



Minutes

Unscheduled Council Meeting

Thursday 24 April 2025 at 6pm

Council Chamber,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



**City of
Whittlesea**

Councillors

Cr Daniela Zinni, Deputy Mayor	Bundoora Ward
Cr Nic Brooks	Thomastown Ward
Cr Blair Colwell	Mill Park Ward
Cr Lawrie Cox	Ganbul Gulinj Ward
Cr Deb Gunn	Painted Hills Ward
Cr Stevan Kozmevski	Lalor Ward
Cr Jarrod Lappin	Mernda Ward
Cr David Lenberg	Epping Ward
Cr Christine Stow	North Ward
Cr Martin Taylor	South Morang Ward

Executive Leadership Team

Craig Lloyd	Chief Executive Officer
Emma Appleton	Director Planning & Development
Janine Morgan	Executive Manager Public Affairs
Jacinta Stevens	Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Order of Business

1 Opening	4
1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions.....	4
1.2 Apologies	4
1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement	4
1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement	4
3 Officers' Reports	5
3.1 Election of Mayor.....	5
3.2 Election of Deputy Mayor (if required).....	7
4 Tabled Reports	9
4.1 Governor in Council Order	9
4.2 Election Report - Whittlesea City Council 2024 Local Government Elections	11
5 Closure.....	86

1 Opening

1.1 Meeting Opening and Introductions

The CEO, as the interim chair opened the meeting at 6pm.

“Welcome to this Council Meeting of 24 April 2025 which is being held in person in the Council Chamber at Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang and also being live streamed.

My name is Craig Lloyd, I’m the Chief Executive Officer here at the City of Whittlesea. I would like to introduce our Councillors and members of the Executive Leadership in attendance tonight.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Zinni, Cr Brooks, Cr Colwell, Cr Cox, Cr Gunn (online), Cr Kozmevski, Cr Lappin, Cr Lenberg (online), Cr Stow and Cr Taylor.

From our Executive Leadership Team we have:

Emma Appleton, Director Planning & Development;
Janine Morgan, Executive Manager Public Affairs; and
Jacinta Stevens, Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO.

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

“On behalf of Council, I recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

I would also like to acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging.”

1.4 Diversity and Good Governance Statement

The Chair read the following statement:

“At the City of Whittlesea we are proud of our diversity and the many cultures, faiths and beliefs that make up our community. We strive to be an inclusive welcoming City that fosters active participation, wellbeing and connection to each other and this land. We commit as a Council to making informed decisions to benefit the people of the City of Whittlesea now and into the future, to support our community’s vision of A Place For All.”

3 Officers' Reports

3.1 Election of Mayor

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to conduct the election of a Mayor to serve the remaining period of the previous Mayor's term being until 18 November 2025 will be conducted in accordance section 26 (8) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Council's Governance Rules.

In accordance with section 26 (6) of the Act, a Mayor must be elected within one month after any vacancy in the office of Mayor occurs.

Further, Council's Governance Rules prescribe the procedure for the election of Mayor, noting the Chief Executive Officer must chair the election of the Mayor in accordance with section 25 (3)(a) of the Act.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council conducts an election for the position of Mayor until 18 November 2025.

Cr Stow moved the Officer Recommendation as the motion:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION	
Moved:	<i>Cr Stow</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Cox</i>

THAT Council conducts an election for the position of Mayor until 18 November 2025.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Nil

VOTING

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Kozmevski</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

Election of Mayor (until 18 November 2025)

The Chief Executive Officer, Craig Lloyd outlined the process for the election of the Mayor and invited Councillors to submit their nominations for the Office of Mayor for the remaining period of the previous Mayor's term being until 18 November 2025.

Cr Brooks nominated Cr Taylor for election to the Office of the Mayor. Cr Taylor accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded by Cr Stow.

There were no further nominations.

As only one nomination was received, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules 2024, the Chief Executive Officer declared Cr Taylor duly elected to the Office of Mayor of the City of Whittlesea until the 18 November 2025.

Mayor, Cr Taylor assumed the Chair and addressed the meeting.

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO THE ELECTION

Cr Cox, Cr Colwell & Cr Stow

3.2 Election of Deputy Mayor (if required)

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to elect a Deputy Mayor in the event the role becomes vacant as a result of the Mayoral election.

The position of Deputy Mayor will be to serve the remaining period of the previous Deputy Mayor's term being until 18 November 2025 and will be conducted in accordance section 26 (8) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and Council's Governance Rules.

Officers' Recommendation

THAT Council conduct an election for the position of Deputy Mayor until 18 November 2025.

Cr Gunn moved the following motion:

Motion

THAT Council note an election for the position of the Deputy Mayor is not required and that Cr Daniela Zinni remains Deputy Mayor until the next election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be held on 18 November 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved:	<i>Cr Gunn</i>
Seconded:	<i>Cr Stow</i>

THAT Council note an election for the position of the Deputy Mayor is not required and that Cr Daniela Zinni remains Deputy Mayor until the next election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be held on 18 November 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR/S WHO SPOKE TO MOTION

Cr Stow

VOTING		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED (vote against the motion)
<i>Cr Zinni</i> <i>Cr Brooks</i> <i>Cr Colwell</i> <i>Cr Cox</i> <i>Cr Gunn</i> <i>Cr Kozmevski</i> <i>Cr Lappin</i> <i>Cr Lenberg</i> <i>Cr Stow</i> <i>Cr Taylor</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

4 Tabled Reports

4.1 Governor in Council Order

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

In accordance with section 229A (4) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Order provided to Council by the Governor in Council in relation to the suspension of an individual Councillor of Whittlesea City Council at Attachment 1 is tabled and to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Attachments

1. Signed Order in Council [4.1.1 - 1 page]

Local Government Act 2020

SUSPENSION OF AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR OF WHITTLESEA CITY COUNCIL

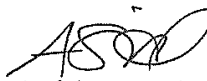
ORDER IN COUNCIL

The Governor in Council under section 229A(1) of the **Local Government Act 2020**, on the recommendation of the Minister for Local Government, suspend Aidan McLindon as a Councillor of Whittlesea City Council for a period of 6 months from 16 April 2025 until 16 October 2025.

Dated: 15 APR 2025

Responsible Minister:

The Hon Nick Staikos MP
Minister for Local Government


Clerk of the Executive Council

4.2 Election Report – Whittlesea City Council 2024 Local Government Elections

Director/Executive Manager: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Report Author: Executive Manager Office of Council & CEO

Executive Summary

In accordance with the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020*, a copy of the Election Report for Whittlesea City Council 2024 Local Government Elections must be submitted to the Council at the earliest meeting after the CEO received the report from the Victorian Electoral Commission, see Attachment 1.

Attachments

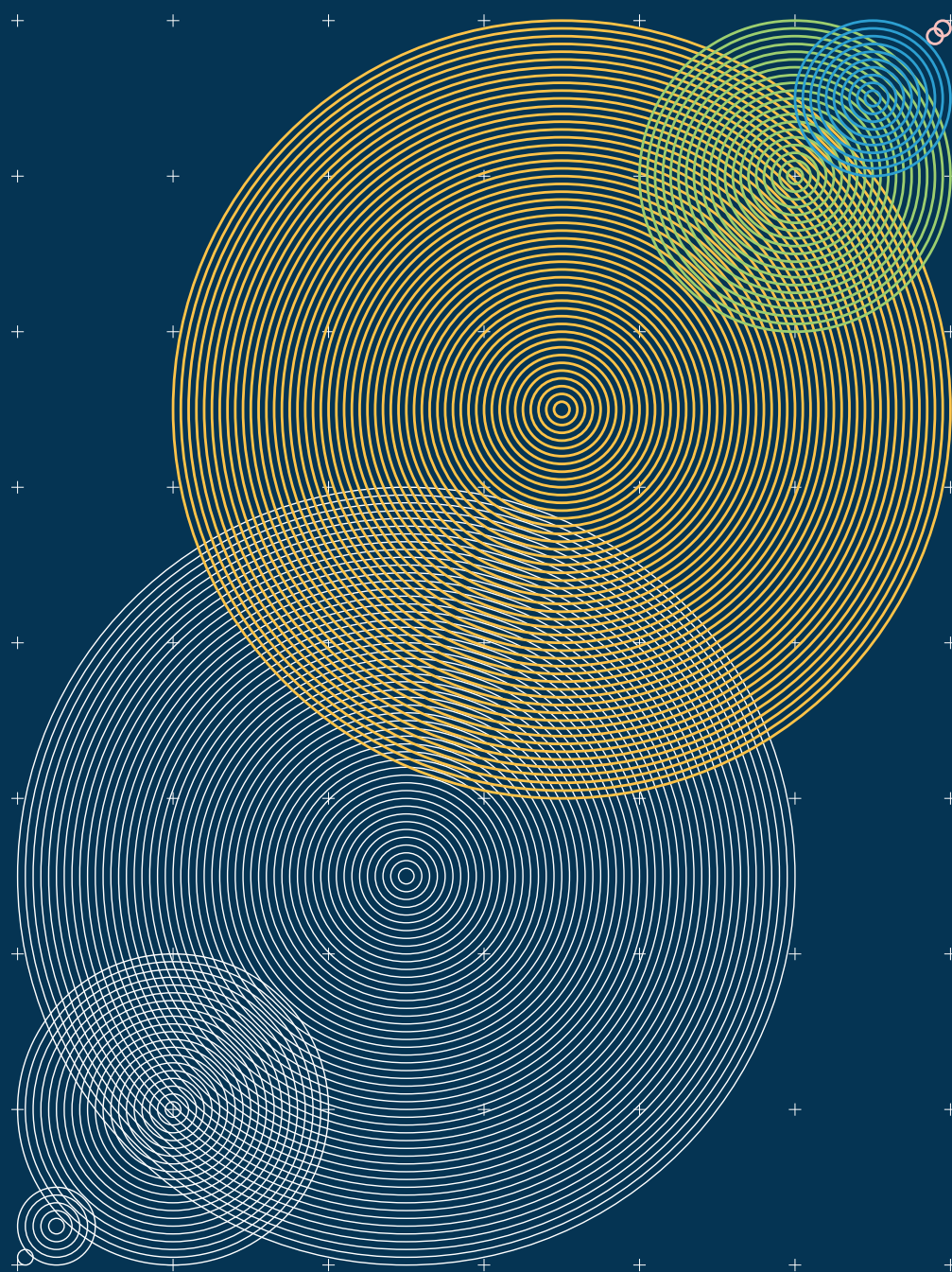
1. Whittlesea City Council – LG 24 election report [4.2.1 - 74 pages]

Election report

Whittlesea City Council

2024 Local government elections

April 2025



Letter of Transmittal

14 April 2025

Mr Craig Lloyd
Chief Executive Officer
Whittlesea City Council
Locked Bag 1
Bundoora Mdc VIC 3083

Dear Mr Lloyd

Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, I submit this report to the Chief Executive Officer of Whittlesea City Council on the general election held in October 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bluemmel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

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.

Election report
Whittlesea City Council
2024 Local government elections

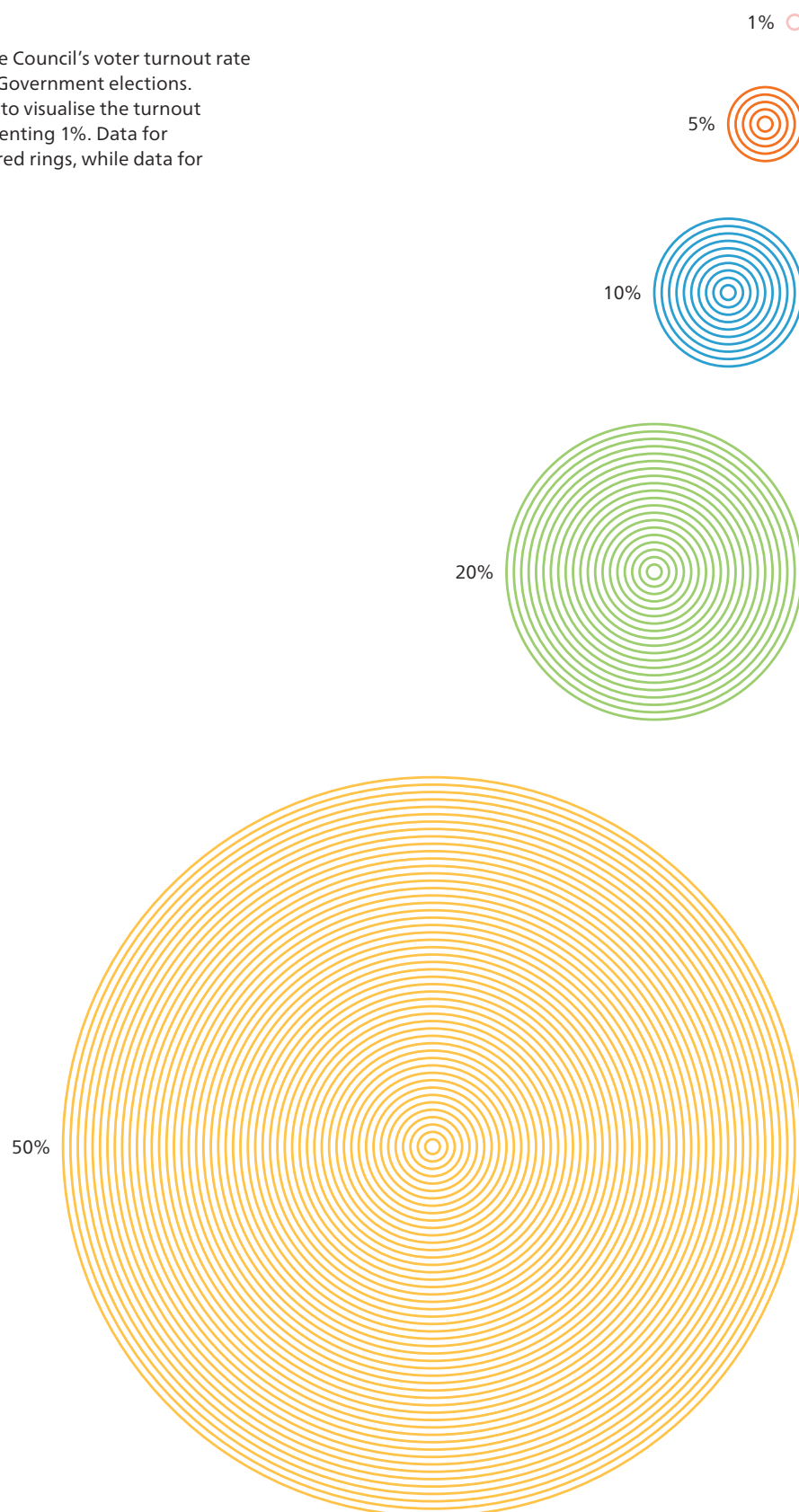
Voter turnout (front cover)

Graphic representation of the Council's voter turnout rate for the 2024 and 2016 Local Government elections. Rings are grouped into units to visualise the turnout percentage, each ring representing 1%. Data for 2024 is depicted using coloured rings, while data for 2016 is shown in white.

Whittlesea City Council

Turnout (2024): 81.60%

Turnout (2016): 75.87%



Contents

1. Introduction	5	Appendix 7:	
2. Key changes.....	6	Daily breakdown of the general mail out.....	55
3. Election dates.....	7	Appendix 8: Result information.....	56
4. About Whittlesea City Council.....	8	Appendix 9: Election participation statistics	62
5. Voters' roll.....	9	Appendix 10: Complaints.....	68
6. Advertising and communication campaign	10		
7. Election manager.....	12		
8. Election office	13		
9. Candidates	14		
10. Voting.....	15		
11. Return of ballot paper envelopes.....	16		
12. Results	17		
13. Election statistics	19		
14. Complaints.....	20		
15. Post-election activities.....	21		
16. Non-voter follow up.....	22		
17. Evaluating VEC services.....	23		
Appendices.....	25		
Schedule 1:			
Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes.....	25		
Schedule 2: Certification statement.....	36		
Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll.....	37		
Appendix 2: Public notices	38		
Appendix 3:			
Schedule of media releases and advisories	43		
Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories	45		
Appendix 5:			
Voter engagement program and initiatives	48		
Appendix 6:			
Final list of candidates in ballot paper order	49		

1. Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every 4 years as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**LG Act**). In 2024, general elections were held for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils with Saturday 26 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election activities including compulsory voting enforcement.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (**Electoral Act**). The VEC's principal functions are to conduct State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, commercial and community elections, and to support electoral representation processes for local councils and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for State electoral boundaries. The VEC is also responsible for maintaining the Victorian register of electors and administering political funding and donation disclosure laws. The VEC has a mandated role to conduct electoral research, provide communication and education services, and inform and engage Victorians in the democratic process.

Sven Bluemmel is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Dana Fleming is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

The Electoral Commissioner heads the VEC's Executive Management Group that comprises the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and 7 Directors, each leading the main functional areas of the VEC. Each Director acts as subject matter experts and oversees legislative responsibilities under the LG Act and the Electoral Act.

The VEC has a dedicated local government election program framework that incorporates a range of programs, projects and activities that are supported through strategic planning, project management, and process mapping. The program is overseen by the VEC's Delivery Group and has sponsorship from the Executive Management Group.

2. Key changes

Changes in legislation

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024* (Vic) received royal assent on 25 June 2024 and introduced a number of changes to local government electoral legislation.

The VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2024 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

Key changes from *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024*

Close of roll	<p>The date for the close of roll was extended from 57 days to 80 days before the election. For all elections after the October 2024 general elections, including by-elections, the date for the close of roll will be 73 days before election day.</p> <p>The previous timelines were no longer viable due to an increase in the scale and complexity of local government elections, including changes to enrolment entitlements, population growth, higher number of wards, likely increase in the number of candidates, and reduction in mail services offered by Australia Post.</p> <p>By moving this date earlier, other key dates including nomination day, the lodgement date for candidate statements and questionnaires, and the period for mailing out of ballot materials have been brought forward through the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020</i> (Vic) (LG Regulations) providing more time to ensure they are sustainable.</p>
Certification of the roll	<p>The timeframe for roll certification was increased to 23 business days (previously 13 business days) to ensure CEOs (or their delegates) and the VEC have adequate time to process enrolment applications and complete related roll certification processes.</p>
Candidate statement word limit	<p>In response to the pandemic, the LG Regulations permitted candidate statements to be increased from 200 to 300 words for the 2020 local government elections, acknowledging that candidates at the 2020 elections would face restrictions in campaigning.</p> <p>As candidates would no longer face pandemic-based barriers to campaigning activities, the word limit was reverted to 200 words. Equivalent amendments were also applied to the <i>City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2022</i> (Vic).</p> <p>Returning to the original word limit allowed the VEC to produce smaller candidate statement booklets, reducing associated printing costs and administrative burden.</p>
Rejection and amendment of candidate statements	<p>The time allowed for a candidate to amend their statement was reduced by one day to now be the day after the close of nominations (or 38 days before election day). This aligned the periods for rejections and amendments with the earlier deadline for lodging a candidate statement, allowing additional time to print ballot packs.</p>
Close of candidate statements, photos and questionnaires	<p>The deadline for submitting a candidate statement, photograph and questionnaire was amended to close the same day as the close of nominations at 12 noon, facilitating a more efficient process for candidates and allowing the VEC more time to print ballot packs.</p>
Mailout of ballot pack	<p>The timeline for conducting the mailout of ballot materials was extended from occurring over 3 business days to 4 business days, allowing the VEC to manage the risk of mail service level reductions and provide additional safeguards against election fraud.</p>

Whittlesea City Council

Election dates

3. Election dates

Key timelines for the 2024 local government elections	
Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Monday 15 July 2024
Close of roll	4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024
Opening of the election office to the public	Monday 9 September 2024
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Monday 9 September 2024
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024
*Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024
*Ballot draw	From 10 am Wednesday 18 September 2024
*General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October 2024
*Close of voting	6 pm Friday 25 October 2024
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 26 October 2024
*Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 1 November 2024
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 15 November 2024

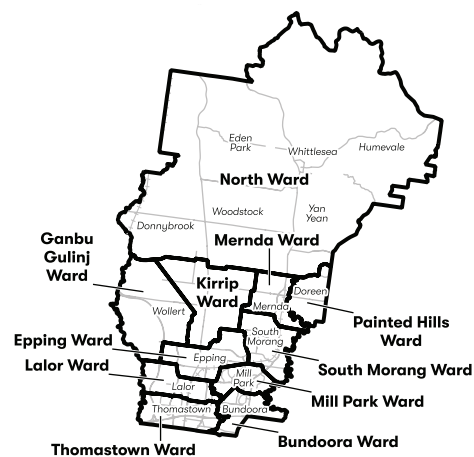
*Dates with asterisks relate to contested elections only.

4. About Whittlesea City Council

Whittlesea City Council is comprised of 11 councillors elected from a subdivided structure.

The electoral structure of Whittlesea City Council was last reviewed in 2023. The electoral structure was confirmed in May 2024 under the new Act.

Figure 1: The electoral structure of Whittlesea City Council at the general election held on 26 October 2024.



Whittlesea City Council

Voters' roll

5. Voters' roll

The VEC prepared the voters' roll for the election under section 8(2)(c) of the Electoral Act and in accordance with section 249 of the LG Act. The close of roll for the election was 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Pursuant to section 249(4) of the LG Act, the VEC certified the voters' roll on Monday 9 September 2024.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election included 161,361 enrolled voters.

Composition of the voters' roll

Section 249 of the LG Act specifies that the voters' roll for a local government election is formed by combining 2 separate lists of voters:

1. The Electoral Commissioner's list (EC list) – list of State electors that are enrolled within that local government area.
2. The Chief Executive Officer's list (CEO list) – list of council-entitled voters.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a breakdown of the Whittlesea City Council general election voters' roll.

Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 250 of the LG Act, the VEC is able to amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. Amendments to the voters' roll are to be certified by the VEC.

All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was removed from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, the VEC made 12 amendments to the voters' roll, zero additions and 12 deletions.

6. Advertising and communication campaign

State-wide advertising

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Campaign activities and consistent messaging were delivered across 2 phases – enrolment and voting – and through multiple traditional and emerging mediums, including radio, digital and social media, and offline/outdoor advertising.

Public notices

The VEC published a series of public notices on the VEC website throughout the election as required by the LG Act. The notices included critical information relevant to each milestone of the election timeline.

For the 2024 general election, Whittlesea City Council nominated the following newspapers for the public notices:

- › Northern Star Weekly
- › Whittlesea Review

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the public notices.

VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early July 2024. Whilst some council-specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

Media liaison

An online media briefing was held on Monday 29 July 2024. The briefing was made available to view on the VEC website for media representatives unable to join the live event. The media briefing provided an overview of the planning, timeline, legislative changes and other key information for the 2024 local council elections.

Media outlets were provided with a media handbook that outlined the election timeline and key information, and provided the VEC's head office media contacts. This was made available along with other resources from the VEC's media centre webpage. The VEC's communication team supported each election manager with managing media interest locally in their council area.

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured scheduled state-wide and tailored council-specific media releases aimed at highlighting key milestones during the election and capitalise on existing general news coverage.

More information on the VEC's media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

The media program also involved a responsive media enquiry service, as well as the translation and distribution of 3 key media releases for multiple non-English news outlets in Victoria.

Social media campaign

As part of its state-wide advertising campaign, the VEC used paid promotions on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and WeChat, targeting voters through audience segmentation.

This advertising was supported by a defined timeline of organic social media posts on the VEC's channels, designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign to further extend the reach to the community and promote conversation about the democratic process.

VoterAlert advisories

State-enrolled voters can sign up to VoterAlert, our free SMS and email service, to receive reminder messages about elections that affect them. They can subscribe to messages via SMS, email, or both.

During the general election, we used VoterAlert to send direct messages on:

Wednesday 17 to Wednesday 31 July 2024 –
94,090 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024 –
94,636 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email advising that we had commenced posting ballot packs.

Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024 –
58,540 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters that it was the last week to post their ballot material back to us.

More information on VoterAlert is available at **Appendix 4**.

Voter engagement

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program throughout Victoria, specific to local demographics.

Whittlesea City Council

Advertising and communication campaign

Appendix 5 contains the full list of initiatives for the 2024 local government elections.

Democracy ambassadors

The VEC delivered education sessions conducted by our Democracy Ambassadors to a range of councils. The sessions focused on enrolment and voting for the election. These sessions were offered to councils in priority areas and delivered at no cost to council. Where resourcing allowed, requests for sessions that were not in the priority area were also fulfilled.

Four sessions were delivered for the Whittlesea City Council election.

Blind and low-vision services

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low-vision voters who registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

The VEC received and processed one request for braille ballot material and one request for large print ballot material for Whittlesea City Council.

Interpreting services

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Loop to provide a telephone interpreting service for telephone enquiries from voters who had a first language other than English. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

Public enquiry service

A centralised contact centre was established to respond to telephone public enquiries. This ensured consistency in messaging, early identification of themes and trends along with the opportunity to enable election offices to focus on election administration. The call centre was also responsible for emails received during the local government elections. Any calls regarding CEO list applications were referred to the relevant councils. Outside the call centre hours of operation, a recorded service was available that provided information on enrolment and voting.

Election offices fielded phone queries from local candidates on issues directly related to their candidacy (as separate to general queries about running as a candidate).

A total of 2,488 telephone calls were recorded for Whittlesea City Council during the 2024 local government elections. An overall total of 11,758 email queries were received for all councils.

Election manager

Whittlesea City Council

7. Election manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials from across Victoria to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials before they are appointed for each election.

The size of election management teams depends on the size of the council. Under the LG Act, an election manager is appointed to conduct each council's election and is supported by one or more assistant election managers.

In accordance with regulation 21(1) of the LG Regulations, the VEC appointed Maureen Gee as the election manager for the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election.

The appointed assistant election managers were Max Billi, Patricia Hopkins and Rod Hill.

Whittlesea City Council

Election office

8. Election office

The election manager was responsible for establishing and managing the election office at Suite 28 Level 1, 797 Plenty Road, South Morang. The premises were provided by the VEC.

9. Candidates

Nominations opened at 9 am on Monday 9 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. The nomination fee was \$250.

Candidate information

The VEC developed resources to support prospective candidates with the nomination process, including a candidate handbook. From mid-July, candidates could access information about nominating as a candidate for the election. The online Candidate Helper, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Tuesday 20 August 2024. Candidate Helper enabled candidates to complete most of their nomination forms and other forms online before lodging them in person with the election manager.

For the Whittlesea City Council 2024 elections, the VEC's candidate information sessions were delivered in person by the election manager. Additionally, a candidate information video was available on the VEC website from Tuesday 20 August 2024.

Nominations

At the close of nominations, 57 candidates had successfully nominated for the elections, which includes any candidates who retired after the close of nominations. Candidates who withdrew before the close of nominations are not included.

The following is a breakdown of candidate nominations per ward:

- › Bundoora Ward - 8 nominations
- › Epping Ward - 5 nominations
- › Ganbu Gulinj Ward - 7 nominations
- › Kirrip Ward - 4 nominations
- › Lalor Ward - 3 nominations
- › Mernda Ward - 3 nominations
- › Mill Park Ward - 6 nominations
- › North Ward - 7 nominations
- › Painted Hills Ward - 2 nominations
- › South Morang Ward - 4 nominations
- › Thomastown Ward - 8 nominations

Ballot draws to determine the order of the names on the ballot paper were held at the election office following the close of nominations using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application.

See **Appendix 6** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order.

Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with regulation 39 of the LG Regulations, candidates were able to submit a 200-word statement and a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. The deadline for these items was 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024.

See **Appendix 6.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos and **6.2** for sample ballot material.

Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with regulation 43 of the LG Regulations, candidates could also submit answers to a set of prescribed questions. The election manager accepted questionnaires from 53 of the 57 candidates at the election.

Voters could read the completed questionnaires on the VEC website or access them by contacting the election office.

Retirement of a candidate

In accordance with the LG Regulations, at any time after the close of nominations and before election day, a candidate may retire, or be retired by the VEC. A candidate can only retire if it will result in an uncontested election or if they are not qualified to be a Councillor. If the VEC believes a candidate was not entitled to nominate, it must formally query the candidate's qualification and invite written reasons why they are entitled. If the VEC remains satisfied that the candidate is not entitled, it must retire the candidate from the election.

When a candidate is retired from an election, the VEC is required to take all practicable steps to remove the retired candidate's name from ballot papers. If it is not practicable to do so, during the counting of votes the retired candidate's votes are passed on to other candidates according to voters' preferences.

There were no candidate retirements at the Whittlesea City Council elections.

10. Voting

Ballot pack preparation and redirection

Artwork for ballot papers and candidate statements is generated using the VEC's automation tool. This tool selects from a range of pre-defined artwork templates and populates them with the relevant candidate information directly from the VEC's election management system database.

Following an extensive quality assurance process, print-ready artwork files were securely transmitted directly to the VEC's contracted ballot material printer ready for production. The VEC's contracted mail house directly printed the voters' addresses (mailing and entitlement address) and barcodes on the ballot paper envelopes in preparation for assembly and delivery of ballot packs. The VEC utilised multiple third party providers to assemble the ballot packs prior to the mail house lodging with Australia Post. The mail house allocated a secure area within its operations that was used solely for the printing, insertion, and dispatch of ballot material. This ensured the highest standards of security were met.

Electors could apply to have their ballot material redirected to an address other than their entitlement address. Voters had until the certification day for the voters' roll (also the day that nominations open) to apply for their ballot material to be redirected. The VEC arranged for ballot material to be delivered to any voter applying for redirection to the address specified in their request. For the 2024 local government elections, voters had until Monday 9 September 2024 to submit redirection requests.

The election manager received 115 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

Early votes

Voters could request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) before the general mail out of ballot packs. The election manager processed requests and issued early votes where the request was assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Wednesday 18 September 2024, the day after nominations closed, until the start of the general mail out of ballot packs on Monday 7 October 2024.

Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

The election manager issued a total of 82 early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 161,352 ballot packs between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October 2024.

See **Appendix 7** for a breakdown of the packs sent on each day of the general mail out. The VEC did not mail ballot packs to voters who passed away between the close of roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included 115 ballot packs which were redirected to alternative addresses for voters who had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Monday 9 September 2024.

In accordance with regulation 49(3) of the LG Regulations, no more than 35% of ballot packs were mailed or delivered to voters on any one day during the mail-out period. All ballot packs were lodged with Australia Post under the priority paid delivery timetable.

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail-out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. Australia Post confirmed all ballot packs had been delivered by Tuesday 15 October 2024.

During the voting period, 1,976 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. In most cases, this was likely due to the addressee no longer residing at the address.

Unenrolled votes

The election manager issued unenrolled votes to people whose names could not be found on the voters' roll but said they were entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack included a declaration for the voter to sign. The election manager assessed the declaration and decided to admit or disallow the vote.

The election manager issued 21 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, 6 were admitted to the count.

Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoiled, or destroyed, could apply for a replacement vote by completing an online application form or contacting the public enquiry service.

A centralised team processed applications and mailed replacement ballot packs to the postal address provided. Voters also had the option to attend the election office in the council for which they hold entitlement, to have a replacement vote issued over the counter.

5,236 replacement ballot packs across all wards during the voting period were issued. Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

11. Return of ballot paper envelopes

VEC provided voters with a priority reply paid envelope to return their completed ballot paper and ballot paper envelope. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters could also put their ballot papers and envelope in a ballot box at the election office.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election manager to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot paper from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The election manager received a total of 116,804 returned ballot paper envelopes across all wards by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 25 October 2024.

In accordance with regulation 57(3) of the LG Regulations, the election manager could accept returned ballot paper envelopes until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if they thought the voter had signed the envelope before voting closed.

The election manager accepted 18,319 ballot paper envelopes across all wards during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Whittlesea City Council was 135,123.

The election manager set aside 3,053 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes across all wards for Whittlesea City Council.

12. Results

Extraction

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This 2-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the VEC can track the number of envelopes for ongoing reconciliation.

A total of 132,070 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

Ballot papers were extracted at the election office from Monday 28 October 2024. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Wednesday 6 November 2024, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

If the VEC found any returned ballot paper envelopes that did not contain a ballot paper, contained more than one ballot paper, or did not contain the correct ballot paper, these were required to be rejected and not counted. There were 403 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 131,667 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

A computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Friday 18 October 2024.

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for all wards, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The application distributes preferences using the preferential method once data entry of ballot paper preferences is complete. Results were calculated at the election office on Saturday 9 November 2024.

The VEC published provisional results on its website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of first preference results by ward, refer to **Appendix 8**.

Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared elected, the election manager or a candidate may initiate a recount. Election managers initiate recounts if margins in

a preference distribution are close or critical. Candidates must ask for a recount in writing, with the reasons for their request. The election manager and head office staff assess candidate recount requests and either accept or deny them.

The election manager received 3 requests for a recount for Lalor Ward and Painted Hills Ward. Of 3 requests, one proceeded to the recount process. The request for Painted Hills Ward did not proceed.

Following the calculation of the provisional results for Lalor Ward, a recount of the ballot papers was conducted. The recount was deemed necessary because the margins in the preference distribution were close/critical. The recount was performed on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at Sandown Racecourse, 591-659 Princes Highway, Springvale. The final result of the Lalor Ward election did not change.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers help deliver fair and transparent elections by observing election activities. They contribute to electoral integrity and help build public trust. Scrutineers can observe all activities involved in ballot paper and envelope processing.

Candidates are not permitted in election venues during extraction and counting activities and instead appoint scrutineers. Each candidate could appoint one scrutineer per election official involved in an activity. To appoint scrutineers, candidates completed a hardcopy 'Appointment and declaration of scrutineer form', which the candidate signed and submitted to the election manager. All scrutineers then had to sign the form's formal declaration in front of an election official. The declaration meant the scrutineers committed to eligibility and legal requirements and the VEC's conditions of entry.

A *Scrutineer handbook* was made available to all candidates and scrutineers with information on the role and responsibility of scrutineers during election activities. It included overviews of the activities so that scrutineers could understand what to expect during election activities they may attend. When scrutineers attended election venues they were briefed on their responsibilities and the processes they would witness. Scrutineers were instructed when and how they could challenge activities when ballot paper formality was being decided and votes were being counted. Scrutineers were allowed to notify election managers if they disagreed with the decision made by an election official on ballot paper formality or whether votes were counted for the selected candidate. Election managers reviewed the challenge and made a final decision on the ballot paper.

Results

Whittlesea City Council

Declaration of results

In the Service Plan, the VEC committed to complete all results declarations by Friday 15 November 2024.

The results of the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election were declared at 11:30 am on Monday 11 November 2024 at Great Hall, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang for all wards except Lalor Ward.

The result of the Lalor Ward election was declared at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at the Great Hall, Civic Centre, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates.

13. Election statistics

Participation

Participation is measured by the number of voters marked off the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Whittlesea City Council election was 83.14%, which is lower than the state average of 83.79% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 76.82% rate at the 2016 Whittlesea City Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the EC's list (83.78%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's list (67.31%).

Refer to **Appendix 9** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

Turnout

Voter turnout is measured by the number of formal and informal ballot papers counted in the election as a percentage of voters on the voters' roll for the election.

The overall voter turnout for the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election was 81.60%. This is compared to the state average turnout of 81.46% (excluding Melbourne City Council). The voter turnout at the 2016 general election for the council was 75.87%.

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2024 Whittlesea City Council general election was 3.84%, compared with the State average of 3.47%. An informality rate of 6.10% was recorded at the Whittlesea City Council general election held in October 2016.

14. Complaints

Type of complaints

At local government elections, complaints generally fall into 2 broad categories:

1. Election Administration

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

2. Election participation and conduct

Complaints about candidates and other participants in the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws.

Most complaints at the 2024 local government elections related to the second category, and often alleged inappropriate or illegal action by a person or group associated with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC have a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed with local councils and enforcement agencies. Complaints must be lodged in writing, then processed at head office. For the 2024 local government elections, customers could provide feedback and complaints online.

Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate. Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's services, or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials, are the responsibility of the VEC.

The VEC is committed to responding to each complaint within 5 working days.

Complaints received

The VEC received 28 written complaints relating to the election for Whittlesea City Council.

Please see **Appendix 10** for a description of complaints received by the VEC.

15. Post-election activities

Storage of election material

The VEC will keep all records from the election safely and secretly in accordance with regulation 79 of the LG Regulations.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Tuesday 17 December 2024. Eligible candidates include those elected or who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to the council on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

Courts and tribunals

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is responsible for hearing disputes on the validity of an election under section 311 of the LG Act.

Applications for a review of the declaration of the results of an election must be lodged within 14 days of the declaration and can be made by a candidate in the election, 10 persons who were entitled to vote at the election, or the VEC.

There was one application to VCAT disputing the result of the Whittlesea City Council general election.

There was one application to VCAT by the VEC in respect to suspect interference with postal votes in the Lalor Ward election.

The Electoral Commissioner applied to VCAT for a review of the Lalor Ward election after the VEC's electoral integrity monitoring detected a number of fraudulently completed ballot paper envelopes returned in the election. Given the limited time for making an application to VCAT, the application needed to be made while investigative efforts continued.

All 3 candidates for the Lalor Ward election were listed as respondents in the application. All candidates have actively participated in the matter as it has been progressed by VCAT.

The application was initially heard for directions on Friday 22 November 2024 before VCAT Deputy President Proctor. As a result of that hearing, the VEC was required to file and serve its evidence and a statement of contentions by Friday 31 January 2025, although only candidates who returned a signed confidentiality undertaking were to be given some of the VEC's material. All respondents provided the undertaking and were given copies of the VEC's evidence.

The matter was listed for a further directions hearing before Vice President Judge English on Thursday 6 February 2025. The purpose of this directions hearing was to check the status of the VEC's evidence and decide how the matter should progress. During the hearing, the VEC submitted that its evidence showed there was evidence of fraud that could have affected the election result, and that the election should be declared void. The respondents advised that they did not intend to bring any of their own evidence, although one respondent indicated they would contest the VEC's submissions that the Lalor Ward election result should be declared void.

At the time of preparing this report, a final hearing is listed to be held before Judge English at VCAT's Melbourne location on Monday 14 April 2025. If VCAT adopts the VEC's submissions and declares the election void, a by-election for Lalor Ward will be required to be held in accordance with the LG Act.

Any decision by VCAT in relation to the VEC's application is separate to the referral of suspected electoral offences for investigation by the Local Government Inspectorate and Victoria Police. At the time of preparing this report, the investigation was still underway.

16. Non-voter follow up

In accordance with section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote will be issued with an 'Apparent failure to vote' notice in February/March. Apparent non-voters have 28 days to respond.

People who do not respond to the notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response, may be issued with an infringement notice in April/May that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up with a penalty reminder notice in July may also occur – this stage includes the original penalty and a penalty reminder notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the infringement and reminder notice stages.

Additionally, during the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages, non-voters may ask for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

These requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the end of the penalty reminder notice stage.

17. Evaluating VEC services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local government clients. Through a formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC can gauge its performance and seek advice for future local government election projects.

Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2024. Additional feedback can be provided to the LG2024 Program Manager by emailing LGProgram2024@vec.vic.gov.au

Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program that includes input from all areas of its workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections began in December 2024. The VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Evaluating VEC services

Whittlesea City Council

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Appendices

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Bundoora Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	19,000
Election manager	10
Total	19,010
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	15,296
Early and replacement votes	484
Unenrolled declaration votes	3
Spoilt	0
Sub total	15,783
Unused	3,227
Total	19,010
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	12,240
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	346
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	2
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	265
Declarations returned to sender	221
Sub total	13,074
Declarations not returned	2,709
Total	15,783

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Whittlesea City Council

Epping Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	11
Total	18,011
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	14,411
Early and replacement votes	444
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,855
Unused	3,156
Total	18,011
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,367
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	313
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	288
Declarations returned to sender	180
Sub total	12,148
Declarations not returned	2,707
Total	14,855

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Ganbu Gulinj Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	17,000
Election manager	13
Total	17,013
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	14,132
Early and replacement votes	587
Unenrolled declaration votes	2
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,721
Unused	2,292
Total	17,013
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,031
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	389
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	266
Declarations returned to sender	140
Sub total	11,826
Declarations not returned	2,895
Total	14,721

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Whittlesea City Council

Kirrip Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	16,000
Election manager	16
Total	16,016
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	13,433
Early and replacement votes	577
Unenrolled declaration votes	2
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,012
Unused	2,004
Total	16,016
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	10,425
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	430
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	235
Declarations returned to sender	136
Sub total	11,226
Declarations not returned	2,786
Total	14,012

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Lalor Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	19,000
Election manager	12
Total	19,012
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	15,820
Early and replacement votes	549
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	16,369
Unused	2,643
Total	19,012
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	12,387
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	384
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	409
Declarations returned to sender	189
Sub total	13,369
Declarations not returned	3,000
Total	16,369

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Whittlesea City Council

Mernda Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	17
Total	18,017
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	15,249
Early and replacement votes	625
Unenrolled declaration votes	2
Spoilt	0
Sub total	15,876
Unused	2,141
Total	18,017
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	12,001
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	414
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	1
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	273
Declarations returned to sender	188
Sub total	12,877
Declarations not returned	2,999
Total	15,876

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Mill Park Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	12
Total	18,012
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	15,035
Early and replacement votes	448
Unenrolled declaration votes	4
Spoilt	0
Sub total	15,487
Unused	2,525
Total	18,012
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	12,375
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	295
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	2
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	254
Declarations returned to sender	176
Sub total	13,102
Declarations not returned	2,385
Total	15,487

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Whittlesea City Council

North Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	17,000
Election manager	17
Total	17,017
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	13,955
Early and replacement votes	587
Unenrolled declaration votes	2
Spoilt	0
Sub total	14,544
Unused	2,473
Total	17,017
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,054
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	324
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	243
Declarations returned to sender	199
Sub total	11,820
Declarations not returned	2,724
Total	14,544

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Painted Hills Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	13
Total	18,013
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	14,895
Early and replacement votes	576
Unenrolled declaration votes	1
Spoilt	0
Sub total	15,472
Unused	2,541
Total	18,013
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,875
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	381
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	1
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	237
Declarations returned to sender	204
Sub total	12,698
Declarations not returned	2,774
Total	15,472

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Whittlesea City Council

South Morang Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	21
Total	18,021
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	14,509
Early and replacement votes	546
Unenrolled declaration votes	5
Spoilt	1
Sub total	15,061
Unused	2,960
Total	18,021
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,901
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	368
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	254
Declarations returned to sender	156
Sub total	12,679
Declarations not returned	2,382
Total	15,061

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Thomastown Ward election	
Ballot papers printed	
Victorian Electoral Commission	18,000
Election manager	10
Total	18,010
Ballot papers issued	
General mail out	14,617
Early and replacement votes	482
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	15,099
Unused	2,911
Total	18,010
Declarations returned	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	11,451
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	313
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to be admitted to the extraction	329
Declarations returned to sender	187
Sub total	12,280
Declarations not returned	2,819
Total	15,099

Schedule 2: Certification statement

Whittlesea City Council

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2024 Whittlesea City Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.



Sven Bluemmel
Electoral Commissioner

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Whittlesea City Council election	Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242–245 of the LG Act	Total voters enrolled
Whittlesea City Council	155,096	6,265	161,361
Bundoora Ward	14,418	878	15,296
Epping Ward	13,943	469	14,412
Ganbu Gulinj Ward	13,790	342	14,132
Kirrip Ward	12,987	448	13,435
Lalor Ward	15,284	538	15,822
Mernda Ward	14,491	759	15,250
Mill Park Ward	14,602	433	15,035
North Ward	13,461	494	13,955
Painted Hills Ward	14,288	607	14,895
South Morang Ward	14,105	405	14,510
Thomastown Ward	13,727	892	14,619

Appendix 2: Public notices

Schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice

VEC website/public notices	22 July 2024
Northern Star Weekly	23 July 2024
Whittlesea Review	23 July 2024

Notice of election

VEC website/public notices	12 August 2024
Northern Star Weekly	13 August 2024
Whittlesea Review	13 August 2024

Voting details notice

VEC website/public notices	20 September 2024
Northern Star Weekly	1 October 2024
Whittlesea Review	1 October 2024

Reminder notice

VEC website	13 October 2024
Northern Star Weekly	15 October 2024
Whittlesea Review	15 October 2024

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 2: Public notices

Notice of result	
VEC website/public notices	12 November 2024
Northern Star Weekly	26 November 2024
Whittlesea Review	26 November 2024

Appendix 2.1: Sample public notices

Close of roll

Sample Council postal election

Sample Council logo

My council, my vote

You must be enrolled to vote

A general election for Sample Council will be held in October 2024. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Sample Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the Sample Council and you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the Sample Council and you are not on the State electoral roll or
- you have lived at your current residential address within the Sample Council for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 131 832.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- not a State-enrolled voter within the Sample Council.

New rules mean you are no longer automatically enrolled if you are a non-resident property owner (e.g. a landlord or a business owner that pays rates). If you are a non-resident property owner within the Sample Council, you need to apply to enrol if you wish to vote in the Sample Council election.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property within the Sample Council location since the last election but you are not a resident of the Sample Council, or
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within the Sample Council location, or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy within the Sample Council and have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for your tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council, or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation within the Sample Council that pays rates to Sample Council and you have no other voting entitlement within the Sample Council.

How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?

If you meet any of the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Sample Council on 0000 0000 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on 0000 0000.

Thinking about standing for election?

To nominate as a candidate for Sample Council, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters' roll for Sample Council and
- be eligible to become a councillor and
- have completed the mandatory candidate training provided by Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes
4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au




vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832


For enquiries in languages other than English:

Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 • Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 • বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 • 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 • 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 • हिन्दी (Hindi) 9209 0102 • ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 • ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 • 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 • македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 • नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 • العربية (Persian) 9209 0195 • ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164 • Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 • Urdu (Urdu) 9209 0165 • Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Blumenthal, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Notice of election

Sample Council postal election

Sample Council logo

My council, my vote

Vote by post this October

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Sample Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at vec.vic.gov.au/redirections, or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision – please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

Early votes

If you will be away during the voting period (7–25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 10 am on Wednesday 18 September.

The Sample Council election office is at:

Sample election office address

How to nominate as a candidate

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Sample Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.


To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.

Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.



Candidate information session




Sample time sample date at sample venue name, sample address


Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

For enquiries in languages other than English:

Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 • Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 • বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 • 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 • 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 • हिन्दी (Hindi) 9209 0102 • ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 • ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 • 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 • македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 • नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 • العربية (Persian) 9209 0195 • ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164 • Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 • Urdu (Urdu) 9209 0165 • Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832    Authorised by S. Blumenthal, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Voting details notice

Sample Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election will be held for Sample Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au.

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Sample election office address

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 * Azərbaycani (Assyrian) 9209 0180 * বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0181 * 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 * 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101

* Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 * डारि (Dari) 9209 0193 * Thuangjäng (Dinka) 9209 0119 * Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 * Հայերեն (Armenian) 9209 0182 * Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104

* Қазақ (Kazakh) 9209 0182 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 * Македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0183 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 * ไทย (Thai) 9209 0164

* Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 * ལྷན་ (Lhasa) 9209 0165 * Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 * All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bluemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic

Victorian Electoral Commission

Reminder notice

Sample Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election is being held for Sample Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

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Candidates

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How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Sample election office address

Voting is compulsory

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If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

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* Қазақ (Kazakh) 9209 0182 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 * Македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0183 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 * ไทย (Thai) 9209 0164

* Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 * ལྷན་ (Lhasa) 9209 0165 * Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 * All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bluemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic

Victorian Electoral Commission

Declaration of results

Sample Council election Declaration of results		Sample Council logo
The following candidates were elected to Sample Council at the general election held in October 2024:		
Sample Ward 1 Sample elected candidate 1	Sample elected candidate 4 Sample Ward 5 Sample elected candidate 5	Sample Ward 8 Sample elected candidate 8
Sample Ward 2 Sample elected candidate 2	Sample Ward 6 Sample elected candidate 6	Sample Ward 9 Sample elected candidate 9
Sample Ward 3 Sample elected candidate 3	Sample Ward 7 Sample elected candidate 7	
Sample Ward 4		
Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au		
Sample Election Manager name Election Manager		
Sample declaration date		

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Whittlesea City Council council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Whittlesea City Council election	Monday 29 July 2024
Call for candidates for Whittlesea City Council election	Thursday 22 August 2024
Ballot packs mailed for Whittlesea City Council election	Monday 7 October 2024
Voting closes soon for Whittlesea City Council election	Tuesday 15 October 2024
New councillors for Whittlesea City Council	Monday 11 November 2024
New councillors for Whittlesea City Council	Tuesday 12 November 2024

Statewide media releases and advisories

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming local council elections	Monday 22 July 2024
Media advisory: 2024 local council elections briefing	Monday 22 July 2024
Last chance to enrol for Victorian council elections	Friday 2 August 2024
News alert: Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's council local elections	Tuesday 6 August 2024
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	Monday 26 August 2024
Media advisory: Accessing candidate information for the 2024 Victorian local council elections	Friday 6 September 2024
Nominations for the 2024 Victorian local council elections now open	Monday 9 September 2024
Over 4.6 million enrolled for local council elections	Tuesday 10 September 2024
Time is running out to nominate for this year's local council elections	Monday 16 September 2024
Electoral Commissioner calls for transparency in the use of AI in upcoming local council elections	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at local council election ballot draw	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Nominations are in for October local council elections	Wednesday 18 September 2024
Democracy ambassadors help community voices 'Be Heard'	Thursday 19 September 2024
VEC retires 16 local council election candidates	Monday 30 September 2024

Statewide media releases and advisories	
Voting starts next week for Victoria's local council elections	Friday 4 October 2024
Police investigate break-in at the Ballarat election office	Thursday 10 October 2024
Voters urged to request a replacement ballot pack following van theft	Friday 18 October 2024
Local council elections voting deadline looms	Monday 21 October 2024
Voters urged to request a replacement ballot pack following theft	Thursday 24 October 2024
Final day of voting	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Results timelines for Victorian local council elections	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at results declarations	Wednesday 6 November 2024
Suspected postal vote tampering in 2 local council elections referred for inquiry	Wednesday 13 November 2024
Didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections?	Monday 17 February 2025
Non-voters asked to explain why they didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections	Friday 7 March 2025
Infringements sent to 2024 local council election non-voters	Scheduled for Monday 14 April 2025
Act on penalty reminder notice or risk enforcement action	Scheduled for Thursday 1 July 2025

Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

Close of roll – sent from Wednesday 17 July to Wednesday 31 July 2024

VoterAlert: Vic council elections will be held by post this Oct. Make sure your details are correct before 4pm Wed 7 Aug. More info <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. If you'd rather not open links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832 to check. Unsubscribe <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Reminder close of voting – sent from Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024

VoterAlert: return your council election ballot pack by 6pm Fri Oct 25. If your ballot pack hasn't arrived, find out how to get a replacement at <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. Ignore if you've already voted or asked for a replacement. If you'd rather not visit links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Uncontested election – sent from Wednesday 25 September to Tuesday 1 October 2024

VoterAlert: the election in your area is uncontested, as only one person nominated per vacancy. You do not need to vote. More info: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. If you'd rather not visit links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Mail-out of ballot packs – sent from Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024


VoterAlert: ballot packs for the local council elections are on their way, arriving by 15 Oct. Complete and return before 6pm on Fri 25 Oct. For more info visit <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

Close of roll email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. [Contact us](#) with any questions.

VoterAlert

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Hi

Victorian local council elections are being held by post this October. You must be correctly enrolled by **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August**.

What you need to do

Not sure if your enrolment details are up to date? You can check online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment

If you've changed your address or name since you last voted in an election, you should update your details. Please also check the postal address listed on your enrolment, as this is where we will send your ballot pack.

CHECK MY DETAILS

If your details **haven't changed** since the last time you voted, get ready to vote. All voting in this election is by post. We will start posting ballot packs out from Monday 7 October.

The full list of candidates will be available on our website from 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September.

[Find out more about your council election.](#)

Voting is compulsory – don't risk a fine.

If you own properties in more than one Victorian council

Some people are eligible to enrol in more than one council. If you own or pay rates on a property in a Victorian council other than where you normally live, you can apply to enrol with that council. This is known as council enrolment.

Contact the council directly for more information about council enrolment.

[Find out more about council enrolment.](#)

You **must** vote for all councils you are enrolled in.

Electoral structure changes

Over half of Victoria's local councils have new electoral structures or have changed internal ward boundaries. You may be voting in a new ward this October.

You can check your council's ward boundaries on our [interactive map](#).

Information in your language

You can find election information in 20 languages other than English on our website.

[Find in-language information.](#)

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website at vec.vic.gov.au. You can also hover over links to confirm they go to a [vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

More information




Visit vec.vic.gov.au or call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Our mailing address is:
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.

UNSUBSCRIBE




[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Uncontested election email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. [Contact us](#) with any questions.

VoterAlert

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Hi

The , Ward election is uncontested as there were the same number of candidates as vacancies at the close of nominations.

You are not required to vote this October.

If you own properties in any other Victorian councils

You will still get a ballot pack for any other councils you are enrolled in. Please complete and return all ballot packs you receive before **6 pm on Friday 25 October**.

If you don't vote you may risk a fine.

Check your enrolment online or contact the council directly to check your enrolment details.

Check my enrolment

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website at vec.vic.gov.au. You can hover your mouse over links to make sure they go to a [vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) website before you click them.

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46


Victorian Electoral Commission

59 | 86

Ballot pack mail-out email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. [Contact us](#) with any questions.

VoterAlert

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Hi

You are enrolled to vote in the 2024 local council elections.

Your vote matters. Local council elections are your chance to vote on who represents you on the local community issues that you care about.

How to vote

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

We have started posting ballot packs to all enrolled voters. They will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible.

If you're unsure, you can learn [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

If you don't get a ballot pack

Ballot packs are in the mail and will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

If you don't get a ballot pack by then, you can ask us to send you a replacement by calling **131 832** between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Moved house or away from your address

If you are away from your mailing address you can request a replacement ballot pack. You can:

- call us on **131 832** between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- visit the election office of your **old address** to get a replacement on the spot. If you will be away during the election, you can fill in your vote there and return it straight away.

Find my election office

Find candidates

Information about candidates, including statements and candidate questionnaire responses are on our website.

Find candidates

Information in your language

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

Find information in your language

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: [vec.vic.gov.au](#). You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a [vic.gov.au](#) website before you click them.

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UNSUBSCRIBE




[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Last week to vote email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. [Contact us](#) with any questions.

VoterAlert

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Reminder: voting for the 2024 local council elections closes at 6 pm this Friday 25 October.

Please ignore this email if you've already voted or asked for a replacement ballot pack.

How to vote

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. You can find instructions on [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

Find my election office

If you don't get a ballot pack

If you haven't received your ballot pack in the mail yet, you can ask us to send you a replacement by:

- visiting your election office* to get a replacement on the spot. You can fill in your vote there and return it straight away,
- calling us on **131 832** between 8:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- filling in our [online form](#).

*This must be the election office for your enrolled address. [Check your enrolment details](#) if you've recently moved.

Find my election office

Information in your language

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

Find information in your language

Security

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: [vec.vic.gov.au](#). You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a [vic.gov.au](#) website before you click them.

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UNSUBSCRIBE



[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program provides free peer-led electoral education and information sessions to those under-represented in the electoral process. This includes people with disability and their carers, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people experiencing homelessness and young people. A total of 238 sessions were provided across the state reaching over 10,000 participants.
Specialist mobile enrolment	This program delivered peer-led enrolment sessions in prisons, homeless services, schools and tertiary education settings to reach young people and Aboriginal community settings across Melbourne and regional Victoria.
CALD in-language social media videos	This project produced a series of videos in 11 different languages including Auslan. Languages were chosen to reach language groups most in need of additional support. The videos provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms, community networks, and partner organisations.
Active Citizenship program	Electoral and civics education workshops were delivered to CALD community leaders in 3 locations across regional Victoria.
Aboriginal engagement	This program delivered information and engagement sessions across the greater Melbourne area and regional Victoria. These were designed to raise awareness that voting was compulsory and taking place via post. Culturally appropriate resources were produced to provide information on how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice, including a video which was distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and partner organisations.
Easy English guide	This was produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the reader. These were distributed by Democracy Ambassadors as a key resource, and also available for download from the VEC's website.

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

The candidates, in ballot paper order, were as follows:

Bundoora Ward election

ZINNI, Daniela

HANNA, Danny

SINGH, Harsh

NIKOLOVSKI, Jamie

SHAH, Nimesh

HENDERSON, Marcelle

STOCKMAN, Richard

MANCUSO, Anthony

Epping Ward election

LENBERG, David

BATTEN, Donny

SUKKAR, Edward

SAYAR, Nessie

HUSSEIN, Rachael

Ganbu Gulinj Ward election

COX, Lawrie

ISAAC, Patricia

GUJRAL, Bineet

KAUR, Santosh

Ganbu Gulinj Ward election

MOHAMUD, Ahmed Farole

van BREE, Ursula

YOLDAS, Gulhan

Kirrip Ward election

UPADHYAY, Jay

McLINDON, Aidan

KAUR, Gurinder

KHAN, Imran

Lalor Ward election

KOZMEVSKI, Stevan

McNAUGHT, Ellen

HAJICHRISTOU, Nicholas

Mernda Ward election

TAGGAR, Rohit

LAPPIN, Jarrod

SHARP, William

Mill Park Ward election

MORAN, Eva

COLWELL, Blair

ABI RAAD, Maurice

MASON, Samantha

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Whittlesea City Council

Mill Park Ward election

FRY, John

MALIVINDI, Robert

North Ward election

FRANKS, Helen

PAL, Shashi

FRANCIS, James

BANSAL, Munish Kumar

KRASSOS, Mary

HURREY, Phil

STOW, Christine

Thomastown Ward election

GARNHAM, Sarah

THORNTON, Lea

THAI, Trung Thanh

STAVRAKIS, George

TIWARI, Chaman

MCGLASHAN, Hamimah H. F.

Painted Hills Ward election

GUNN, Deb

LEE, Ross

South Morang Ward election

TAYLOR, Martin

PEPE, Vesna

FILIPPOPOULOS, Andrew

LOBOSCO, Monique

Thomastown Ward election

BROOKS, Nicholas James

BAI, Quentin

Whittlesea City Council

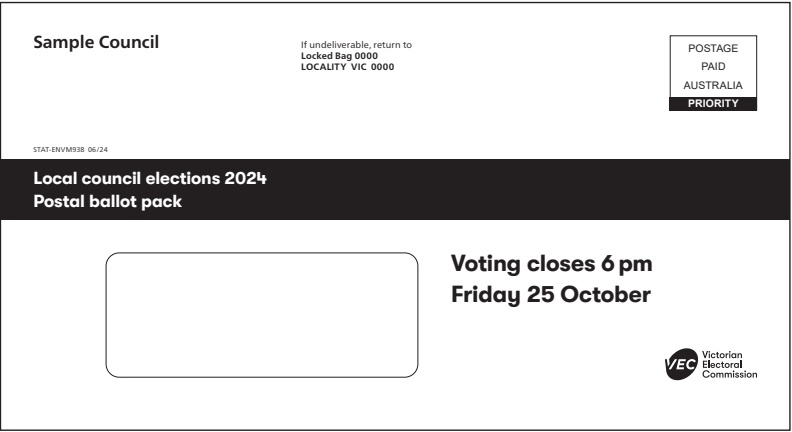
Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Appendix 6.1: Candidate statements and photographs

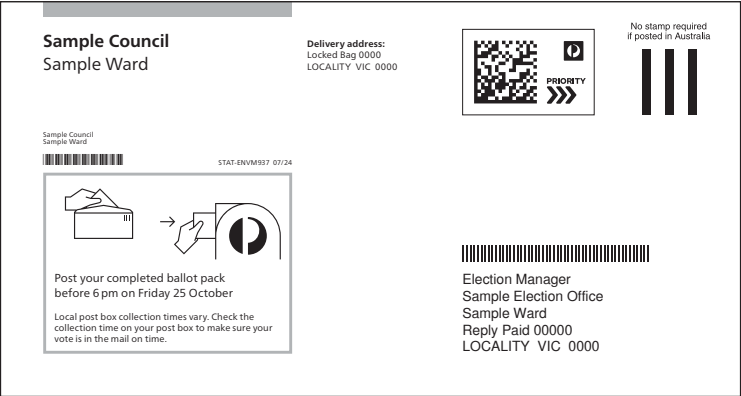
Whittlesea City Council election	Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
Bundoora Ward	8	8	8
Epping Ward	5	5	4
Ganbu Gulinj Ward	7	7	7
Kirrip Ward	4	4	4
Lalor Ward	3	3	3
Mernda Ward	3	3	3
Mill Park Ward	6	6	6
North Ward	7	7	6
Painted Hills Ward	2	2	2
South Morang Ward	4	4	4
Thomastown Ward	8	8	8

Appendix 6.2: Sample ballot material

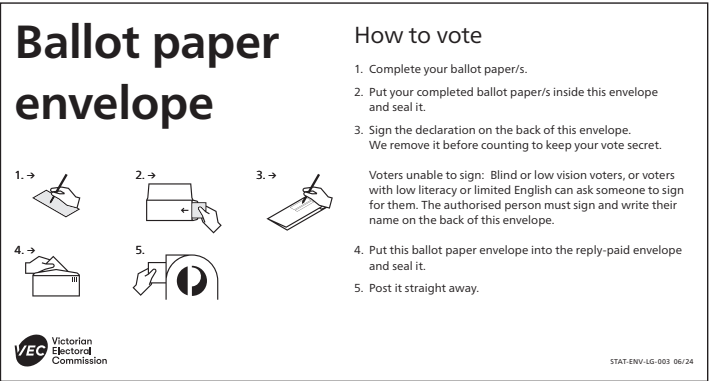
Outer envelope



Reply-paid envelope



Ballot paper envelope



Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Candidate leaflet

Voting closes
6 pm Friday
25 October 2024

All voting in this election is by post.
Post your vote before voting closes.
We cannot accept late votes.

Local post box collection times vary. Check the collection time on your post box to make sure your vote is in the mail on time.

You can also drop your vote off during business hours to:

Address line 1
Address line 2
Address line 3

For more information, visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 131 832 during business hours.


Voting is compulsory

You are enrolled to vote in this election.
Voting is your right. By voting, you get to have a say in who represents you on your local council.

Voting is also a responsibility. If you don't vote, you may get a fine.

If your enrolment details have changed, it is your responsibility to update them. Visit vec.vic.gov.au/update for more information.


Sample Council
Sample Ward



Candidate leaflet

**Sample Council
election 2024
Sample Ward**

Sample Ward




Notice

The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate.


Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the election manager. Candidate statements are also available at vec.vic.gov.au

Candidates may also provide answers to a questionnaire. Responses are available at vec.vic.gov.au

 Victorian Electoral Commission

How to vote multi-language leaflet
If applicable

How to vote leaflet


 Interpreter

Language support

Visit vec.vic.gov.au/languages for more information in your language.

For interpreter assistance, call us. See the phone numbers on the next page.

STAT-LEAMUL01 07/24

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Ballot paper

**Sample Council
Sample Ward**

Election of 1 Councillor

Number the boxes 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.
Number every box to make your vote count.
You must not use any number more than once.

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name

☐ CANDIDATE, Name


Appendix 6.3: Sample uncontested ward leaflet

Sample Council election 2024
Sample Ward

At the close of nominations for the Sample Council, Sample Ward election, one nomination was received for one vacancy. Therefore, Candidate Name will be elected unopposed.

You are not required to vote.

Election Manager Name
Election Manager
For more information call 131 832

 Victorian Electoral Commission

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out

Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out

Whittlesea City Council election	7 October 2024	8 October 2024	9 October 2024	10 October 2024	Total general mail out
Whittlesea City Council	54,861	54,861	25,819	25,811	161,352
Bundoora Ward	5,201	5,201	2,447	2,447	15,296
Epping Ward	4,900	4,900	2,306	2,305	14,411
Ganbu Gulinj Ward	4,805	4,805	2,261	2,261	14,132
Kirrip Ward	4,567	4,567	2,150	2,149	13,433
Lalor Ward	5,379	5,379	2,531	2,531	15,820
Mernda Ward	5,185	5,185	2,440	2,439	15,249
Mill Park Ward	5,112	5,112	2,406	2,405	15,035
North Ward	4,745	4,745	2,233	2,232	13,955
Painted Hills Ward	5,064	5,064	2,384	2,383	14,895
South Morang Ward	4,933	4,933	2,322	2,321	14,509
Thomastown Ward	4,970	4,970	2,339	2,338	14,617

Appendix 8: Result information

Bundoora Ward count summary

Enrolment	15,296
Formal votes	12,000
Informal votes	548 (4.37% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,548 (82.03% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
ZINNI, Daniela	3,857	32.14%
HANNA, Danny	648	5.40%
SINGH, Harsh	367	3.06%
NIKOLOVSKI, Jamie	1,985	16.54%
SHAH, Nimesh	591	4.93%
HENDERSON, Marcelle	623	5.19%
STOCKMAN, Richard	1,812	15.10%
MANCUSO, Anthony	2,117	17.64%

Successful candidates

ZINNI, Daniela

Epping Ward count summary

Enrolment	14,412
Formal votes	11,179
Informal votes	457 (3.93% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	11,636 (80.74% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
LENBERG, David	3,114	27.86%
BATTEN, Donny	1,488	13.31%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 8: Result information

Epping Ward count summary

SUKKAR, Edward	1,624	14.53%
SAYAR, Nessie	2,250	20.13%
HUSSEIN, Rachael	2,703	24.18%

Successful candidates

LENBERG, David

Ganbu Gulinj Ward count summary

Enrolment	14,132
Formal votes	10,948
Informal votes	437 (3.84% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	11,385 (80.56% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
COX, Lawrie	3,208	29.30%
ISAAC, Patricia	1,327	12.12%
GUJRAL, Bineet	742	6.78%
KAUR, Santosh	2,271	20.74%
MOHAMUD, Ahmed Farole	1,264	11.55%
van BREE, Ursula	1,447	13.22%
YOLDAS, Gulhan	689	6.29%

Successful candidates

COX, Lawrie

Kirrip Ward count summary

Enrolment	13,435
Formal votes	10,390
Informal votes	435 (4.02% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	10,825 (80.57% of the total enrolment)

Kirrip Ward count summary

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
UPADHYAY, Jay	1,167	11.23%
McLINDON, Aidan	5,662	54.49%
KAUR, Gurinder	1,348	12.97%
KHAN, Imran	2,213	21.30%

Successful candidates

McLINDON, Aidan

Lalor Ward count summary

Enrolment	15,823
Formal votes	12,301
Informal votes	423 (3.32% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,724 (80.41% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
KOZMEVSKI, Stevan	4,953	40.27%
McNAUGHT, Ellen	4,002	32.53%
HAJICHRISTOU, Nicholas	3,346	27.20%

Successful candidates

KOZMEVSKI, Stevan

Mernda Ward count summary

Enrolment	15,247
Formal votes	11,985
Informal votes	397 (3.21% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,382 (81.21% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
TAGGAR, Rohit	3,484	29.07%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 8: Result information

Mernda Ward count summary

LAPPIN, Jarrod	4,589	38.29%
SHARP, William	3,912	32.64%

Successful candidates

LAPPIN, Jarrod

Mill Park Ward count summary

Enrolment	15,035
Formal votes	12,180
Informal votes	444 (3.52% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,624 (83.96% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
MORAN, Eva	924	7.59%
COLWELL, Blair	4,634	38.05%
ABI RAAD, Maurice	808	6.63%
MASON, Samantha	1,923	15.79%
FRY, John	2,484	20.39%
MALIVINDI, Robert	1,407	11.55%

Successful candidates

COLWELL, Blair

North Ward count summary

Enrolment	13,955
Formal votes	10,885
Informal votes	465 (4.10% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	11,350 (81.33% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
FRANKS, Helen	2,627	24.13%

North Ward count summary

PAL, Shashi	624	5.73%
FRANCIS, James	582	5.35%
BANSAL, Munish Kumar	497	4.57%
KRASSOS, Mary	798	7.33%
HURREY, Phil	2,647	24.32%
STOW, Christine	3,110	28.57%

Successful candidates

STOW, Christine

Painted Hills Ward count summary

Enrolment	14,895
Formal votes	11,642
Informal votes	590 (4.82% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,232 (82.12% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
GUNN, Deb	5,937	51.00%
LEE, Ross	5,705	49.00%

Successful candidates

GUNN, Deb

South Morang Ward count summary

Enrolment	14,510
Formal votes	11,913
Informal votes	332 (2.71% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	12,245 (84.39% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
TAYLOR, Martin	3,720	31.23%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 8: Result information

South Morang Ward count summary

PEPE, Vesna	1,547	12.99%
FILIPPOPOULOS, Andrew	3,310	27.78%
LOBOSCO, Monique	3,336	28.00%

Successful candidates

TAYLOR, Martin

Thomastown Ward count summary

Enrolment	14,618
Formal votes	11,187
Informal votes	529 (4.52% of the total votes)
Voter turnout	11,716 (80.15% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
BROOKS, Nicholas James	2,198	19.65%
BAI, Quentin	374	3.34%
GARNHAM, Sarah	1,165	10.41%
THORNTON, Lea	1,923	17.19%
THAI, Trung Thanh	1,050	9.39%
STAVRAKIS, George	1,411	12.61%
TIWARI, Chaman	2,248	20.09%
MCGLASHAN, Hamimah H. F.	818	7.31%

Successful candidates

BROOKS, Nicholas James

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of total enrolment and can vary from turnout (total ballot papers counted as a percentage of total enrolment).

Whittlesea City Council election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	86.96%	86.64%
20–24	81.80%	80.02%
25–29	76.95%	74.09%
30–34	76.07%	73.31%
35–39	78.75%	76.18%
40–44	81.01%	78.99%
45–49	82.90%	81.92%
50–54	84.66%	84.69%
55–59	85.63%	87.46%
60–64	87.48%	89.16%
65–69	89.23%	90.41%
70+	88.83%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	83.78%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	67.31%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	83.14%	84.12%

Bundoora Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	85.82%	86.64%
20–24	81.29%	80.02%
25–29	77.16%	74.09%
30–34	75.91%	73.31%
35–39	78.57%	76.18%
40–44	78.10%	78.99%
45–49	81.09%	81.92%
50–54	83.27%	84.69%
55–59	85.31%	87.46%
60–64	87.44%	89.16%
65–69	92.11%	90.41%
70+	89.39%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	84.53%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	64.58%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	83.39%	84.12%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Epping Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	84.65%	86.64%
20–24	80.71%	80.02%
25–29	77.30%	74.09%
30–34	72.38%	73.31%
35–39	73.62%	76.18%
40–44	78.96%	78.99%
45–49	80.87%	81.92%
50–54	84.39%	84.69%
55–59	85.24%	87.46%
60–64	88.99%	89.16%
65–69	89.66%	90.41%
70+	87.73%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	82.60%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	74.20%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.33%	84.12%

Ganbu Gulinj Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	85.47%	86.64%
20–24	78.78%	80.02%
25–29	74.15%	74.09%
30–34	77.97%	73.31%
35–39	81.76%	76.18%
40–44	83.53%	78.99%
45–49	85.42%	81.92%
50–54	83.19%	84.69%
55–59	84.59%	87.46%
60–64	87.54%	89.16%
65–69	86.94%	90.41%
70+	87.94%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	82.70%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	59.65%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.15%	84.12%

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Whittlesea City Council

Kirrip Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	88.74%	86.64%
20–24	80.44%	80.02%
25–29	73.87%	74.09%
30–34	77.04%	73.31%
35–39	79.06%	76.18%
40–44	84.90%	78.99%
45–49	83.91%	81.92%
50–54	85.21%	84.69%
55–59	83.02%	87.46%
60–64	82.89%	89.16%
65–69	87.65%	90.41%
70+	87.93%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	82.95%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	55.80%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.05%	84.12%

Lalor Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	83.01%	86.64%
20–24	81.43%	80.02%
25–29	76.50%	74.09%
30–34	75.67%	73.31%
35–39	77.48%	76.18%
40–44	78.70%	78.99%
45–49	79.34%	81.92%
50–54	83.78%	84.69%
55–59	84.60%	87.46%
60–64	86.59%	89.16%
65–69	88.82%	90.41%
70+	88.08%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	82.87%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	71.93%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.49%	84.12%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Mernda Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	89.86%	86.64%
20–24	81.32%	80.02%
25–29	76.35%	74.09%
30–34	76.02%	73.31%
35–39	80.44%	76.18%
40–44	82.49%	78.99%
45–49	84.33%	81.92%
50–54	84.12%	84.69%
55–59	85.33%	87.46%
60–64	87.39%	89.16%
65–69	85.42%	90.41%
70+	88.96%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	83.85%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	59.52%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.64%	84.12%

Mill Park Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	91.18%	86.64%
20–24	87.17%	80.02%
25–29	80.84%	74.09%
30–34	76.12%	73.31%
35–39	77.72%	76.18%
40–44	82.91%	78.99%
45–49	83.92%	81.92%
50–54	87.09%	84.69%
55–59	88.62%	87.46%
60–64	89.72%	89.16%
65–69	91.96%	90.41%
70+	88.82%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	85.98%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	70.67%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	85.54%	84.12%

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Whittlesea City Council

North Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	88.13%	86.64%
20–24	80.18%	80.02%
25–29	75.71%	74.09%
30–34	76.25%	73.31%
35–39	79.86%	76.18%
40–44	79.78%	78.99%
45–49	82.81%	81.92%
50–54	86.56%	84.69%
55–59	85.85%	87.46%
60–64	86.20%	89.16%
65–69	89.09%	90.41%
70+	89.26%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	83.12%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	69.03%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.62%	84.12%

Painted Hills Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	83.55%	86.64%
20–24	81.96%	80.02%
25–29	78.91%	74.09%
30–34	77.09%	73.31%
35–39	79.16%	76.18%
40–44	81.46%	78.99%
45–49	84.89%	81.92%
50–54	85.22%	84.69%
55–59	86.16%	87.46%
60–64	88.10%	89.16%
65–69	90.88%	90.41%
70+	90.57%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	84.15%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	63.59%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	83.32%	84.12%

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

South Morang Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	91.17%	86.64%
20–24	87.36%	80.02%
25–29	79.95%	74.09%
30–34	77.97%	73.31%
35–39	82.78%	76.18%
40–44	84.41%	78.99%
45–49	85.61%	81.92%
50–54	86.37%	84.69%
55–59	88.81%	87.46%
60–64	89.87%	89.16%
65–69	90.19%	90.41%
70+	90.17%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	86.15%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	74.07%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	85.81%	84.12%

Thomastown Ward election participation	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	85.03%	86.64%
20–24	79.21%	80.02%
25–29	75.66%	74.09%
30–34	74.37%	73.31%
35–39	75.76%	76.18%
40–44	75.87%	78.99%
45–49	79.68%	81.92%
50–54	82.08%	84.69%
55–59	84.44%	87.46%
60–64	87.56%	89.16%
65–69	88.83%	90.41%
70+	88.24%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	82.49%	86.27%
Voters enrolled through sections 243–245 of the LG Act	75.76%	60.96%
Total voters enrolled	82.08%	84.12%

Appendix 10: Complaints

Written complaints received by the VEC

Where an outcome is a follow-up response, the customer may have replied to the VEC's response and the VEC has therefore replied to that follow-up email.

Where an outcome has no action taken, this could be an anonymous submission that doesn't contain feedback and therefore can't be passed on to another team.

Date	Nature of complaint	Action taken by the VEC
Thursday 8 August 2024	VEC Complaint - Language accessibility	Other
Tuesday 17 September 2024	LGI Complaint - Incorrectly authorised material; Misleading and deceptive material	Referred to LGI
Thursday 19 September 2024	LGI Complaint - Conduct of candidate away from election office	Referred to LGI
Friday 20 September 2024	VEC Complaint - Telephone-assisted voting	Response provided
Monday 30 September 2024	LGI Complaint - False claims in material	Referred to LGI
Wednesday 2 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Unauthorised material; Location of signs	Referred to LGI
Friday 4 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Unauthorised material	Referred to LGI
Friday 4 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Unauthorised material	No action
Saturday 5 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Nomination instance	No action
Monday 7 October 2024	VEC Complaint - VoterAlert; Postal voting process	Response provided
Thursday 10 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Electoral boundaries	Response provided
Thursday 10 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	No action
Thursday 10 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote identity theft	Response provided
Tuesday 15 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process; VEC privacy policies	Response provided
Wednesday 16 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Conduct of candidate away from election office	Response provided
Thursday 17 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Misleading and deceptive material	Referred to LGI

Whittlesea City Council

Appendix 10: Complaints

Date	Nature of complaint	Action taken by the VEC
Monday 21 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process; Postal vote receipt delayed	Response provided
Tuesday 22 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Follow-up response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process; Postal vote receipt delayed	Follow-up response provided
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Overseas and interstate voting; New digital voting options	Response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Follow-up response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Follow-up response provided
Saturday 26 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election; Overseas and interstate voting	Response provided
Monday 28 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election	Follow-up response provided
Monday 28 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	No action
Wednesday 13 November 2024	VEC Complaint - Electoral integrity	Response provided
Thursday 14 November 2024	VEC Complaint - Electoral integrity	No action

Appendix 10: Complaints

Whittlesea City Council

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(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2025

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5 Closure

There being no further business the Chair formally closed the meeting at 6:21pm.

Confirmed this 20th day of May 2025.

Cr Martin Taylor
Mayor

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