

# ELECTION OF WOMEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT



The NSW Government is committed to increasing female representation on our local councils at the local government elections on 4 September 2021.

Currently women represent only 31 per cent of all councillors serving on our 128 local councils across the State.

## Are you ready to make a difference and stand for your community?

Women from all walks of life are being encouraged to put their hand up for election to help ensure local councils are representative of the communities they represent and serve.

## What do councils do?

Local councils are the level of government closest to the community.

They provide key infrastructure, facilities and services to local residents and are integral to improving the lifestyle and amenity of local communities.

## What does a councillor do?

Councillors represent their local community's needs, wants and aspirations.

Elected representatives make important decisions on behalf of their local community.

They help make sure our suburbs, towns and cities grow and prosper now and into the future.

## Why should I become a councillor?

Women from all walks of life have an exciting opportunity to work with their local residents and businesses and make a real difference to their local community.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**4 September 2021**

**[www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)**

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## What qualities do I need to be a successful councillor?

You don't need any formal qualifications to be a councillor.

However, you do need to be ethical, open and honest.

The following attributes are also helpful:

- Keen to learn
- Communication skills
- Time management and organisational skills
- Problem solving skills
- Teamwork skills.

It's also important to talk to your family and friends about how you would balance your work and personal commitments. Councillors are required to read council business papers, attend meetings and represent their council at events.

## What training and support will I receive if I am elected?

The NSW Government has introduced mandatory induction and professional development training for councillors.

Councillors will benefit from induction training after the election and an ongoing professional development program over the term to help them acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their roles.

The training programs are designed to ensure mayors and councillors understand their responsibilities and are supported to perform their roles effectively.

Councillors also receive an annual fee from their council.

Councils also provide equipment and expenses to help councillors carry out their role. These can include computers, telephones, travel, conferences, and care for dependents such as children.

## How do I stand for election?

Eligibility requirements include:

- You must be at least 18 years old and an Australian citizen
- Live or own, lease or occupy property in the council area
- Be on the electoral roll for the council area.

The NSW Electoral Commission can provide further information about requirements for election nominations and running a campaign.



## Where can I go for more information?

### NSW Office of Local Government

[www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

### NSW Electoral Commission

[www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au)

### Local Government NSW

[www.lgnsw.org.au](http://www.lgnsw.org.au)

### Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW Branch

[www.algwa.org.au](http://www.algwa.org.au)

