



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

Frequently Asked Questions
2025 Local Government Elections

Frequently asked questions

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Western Australian Electoral Commission recognises the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we conduct electoral activities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Key dates

| Date | Event | |
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| Wednesday, 30 July 2025 | Last day for declaration to have the Electoral Commissioner conduct a postal/in person election. | |
| Saturday, 16 August 2025 – Wednesday, 27 August 2025 (preferred date Wednesday, 20 August) | Advertising may begin for nominations from 63 days and no later than 52 days before election day | |
| 5pm, Friday, 22 August 2025 | Roll close | |
| Thursday 28 August 2025 | Candidate nominations open | |
| 4pm, Thursday, 4 September 2025 | Close of nominations | |
| | Postal vote election | In person election |
| Friday, 12 September 2025 | Commencement of lodgement of regional local government district election packages with Australia Post | NA |
| Wednesday, 17 September 2025 | Preferred date for Notice of Election | |
| | Commencement of lodgement of metropolitan local government district election packages with Australia Post | Issuing of postal election packages, absent voting and early voting is to commence on the date of election notice or as soon as practicable after this day. |
| Tuesday, 30 September 2025 | Commence processing returned election packages | |
| 4pm, Tuesday, 14 October 2025 | Absent voting and issuing of postal votes close | |
| 4pm, Friday, 17 October 2025 | | Early voting closes |
| Saturday, 18 October 2025 | Election day – close of polls 6pm | |
| As soon as practicable | Declaration and notice of result by Returning Officer | |
| Within 14 days after declaration of the election | Report relating to the election provided to the Minister | |

Links to full timelines:

[2025 LGE - In Person Election Timetable.pdf](#)

[2025 LGE - Postal Election Timetable.pdf](#)

General questions

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| How often are local government elections held? | Local government elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October. Councillors and mayors or presidents who are directly elected, are elected for four-year terms. Half of the councillors retire from each district or ward every two years. |
| Is voting compulsory? | No. Voting in a local government election is not compulsory in Western Australia. However, it is strongly encouraged in all local government areas. Voting is an important opportunity to have a say in who will run your local government on your behalf. |
| How long is the mayor, president or councillor elected? | The term for a popularly elected mayor or shire president and councillor is four years. If Council elect the mayor or shire president, the term is for two years. |
| How are mayors/presidents elected? | <p>There are two ways mayors and presidents are chosen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct election by the community 2. Elected by the councillors <p>In Class 1 and Class 2 local governments, the community votes directly on who should fill the office of mayor (or president) at the local government elections.</p> <p>Class 3 and Class 4 local governments have the option to either have all electors vote directly on who should fill the office of mayor (or president) or can have their councillors choose from among themselves.</p> <p>If the mayor (or president) is not elected directly, councillors elect the mayor (or president) at the first meeting after the ordinary election following the swearing in of new councillors. The term of office is two years.</p> <p>To see a list of classes visit the Department of Local Government and Industry Regulation and Safety</p> |
| What is a Returning Officer and how can I find my local Returning Officer? | <p>For elections conducted by the WAEC, the Returning Officer is appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of an election in a local government district. The name of the Returning Officer will be available on both the WAEC website and the local government website for which they are the Returning Officer. It will also be included on election notices announcing key dates throughout the election period.</p> <p>For elections not being conducted by the WAEC, the local government CEO is the Returning Officer.</p> |

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| What if there are no nominations for a vacancy? | If there are no nominations for a vacancy, an extraordinary election must be held at a later date and the process for conducting an election starts again. If there are still no nominations, the council may appoint someone to the role. The person appointed by council must be someone eligible to be a candidate and who is willing to accept the appointment. |
| What if there are as many nominations as there are vacancies? | <p>If the number of nominations (candidates) matches the number of vacancies, the candidates are declared ‘elected unopposed’. This means there is no need for an election.</p> <p>If the vacancies are for various terms the Returning Officer will draw lots to determine the terms of office with the first names drawn being allocated the longest terms of office.</p> |
| How is the order of candidate names on the ballot paper determined? | <p>If there are more nominations (candidates) than vacancies, the Returning Officer will ‘draw lots’ for positions on the ballot paper.</p> <p>For the draw, candidates’ names are placed in separate opaque spheres and then put in a ballot box. Opaque spheres are randomly drawn from the ballot box with the first drawn getting top spot on the ballot paper.</p> <p>Names of remaining candidates are listed on the ballot paper in the order they are drawn. The ballot draw is a public event held immediately after the close of nominations.</p> |
| What is the difference between a City, Town and a Shire? | <p>Under the Local Government Act 1995, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City - 30,000 residents, (or 20,000 for non-metropolitan areas) and more than half live in an urban area. • Town - more than half of residents live in an urban area. • Shire - all other local government areas are called Shires. |
| What is a ward? | <p>Some councils divide their district into smaller divisions called ‘wards’ with councillors being elected within these smaller groups. Councils use wards to establish smaller geographical areas which have interests and other features in common. Where councillors are elected by the ward, they must still represent everyone in the district. The number of councillors elected within a ward is dependent on how many electors are enrolled for each ward.</p> <p>Class 3 and Class 4 councils were required to remove wards in 2023.</p> |
| What are Local Government Classes? | <p>Local governments are allocated a class rating. These range from Class 1 to Class 4 and are based on the bands allocated by the Salary and Allowance Tribunal in its 2012 determination. Class 1 are the larger councils with Class 4 being the smaller councils.</p> <p>Visit the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website for a list of classes.</p> |

Role of the WA Electoral Commission

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| What is the role of the WA Electoral Commission? | <p>The WAEC is an independent agency committed to ensuring it meets the highest standards and demands of electoral services for Western Australians.</p> <p>The WAEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prepares and maintains the electoral rolls for local government elections. (rolls include residents and property owners eligible to vote in each district)• oversees the vote counting process, ensuring accuracy and security. It officially declares election results and provides detailed reports• manages the nominations process for candidates. Provides guidance and information for candidates about rules, conduct, and responsibilities• manages the distribution and return of ballot papers for elections conducted as postal election• Ensures compliance with the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and Local Government (Elections) Regulations• Reports on electoral processes and outcomes to the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Electoral Affairs. |
| Does the WA Electoral Commission run all local government elections in Western Australia? | <p>No. Local governments can choose to conduct the election themselves (by their own staff) or have the WAEC conduct the election for them.</p> <p>If a local government chooses to have a postal election it must be managed by the WAEC.</p> <p>Local governments have the choice of running an in-person election themselves or requesting that the WAEC manage their in-person election.</p> |

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| How are local government elections conducted? | <p>If the WAEC is conducting the election, a Returning Officer will be appointed. The local government can request the WAEC conduct either a postal election or an in-person election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal election - electors are sent an election package to their enrolled postal address. Electors vote and then post back the completed ballot papers before the due date. • In-person election - electors can apply to vote by post, vote early at a polling place or on election day at a polling place. <p>If the local government chooses to run the election, it is conducted as an in-person election.</p> |
| What services does the WA Electoral Commission provide for local governments conducting an election themselves? | <p>Local governments conducting their own elections (i.e. not using the WAEC) can purchase the WAEC CountWA software. Designed by WAEC, this software is used for the electronic recording of ballot paper markings. It is commonly used when the number of vacancies and candidates makes it complex to manually sort and count ballot papers.</p> <p>Local governments can choose not to use any support from the WAEC.</p> |

Employment at local government elections

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| How can I work at a local government election? | <p>The WAEC engages a temporary election workforce via recruitment partner Persol for casual employment including vote counting and data entry on election day and the processing of returned election packages at the WAEC processing centre in Perth.</p> <p>Employment opportunities are advertised on the WAEC website at 2025 Local Government Election Jobs Western Australian Electoral Commission</p> |
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Candidates and councillor information

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| Who are the candidates and where I can find out more information? | <p>Candidate profiles are sent out with election packages for all postal elections. They can also be viewed for elections conducted by the WAEC on the website elections.wa.gov.au and on the relevant local government's website.</p> <p>Candidate profiles for in-person elections will be displayed at each polling place as well as uploaded to both the local government and WAEC websites. To find out more about a candidate you can contact them using the contact information provided on their profile.</p> |
| Who are the current councillors for my local government? | <p>To find information about your current councillors, contact your local government or visit their website.</p> |

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| How can I become a candidate in a local government election? | <p>To become a candidate, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet the eligibility requirements • complete the Induction for prospective candidates on the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety website from July • complete the nomination process • pay the deposit <p>See key dates for deadlines to nominate.</p> |
| What qualifications are needed to be a local government candidate? | <p>No formal qualifications are required to nominate as a local government candidate.</p> |
| What electoral rules should candidates be aware of? | <p>All information is included in the Guide for Candidates.</p> |

Voting eligibility, enrolment and silent voters

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| Who can vote in local government elections? | <p>Two categories of people can vote in local government elections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents - People who live in the local government area of the election AND who are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll. Residents on the State Electoral Roll for the district are automatically enrolled for elections within their local government. This Residents Roll is maintained by the WAEC. • Non-resident Owner and Occupiers - Owners of property who do not live in the local government area of the election or non-resident occupiers of rateable property in the local government area. These are people who do not live in the local government area but either own property there or rent (occupy) property in the local government area. This Owners and Occupiers Roll is maintained by the local government. To be included on the Owners and Occupiers Roll, non-resident owners or occupiers of rateable properties within the local government must apply to the local government. |
| How can I check if I'm on the electoral roll or update my details? | <p>You can check if you are correctly enrolled on the Residents Roll on the WA Electoral Commission website.</p> <p>To check the Owner and Occupiers Roll, contact your local government.</p> |
| How do I get on the Residents Roll? | <p>Residents can apply to the Australian Electoral Commission or WAEC to be included on the Residents Roll. Enrol online.</p> <p>Non-resident Owners and Occupiers must apply to the local government and be accepted for enrolment (LG form 2). For more information visit Owners and Occupiers Enrolment Eligibility Claims</p> |
| When is the last day to enrol to vote or update my enrolment details? | <p>Changes to the electoral roll (both residents and owners and occupiers) must be received by 5pm, Friday 22 August 2025.</p> |
| I am not on the roll and have missed the deadline. Can I vote? | <p>No. If you do not enrol by the deadline for close of the rolls, you cannot vote.</p> <p>The only exception is if you have been omitted in error. If you think you should be on the Residents Roll, you should contact the Returning Officer or the WAEC to check your eligibility. If you think you should be on the Owner and Occupier roll, contact the relevant local government directly.</p> |

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| I own more than one property. How many votes do I get per ward / district? | <p>An elector is eligible to receive one vote per ward in a district. If no wards, then one vote for the district in a local government election. This means if you own / rent non-residential property in more than one ward you will receive one ballot paper per ward that you are enrolled. You will only receive one mayoral / presidential ballot paper if a mayoral / presidential election is held.</p> <p>If you own / rent more than one non-residential property in a local government district that does not have wards you will only be entitled to one councillor vote and one mayoral / presidential vote.</p> |
| I am enrolled in more than one ward as a resident and owner / occupier. How do I vote? | <p>If two wards are going to election and the elector is eligible to vote in both, they will receive two councillor ballot papers (one for each ward). If a mayoral election is also being held, they will only receive one mayoral ballot paper.</p> <p>Each ward will be a separate election package because they are separate elections.</p> |
| I'm a renter. Can I vote in local government elections? | <p>Yes. If you are correctly enrolled on the State Electoral Roll you will automatically be eligible to vote in local government election.</p> |
| I'm a ratepayer but I'm not an Australian citizen. Can I vote in local government elections? | <p>If you are a non-resident owner or non-resident occupier of rateable property but not on a State or Commonwealth Government electoral roll (not Australian citizen) you are only able to vote if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You were enrolled on the last completed Owners and Occupiers Roll of the local government before the introduction of the Local Government Act 1995; AND • You have owned or occupied rateable property within the district continuously since that roll was prepared. |
| I am a silent elector. Will my address be shown on the local government rolls? | <p>No. For all silent electors who are registered on the State electoral roll, "Section 51B" is printed in the address field instead of the address on the roll provided to the local government.</p> <p>Non-resident owners and occupiers who wish to be registered as silent electors need to apply directly to their local government.</p> |
| Who can get a copy of the electoral roll? | <p>Only a candidate or current councillor can get a copy of the roll for the purposes of election campaigning. The Returning Officer provides candidates and current sitting members, upon request, with a residents roll and the owners and occupiers roll as prepared by the local government.</p> <p>The use of roll information for other purposes is prohibited and subject to penalties.</p> |

Optional preferential voting

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| What is optional preferential voting and how do I fill out the ballot? | <p>Under the optional preferential voting system, voters number candidates in the order of their preference. You have the choice to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vote for one candidate - by putting a 1 next to their name or • vote for some candidates - by numbering several candidates in the order of your preference or • vote for all candidates – by numbering all candidates in the order of your preference. |
| Where can I find out more about optional preferential voting? | <p>Learn more about optional preferential voting on the WA Electoral Commission website.</p> |

Postal elections

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| Do I have to apply for a postal election package? | <p>No – for a postal vote election, all postal voting packages are automatically sent to all electors on the roll.</p> <p>For an in-person election, you will need to apply for a postal vote from the local government.</p> |
| When will I receive my election package? | <p>Election voting packages are posted to each elector enrolled on the Local Government's combined electoral roll (Resident and non-resident Owner and Occupiers – see voter eligibility questions above) from 36 days prior to the election (for country districts) and 31 days prior to the election (for metropolitan districts). This allows electors plenty of time to vote and return the completed ballot paper in the envelope provided.</p> <p>For the 2025 LGE, Election packages will be lodged with Australia Post for mailing to electors from the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional areas from Friday 12 September • Metropolitan areas from Wednesday 17 September <p>Note: Delivery days/times to letterboxes will depend on whether a local government has opted for a priority or regular post.</p> <p>If you have not received your package by at least 19 September for regional and 26 September for metro areas, please contact your local government for a replacement package. Estimated standard delivery times are available on the Australia Post website.</p> |

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| What's in my postal election voting package? | <p>Election packages consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ballot paper(s) • candidate profiles • information brochure (with information about how to vote) • ballot paper envelope with elector's certificate attached • reply paid envelope, addressed to the WAEC |
| I haven't received an election voting package. What should I do? | <p>First check if you are enrolled to vote for that local government election.</p> <p>You may not have received an election package because there is no election for that local government district or ward or the WAEC is not running a postal election in your local government.</p> <p>Check if any of the above apply by contacting your local government or the WAEC.</p> <p>If you still think you should have received an election package you can visit your local government office who will issue you a replacement voting package and cancel any previous package issued to you.</p> <p>Application for replacement voting package available on the WAEC website: Local Government Stakeholder Resources Western Australian Electoral Commission</p> |
| I've moved. Where will my election voting package be mailed? | <p>You are eligible to vote for the address at which you were enrolled when the rolls closed on 22 August 2025.</p> <p>If you haven't updated your enrolment details and are still enrolled at a different address, your postal package will be mailed to that address.</p> |
| What happens to my ballot paper after posting? | <p>Completed election packages are returned to the WAEC via post. The barcode on the elector's certificate is scanned and marked off that the elector has voted. The elector's certificate is removed from the ballot paper envelope. The ballot paper envelope is then processed separately. When the ballot paper envelope is opened, your ballot paper is removed without examination and placed immediately into a sealed ballot box. These ballot boxes are delivered to the Returning Officer at the local government on election day. The ballot box is opened after 6pm on election day and the votes are counted.</p> |
| What can I do if I am going to be away from my normal place of residence during the time election packages are delivered? | <p>You apply for a redirection of your mail directly through Australia Post or you can ask somebody to forward your election package to you. You must consider the time taken for the election package to be forwarded to you and for your completed ballot paper(s) and elector's certificate to be returned to the WAEC.</p> |

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| I think some parts of my election package are missing or have been destroyed. What should I do? | <p>To replace a part or the entire election package contact your local government.</p> <p>Note, replacements cannot be issued from the WAEC office in Perth.</p> |
| I made a mistake on my ballot paper. Can I get a new ballot paper(s)? | <p>Cross out the mistake and re-do your vote. If your preferred candidate(s) are clearly marked, your vote will be counted. Do not initial the mistake.</p> <p>If you think you need a new ballot paper, contact your local government.</p> |
| I have received a mayoral ballot paper and a councillor ballot paper but only one ballot paper envelope. What should I do? | <p>Both ballot papers go in the one ballot paper envelope. When processed, the ballot papers will be separated for counting.</p> |
| What happens to my vote if I don't sign the elector's certificate / declaration? | <p>Your vote can not be included in the count.</p> |
| When do ballot papers have to be returned? | <p>For your vote to count, your ballot must be received by the Returning Officer by 6pm on Election Day - Saturday 18 October 2025.</p> |
| Can I take my election package to the council office instead of posting it? | <p>Yes. You can take your completed election package to your local government office during normal office hours Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or to a nominated Polling Place between 8am and 6pm on Saturday 18 October 2025.</p> |
| I'm concerned it's too late to mail my election package. What should I do? | <p>Take your completed election package to your local government office. You can hand deliver your election package during normal office hours Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or to a nominated Polling Place between 8am and 6pm on election day, Saturday 18 October 2025.</p> |
| I'm going away and haven't received my election package. Can it be forwarded to me? | <p>Packages will be posted to your address as shown on the roll. If you're going to be away, you can arrange for a redirection directly from Australia Post or ask a friend or family member to pick up your election package and forward it to your temporary address.</p> |
| Can the WA Electoral Commission guarantee my returned election package will be included in the count? | <p>If the election package is completed correctly and returned to the WAEC by 6pm on election day, Saturday 18 October 2025 your vote will be included in the count.</p> <p>To ensure your vote is included in the count, fill it out and post it back as soon as possible after you receive it. If you're worried about postal delays, you can drop your completed election package into a ballot box at the local government office on or before election day.</p> |

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| How can I be sure my vote is secret? | <p>Make sure no one observes you marking your ballot paper.</p> <p>At the vote processing centre, the barcode on your elector's certificate will be scanned and the signed elector's certificate is then removed from the ballot paper envelope. The ballot paper envelope is then processed separately. When the ballot paper envelope is opened, your ballot paper is removed without examination and placed immediately into a sealed ballot box. No-one will know how you have voted.</p> <p>The ballot box is not opened until 6pm on election day, when counting starts.</p> |
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Other people's election packages

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| My family member / friend / housemate is overseas. Can a package be sent to them? | The election package will be posted to the postal address listed on the enrolment application. If there's enough time for the package to be redirected and returned before 6pm on election day, you can redirect it personally. |
| What do I do if I have received a package for someone who used to live here? | Write the words 'No longer at this address' on the envelope and put it back into a red Australia Post box. The package will be returned to the WAEC, and steps will be taken to remove the elector from the Electoral Roll. |
| Can I sign the ballot paper envelope on behalf of my family member / friend / housemate? | <p>No. Proxy voting is not permitted, even if you have power of attorney.</p> <p>Making a false declaration is an offence.</p> |
| My family member / friend / housemate is unable to sign the elector's certificate. Can I complete it on their behalf? | No. You cannot sign the elector's certificate. The person can make their mark (eg 'X') instead of their signature on the elector's certificate only if it is witnessed. You may sign as witness that the elector has signed or marked but you cannot sign on their behalf. |

Electoral security (postal elections)

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| How secure is the voting system? | Each election package has an individual barcode, and this can be checked in the database if fraud is suspected. The WAEC will investigate matters of electoral fraud. |
| How are ballot boxes kept secure? | <p>At the start of voting the Returning Officer will indicate to any witnesses present that the ballot box is empty and then close the top and seal it with a numbered seal. A record is then made of that seal number and signed by the Returning Officer (or Electoral Officer present).</p> <p>The seal is broken during the voting period as the returned packages are taken out and forwarded to the WAEC for processing. Each time the seal is broken, and a new seal is placed on the ballot box the seal numbers are recorded and witnessed by an Electoral Officer or local government staff member.</p> |

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| | <p>The Returning Officer ensures that local government staff secure the ballot box each night and that the seal remains intact.</p> <p>Overnight (and any other time when staff are not present), the ballot papers will be left in a secure lockable room, preferably within the council administration office which will be subject to normal security provisions. Specific security staff are not necessary unless the local government and the Returning Officer deem it necessary. Unused election packages will be stored overnight in a locked room with the ballot box.</p> |
| <p>I suspect someone is taking ballot papers from people's letterboxes. What should I do?</p> | <p>This is a serious offence under the Local Government Act and should be reported to your local government.</p> <p>You should advise the local government of your address and any other addresses you suspect may have been involved. The local government can issue a replacement package for the one you believe has been taken from your letterbox and cancel the original. The WAEC will investigate these matters.</p> |

In-person elections

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| <p>How do people vote at an in-person local government election?</p> | <p>For in person elections only, you can vote in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to your local government polling place to cast your vote. Local governments may have a few polling places where electors can attend in person to cast their vote. Generally, at least one polling place is at the local government offices. (check your Local Government website for information) • Vote early at your local government polling place (check your Local Government website for information) • register for postal vote • remote polling - contact your local government for location details <p>Polling places are usually open on election day from 8am to 6pm. Check the details on your local government website for opening hours of each polling place.</p> |
| <p>I made a mistake on my ballot. Can I get new ballot papers?</p> | <p>Cross out the mistake and re-do your vote. If your preferred candidate(s) are clearly marked, your vote will be counted. Do not initial the mistake.</p> <p>If you think you need a new ballot paper, ask an electoral officer.</p> |
| <p>How can I vote if I can't get to a polling place on election day?</p> | <p>If you can't attend on election day, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Apply for a postal vote</u>. The deadline for applications is 4pm Tuesday 14 October. • <u>Vote early</u> at the local government office. Early voting is open from Monday 22 September to 4pm Friday 17 October. • <u>Cast an absent vote</u> at any local government office in Western Australia. Absent voting is open from Monday 22 September to 4pm Tuesday 14 October. |

Counting the votes

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| Where and when are the votes counted? | <p>Votes are counted in a room selected by the Returning Officer such as the local government administration building, a hall or the council chamber.</p> <p>Vote counting starts as soon as practicable from 6pm on election day.</p> <p>Postal voting packages– are partially processed at the Local Government Office prior to 6pm on Election Day. The RO notifies candidates and scrutineers when this is occurring. The Postal votes are not counted until after 6pm on Election Day.</p> |
| Can I watch the counting of votes? | Yes, you can attend your local government office from 6pm on election day, Saturday, 18 October 2025. |
| Are votes counted by hand or using machines? | All multi-vacancy counts are conducted using computers installed with WAEC's CountWA software. Marked ballot papers are data entered into the computer system and the result is calculated once all ballot papers have been entered and verified. A manual sort and count of ballot papers is conducted in single vacancy elections and first preference votes are entered into CountWA to determine the first candidate to be excluded. |
| What is CountWA? | CountWA is a trusted counting software developed by the WA Electoral Commission for the electronic recording of ballot paper markings. The WAEC uses CountWA for Local Government elections, State elections for the Legislative Council and in numerous non-parliamentary elections, demonstrating its reliability and adaptability. Count WA replicates a manual count. It is always used where there are a large number of candidates and also used to identify the first and subsequent candidates to be excluded in a manual count. |
| How does a candidate win a seat under the optional preferential voting method? | <p>To be elected in a single vacancy election, a candidate must achieve an absolute majority. This means that the candidate must get at least one more vote than half of the total valid first preference votes e.g. 50% of the votes + 1 vote</p> <p>Under optional preferential voting, for a candidate to be elected in a multi-vacancy election, they must receive enough votes to reach a quota (not an absolute majority). The quota is calculated using the formula:</p> $\text{Quota} = (\text{Number of formal votes} / \text{number of vacancies} + 1) + 1$ |

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| I don't like the voting or counting system. How can I complain about it? | <p>The WAEC conducts local government elections in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>.</p> <p>Feedback about voting should be directed to your local member or the DLIGRS.</p> |
| When are the election results announced? | <p>When vote counting has finished, the results are declared by the Returning Officer. Results will be posted on the Western Australian Electoral Commission website as soon as practicable after the declaration. Results will also be uploaded to the local government website.</p> <p>Local Government and the WAEC will post a results notice.</p> |

Complaints

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| How can I lodge a complaint with the WA Electoral Commission? | <p>For more information see: Electoral offences and complaints – local government election Western Australian Electoral Commission (elections.wa.gov.au)</p> <p>Written complaints can be lodged via the WAEC online webform.</p> |
| Does the WAEC investigate all complaints? | <p>Yes, all complaints are followed up. Complaints submitted online will be investigated by the WAEC Complaints Team. Complaints that are submitted directly to the Returning Officer will be investigated by the Returning Officer with escalation to the Complaints Team, if required.</p> |
| What are the rules about candidate behaviour and commentary? What can I do if I think these have been breached? | <p>Contact the Returning Officer to discuss the matter or submit a complaint via the method referred to above.</p> <p>If the complaints to a breach of the Local Council's Code of Conduct, complaints can be directed to the CEO of the Local Government.</p> |
| What are the rules about publishing offensive material regarding candidates or sitting councillors? What can I do if I think these have been breached? | <p>Rules can be found in the Local Government Act 1995 in relation to publishing of offensive material. Complaints about the personal behaviour of councillors or gifts allegedly received and not declared by a candidate are to be referred to the local government CEO. It may be appropriate to seek legal advice about what further actions can be pursued.</p> <p>Note, the WAEC does not investigate complaints of defamatory material as the legislation does not provide that jurisdiction. The matter must be resolved between the parties involved.</p> |

Glossary of terms

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| Ballot paper | A paper printed for an election showing candidate names which voters mark to record their vote. It also contains voting instructions. |
| Class {x} Local Government | Local governments are divided into classes with the largest falling in class 1 and 2, and smaller local governments falling classes 3 and 4. The allocation of local governments into classes is determined by the bands allocated by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. |
| District | The word for local government area (or council) for electoral purposes. A district can be made up of between five to 15 councillors, depending on the number set by the individual local government. Where the local community, and not the councillors, elect a mayor, councillor numbers are limited to between four to 14. |
| EMSWA LG | <p>Election Management System for WA Local Government elections. This system holds all information regarding Local Government elections, including details for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government districts and wards, • Mayoral and councillor elections and vacancies, • Candidates, • Electors, and • Election results. <p>Returning Officers use the LG Portal to access the EMSWA LG functions related to their assigned LG district.</p> |
| Formal vote | A ballot paper which has been correctly marked and counts towards the result of an election. |
| Informal vote | A ballot paper which is declared invalid as it does not comply with the instructions governing the election and therefore cannot be accepted into the count. |
| Local Government Act 1995 | <p><i>The Act</i> provides for a system of local government by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing for the constitution of elected local governments in the State • Describing the functions of local governments • Providing for the conduct of elections and other polls, and • Providing a framework for the administration and financial management of local governments and for the scrutiny of their affairs |
| Mayor | A leader elected for a local government which is a city or town. |
| Optional Preferential Voting | The system of election that requires that voters only record a first preference on their ballot papers for their votes to be counted. Voters who wish to record one or more additional preferences among the remaining candidates are able to do so in the normal way, using consecutive numbers. |

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| Quota | <p>Under optional preferential voting, for a candidate to be elected in an electoral region, they must receive enough votes to reach a quota (not an absolute majority).</p> <p>The quota is calculated using the formula:</p> $\left(\frac{\text{Number of formal votes}}{\text{(Number of candidates to be elected +1)}} \right) + 1 = \text{Quota}$ |
| Shire President | A leader elected for a local government which is a shire. |
| Ward | A division of a local government district. |

For more information contact:

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