

**ELECTION TIME** WORKING TOGETHER FOR MORE DIVERSITY



# Northern WEEKLY

Inspired by our community

advertiser.com.au/local August 29, 2018



**NOMINATE**  
BY NOON TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 18



**VOTE**  
BEFORE FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 9



# We want you to make a difference

Women, young people and those from non-English speaking backgrounds are under-represented on councils. It's time to change.

Have a voice and be heard. Nominate and vote in your local election, details inside.

Do you have what it takes?



 Local Government Association of South Australia

- make a difference -  
**NOMINATE FOR COUNCIL**

[lga.sa.gov.au](http://lga.sa.gov.au)

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



**30%** of elected members in South Australia are women.

**206** women were elected at the 2014 council elections, which was an increase from 193 women in 2010.

**381** candidates at the 2014 local government elections were women. That was up from 288 in 2000.

**WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU WANT TOO SEE ON YOUR COUNCIL?**

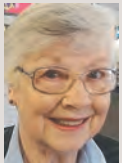
"As it's a local election I think I'd like to see family-oriented people. I think once you have family you tend to be less self-centred and a bit more selfless. I'd also like them to consult with the community before they start doing any up-grades." - **Nadia Dechellis, Rostrevor**



"Firstly, they have to have honesty. Then when they are voting they have to look after their electorate, they also have to have integrity. And they should follow through with what they have promised to do." - **Jan Sowden, Globe Derby**



"I like councillors who spend time with their constituents. I have always had good rapport with my councillors when I have had to get in touch with them, they have always followed up on my inquiries. I would imagine it's a demanding job, so you couldn't afford to be a slacker." - **Maureen Burdett, Athelstone**



"I want somebody who is approachable, articulate, passionate about the position and the people they are representing." - **Tony Copeland, Globe Derby**



# Push for diversity

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FORMER Marion mayor Felicity-ann Lewis and Berri Barmera councillor Michelle Campbell know a thing or two about the importance of diversity in local government.

Between them, they have more than two decades of experience on councils, Dr Lewis having led Marion for 14 years after three years as a councillor.

Dr Lewis's interest in local government started with a campaign for a playground. A councillor encouraged her to put her money where her mouth was, and she soon found herself an elected member. She blazed a trail for women on councils in Adelaide, and would like to see more take up the challenge. But, first and foremost, she believed people should be individuals, not identities.

"You don't want to necessarily be the token woman or the token Aboriginal person in the chamber," Dr Lewis said.

"When they come on, we've got to see them come on as an individual who's got their own views. Yes, they might happen to be a woman or happen to be Aboriginal and the fact they've got those experiences from those particular aspects of their life just adds to the richness.

"It's not better than somebody else ... it's different and it's that difference we want to see from a whole range of people."

Mrs Campbell knew entering local government could be difficult - particularly with a family life - but she says those "chains" are often deceptive.

"As someone who's had a go at a few things and not succeeded, you don't regret hav-

ing a go," Mrs Campbell said. "Any different background helps."

She recounted a councillor she never thought she would get along due to his different views with who later became a friend.

"I was like, tears when he left and we were really good friends ... but it's just someone else's point of view opens your mind and makes you think differently and nut out the issues," she said.

"It doesn't matter if it's male or female or whatever, it's someone to make you think."

Local Government Association data shows about 30 per cent of elected members in South Australia are women.

Holdfast Bay has the highest number of female members, with eight women. In Unley, there is just one female councillor. At the 2014 SA local government elections, 206 women were elected, up from 193 in 2010.

The number of women running for council in SA has steadily increased at every election between 2000 and 2014, rising from 288 candidates in 2000 to 381 candidates four years ago.

"Becoming a councillor presents the opportunity to influence local directions and create long term, positive outcomes within your community and for fellow residents," the Local Government Association says.

"Being a councillor is a rewarding challenge; one which requires commitment, responsibility and accountability. In fact, councils actively encourage nominations from people from diverse backgrounds to ensure that a wide range of views are being represented."



Former Marion mayor Felicity-ann Lewis and former Berri Barmera councillor Michelle Campbell are calling for diversity in local government.

- make a difference -

# COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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**50.2%** of the population of Salisbury is female. The council has seven female and 10 male elected members.

**32** is the median age of the population of Playford, which stands at 92,191.

**23%** of people in Salisbury are from countries where English was not their first language.

# on your local council



more diversity on local government.

PICTURE: EMMA BRASIER

## Looking from both sides of the chambers



### COUNCILLOR

CAROL Musyk has seen council operations from both sides of the fence and is in a better position than most to offer advice.

Ms Musyk was a Playford councillor until she resigned last month ahead of this year's local government election in November.

She has also worked at councils as a town planner.

She says one of the reasons she ran – first on the Light Regional Council before heading to suburbia – was because she had experience working with councillors.

"I was always community-minded, I'm a (Justice of the Peace) and a marriage celebrant, it really was just wanting to give back," she says.

"And with my professional

background I thought I had something to offer."

Ms Musyk says over time she has seen a lot of people enter local government on a single issue – some were fired up over stormwater problems and others a dangerous stretch of road. "But it may mean they enter the role, while well-meaning, without a clear understanding of how local government really works," she says.

"Suddenly you are in there and having to look at the wider picture.

"And these days council is about so much more than rates, roads and rubbish – it's a multimillion-dollar business."

Ms Musyk says anyone needs to consider this information before putting themselves forward for a role on council.

### WHY DIVERSITY IS IMPORTANT

■ Communities are made up of people from different backgrounds with different needs and interests.

■ This includes people from groups that have had less input in council decisions, including indigenous Australians, people from an ethnic background, people with a disability, women and younger people.

■ Increasing the diversity of people on councils to more closely mirror the communities they represent ensures a wide range of views are heard.

■ You can nominate for a position on a council regardless of qualifications, religion, race, gender, experience or employment.

■ Nominations for the 2018 council elections open Tuesday, September 4, and close at noon on Tuesday, September 18. You must complete and lodge a nomination form which is available from your council.

■ The *Make a difference* booklet will help you appreciate the role and responsibilities of a council member, understand the election process, and assist you in deciding whether to nominate.

■ You can download a copy at [lga.sa.gov.au](http://lga.sa.gov.au) and, while there, discover much more information about running for local government.

■ Salisbury Council will hold an information session for potential candidates on Wednesday, August 29, from 6.30pm, at the Council Office, 12, James St, Salisbury. See [salisbury.sa.gov.au](http://salisbury.sa.gov.au) for information.



Local Government Association  
of South Australia

# NOMINATE

by 12 noon Tuesday 18 September 2018





- 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. 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](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/councilelections)



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- SA councils -  
**PART**  
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**EVERY**  
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