



**Shelley Hancock**  
Minister for Local Government

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **100 DAYS TO GO UNTIL VOTERS HAVE A SAY ON THEIR LOCAL COUNCIL**

The power to change their local community will be in the hands of the state's voters when they head to the polls in just 100 days to vote for their council representatives in the NSW Local Government Elections.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the council elections, held on Saturday 4 September, give both residents and candidates an opportunity to shape their local community for the next three years.

"Local government elections are a vital part of the democratic process, ensuring councils across the state are accountable to their communities," Mrs Hancock said.

"This year, 5.2 million electors will cast votes for about 5,000 candidates standing for election for more than 1,200 councillor positions at 125 local councils.

"I am encouraging candidates from all walks of life to put their hand up and stand for their local community by running for election in September.

"If you have a strong sense of community and are keen to make a difference in your local neighbourhood, then you should consider being a councillor and nominating for the September 4 Local Government Elections.

"There is nothing more rewarding than serving in the level of government closest to the community."

Mrs Hancock said voters should ensure they familiarise themselves with candidates as they prepare to make the important decision of choosing their local leaders.

"Exercising your democratic right to vote for representation that reflects your local community is an important responsibility," Mrs Hancock said.

"Councillors represent their local community's needs, wants and aspirations, and make important decisions on behalf of their residents and businesses.

"Get to know who your candidates are, what they stand for, and how they intend to shape where you live, work and play."

The 2020 Local Government Elections were postponed for 12 months to ensure the health and safety of voters, candidates and NSW Electoral Commission staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NSW Government will provide additional funding to the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct full attendance voting on September 4 in accordance with COVID-safe measures.

The NSW Government will also maximise voter participation by utilising iVote, and expanding the eligibility criteria for pre-poll and postal voting.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has released an [updated guide for election candidates](#) to provide them with comprehensive information about running for election and the role and responsibilities of a councillor.

OLG will shortly release further resources to help inform and encourage potential candidates to stand for election on Saturday September 4.

**MEDIA:**

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