

- make a difference -

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- 2018 -



NOMINATE

must be received by 12 noon

Tuesday 18 September 2018

Becoming a council member enables you to influence important decisions, address issues that concern you and directly affect the quality of life in your community.

lga.sa.gov.au



**Local Government Association
of South Australia**

Authorised by Matt Pinnegar • 148 Frome Street, Adelaide SA 5000 • Email: lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au • Phone: (08) 8224 2000

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Participating in your local council election is one of the most direct ways you can make a difference to everyday life in your community.

Becoming a council member enables you to influence important decisions, address issues that concern you and directly affect the quality of life in your community. Being a councillor can be rewarding and satisfying. You will learn a lot and make valuable personal connections to find out more go to:

www.lga.sa.gov.au/councilelections



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EVERY
DAY.

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Nominating for a position on council

If you are eligible to vote in your local council elections, you are probably also eligible to stand for a position on council. With very few exceptions (such as being an undischarged bankrupt, or being disqualified from holding office by a court order), you can nominate for a position on council regardless of qualifications, religion, race, gender, experience or profession. In fact, councils actively encourage nominations from people from diverse backgrounds to ensure that a wide range of views are being represented.

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The Local Government Association and many councils run information sessions for potential candidates. To find out more about these sessions or how to nominate go to www.lga.sa.gov.au/councilelections

**Nominations for council elections open
Tuesday 4 September and close 12 noon
Tuesday 18 September 2018.**

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NOMINATE FOR COUNCIL
 Nominations must be received by 12 noon
 Tuesday 18 September 2018
 Local Government Association of South Australia
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NOMINATIONS
now
open
 and close 12 noon
 Tuesday 18 September 2018

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- make a difference -
NOMINATE FOR COUNCIL
 by 12 noon Tuesday 18 September 2018
 4 days to go!

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2018 COUNCIL ELECTIONS
NOMINATE
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ENROL

must be received by 5pm
Friday 10 August 2018



Media Release

Pages: 1

Date: 3 August 2018

New migrants encouraged to have their say

LGA President Councillor Sue Clearihan has encouraged new migrants to get involved in their local community by enrolling to vote in the November council elections.

Councillor Clearihan said many people are unaware of the significant differences between council elections and state and federal elections which mean that voting is open to a much wider range of people.

“Everyone who is on the House of Assembly (state) electoral roll is automatically registered to vote in their council election,” said Councillor Clearihan

“However, unlike state and federal elections, people who don’t hold Australian citizenship are also eligible to vote in local government elections as long as they are over 18 and have lived in their council area for more than one month.”

“Local business representatives and people who own property in a council area are also eligible.”

Councillor Clearihan said migrants make vital contributions to communities, and that council elections are an opportunity for new residents to get involved in grass-roots democracy.

“Many new arrivals are passionate about their life in Australia, and with councils being the closest level of government to the community, getting involved in the election is a way for them to express their views,” Councillor Clearihan said.

Voting in council elections takes place via postal ballot and is not mandatory, but is the largest voluntary participation activity in the state.

In order to receive a postal voting pack non-Australian citizens, businesses and landlords must register on the council supplementary roll.

Enrolment on the supplementary roll for the 2018 council elections closes 5pm Friday 10 August.

Under the *Local Government Elections Act*, the supplementary voters roll is purged every four years on 1 January in an election year, meaning that interested parties need to re-enrol each election.

Councillor Clearihan said she is also keen to see a larger – and more diverse – field of candidates in this year’s council elections.

Nominations are open to all community members over the age of 18 including non-Australian citizens, business representatives and property owners, and open 4 September and close 18 September.

For more information contact Darren Hunter on 8224 2063 or email darren.hunter@lga.sa.gov.au



Pages: 1

Date: 27 August 2018

Strong female voices in public life

“We need strong female voices in public life” said LGA President Sue Clearihan. “Women bring a different perspective that leads to more balanced decision making.”

While women make up 51% of the community, they hold just 29% of positions on South Australian councils.

LGA President Sue Clearihan said it’s important that men and women have an equal voice and opportunity to influence change in the community, and she is urging more women to consider nominating for election in the 2018 council elections.

“Grassroots politics has been the starting point for many influential leaders,” said Cr Clearihan.

“While it shouldn’t be seen as just a stepping stone, local politics provides a challenging and rewarding environment in which councillors learn about a wide range of topics and acquire important skills.”

LGA President Sue Clearihan said it’s not only important to see more women on councils, but also increased diversity from different cultural backgrounds.

“South Australia’s community is very diverse. Almost a third of our population was born overseas, with 17 percent of households speaking a language other than English at home. It’s important that public decision-making gives consideration to this diversity, and the best way to do that is to have representation from different societal groups on council.”

“I’d also love to see nominations from both Indigenous women and men from our communities” added Cr Sue Clearihan.

Nomination (as well as voting) is open to a wider range of people than state or federal parliament.

The Local Government Association and various councils are running information sessions for potential candidates. To find out more go to [this website](#)

Nominations for the next council elections open on Tuesday 4 September and close 12 noon Tuesday 18 September 2018.

Voting in the 2018 council elections will be via postal ballot, with ballot papers distributed in the week commencing 22 October and voting closing at 5pm Friday 9 November.



Insert your council logo

SA councils call for greater diversity

[Council name] has joined the call from councils across South Australia for a greater diversity of candidates in the upcoming council elections in 2018.

Representing the sector, Cr Sue Clearihan, President of the Local Government Association says that councils recognise the need to have an elected body that closely reflects the composition of the local community.

“We are grateful for the service of everyone who puts their hand up to represent their community on council” says Cr Clearihan. “There is a lot of knowledge and experience within our councils, however it’s important that they reflect the diversity of our communities.”

The best way to ensure a broad range of views are considered is for people of different ages, genders, cultures and backgrounds to step up and make themselves heard on council.

[Name and role e.g. Mayor or CEO] from [council name] supports the call for greater diversity “quote”.

[Council name]’s elected body is currently made up of x men and x women, with an average age of x. [Council rep] says he/she would like to see [change/new scenario].

Without the hurdle of a party-political system, nomination is open to almost every community member over the age of 18.

As long as you are an Australian citizen and have lived in your council area for more than one month, you are eligible to nominate. Local business representatives and people who own property in a council area are also eligible.

“It would be great to see a greater proportion of women on councils and people of all ages, from different races, religions and personal and professional backgrounds to ensure that a wide range of views are being considered” says Cr Clearihan.

To find out more about eligibility and the nomination process go to the Electoral Commission of South Australia [website](#).

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VOTE
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Friday 9 November 2018



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Vote 1 for diversity

Local Government Association President, Councillor Sue Clearihan says she is delighted with the diversity of candidates who have nominated for the upcoming council elections, giving residents a greater choice in who represents them.

“We have received more women candidates than ever before - 454 and seen an increase in the number of people aged 18 to 45 year olds who have nominated for council.”

This means that people have a broader range of options to choose from when voting in the upcoming council elections, and are potentially more able to elect a council that reflects the diversity of the community they live in.

In [council name] there are x candidates contesting x positions.

Council CEO [name] says he/she is delighted that so many people have been willing to put themselves forward for a position on council and is encouraging local residents and businesses to get involved by voting for the candidate/s of their choice.

Anyone on the House of Assembly (state) electoral roll or that registered on the council supplementary roll will receive a postal ballot pack between Monday October 22 and Friday October 26. Votes must be received by close of voting at 5pm on Friday 9 November 2018.

Voting in council elections is not mandatory, but with over 350,000 people voting in the 2014 local government elections, it is the largest voluntary participation activity in the state.

Prospective councillors have been actively promoting themselves in the community and the council is encouraging residents to support them by returning their postal vote before the close-off.

“Council has a greater influence on the community than most people appreciate, providing a wide range of services and infrastructure. This is people’s chance to influence the future of the local area by electing the people they think will best represent them” said [CEO name]

More information about the 2018 council elections and individual candidates is available at www.lga.sa.gov.au/councilelections.

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Your chance to make a difference

Many people feel powerless to make a difference in their local community, but there's one simple act that can change that – voting in your council elections.

The margins in council elections are often very small and that every single vote makes an important difference.

“We have over 1374 South Australians who have put their hand up to represent their community on council. That takes courage and commitment” says **CEO XXXX**, “I'd like to see the community support candidates through the simple but important act of voting.”

Voting in council elections is done by postal ballot with households and businesses registered on the council supplementary role receiving their ballot packs between October 22 and October 26, 2018.

Votes must be returned (and received by the Electoral Commission of SA) by close of voting at 5pm on Friday 9 November 2018.

Councils manage millions of dollars of public infrastructure and make important decisions about a wide range of local services.

CEO [name] says that there are **several pressing issues/important projects** that the new council will need to address in its first year, including **... examples**

“We know many candidates are promising to keep rates down,” **he/she said**, “that means the incoming council will need to set clear priorities and make choices about the allocation of limited resources.”

As well as ballot papers, packs contain information about local candidates, including a short statement (of up to 150 words) from each nominee. This information also appears on the LGA council elections website - www.lga.sa.gov.au/councilelections.