

Frequently asked Questions

For nominees and current councillors

What is the difference between an alderman and a councillor?

Currently, councillors for Tasmania's six cities – Burnie, Clarence, Devonport, Glenorchy, Hobart, and Launceston – can also be known as 'Alderman'. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Hobart are known as the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

In this booklet, and to be consistent with the TEC, only the terms 'councillor', 'mayor' and 'deputy mayor' are used. This is consistent with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Who can nominate to become a councillor?

Any Australian citizen enrolled for state or federal elections in the relevant municipality is eligible to stand for council.

In addition, you can apply to be on the "General Manager's Roll" if you are an owner or occupier of land in the municipality, which enables you to vote and also nominate for local government elections. See more on the General Manager's Roll further below.

It is an open opportunity to represent your community and make a positive impact. You can nominate for a position on the council regardless of qualifications, religion, race, gender, experience or profession.

Please visit the Tasmanian Electoral Commission [website](#) for detailed information (including exclusions).

What is the General Manager's Roll?

If you are on the House of Assembly electoral roll in respect of an address within the municipal area in which you wish to cast your vote at a council election or nominate, you are automatically enrolled.

However, if:

- You are a resident in a municipality, but not eligible for the State electoral roll (for example, because you are not an Australian Citizen), or

- You own or occupy land in a municipality, but do not live in that municipality (e.g. you lease a shop or own a property such as a shack or rental property), or
- You are the nominated representative of a corporate body which owns or occupies land in a municipality.

Then you are eligible to be on the General Manager's Electoral Roll. You must apply to be on the General Manager's Electoral Roll – contact your local council for the relevant enrolment form.

If you have any doubts about whether you are eligible, you should contact the TEC for further information. For further information on the nomination process, refer to the TEC Candidate [Handbook](#).

I'm interested in nominating – where can I find more information?

You can find more information by heading to our website and reading through the following documents and information:

- The LGAT Candidate Handbook
- The Office of Local Government's online training modules
- The Tasmanian Electoral Commission [Handbook](#).

I work at council as an employee, can I run for council at the election?

No, council employees are not eligible to nominate for that same council.

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, details the eligibility for nomination as a councillor, with Section 270(1d) relating to employees.

If you decide you want to run for council, you must resign before submitting your nomination.

Can I run for more than one council at the election?

No, you may only be a candidate for one council. Refer to Section 270(4) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

What legislation do I need to be familiar with to nominate and run my campaign?

It's a good idea to be familiar with the following legislation when you are nominating for, and campaigning for an election:

- [Local Government Act 1993](#) – its recommended to be familiar with at least Part 3 Local Government and Part 15 Council Elections
- [Local Government \(General\) Regulations 2015](#) – its recommended to read at least Part 2 - Elections
- Candidates can also read the TEC's Candidate [Handbook](#).

Where can I put up election signs for my campaign?

Councils have by-laws, policies, and planning schemes that regulate the placement and size of electoral signs. Candidates are strongly advised to contact their relevant council to ensure that any signage complies with relevant local requirements.

For more information about the placement of election signs, candidates can view the [Election Signs InfoSheet](#) published by the State Planning Office for more information.

The TEC [publish material](#) which has further information on these restrictions and requirements.

The TEC has a printer's manual that has been compiled to assist you in complying with the advertising provisions contained in the *Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*.

Can LGAT help me set up my candidate statement/website/social media accounts?

No. LGAT, council staff or TEC cannot help develop your campaign materials, that is up to you. However, there is a lot of helpful information on our website and in the LGAT Candidate Handbook.

The below resources can be purchased and provide in-depth advice on running a campaign:

- Suzy Cooper, *Thank Goodness You're Here*, [Books — Suzy Cooper](#)
- Ruth McGowan, *Get Elected*, [Book - Ruth McGowan](#)

We have provided additional resources on our website [here](#).

When can I start my promotion?

Candidates may start campaigning as soon as you like, however, be mindful of expenditure limits outlined below.

How much am I allowed to spend on my campaign?

If you are campaigning in Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart, Kingborough or Launceston, candidates can spend up to \$18,000 for the 2022 election campaign.

For the remainder of the council areas, the amount is \$11,500 for the 2022 election campaign.

You need to include all electoral advertising used during the relevant period (*currently this is understood to be between the 4th August – 25th October 2022*) in the expenditure limit.

Can I become an elected member on the local council if I have a married or de facto partner who is also an employee?

An employee of a council cannot nominate for the same council. However, there is nothing precluding either a former employee who has ceased employment with the council, or the partner of an employee from nominating if the person meets all of the other requirements of section 270 *Local Government Act 1993*.

Who can I speak to if I have questions about what it's like to be a councillor?

Your local council is a good place to start. You can also read through the resources on our website and 'Ask us' if you have a question via our website.

Is there training available to help me decide if I want to nominate?

The Office of Local Government and LGAT have developed an online training resource to help candidates become more informed about the roles and responsibilities of a councillor in local government. These are done through training modules that are free and are accessible online. Some councils are also running local information sessions. Check with your local council to find out more.

What help is available once I'm elected?

Once you are elected to council, you will be able to receive help from your council and benefit from membership with LGAT. Throughout the year, LGAT hosts numerous events and professional development opportunities, such as the Elected Members Weekend,

Mayors Workshop and policy specific conferences. These opportunities will be communicated to you and your council.

Additionally, the Office of Local Government and LGAT hold training sessions for the elected representatives and has developed a learning framework which includes formal, online modules and work-placed activities that support knowledge sharing.

Keep an eye on the LGAT and Office of Local Government websites for more information on these packages closer to you starting as an elected representative.

Where do I go for more information?

There is more information available for candidates at the following:

- [LGAT website](#)
- [Your local council](#)
- [TEC website](#)
- [Additional resources](#) (scroll to bottom of page)
- [Office of Local Government website](#).