wrongdoing by a public officeholder (including a councillor) may be protected by Victoria’s public interest disclosure laws. The VEC is not empowered to receive public interest disclosures under the relevant laws, so these statutory protections will only apply for complaints made directly to the relevant authorities, including the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

If a complaint alleges corrupt conduct by a public officeholder, the VEC is required to provide a mandatory notification to IBAC in addition to referring the matter to the relevant authority.

## Candidate conduct and advertising complaints

Complaints about candidate conduct and advertising material will most likely relate to the LG Act 2020, with some of the most common complaints including:

- unauthorised material —all election campaign material must have appropriate authorisation, as described in the advertising and campaign material section above
- misleading or deceptive material —strictly relates to material that misleads or deceives a voter in relation to how they cast their vote (that is, if it causes a voter to misunderstand the effect of their vote).

**Note:** Complaints about potential breaches of the LG Act 2020 should be directed to the Local Government Inspectorate for investigation at [lgi.vic.gov.au/make-complaint-local-government-inspectorate](http://lgi.vic.gov.au/make-complaint-local-government-inspectorate)

## Confidentiality of customer feedback

The VEC and election managers may comment on the customer feedback and complaints process, but will not comment on any specific complaints, or confirm whether a complaint or feedback has been received—to do so would infringe on the confidentiality of the customer.

Parties to the complaint are free to discuss the complaint with the media.

Reporting on the number and category of complaints will be provided in the VEC’s post-election reporting.

The VEC will disclose details of complaints to other integrity and enforcement agencies through the referral process, if required. This will include the details of the complainant and a copy of their complaint. Except for anonymous complaints, the VEC will always notify the complainant that it has referred the complaint to another authority.

# Media releases

The VEC will deliver a voter information campaign on a local and statewide basis, with advertising services, media relations, and election information on the VEC website.

Although the elections are 'local government' elections, from a communication perspective the VEC refers to 'local council' elections - a term more familiar to voters.

The campaign comprises 2 main phases: enrolment and voting.

The aim of the campaign is to increase public awareness of, and participation in, local council elections. Traditionally, participation in council elections is lower than state elections.

Statewide media releases will be available on the VEC [Media Centre](#). Some statewide media releases will also be translated into different languages and distributed to non-English language media outlets across the state. Individual council releases will be distributed to local publications.

# Appendix 1: Melbourne City Council elections

Melbourne City Council elections are distinct to other Victorian local council elections. Key differences include:

## Corporations are entitled to 2 votes and must be enrolled

A corporation that solely or jointly owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne may appoint 2 representatives to vote on its behalf. Representatives must be a director or company secretary of a corporation or hold an equivalent position.

If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not appoint 2 voting representatives by the close of roll at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024, the council is required by law to enrol the first 2 of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):

- the company secretary of the corporation
- the directors of the corporation.

## Two simultaneous elections are held

- Two simultaneous elections are held for Melbourne City Council—one to elect the leadership team (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and the other to elect 9 councillors. Candidates can nominate for the leadership team or as a councillor, but not both.
- Voters will receive 2 ballot papers in their ballot pack, one to vote for the leadership team and one to vote for councillors.

## Two voting methods are used

Separate voting methods apply for each election:

### Leadership Team election

Full preferential voting is used to elect the leadership team, where voters number all the

boxes in order of their preference. Each leadership team can have a team name.

### Councillor election

The councillor election ballot paper is similar to Victorian Legislative Council ballot papers, allowing voters to vote for a group above the line or for individual candidates below the line.

Candidates must nominate individually, but they can join with other candidates in the councillor election to form a group and lodge 1 or 2 group voting tickets.

Voters can vote '1' above the line next to the group they most want to see elected and their preferences will follow the group voting ticket(s) lodged by that group.

Or, voters can number every box below the line in the order of their choice.

# Melbourne City Council election timeline

Time and date	Activity
4 pm Wednesday 7 August	<b>Close of roll</b> Voters must be on the roll by this date to be eligible to vote or stand as a candidate.
Monday 9 September	<b>Election office opens</b>
9 am Monday 9 September to 12 noon Tuesday 17 September	<b>Nomination period</b> Anyone wishing to stand as a candidate must lodge their nomination with the election manager during this period.
12 noon, Thursday 19 September	Leadership team name and councillor group name registrations close
3pm, Thursday 19 September	<b>Ballot draw</b>
12 noon, Monday 23 September	Leadership team statements, questionnaires, group voting tickets and councillor group indication of preferences close.
Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October	<b>Ballot packs distributed</b> Ballot packs are mailed to all enrolled voters in a random order over 4 days.
6 pm Friday 25 October	<b>Close of voting</b> Completed ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the relevant election office by 6 pm.
12 noon Friday 1 November	<b>Deadline for inclusion of postal votes</b> The election manager will include ballot material if satisfied it was signed by voters before 6 pm Friday 25 October (close of voting).
Monday 4 November to Friday 15 November	<b>Results declarations (anticipated)</b> Results for all elections will be officially declared during this period.

# Appendix 2: Profile summary of councils holding elections in October

- An electoral structure and ward boundary review was completed in accordance with the LG Act 2020 and the electoral representation advisory panel’s recommendation was accepted. The electoral structure and/or number of councillors will take effect at the October 2024 local council elections.
- An internal ward boundary review was completed by the VEC of the internal ward boundaries of these councils. The recommendations were accepted by the Minister for Local Government and the new ward boundaries will apply at the October 2024 local council elections.

Local Council	Area (km2)	Number of Councillors	Electoral structure
<b>Alpine</b>	4,787	7	Unsubdivided
<b>Ararat</b>	4,230	7	Unsubdivided
■ <b>Ballarat</b>	740	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Banyule</b>	63	9	9 x single-councillor wards
■ <b>Bass Coast</b>	864	9	3 x three-councillor wards
■ <b>Baw Baw</b>	4,031	9	3 x three-councillor wards
<b>Bayside</b>	36	7	7 x single-councillor wards
<b>Benalla</b>	2,375	7	Unsubdivided
■ <b>Boroondara</b>	60	11	11 x single-councillor wards
■ <b>Brimbank</b>	123	11	11 x single-councillor wards
■ <b>Buloke</b>	8,004	6	3 x two-councillor wards
■ <b>Campaspe</b>	4,519	9	Unsubdivided
■ <b>Cardinia</b>	1,281	9	9 x single-councillor wards
■ <b>Casey</b>	407	12	12 x single-councillor wards
■ <b>Central Goldfields</b>	1,534	7	7 x single-councillor wards
<b>Colac Otway</b>	3,433	7	Unsubdivided
■ <b>Corangamite</b>	4,407	7	7 x single-councillor wards
<b>Darebin</b>	54	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>East Gippsland</b>	20,931	9	Unsubdivided
■ <b>Frankston</b>	131	9	9 x single-councillor wards

Local Council	Area (km2)	Number of Councillors	Electoral structure
 <b>Gannawarra</b>	3,732	7	Unsubdivided
 <b>Glen Eira</b>	38	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Glenelg</b>	6,212	7	Unsubdivided
<b>Golden Plains</b>	2,704	7	Unsubdivided
 <b>Greater Bendigo</b>	3,048	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Greater Dandenong</b>	130	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Greater Geelong</b>	1,247	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Greater Shepparton</b>	2,422	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Hepburn</b>	1,470	7	Unsubdivided
<b>Hindmarsh</b>	7,527	6	3 x two-councillor wards
 <b>Hobsons Bay</b>	65	7	7 x single-councillor ward
 <b>Horsham</b>	4,249	7	7 x single-councillor ward
 <b>Hume</b>	503	11	11 x single-councillor wards
<b>Indigo</b>	2,044	7	Unsubdivided
<b>Kingston</b>	91	11	11 x single-councillor wards
<b>Knox</b>	114	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Latrobe</b>	1,426	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Loddon</b>	6,694	5	5 x single-councillor wards
<b>Macedon Ranges</b>	1,747	9	3 x three-councillor wards
<b>Manningham</b>	114	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Mansfield</b>	3,843	5	Unsubdivided
 <b>Maribyrnong</b>	31	7	7 x single-councillor wards
<b>Maroondah</b>	61	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Melbourne</b>	36	11	Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor directly elected as a leadership team by the voters at-large Unsubdivided
 <b>Melton</b>	527	10	10 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Merri-bek</b>	51	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Mildura</b>	22,330	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Mitchell</b>	2,864	9	3 x three-councillor wards
 <b>Monash</b>	81	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Moonee Valley</b>	44	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Moorabool</b>	2,110	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	723	11	11 x single-councillor wards



Local Council	Area (km2)	Number of Councillors	Electoral structure
 <b>Mount Alexander</b>	1,529	8	8 x single-councillor wards
<b>Moyne</b>	5,478	7	Unsubdivided
 <b>Murrindindi</b>	3,889	7	7 x single-councillor wards
<b>Nilumbik</b>	435	7	7 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Northern Grampians</b>	5,918	6	3 x two-councillor wards
 <b>Port Phillip</b>	20	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Pyrenees</b>	3,433	5	5 x single-councillor wards
<b>Borough of Queenscliffe</b>	11	5	Unsubdivided
 <b>South Gippsland</b>	3,305	9	3 x three-councillor wards
<b>Southern Grampians</b>	6,652	7	Unsubdivided
 <b>Stonnington</b>	25	9	9 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Strathbogie</b>	3,302	7	Unsubdivided
 <b>Surf Coast</b>	1,560	9	3 x three-councillor wards
<b>Swan Hill</b>	6,117	7	Unsubdivided
<b>Towong</b>	6,673	5	Unsubdivided
 <b>Wangaratta</b>	3,639	7	1 x four-councillor ward 3 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Warrnambool</b>	120	7	7 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Wellington</b>	10,989	9	3 x three-councillor wards
<b>West Wimmera</b>	9,107	5	Unsubdivided
<b>Whitehorse</b>	64	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Whittlesea</b>	489	11	11 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Wodonga</b>	433	7	7 x single-councillor wards
 <b>Wyndham</b>	541	11	11 x single-councillor ward
 <b>Yarra</b>	20	9	9 x single-councillor wards
<b>Yarra Ranges</b>	2,447	9	9 single-councillor wards
 <b>Yarriambiack</b>	7,158	6	3 x two-councillor wards

