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Report on Conduct of the 2012 Local Government Elections

VIEC

Errata Note

This report was originally published by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on 26 April 2013. The following updates were made since its original release:

Release	Page/s	Correction
October 2013	39	The 2012 turnout rates for 'All Councils (inc Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)' and 'Postal (inc Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)' in Figure 5 were updated.
	40	The 2012 informal voting rates in Figure 7 were updated.
	148-50	The tables showing 'All Councils', 'Melbourne City Council', 'Greater Geelong City Council', and 'Attendance elections – metropolitan' in Appendix 15 were updated.

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Foreword by the Acting Electoral Commissioner

I am pleased to present the *Victorian Electoral Commission Report of the 2012 Local Government Elections*, held in October 2012.

The conduct of these elections brought to fruition over 18 months of planning and activity at the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). After extensive consultation, planning and preparation, and a rigorous procurement process with councils, the VEC provided election services to 78 of Victoria's 79 councils, which involved over 2,000 candidates and more than four million enrolled voters.

The only council not to hold a general election in 2012 was Brimbank City Council, which has been re-scheduled to take place in March 2015.

This report provides an overview of the elections and an insight into the way the VEC managed the logistical challenges presented by conducting elections for each of the 78 councils concurrently. The report details innovations in the VEC's processes, products and services, and reports on key figures and results. The evaluation of the VEC's services was informed by an extensive program that included debriefing with councils, key suppliers and staff, as well as online surveys allowing direct feedback from candidates and voters.

The report puts forward a number of recommendations that the VEC considers will facilitate improvements to administrative processes at local government elections. The recommendations in this report are intended to benefit the sector's discussions on the future of local government elections. The VEC looks forward to assisting with these discussions wherever possible.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the former Electoral Commissioner, Steve Tully, who had a close relationship with the local government sector and handed over to me a local government election program that was focused on delivering high quality and cost efficient elections to the VEC's local government clients.

I extend the VEC's appreciation to our contractors and suppliers for their exceptional service and support, which is invaluable to the success of Victoria's electoral activities. I also express my sincere appreciation and congratulations to the VEC's staff and election officials for their efforts in ensuring that the program is carried out with care and diligence. The commitment and passion of all of these people to deliver to Victorians the opportunity to participate in our democracy at this important level of government were critical to our successful completion of Victoria's local government general elections in 2012.



Liz Williams
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Summary

In October 2012, the VEC conducted elections on behalf of 78 of Victoria's 79 Councils¹ under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*. There were contested elections in 245 wards and unsubdivided municipalities, with uncontested elections in 28 electorates.

Eight councils chose to conduct their elections by attendance election, while the remaining 70 councils conducted postal elections.

Features of the elections included:

- 146 multi-councillor wards and unsubdivided councils were counted using proportional representation (6 were uncontested)
- 126 single-councillor wards were counted using the preferential method (21 were uncontested)
- 16 councils had a combination of ward structures, and both preferential and proportional representation counts
- 4,098,007 people were enrolled voters at the close of rolls (3,987,726 in 2008)
- 2,004 candidates nominated for 631 positions (1,953 for 629 in 2008)
- 506 how-to-vote cards were registered (625 in 2008)
- The participation rate for all elections was 70.96% (74.68% in 2008)
- The participation rate for postal elections was 72.53% (75.96% in 2008)
- The participation rate for attendance elections was 63.62% (70.03% in 2008)
- The informal voting rate for all elections was 5.39% (4.99% in 2008)
- The informal voting rate for postal elections was 4.66% (3.75% in 2008)
- The informal voting rate for attendance elections 10.09% (9.90% in 2008)
- 173 voting centres were established for attendance elections held on Saturday, 27 October, and 22 early voting centres were established for early voting
- 64 computer counting venues and 26 manual counting venues were established across the State
- The results for 77 councils were declared on or by Wednesday, 31 October, with all elections declared by Friday, 2 November
- the VEC was appointed by 73 councils to follow-up non-voters, and a total of 505,582 Apparent Failure to Vote Notices were sent
- five applications were lodged with the Municipal Election Tribunal (12 in 2008)

¹ There were no elections for Brimbank City Council, which currently has a Panel of Administrators and is scheduled to hold a general election in March 2015.

- a report on each council's election was delivered to the respective council in late January 2013, in accordance with legislation.

Summary of recommendations

A number of matters raised in this report have been highlighted for further consideration. Where appropriate, the VEC would welcome the opportunity to be involved in further consideration of these matters prior to commencing planning for the Brimbank City Council elections in March 2015 and the local government elections in October 2016.

The VEC recommends that the Government:

1. Notes that the terms 'resident' and 'non-resident' for the purposes of a municipal voters' roll can lead to uncertainty among voters when considering their voting entitlement(s) and obligations (see page 8).
2. Considers an appropriate mechanism to capture changes to the postal addresses of non-resident ratepayers, who are automatically enrolled on the municipal voters' roll, for the purpose of maintaining a Chief Executive Officer's List (see page 11).
3. Considers regulating the method of displaying the exhibition roll to maximise security of voters' personal details at display locations during the display period (see page 12).
4. Considers legislating an election service provider as the default election service provider for local government elections and codifies a suitable costing arrangement that exempts the service provider from councils' general procurement requirements (see page 15).
5. Considers amending clause 6(3A) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act to permit the Returning Officer to reject a nomination from a person who is not on the voters' roll for the municipality (see page 21).
6. Considers legislation to allow candidates to electronically submit their candidate statements and indication of preferences to the Returning Officer (see page 24).
7. Considers requiring the publication of all registered how-to-vote cards in relation to a local government election on a website administered by (or on behalf of) the Returning Officer as soon as practicable after the completion of the period for registration (see page 25).
8. Considers removing the requirement for how-to-vote cards to be registered for distribution at early voting centres (see page 25).
9. Notes that mail delivery patterns have changed affecting the dispatch and return of standard mail services (see page 28).
10. Amends Regulation 44(4) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to allow voters to electronically lodge a postal voting application in relation to voting at an attendance election (see page 31).

11. Considers a legislative provision that exempts voters who request a Braille ballot paper at an attendance election and who are not already registered as a General Postal Voter from the requirement to complete a written application (see page 33).
12. Considers removing the requirement for a Council to pass a resolution in accordance with Regulation 93(2) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 thereby providing for circumstances where a Returning Officer (or election service provider) cannot secure a suitable counting venue within the municipal district (see page 37).
13. Considers a mechanism for a Returning Officer (or election service provider) at a local government election to refer a matter of concern in relation to that election to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (see page 58).

1 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Local government elections are conducted within a legislative and regulatory framework. Section 74A(1) of the *Constitution Act 1975* provides that local government is a distinct and essential tier of government, consisting of democratically elected councils.

The *Local Government Act 1989* (LG Act) is the principal legislation for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria. Detailed provisions for the elections are contained in the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 (LGR).

The *City of Melbourne Act 2001* (CoM Act) makes provisions for the conduct of elections for the Melbourne City Council.

1.1 Changes in legislation

Local government elections were aligned across all of Victoria's 79 councils for the first time at the 2008 local government elections. The LG Act requires elections to be conducted every four years.

A number of legislative amendments that affected the 2012 local government elections were made between the 2008 and 2012 local government elections. Some of these amendments reflected recommendations from the VEC's report following the 2008 local government elections.

The key amendments to local government legislation relating to the conduct of elections include those detailed below.

Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2008

- Amended the LG Act and the CoM Act to facilitate the holding of local government elections.

Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Act 2009

- Amended the LG Act to provide for conflicting duties of persons who are or want to be Councillors and for other purposes.

Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Act 2009

- Dismissed Brimbank City Council and provided for the appointment of a Panel of Administrators in its place.

Local Government Amendment (Electoral Matters) Act 2011

- Amended the LG Act to provide for local government general elections to be held on the fourth Saturday in October every four years, beginning from the fourth Saturday in October 2012.
- Amended the CoM Act to provide for regular reviews of electoral representation of Councillors of the Melbourne City Council, other than the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- Consequentially amended the *Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Act 2009* to provide for the general election of Brimbank City Council to be held on the fourth Saturday in October 2012. This provision was subject to

further amendment by the *Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Amendment Act 2012*, as below.

City of Greater Geelong Amendment Act 2011

- Amended the *City of Greater Geelong Act 1993* to enable the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong to be directly elected to represent the municipal district as a whole.

Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Amendment Act 2012

- Amended the Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Act 2009 to provide for a general election of the Brimbank City Council to be held on the fourth Saturday in March 2015, rather than in October 2012.

City of Melbourne Amendment (Enrolment) Act 2012

- Amended the CoM Act to clarify the persons entitled to apply to be enrolled on the voters' roll for the City of Melbourne elections.

Local Government Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Act 2012²

- Repealed the offence of false and defamatory statements from the LG Act.
- Amended the LG Act to clarify the application of provisions regarding the distribution of printed electoral material to households within 400 metres of a voting centre (or early voting centre).
- Amended the LG Act to require the Chief Executive Officer of a council to publish a summary of campaign donation returns on the council's website.

² The legislation was before Parliament during the lead up to the elections, but did not receive Royal Assent until after election day.

2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The LGR provides the framework for the conduct of local government elections. The Local Government (Electoral) Amendment Regulations 2012, amending the LGR, were made in June 2012 and were effective immediately at that time.

The amendments to the LGR are summarised below.

- Various time of day deadlines relating to lodgement of candidate statements and indication of preferences were brought forward from 4.00 pm to 12 noon (Regulations 34, 36, 37).
- Details of registered how-to-vote cards published on the VEC web site will include the names of submitters and organisations they represent, if any (Regulation 31).
- The requirement for candidates to supply additional registered how-to-vote cards for all voting centres was removed, however, copies must still be supplied to Returning Officer (Regulation 31).
- The deadline by which a voter can request the redirection of their postal ballot pack was brought forward from the close of nominations to the day that the voters' roll is certified (opening of nominations) (Regulation 87).
- The penalty for making a false statement regarding a how-to-vote card, which was included as Regulation 28(5), was removed as it was covered by section 238A of the LG Act.
- Regulation 114(3), which required electoral records to be destroyed after four years, was removed. The disposal of such records is dealt with through the *Public Records Act 1973*.
- Part 11 of the LGR, which contained consequential amendments to the subordinate instrument under CoM Act, were revoked.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Victorian Electoral Commission and the Electoral Commissioner

The LG Act's explicit requirements for the VEC are limited to its responsibility for the provision of a list of legislative assembly voters to the registrar of the voters roll at a local government election and conducting a periodic electoral representation or subdivision review of each municipality in Victoria.

In practice, however, the VEC assumes three additional areas of responsibility under the LG Act once it is formally engaged by a council to perform that function of the election. The areas include:

1. The preparation of the municipal voters' roll;
2. The conduct of the election; and
3. The enforcement of compulsory voting through non-voter follow up.

The VEC does not have any remaining responsibilities under the legislation.

3.1.1 The preparation of the municipal voters' roll

In the lead up to a council election, where the VEC is engaged by a council to prepare its exhibition and voters' rolls, the Electoral Commissioner is required to appoint the Registrar for the purpose of preparing the rolls. The appointment is pursuant to the meaning of 'Registrar' in section 3 of the LG Act.

The VEC was engaged to prepare the rolls on behalf of 77 of the 78 councils that had an election in 2012. The VEC worked closely with Melbourne City Council to prepare the rolls for that council, but did not appoint the Registrar.

3.1.2 The conduct of the election

As the VEC is considered to be an 'electoral commission' by the LG Act, it may be engaged to conduct a local government election. After being formally engaged by a council, the Electoral Commissioner is responsible for appointing the Returning Officer pursuant to clause 1(2)(c) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act.

The VEC supports its Returning Officers by:

- providing a voter information campaign
- providing all handbooks and forms
- providing office equipment and furniture
- providing training in local government election procedures
- arranging materials to be printed
- preparing the voters rolls by merging the Electoral Commissioner's voters list of electors with the Chief Executive Officer's voters list of ratepayers
- providing a computerised Election Management System to support the Returning Officer in the conduct of the election
- arranging for the secure dispatch of ballot packs

- providing progress reports to the council
- notifying the Minister for Local Government of the results of the election
- providing electoral information on the VEC's website
- arranging legal advice as required
- refunding candidates' nomination fees
- producing a list of non-voters
- organising the follow up of non-voters and
- preparing a report for council on the conduct of the elections.

The VEC was engaged to conduct the elections on behalf of 78 of Victoria's 79 councils. Brimbank City Council did not have an election in 2012.

3.1.3 The enforcement of compulsory voting through non-voter follow up

Where the VEC is formally engaged to carry out certain non-voter follow-up procedures, the Electoral Commissioner nominates a VEC officer as the 'Prosecution Officer' to undertake these tasks. The Chief Executive Officer of the council is required to formally appoint the 'Prosecution Officer' pursuant to section 40(2)(a) of the LG Act.

The VEC was engaged to conduct non-voter follow up on behalf of 73 of the 78 councils that had an election in 2012. The VEC was not engaged to conduct non-voter follow up for the Borough of Queenscliffe, Golden Plains Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council.

3.2 Returning Officer

The LG Act requires that a local government election must be conducted by a Returning Officer. The Returning Officer may be the Chief Executive Officer of the council, another member of council staff, or where an Electoral Commission is appointed to conduct the election, the Electoral Commission will appoint the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer:

- is responsible for the management of the election
- is impartial and independent
- is required to appoint a Deputy Returning Officer and
- may delegate responsibilities (except the power of delegation) to a Deputy Returning Officer or authorised person.

The Returning Officer has no legislative authority to investigate breaches of the LG Act.

3.3 Councils and the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate

Where a council is not conducting its election, the Chief Executive Officer of the council is responsible for appointing an Electoral Commission to conduct the election. The council selects the method of election (postal or attendance) and negotiates the services to be provided with its electoral services provider.

The CEO is also responsible for the preparation of the section of the voters' roll relating to ratepayers.

Responsibility for investigating and prosecuting alleged breaches of the LG Act rests with the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate (LGICI), an agency of the Department of Planning and Community Development.

4 INITIATIVES

4.1 Electronic roll marking

For the local government elections in 2012, the VEC used electronic roll marking (see section 6.15).

Voters at attendance elections were marked off the roll electronically, with the vast majority of voters at voting centres and during early voting being recorded on Toshiba netbooks wirelessly connected to the VEC on the Next-G network.

The remainder of voters, those voting in postal elections, were directly marked off the roll using the VEC's Election Management System (see Section 6.8).

4.2 Social media

After the successful use of social media at the 2010 State election, the VEC introduced social media initiatives for the local government elections in 2012, promoting key electoral information on Facebook and Twitter, and using these platforms to seed conversations relating to the democratic process in Victoria.

4.3 Electronic ballot paper scanning – discontinued

The VEC conducted a ballot paper scanning pilot program during the local government elections in 2008. Ballot papers were scanned and intelligent character recognition (ICR) was used to read ballot paper preferences before transferring them into the VEC's computer count application, instead of being entered manually by data entry operators. The pilot included the Cities of Glen Eira, Stonnington and Yarra and though it was successful in many aspects, it was also considered that, at this stage, there were no significant benefits in terms of cost and time to justify a ballot paper scanning operation for 2012.

5 MUNICIPAL VOTERS' ROLL

5.1 Local government voting entitlements

Voting entitlements for local government elections differ from those that apply in a State or Federal election. Voting entitlements for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils are specified under the LG Act, with CoM Act providing additional entitlement provisions for Melbourne City Council elections.

5.1.1 General provisions

Voting entitlements to vote at a local government election fall into three groups:

1. Residents in the municipality who are on the roll for the Legislative Assembly (section 12 of the LG Act) – Electoral Commissioner's List

Enrolled residents who are 18 years and over, Australian citizens or entitled British subjects are listed on the Electoral Commissioner's list. To enrol, an enrolment form must be completed, signed and witnessed prior to the entitlement date. Entitlement is based on the residential address on the enrolment form.

Since legislation was introduced in 2010, the VEC has commenced a direct enrolment program using reliable external data sources to enrol people who are entitled to enrol and have not completed an enrolment form or have not updated their address.

State enrolled voters form approximately 86% of the roll across all municipalities. The Electoral Commissioner's list database has been designed and is maintained for the purpose of producing electoral rolls for the conduct of elections at State and local government levels.

2. Non-resident ratepayers (section 13 of the LG Act) – Chief Executive Officer's List)

A person who owns a rateable property in the municipal district (whether solely or jointly) and who is not a resident of the municipal district is automatically entitled to be enrolled on the voters roll in respect of that property. This entitlement is limited to two people per rateable property.

A notice of acquisition, which includes name and date of birth, is completed at the time of the purchase of a property. This is the only time council has any certainty regarding the residency status of a particular ratepayer in relation to the property, which may change over time.

This category forms about 14% of the roll across all municipalities. Records for these people are extracted from each council's property database, which are designed for the purpose of collecting rates on a property and not primarily for extracting details of individuals for voting purposes. This can present difficulties for councils to ensure that all those who are entitled to vote are included on the Chief Executive Officer's List.

3. Other ratepayer entitlements (sections 14, 15 and 16 of the LG Act) – Chief Executive Officer's List

Other council entitlements include non-citizen owner occupiers, company nominees and occupiers who pay the rates.

To be entitled to vote, this group must complete an application form, which includes up-to-date personal details, each election cycle. Council includes this group on its Chief Executive Officer's List. This very small group makes up about 0.05% of the roll across all municipalities.

In relation to some of these entitlements, the LG Act uses the terms 'resident' and 'non-resident' to represent different levels of entitlement. This can create confusion and uncertainty for some groups of voters, particular during when applying for an unenrolled declaration vote and during compulsory voting enforcement activities. The VEC has observed that some tenants who are listed on the Electoral Commissioner's List as Legislative Assembly voters do not believe that they are 'residents', as they are not homeowners.

Recommendation 1: Resident and non-resident

The VEC recommends that the Government notes that the terms 'resident' and 'non-resident' for the purposes of a municipal voters' roll can lead to uncertainty among voters when considering their voting entitlement(s) and obligations.

5.1.2 Melbourne City Council voting entitlements

Voting entitlements at Melbourne City Council vary slightly from those that apply for all other councils in Victoria. In addition to the general entitlements listed in section 5.1.1, the following entitlements also apply:

1. A person who occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne municipal district and resides in the municipality, but they are not on the State electoral roll (including non-Australian citizens) and they made an application to Council for enrolment before the entitlement date. If the person is a resident occupier, they must have been a resident for at least one month prior to the entitlement date.
2. A person who is a director or company secretary of a corporation (or holds an equivalent position) that owns or occupies a rateable property solely or jointly within the City of Melbourne. If the company does not appoint two voting representatives by the entitlement date, Melbourne City Council is required to enrol company officers using data provided by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

These entitlements are both on the Chief Executive Officer's List.

5.2 Roll production

The VEC was responsible for the preparation of the exhibition and certification rolls on behalf of 77 of the 78 councils that had an election in 2012. Due to the special requirements of the Melbourne City Council rolls detailed in section 5.1.2, the VEC and Melbourne City Council officers jointly prepared the exhibition and certification rolls for Melbourne City Council elections.

The Electoral Commissioner appointed Paul Strickland as the Registrar of the Voters' Rolls for the 77 councils. At the time of the election, Mr Strickland was the VEC's Manager of Electoral Enrolment Branch.

The VEC has provided roll production services to councils since 1995, and has developed sophisticated software tools and processing procedures for ensuring the quality of the voters roll. Software tools are updated for each election cycle to cater for legislative changes and to continuously improve processing and accuracy.

In preparation for the local government elections in 2012, extensive work was carried out by the VEC with all councils to ensure that council data were of high quality and included date of birth on as many council records as possible. This work occurred in the 18 months before the elections and resulted in faster and more accurate processing after the entitlement date, 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Considerable time and effort is devoted to performing data matching and checking names and addresses in an effort to prepare voters rolls that are as accurate as possible. Roll preparation involves the receipt of an initial Chief Executive Officer's List at exhibition roll date, an update to this List at the entitlement date and checking both against the entitlement provisions of the LG Act. The Electoral Commissioner's List of State enrolled voters and the Chief Executive Officer's List of ratepayers are combined to produce the list of entitled electors for each local government election. Every effort is made to identify voters that appear on both lists and, in accordance with the LG Act, the record from the Chief Executive Officer's List is removed.

The roll preparation process commences six months before election day when preliminary data is provided by the council. This process uses sophisticated software to identify, where possible, people whose names appear on both the Electoral Commissioner's List and the Chief Executive Officer's List. Nevertheless, significant manual work is still required to investigate and resolve these duplicates. The aim is that all eligible voters are included on the final voters' roll for the election, but that duplicate records are not included.

The preliminary process mirrors the process at the exhibition roll date and aims to identify and provide feedback to council on issues that will delay final processing or cause problems with the comprehensiveness and/or accuracy of the final voters' roll. This detailed feedback, including possible duplicates and the names of deceased voters, is provided to council for action on their database so that the quality of the final data can be improved and processing delays minimised.

Within three working days following the exhibition roll date, each council provided data to the VEC containing details of the ratepayers who were entitled to be enrolled as at the exhibition roll date. These data were loaded into the VEC computer system and merged with the State roll data for the municipality. Matching routines were used to try to identify and remove duplicates and the names of deceased voters. Decisions on possible duplicates were made in conjunction with the relevant council. The exhibition rolls for each council were available for public exhibition at locations nominated by the councils for the display period, beginning on Monday, 27 August 2012 and closing at the entitlement date at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Matching the imported records against deceased electors resulted in 1,483 records being removed. Duplicate identification meant that a further 38,042 records were removed.

The exhibition rolls for the 77 councils included 506,230 Chief Executive Officer's List voters and only 39,525 records (7.2%) had to be removed from the council extracts for exhibition, compared with 7.6% in 2008 and 25% of records in 2005. Improvements to software and council business processes that were put in place for the local government elections in 2008 have been maintained, allowing the VEC to produce high quality rolls within the tight legislative timeline.

After the entitlement date, changes to the Chief Executive Officer's List between the exhibition roll extract and the entitlement date were received from each council. These changes were processed, along with changes to the Electoral Commissioner's List, to produce the rolls for certification.

The Chief Executive Officer of each council then certified the voters' roll for their municipality. The certified voters' roll was used for the election.

5.3 Roll production challenges

The ability to produce an accurate roll relies on the VEC's capacity to identify, match and remove duplicates, as well as removing deceased electors' names from the merged data. This requires significant effort and resources from council and the VEC. There is no unique identifier available in both the State enrolment register and the council ratings system register to determine that a record appearing in both registers relates to the same person. The availability of personal details (particularly date of birth data) that are as up-to-date and complete as possible are critical to the matching process.

Electors listed on the State roll (first entitlement category) are required to provide complete personal details at the time of enrolment, and also when any details change, such as a change of name or address.

Electors in the second entitlement category (automatically entitled non-resident ratepayers) provide the prescribed details at the time of purchase of a property. This includes their current contact details and whether the property is to be their principal place of residence. There is no legislative requirement for a property owner to notify a council of any entitlement changes, i.e. a change from resident to non-resident status. The ability of the council and VEC to identify such changes is therefore dependent on the ability to match a council record with a State roll record. This group comprises approximately 12.5% of the roll but makes up 80% of processing. Where multiple records are identified as relating to the one person and different addresses are identified, it can be difficult to determine which address is the most appropriate to use.

Electors in the third entitlement category (non-citizen owner occupiers and company nominees) are required to update their details when they apply for enrolment at each election. This leaves no doubt about entitlements and currency of details.

Recommendation 2: Property owners changing address

The VEC recommends that the Government considers an appropriate mechanism to capture changes to the postal addresses of non-resident ratepayers, who are automatically enrolled on the municipal voters' roll, for the purpose of maintaining a Chief Executive Officer's List.

5.4 Dates of birth on the Chief Executive Officer's List

Regulation 15(2)(vii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004 requires property purchasers to provide date of birth information to councils for the purpose of preparing voters' rolls. This additional personal information greatly improves the VEC's ability to match council records with the Electoral Commissioner's List. The Regulation applied to property purchases made from the date that it came into force, so compliance levels are not yet optimal.

For some years the VEC has encouraged councils to include date of birth information on older property records where possible. Most councils have put administrative processes in place to collect date of birth whenever there is any contact with a ratepayer, for confirmation of identity and for addition to the records.

The VEC once again matched entire database extracts from councils with the State roll database and provided dates of birth where definite matches occurred. Most councils participated in this exercise, which resulted in an increased percentage of council records with date of birth information (78.7% of all council records provided for the local government elections in 2012 compared with 65.2% in 2008). Seven councils had dates of birth on more than 90% of their CEO List records (only one in 2008) and only two councils had less than 60% of records with dates of birth (18 in 2008). There were 40 councils that exceeded the 80% target set by the VEC.

5.5 Voters' rolls

The legislated period for the production of final voters' rolls is short. The VEC began work with councils in March 2012 to ensure the production of voters' rolls of the best possible quality.

5.5.1 Exhibition rolls

The exhibition roll for each council was available for public inspection from Monday, 27 August 2012 until the entitlement date at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Each council was asked to nominate one or more display locations within their council. Most locations were council service centres and libraries, however, in country areas, councils also nominated post offices and general stores as display locations. The number of display locations within each municipality varied from one up to 18 locations.

The exhibition period and display locations were advertised with information on council roll entitlements through the public notice of entitlement and on the VEC's

website. The notice included details on how a person can go about objecting to an error or omission in an exhibition roll by contacting the Registrar. The Registrar was not advised of any errors or omissions in the roll.

After the entitlement date, the VEC arranged for councils to withdraw the exhibition rolls from each of the display locations. Council officers organised collection and secure destruction of the exhibition rolls from the display locations within their municipality. During the collection process, the VEC was notified of three instances where exhibition rolls had been removed from a display location before the authorised person was able to collect them. The issue was promptly reported to the local Police and the VEC advised the Privacy Commissioner.

Recommendation 3: Security of display rolls

The VEC recommends that the Government considers regulating the method of displaying the exhibition roll to maximise security of voters' personal details at display locations during the display period.

5.6 Enrolment

A total of 4,098,007 voters were enrolled at the close of rolls for the local government elections in 2012. The table in Appendix 2 shows Municipal voter count by electorate.

5.6.1 Amendments to the certified voters' rolls

Across all 78 councils that had an election in 2012, there were 338 additions and 499 deletions made to the municipal voters' rolls after the certification date. These amendments were made pursuant to the process provided by section 24A of the LG Act and were signed by the Returning Officer for the election and the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant council.

Details of these can be found in the table in Appendix 2.

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2012 IN REVIEW

6.1 *Planning and preparation*

The time required for preparation and planning for the management of the local government elections is approximately 18 months – equivalent to that required for the management of a State election. Preparation for the local government elections in 2012 commenced early in 2011.

One of the major challenges faced by the VEC is ensuring that contract arrangements were understood and in place in sufficient time to prepare adequately for their implementation. For example, many councils were unable to provide space for election office accommodation and contracts needed to be in place between the VEC and these councils before the VEC could enter into a leasing arrangements for commercial office accommodation. Protracted contract negotiations also meant that the VEC was unable to finalise some service requirements until later than anticipated.

Further challenges included the preparation of 78 voters rolls within legislative timelines without compromising the quality of the rolls, and the preparation and dispatch of over three million ballot packs for up to 238 postal elections, and approximately 690,000 *EasyVote letters* for 36 attendance elections, within the specified timelines.

6.1.1 *Service plan*

The VEC conducted workshops with staff and service providers to determine capabilities and requirements. As a result, the VEC enhanced its processes and systems, and standardised some services to ensure that the large volumes of electoral materials could be managed within legislative timelines. A proposed service plan was developed to ensure that the organisation was in a position to offer an election service to all councils. Using its experience from previous elections, the VEC considered the volume of products and materials, timelines, cost, quality, identified risks, and council and voter expectations. The proposed service plan included some standardisation of services as well as a limited number of optional services for councils to select.

6.1.2 *Council consultation*

The VEC conducted eight information and consultation sessions for councils in October 2011 to present the proposed service plan and the timelines that would need to be met by the VEC and councils. Of the 79³ councils due to hold elections, 77 were represented at these sessions. The proposed service plan was discussed separately with councils who were unable to attend.

Feedback was received from councils, with most of these indicating that they were satisfied with the proposed service plan, and amendments were made in

³ At this time, it was not known that the *Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Amendment Act 2012* would amend the *Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Act 2009* to delay the Brimbank City Council's general election to March 2015.

response to feedback. A small number of councils indicated concern with the VEC's proposed count and declaration timetable proposing that results and declarations should take place within a shorter timeframe. Further information on the count and declaration timetable is included in sections 6.19 and 6.21 of this report.

The final service plan, with estimated costs, was distributed to councils in December 2011.

The VEC also participated in other meetings conducted by local government bodies including workshops with council revenue managers to discuss roll preparation arrangements.

6.2 Selection of an election service provider

Councils are required to tender for the provision of any goods or services if the cost of the goods or services is expected to exceed \$150,000. The VEC provided councils with estimates for their elections in December 2011, which assisted councils with budgeting and determining their tendering responsibilities in relation to finding an election service provider. The estimates showed that most council elections were expected to meet or exceed \$150,000 and these councils would need to tender for their elections. Councils whose election services were estimated to cost under \$150,000 were still expected to follow a procurement process consistent with the purchasing requirements by the LG Act.

Although there is no legislative requirement for an electoral commission to tender for, or conduct, local government elections in Victoria, the VEC has been the only tenderer for Victorian local government election services since March 2002.

In December 2011, the Minister for Local Government authorised an exemption from the tendering requirements for councils who appointed the VEC as their election service provider. The exemption was conditional on a quotation being accepted by the council and required the VEC to conduct all three service activities associated with a council's elections, including preparation of the municipal voters' roll, conduct of the elections and enforcement of compulsory voting. Councils were not obliged to use the exemption and many councils had already resolved to go to tender before receiving notice of the exemption.

The VEC notes that the exemption was specific to elections held on Saturday, 27 October 2012 and covers any consequential by-elections or countbacks within the subsequent term of council, however, it does not exempt councils from their requirement to tender for future general elections.

Between January and July 2012, 55 councils advertised tenders for their election services, including 54 councils that participated in a joint tender through an agency, and 24 councils requested quotations directly with the VEC. Councils generally provided their own specifications to assist with costing, which were then used as the basis of the contract, but in some instances, the VEC was able to assist councils with the preparation of their costing parameters. The quotations were prepared using the products and services in the VEC's service plan and included the activities required by legislation as well as a limited range of optional/recommended products. These additional products included additional early voting centres for attendance elections, additional candidate information sessions, voting reminder notices, the inclusion of a multi-language voting

instruction leaflet in ballot packs for postal elections, and responsibility for compulsory voting enforcement. Most councils requested a quotation for either an attendance or postal election, but some councils requested quotations for both methods of voting.

The quotations were provided in two parts:

1. a schedule of marginal costs for election services, including service one (preparation of the municipal voters' roll) and service two (conduct of the elections); and
2. a schedule of marginal costs for the enforcement of compulsory voting.

The costs were accompanied by their qualifications and a list of prescribed variations, which explained the assumptions included in preparing the costs, such as the number of candidates and voters, voter turnout and recounts. Additional variations applied to attendance elections, including the number of voting centres, early voting centres and postal voting applications.

The VEC recognises that improvements in service planning and election preparations would be aided by certainty in the number of elections to be conducted by the VEC, as often certain activities cannot be finalised until negotiations with all councils have been completed. Although the VEC strives to find affordable and high quality suppliers, the ability to increase cost efficiencies would be improved by certainty within its local government work program.

Recommendation 4: Election service provider

The VEC recommends that the Government considers legislating an election service provider as the default election service provider for local government elections and codifies a suitable costing arrangement that exempts the service provider from councils' general procurement requirements.

In relation to this recommendation, the VEC notes that these requirements exist in other Australian jurisdictions:

- section 55(3)(p) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- section 259 of the *Local Government Act* (NT) and Regulation 13 of the corresponding *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations* (NT)
- section 8 of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (Qld)
- section 10(1) of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1993* (SA)
- section 264(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas)
- sections 4.20(4) and 4.28(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA)

6.3 Choice of attendance or postal elections

At least eight months before a general election, councils may resolve to change the method of election to be used at the election. At the local government elections in 2012, 70 councils used the postal method of voting, where ballot material was mailed out to all voters on the municipal voters roll and was required to be returned to the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on the day before election day.

There were eight councils that used the attendance method of voting, when most voters complete their ballot papers at a voting centre operating on election day. Early voting and postal voting are also available at attendance elections.

Two councils resolved to change the method of election for the 2012 elections⁴. Since postal elections were introduced to local government in Victoria, there has been a trend towards the postal method. This is believed to be due to the acknowledged benefits of postal voting, such as lower cost, lower rates of informal voting, and generally higher turnout rates. Figure 1 highlights the number councils using each method over the last 10 years.

	2003	2004	2005	2008	2012
Postal elections	47 (87%)	22 (88%)	48 (89%)	70 (89%)	70 (90%)
Attendance elections	7 (13%)	3 (12%)	6 (11%)	9 (11%)	8 (10%)

Figure 1: Choice of election method over time

6.4 Appointment of Returning Officers

As discussed earlier in this report, the LG Act requires a Returning Officer to conduct a local government election. The legislation allows a Returning Officer to be the Chief Executive Officer of the council, a member of council staff appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the council, or, if an Electoral Commission or another council is appointed to conduct the election, a person appointed by the Electoral Commission or council to be the Returning Officer.

Once a council had officially engaged the VEC as its election service provider, the Electoral Commissioner appointed a Returning Officer for that election. The VEC's Returning Officers (and Deputy Returning Officers) are appointed from its pool of trained senior election officials located across Victoria who work on State and local government elections.

See Appendix 3 for a list of Returning Officers appointed at the local government elections in 2012.

6.5 Election offices

Election offices were established for the conduct of the local government elections in 2012. These offices were either leased by the VEC or located in space provided by the council. A full list of election office addresses at the 2012 local government elections is included in Appendix 3.

When it was required to lease premises, the VEC experienced some difficulty securing suitable accommodation due to the relatively short lease time (three to four months) and the lack of venues meeting accessibility requirements. The complexity of negotiating a lease was greater because agents often required a minimum of a six month lease. This limited the number and type of available

⁴ This does not include Brimbank City Council, where the Panel of Administrators acting as the Council had resolved to change to a postal method of voting prior to legislative changes that rescheduled the Council's next general election to March 2015.

locations. The versatility required for normal operations in an election office was also a challenge for councils when considering whether they were able to provide accommodation.

Frequently, available venues had been vacant for some time and had ageing or inadequate building and telecommunication infrastructure. In some cases, these problems could only be identified after the VEC had entered into a lease for the premises and significant additional work was required at a number of election office locations to establish telecommunication lines. This proved difficult in some areas of the State because local exchanges were at capacity. To assist in addressing these issues at future elections, the VEC will consider extending its required tenure for election office leases.

The VEC established two election office configurations – stand-alone and hub/satellite offices. Each configuration involved different equipment, staffing, hardware, and software requirements, and ultimately, different costs. The election office configurations are detailed below.

As a result of continuing improvements in technology, the VEC will review office configurations for future local government elections.

6.5.1 Stand-alone election offices

Stand-alone offices are fully resourced election offices allocated to a single municipality. The 29 metropolitan elections and nine of the larger regional elections had stand-alone election office configurations. Although stand-alone election offices are the most costly configuration, the resources available at a stand-alone election office are essential for large-scale elections.

6.5.2 Hub and satellite election offices

The VEC provided a hub and satellite election office configuration to smaller sized councils that were conducting postal elections. A hub and satellite election office results in reduced resourcing costs and separates front office and back office processes. The VEC established 16 hub election offices and 24 satellite election offices across rural and regional Victoria.

A hub election office is fully resourced as an election office and shares those resources with one or more satellite election offices in neighbouring municipalities. At the local government elections in 2012, the processing of returned postal ballot paper envelopes and the telephone enquiry service were operated out of the hub election offices. Satellite offices were mostly located in council premises and provided a point of contact for candidates and face-to-face public enquiries about the election.

While the hub/satellite configuration is generally more complex for the VEC to administer, the resource costs have been considerably less because staffing, computer equipment and other infrastructure costs can be shared between participating councils.

6.6 Human resources

6.6.1 Contract Managers

The VEC provided a team of five contract managers to supervise the contracts for the 78 councils. The contract managers were the key liaison between councils and the VEC and were responsible for representing the VEC during contract negotiations, providing regular formal and informal feedback and reports, and managing any issues that arose. All contract managers were familiar with the legislative requirements and were available to provide advice and assistance to council officers throughout the election period.

6.6.2 Election Support Officers

During the election period, each Returning Officer was supported by one of 10 election support officers (ESOs) operating from the VEC's head office. The ESOs had considerable experience in successfully managing elections and were responsible for providing guidance and procedural advice to Returning Officers.

6.6.3 Casual staff

In addition to the 78 Returning Officers who were appointed for the duration of the election, the VEC also employed 62 Deputy Returning Officers, including 15 that were appointed to more than one election, and nearly 6,500 casual staff during the election period. To reflect the additional workload of larger and more complex elections, more than one Deputy Returning Officer was appointed for each of six larger elections.

Staffing profiles were prepared for each individual election to allocate resources appropriately and reflect the peak work periods during the election timeline.

The VEC made an effort to employ a diverse range of people to fill roles in election offices and voting centres at the local government elections in 2012. Among our staff, 624 people noted fluency in a foreign language, 46 people identified themselves as having an Indigenous heritage and 80 people identified themselves as either having a disability or having special needs in the workplace.

6.6.4 Disclosure of political activities

In accordance with section 17A of the Electoral Act 2002 and section 75 of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, the VEC may discriminate against a person in relation to offering employment on the basis of that person's political belief or activity. Prior to their appointment, all staff appointed to roles for the local government elections in 2012 was required to satisfactorily complete a disclosure of political activities. The disclosure could then be assessed to ensure that there could be no perception of political bias in relation to their work.

6.7 Support services for Returning Officers

The VEC's support for Returning Officers at the local government elections in 2012 included the provision of dedicated ESOs, training programs, training and operational manuals, and a help desk for information and technical support.

6.7.1 Training and manuals

Newly recruited senior election officials were required to attend four days of orientation training during October to December 2011.

Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers were then selected from the full pool of available senior election officials. All Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers attended a two-day training seminar during April and May 2012, specifically in relation to the local government elections. Two further training programs, of two and three days respectively, were conducted during July and August 2012 to provide training targeted specifically for postal elections and attendance elections. In addition to those senior election officials identified for appointment as Returning Officers or Deputy Returning Officers, a number of additional senior election officials were invited to complete the training to enable them to be back-ups, if required.

The VEC provided Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers with comprehensive manuals explaining all procedures for the elections.

Returning Officers for attendance elections were provided with the resources required to present localised training for Voting Centre Managers, Assistant Voting Centre Managers and Declaration Issuing Officers.

Materials were also provided to support the localised training of team leaders for the conduct of manual preferential counts. Training for computer count team leaders was provided centrally.

All staff appointed at voting centres for attendance elections were supplied with a comprehensive manual covering procedures relating to their specific tasks and explaining the VEC's standards and values. In addition, all of these staff were required to complete online training provided by the VEC.

6.7.2 Help desk – information and technical support

The VEC established a central help desk to provide support with the use of the VEC's Election Management System and desktop software to Returning Officers and their staff. The help desk was responsible for all calls from election offices. Calls were logged and were responded to in the first instance by help desk staff, or were referred directly to the IT help desk or ESOs.

The help desk staff comprised two supervisors and five full-time staff. Staff selection was based on previous electoral experience, awareness of election procedures and knowledge of election-based computer software and processes.

6.8 Election Management System

The VEC's Election Management System (EMS) is the secure computerised system used to administer and manage elections.

Returning Officers are provided with EMS in one of two ways:

1. The provision of an EMS server, computers and printers established as an office network and linked back to the VEC's central servers; or
2. A laptop with a secure wireless connection that allowed the user to access a limited subset of the EMS information and functions.

The latter arrangement was used at satellite election offices and removed the requirement for the VEC to install software and provide large-scale hardware at these locations.

Establishing election office hardware is a large-scale logistical exercise. All hardware is pre-configured at the VEC warehouse, then packaged and shipped to election offices. Technicians are required to set up the hardware at the offices and to ensure the link to the VEC is operational. Each hub or stand-alone office was provided with a server, at least four computers, a photocopier that was networked as a printer and a stand-alone A4 printer.

6.9 Information sessions for prospective candidates

The VEC organised one or more information sessions to provide information and key messages on the election process to prospective candidates in each of the 78 Victorian municipalities going to election (93 sessions in total). These information sessions were conducted by the appointed Returning Officers for each election, and were held close to the opening of nominations. See Appendix 4 for details of the VEC's information sessions for prospective candidates.

The VEC also participated in community and candidate information sessions organised by other agencies in the local government sector, including the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA). The VEC provided a representative at these sessions who was able to provide information on the election process. In some cases, the MAV or VLGA sessions were scheduled to take place with the VEC sessions.

6.10 Nominations

The nomination fee set by the LG Act is \$250 for each candidate.

The VEC received 2,004 active nominations for the 631 vacancies (273 elections) across 78 municipalities, including 85 nominations for Casey City Council and 72 for Melton City Council. Three candidates retired after the close of nominations and one candidate died before election day, leaving 2,000 active nominations at the close of voting.

There were 1,729 nominations for postal elections in 70 municipalities (including the City of Melbourne) and 271 nominations for attendance elections in eight municipalities. Across the 78 municipalities, 28 wards and unsubdivided municipalities experienced uncontested elections because the number of candidates at the close of nominations was equal to the number of vacancies. There were no failed elections.

Nominations for postal and attendance elections opened on Thursday, 20 September 2012 and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012.

Returning Officers received an average of 500 nominations per day over a four day period, with 423 nominations processed in three hours on the last day. A list of all candidates for the local government elections in 2012 is provided on the compact disc accompanying this report.

6.10.1 Candidate eligibility

A small number of prospective candidates were found to be 'not on the roll' at the time of nominating. Clause 6(3A) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act states that:

- (3A) The returning officer must reject as being void a nomination from a person who is not enrolled on the voters' roll for the municipality unless the nomination is accompanied by a statutory declaration stating—
- (a) that the person is entitled to be enrolled being an entitlement other than under section 12(1) or 12(2);
 - (b) the grounds on which he or she claims to be entitled;
 - (c) what steps he or she has taken to be enrolled.

The VEC has interpreted this clause to mean that if, after such a statutory declaration has been made, neither the VEC nor the council can determine that the stated enrolment steps have been taken, that person is considered to be not entitled to nominate as a candidate. However, there appears to be no mechanism for rejecting the nomination.

The VEC believes that the nomination process would benefit from clarification of this provision. The LG Act includes a mechanism for amending the voters roll if it is determined that a prospective candidate was omitted from the roll in error.

Recommendation 5: Rejecting a nomination by a person not on the roll

The VEC recommends that the Government considers amending clause 6(3A) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act to permit the Returning Officer to reject a nomination from a person who is not on the voters' roll for the municipality.

6.10.2 Online completion of nomination forms

At the local government elections in 2008, the VEC developed an online candidate helper to assist with managing the large number of nominations. The online candidate helper was also available for the local government elections in 2012 and went live on Friday, 14 September 2012.

The online candidate helper assisted candidates to complete their nomination forms through the VEC website. Once candidates using the online candidate helper had completed their nomination form, the details on the form were securely stored in the database and the candidate printed a barcoded nomination form. The nomination form was lodged the candidate or their representative along with the nomination fee at the election office. The Returning Officer was then able to scan the barcode on the printed nomination form to upload the candidate's nomination information directly into the nomination application. This significantly reduced nomination times and helped eliminate data errors.

Although the online candidate helper was useful for most council elections, the system could not be used by prospective Leadership Team candidates at the

Melbourne City Council election. These candidates were required to complete a hard copy nomination form.

Approximately 65% (1,296) candidates completed their nomination using the online candidate helper, a 16% increase on the number that used the facility in 2008. Candidates were responsible for ensuring that the data provided on the nomination form was correct and were required to approve a final quality assurance form printed by the Returning Officer from the VEC's EMS.

The VEC will consider enhancing this application for future elections to cover candidates for all elections, including the Leadership Team for Melbourne City Council, and an option for candidates to lodge photographs online.

6.10.3 Candidate information

An information kit was made available to prospective candidates that contained:

- Candidate Handbook;
- Nomination Form;
- Scrutineer Handbook;
- form for appointment and declaration of scrutineer;
- form for submitting candidate's statement (postal elections);
- sample candidate statement and indication of preferences (postal elections);
- application form for registration of how-to-vote card (attendance elections);
- election campaign donation returns form;
- information on becoming a councillor;
- key election dates;
- a map of the municipality; and
- Returning Officer's contact details.

The table at Appendix 15 provides details of the number of candidates at the local government elections 2012 and 2008.

6.10.4 Ballot draw

All candidate information was held in the VEC's Election Management System. The order of names on ballot papers was determined by a single electronic random draw in all except one municipality, where the Returning Officer experienced connectivity issues and conducted a manual ballot draw by lot.

The electronic draw for the election of councillors for Melbourne City Council ordered groups in the first instance, secondly it confirmed all group candidates had been allocated an order within the group and finally it ordered the three ungrouped candidates, as required by legislation.

The ability to automate the generation of the ballot material artwork helped ensure that timelines for the production of this material for the 245 contested

elections were met. One reprint was required in South Ward, Frankston City Council after a candidate retired from the election, after ballot paper printing had commenced.

6.10.5 Candidate statements and preferences (postal elections)

The period for lodgement of candidates' statements and photos closed at 12 noon on Wednesday, 26 September 2012.

The period for lodgement of indication of preferences closed at 12 noon on Friday, 28 September 2012. The majority of candidates submitted an indication of preferences.

Previously the closing time for these activities was 4.00 pm. In its report following the local government elections in 2008, the VEC recommended that the timeline for lodgement of candidates' statements and preferences be amended to be 12 noon. These changes were made and the deadlines are now consistent with the 12 noon deadline for all other candidate-related deadlines.

The online candidate helper provided candidates with the opportunity to create their statements online, and to check and change details before final submission (except for Melbourne City Council, where candidates still had to complete hard copy forms for their statements and preferences). Once candidates were satisfied with the statement, the form was printed and issued with a barcode. After the ballot draw, candidates had the opportunity to enter their preferences online in the same way. Candidate statements and preferences still had to be lodged at the election office by the candidate or a person authorised by the candidate.

In one municipality, a small number of candidates missed the deadline to submit their completed indication of preferences form despite being in the election office and after a number of reminders of the 12 noon deadline by the Returning Officer.

Of the 1,671 candidate statements submitted (excluding those from the Melbourne City Council), 1,096 candidate statements were completed online (66%). Of the 1,511 indications of preferences submitted (excluding those from the Melbourne City Council), 325 were completed online (22%). Candidates were responsible for the content of their statements and for their indications of preferences. Final copies of statements and preferences were printed by the Returning Officer. The candidate or a person authorised by the candidate checked and signed the forms to confirm they had been reproduced as submitted.

Candidate statements were published as provided with no amendments to grammar or spelling by VEC staff. No discrepancy between what candidates submitted and what was published was reported. This ensured that all ballot material was able to be quality assured and sent to the printer a short time after the close of preferences.

Candidate statements for the relevant election were provided to voters in their postal ballot packs. Candidates' statements and preferences were also published on the VEC's website, as required by Regulation 38 of the LGR, and where a candidate provided a public contact, these details were also published on the VEC's website pursuant to clause 11(2) of Schedule 2 of the LG Act.

To assist with improving accessibility and efficiency for candidates at future local government elections, the VEC considers that a provision to permit candidates to submit their candidate statements and indications of preferences electronically at future local government elections would enhance existing provisions that require candidates (or their representatives) to attend the election office. This is particularly important for regional and rural municipalities where candidates are often required to travel long distances with each visit to the election office. If received electronically, the declaration that is required with a candidate statement could be compared with the candidate's original signature on his or her nomination form.

Recommendation 6: Submitting candidate information electronically

The VEC recommends that the Government considers legislation to allow candidates to electronically submit their candidate statements and indication of preferences to the Returning Officer.

6.10.6 How-to-vote cards for attendance elections

Division 2 of the LGR provides for how-to-vote cards (HTVCs) for attendance elections. Only registered HTVCs can be handed out within 400 metres of a voting centre during early voting, or distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre during the hours of voting on election day.

In accordance with Regulation 27 of the LGR, candidates at local government elections using the attendance method of voting were able to register HTVCs from Wednesday, 26 September until 12 noon Friday, 19 October 2012. A total of 506 HTVCs were registered for the 271 candidates contesting attendance elections in eight municipalities.

The names of the candidates, persons or groups for whom HTVCs were registered were published on the VEC's website in accordance with Regulation 31(1)(b) of the LGR.

Candidates commenced lodging HTVCs immediately after the opening of the registration period, with applications being received on a daily basis. This may indicate that candidates are aware that HTVCs had to be registered in order to be distributed at early voting centres. In accordance with Regulation 29 of the LGR, Returning Officers advised candidates before 12 noon on the next working day after lodgement whether a HTVC had been registered or refused to be registered.

Any person may apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for review of a Returning Officer's decision to register or not to register a HTVC. Such an application must be made by noon on the second working day after the day on which the Returning Officer made his or her decision. No applications were made to VCAT in relation to decisions made by Returning Officers for these elections. Appendix 14 contains a table showing the number of HTVCs registered during the local government elections in 2012.

Candidates generally find the process of registering HTVCs to be complicated and labour intensive. The requirement to register HTVCs for distribution at early voting centres puts pressure on candidates to finalise preference allocations and

complete the registration process quickly. This often leads to candidates registering more than one card to cover a range of different preference allocations.

A few enquiries concerning registered and unregistered HTVCs were received by Returning Officers. The VEC also received requests to publish registered HTVCs on its website, however, these requests were declined as online publication is not provided for within the LG Act or LGR in the same way that candidates' statements are published online for local government elections being conducted using the postal method of voting. The VEC accepts that an amendment to the legislation requiring the publication of registered HTVCs online would be complex to administer on a card-by-card basis given the timelines and number of cards involved.

An option would be to require registered HTVCs to be published at the conclusion of the registration period.

Recommendation 7: Online publication of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government considers requiring the publication of all registered how-to-vote cards in relation to a local government election on a website administered by (or on behalf of) the Returning Officer as soon as practicable after the completion of the period for registration.

In relation to early voting at local government elections, the requirements to register HTVCs includes cards being handed out within 400 metres of early voting centres during the period of early voting. The VEC notes that while the *Electoral Act 2002* requires that HTVCs must be registered for distribution within 400 metres of election day voting centres, there is no requirement to register HTVCs distributed at early voting centres for Victorian Parliamentary elections.

The LG Act contains provisions that prohibit the distribution of election material that is misleading or deceptive in addition to the provisions relating to the registration of HTVCs. There is also provision in the LG Act for a person to seek an injunction to restrain another person from distributing material that is misleading and deceptive. Therefore there is time during early voting for a person to object to the distribution of a particular card. The ability to challenge or stop the distribution of a card on election day is more restrictive.

Recommendation 8: How-to-vote cards during early voting

The VEC recommends that the Government considers removing the requirement for how-to-vote cards to be registered for distribution at early voting centres.

6.10.7 Study of how-to-vote card conformity

Voters at most local government elections in Victoria are required to complete their ballot papers using the full preferential voting system⁵. This system means that voters must number every box on the ballot paper in order of their preference for their ballot paper to be considered formal. In unsubdivided councils and wards electing more than one councillor, there can often be large numbers of candidates on the ballot paper. The dynamics of the full preferential system encourage candidates to negotiate preference deals with each other so that they can benefit from preferences flowing from elected or excluded candidates. To maximise a candidate's chances of election, he or she may issue directions to voters on how to allocate their preferences. In local government elections being conducted by postal voting, indications of preferences are printed with the candidates' statements included in the ballot material that the VEC posts to every voter on the municipal voters' roll. In attendance elections, candidates and their supporters are able to register and distribute HTVCs to voters outside voting centres on election day or early voting centres during the period of early voting.

For elections counted by computer, the VEC holds the preferences for each vote, which can be sorted by candidate and by conformity with how-to-vote instructions.

The VEC selected 14 elections to study – including 13 multi-councillor wards and one unsubdivided council. To ensure a representative sample, the sample included both attendance and postal elections, from inner suburban, outer suburban and regional areas, and covers a range of socio-economic variables.

In summary, the findings of this study of ballot papers for 14 elections are:

- 42.8% of voters followed how-to-vote instructions
- voters in postal elections (44.7%) were more likely than those in attendance elections (36.2%) to follow how-to-vote instructions
- there were no clear differences in behaviour between metropolitan and regional councils, nor between councils with high proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse voters and councils with low proportions
- the number of candidates in an election did not affect compliance with how-to-vote instructions
- voters for incumbent councillors and winning candidates were more likely to follow how-to-vote instructions, and voters for minor candidates (those who failed to regain their deposit) were less likely to do so. This tendency was stronger in attendance elections, but not apparent in regional elections.

A paper detailing the study and findings from the study can be found at Appendix 5 of this report.

⁵ The election for councillors at Melbourne City Council General Elections allows voters to vote in favour of their preferred group by placing a '1' next to the group's name in the above-the-line section of the ballot paper.

6.11 Ballot packs and voter notices

During the conduct of a postal election, the Returning Officer must send or deliver to each voter on the voters roll who is entitled to vote at the election—

- a postal vote declaration envelope
- the candidate statements and indications of preferences for the particular ward or municipal district
- a ballot paper for postal voting
- a prepaid envelope for the return of the ballot paper
- instructions about how to vote correctly
- notice of how and when the ballot paper must be returned
- any document prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph and
- any other material that the Returning Officer thinks is appropriate.

Some councils also requested a multi-language leaflet to be included in the ballot pack (see section 6.26.11 of this report).

6.11.1 Design and printing of ballot papers

The VEC reviewed the design and colour of ballot papers for the local government elections in 2012. As for previous elections in subdivided municipalities, the ballot paper for each ward was in a different colour to help ensure that voters receive the correct ballot material. Ballot papers were produced using a security background print to ensure their integrity.

The printer responsible for the secure printing of the ballot paper/candidate statements was contracted by the VEC in 2009 as a result of a tender process. The company was experienced in the VEC's requirements and worked closely with the VEC in the design and development of its current ballot material, which includes a ballot paper with a perforated edge attached to the candidate statements and indications of preferences.

6.11.2 Production and mail-out of ballot material for postal election

Regulation 81 of the LGR requires that the ballot packs are randomly mailed, at least 15 days before the last day of voting, with no more than 35% being posted or delivered on any one day. Over the three-day period, Tuesday, 9 October to Thursday, 11 October 2012, the VEC mailed out 3,295,178 ballot packs for postal elections. A sample ballot pack can be found at Appendix 6.

The production of the ballot material for postal elections to meet legislative timelines places considerable pressure on print production and mailing. The VEC again utilised direct extraction of ballot paper/candidate statements data from the Election Management System using Extensible Markup Language (XML) into pre-prepared ballot paper/candidate statement templates. Each template was specifically coded to accept whatever number of candidates nominated for a particular election.

This process, introduced for the local government elections in 2008, gave the VEC a faster turnaround of ballot paper/candidate statement print-ready artwork

that included the ballot paper, candidate statements, photographs and indication of preferences.

Implementation of this process again in 2012 meant that all artwork for postal elections was with the printer by 7.00 pm on Friday, 28 September 2012. Printed materials, including the items listed above plus envelopes, are then collated at a mailhouse.

On Wednesday, 10 October 2012, the Returning Officer for the Greater Geelong City Council General Election was alerted that the ballot packs sent to all voters in that municipality included the standard declaration envelope, which instructed voters to only insert one ballot paper, rather than the product specifically designed for the City of Greater Geelong, where each voter had two ballot papers to complete due to the separate elections for the mayor and councillors. To correct any confusion, all voters were sent a letter on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 advising them that the instructions on the declaration envelope should be read as referring to two ballot papers. The VEC also issued a media release, and placed correction notices in local papers. The Returning Officer, in conjunction with VEC head office, prepared a protocol for dealing with returned ballot papers to ensure that no voter was disenfranchised as a result of following the instruction on the standard envelope.

Due to the large volumes of mail to be lodged with Australia Post on each of the three legislated dates, the VEC made arrangements with Australia Post to store prepared ballot material at their postal facility in Laverton. The ballot material was held at Laverton until the day of lodgement. It was then transported to the Dandenong Mail Centre, where it was released for lodgement.

Regional mail was then forwarded to one of five mail-sorting centres before delivery to local post offices and postal delivery agents. While this is standard Australia Post practice for mail lodged through the Dandenong Mail Centre, this process adds one day to the mail delivery times in rural areas. The delay may be compounded in some areas, where voters collect their mail from the town centre. Such delays are not generally experienced in metropolitan areas.

It should be noted however, that people in regional areas are usually accustomed to local mail delivery patterns, and the return rates of ballot material in these areas are generally higher than in metropolitan areas.

The VEC observed a large number of calls from voters who received ballot material well into the voting period and also a large number of voters attending election offices on the last day of voting who claimed to have received ballot material too late for return posting or not at all. The VEC has raised these observations with Australia Post who responded that their agreed delivery targets were met.

Recommendation 9: Timeline for postal elections

The VEC recommends that the Government notes that mail delivery patterns have changed affecting the dispatch and return of standard mail services.

6.11.3 Late return of ballot material

The VEC received 107,611 returned ballot packs during the first three business days following election day (Monday, 29 October to Wednesday, 31 October 2012). Some of this material would have been posted on or after election day.

Ballot material received after the closing time must be excluded from the count.

	2008	2012
Metropolitan councils	2.43%	2.61%
Rural/Regional councils	1.73%	2.89%

Figure 2: Ballot material returned in the three working days after election day as a proportion of enrolment, by council type

6.12 Fraud prevention initiative

In the past, there have been isolated and unsubstantiated allegations that postal elections in Victoria are open to postal voting fraud. The VEC is committed to implementing legislative and administrative measures that could further protect the integrity of postal voting. With 70 of the State's 78 councils conducting their elections using the postal method of voting, the VEC once again implemented a variety of fraud detection and prevention measures including:

- postal ballot material specifically designed to fit a standard household letterbox with no protrusion;
- random checks by VEC staff at high density residential blocks during the mailout period;
- a radio and print advertisement campaign coincided with the mailout of ballot packs, and security personnel were hired to conduct a total of 1,160 hours of observation around particular housing estates with bulk letterboxes in a common area in Melbourne's inner city. No concerns were raised in relation to postal election fraud by the observations of security personnel;
- a partnership with Crime Stoppers Victoria, including sponsored print and radio advertising campaigns aimed at encouraging members of the public to call Crime Stoppers if they observed suspicious activity in relation to the suspected theft of ballot packs or suspicious activity near letterboxes;
- a 'signature check' against source documents. Although there is no legislative requirement to do so, spot checks were conducted to compare signatures on declaration envelopes with original signatures on enrolment forms or other source documents

Two calls were received by Crime Stoppers and were forwarded to Victoria Police for investigation. The VEC has no information in relation to these reports.

While respecting the anonymity attached to the Crime Stoppers program, the VEC has requested information from Victoria Police in relation to whether these allegations were investigated, and whether the matter was dismissed or prosecuted. At the time of this report, Victoria Police had not granted this request.

Two further matters identified during the checking process have been referred to the LGICI for their evaluation and possible investigation.

6.13 Voting centres for attendance elections

Regulation 50 of the LGR requires that the Returning Officer [in an election being conducted using the attendance method of voting] must appoint as many voting centres as the Returning Officer considers necessary.

The VEC established 173 election day voting centres for the eight attendance elections. In addition, the VEC established at least one early voting centre in each municipality to operate between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm each weekday from Wednesday, 26 September 2012. Additional early voting facilities and hours were provided at councils' request.

A list of venues proposed as voting centres for each attendance election was provided to councils by the VEC. In selecting venues, the VEC considered venues that had previously been used as voting centres at State, Federal or local government elections and ensured that, where possible, they were well located within each ward. Voting centres that were too close to ward boundaries were avoided. The VEC recommended venues that provided maximum access for voters and tried to ensure that there was at least one fully accessible voting centre in each ward. The VEC provided the list of recommended voting centres to councils for feedback, and, in keeping with the requirements of the legislation, the Returning Officer made the final decision regarding the appointment of voting centres.

6.13.1 Accessibility of voting centres

The VEC reviewed the accessibility audit tool used at previous elections and made some updates to the document based on new accessibility requirements. All attendance election Returning Officers were provided with instruction and support in the use of the audit tool – to ensure a clear understanding of the considerations necessary when choosing venues suitable for use as a voting centre.

The VEC made efforts to locate at least one venue with full wheelchair access in each ward. However, the absence of suitable venues severely limited those opportunities. The VEC was able to provide at least one fully wheelchair-accessible venue in each municipality, and there was a total of 30 (17%) fully wheelchair-accessible venues across the eight attendance elections. Of the remaining venues, 107 (62%) were classified as 'wheelchair access with assistance' and 36 (21%) had no wheelchair access, a reduction on the proportion with no wheelchair access in 2008 (25%).

The VEC is working with relevant State Government departments under the auspices of the 2013-2016 Victorian State Disability Plan to address areas with the least number of fully wheelchair accessible voting centres.

6.14 Postal voting and early voting at attendance elections

The eight attendance elections had an early voting centre established at the election office, and early votes were able to be issued for each ward in the municipality from Wednesday, 26 September until Friday, 26 October 2012. At least one additional early voting centre per council was established to issue early votes in the period leading up to election day. Greater Dandenong City Council

had three additional early voting centres operating away from the election office that only operated in the last three days of early voting.

Early voting centres were open week days from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm until Thursday, 25 October 2012 when centres operated from 9.00 am to 8.00 pm. All centres were open until 6.00 pm on Friday, 27 October 2012. In addition, the election office early voting centre for the Banyule City Council General Elections was open on the four Saturdays prior to election day from 9.00 am to 12 noon. On application, postal voting was available for each of the eight attendance elections.

10,563 postal ballot packs were dispatched to voters registered as General Postal Voters (GPVs) for attendance elections. The GPV ballot material was dispatched to voters on Friday, 28 September 2012. Applications from voters who were not registered as GPVs were received until 12 noon on Thursday, 25 October 2012.

Postal votes made up 6.82% of all votes, and early voters comprised 20.57%, making a total of 27.38% of the total votes counted. This represents an increase of 4.39% in the number of postal and early votes counted compared to the previous round of elections.

	Votes	Postal votes (inc. general postal votes)	Early votes
2012	393,146	26,794 (6.82%)	80,864 (20.57%)
2008	558,557	29,781 (5.33%)	98,643 (17.66%)

Figure 3: Number of postal and early votes at attendance elections

The VEC notes that Regulation 44(4) of the LGR specifies that postal vote applications can only be sent by post or fax, and does not provide for applications to be lodged by email. During the early voting period, the VEC received a number of requests from voters in councils using the attendance method of voting who were interstate or overseas and wanted to participate in the election but did not have access to a fax and there was insufficient time for the Returning Officer to receive their postal voting application by post, dispatch a postal vote to the voter, and for that postal vote to be completed and returned by the voter.

The VEC notes that legislation for Commonwealth and New South Wales elections provides for postal vote applications to be lodged electronically. The requirement to sign the application has been replaced by alternative voter authentication processes (e.g. Secret question).

Recommendation 10: Postal voting applications

The VEC recommends that the Government amends Regulation 44(4) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to allow voters to electronically lodge a postal voting application in relation to voting at an attendance election.

6.15 Electronic Roll marking

For the local government elections in 2012, the VEC opted to use electronic roll marking (eRoll).

Voters at attendance elections were marked off the roll electronically with the vast majority recorded on Toshiba netbooks wirelessly connected to the VEC on the Next-G network. The remainder of voters, and all of those voting in postal elections, were directly marked off the roll using the VEC's Election Management System.

On election day, 849 netbooks were deployed across the 173 voting centres and by close of voting 178,580 votes had been issued to voters who were marked off the roll using netbooks.

Training in the use of netbooks was provided for early voting staff, voting centre managers and election officials using a mixture of face-to-face, paper documents, DVD and video distributed over YouTube. The aim was to familiarise all users on the operation of the netbooks in advance of election day and to alert them to the fact that voters were to be marked off electronically.

The eRoll system and Next-G network performed well during the early voting period. Despite a network disruption that affected some netbooks early on election day, voting proceeded smoothly and scannable rolls were available as a back-up. Netbooks were brought back online as quickly as possible, however, some voting centres continued with back-up procedures until the close of voting.

When an issue was encountered, the VEC help desk was able to initiate troubleshooting routines so problems were identified and rectified.

The recording of a timestamp with each roll mark enabled a comprehensive track of voting behaviour during an election day, as well as an immediate indication of individual user and voting centre activity. The use of the eRoll also eliminates the risk of a person voting more than once.

6.16 Services for the people who are blind or with low vision

To assist blind and low vision voters read election publicity or promotional material they received, the VEC liaised with Vision Australia so that a closed-circuit television monitor (CCTV) to magnify printed material was available at each of the election offices for those councils having attendance elections. A CCTV was also made available for the Melbourne City Council election office.

For the local government elections in 2012, the VEC again offered an 'opt in' service for the provision of large print and Braille ballot products to voters registered as blind or with low vision. The VEC liaised with Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia to provide information via three major communication pieces (email, Braille and CD formats) about the elections and the VEC's 'opt-in' program for Braille or large print ballot papers for the 2012 council elections. To complement the provision of information to those registered on databases, a radio advertising campaign ran on 3AW and Vision Australia Radio during August and print advertisements were run in *The Age*, *Herald Sun* and *Geelong Advertiser* on Saturday, 11 August 2012.

A total of 182 people registered for the program – 36 for a Braille ballot pack, and 146 for a large print ballot pack. Feedback received by the VEC was very

positive. Continued evaluation and modification of the program will enable the VEC to consider providing a similar service at future elections.

The special ballot packs included the required ballot paper, a declaration envelope, the candidate statements (for postal elections) and voting instructions in Braille or large print. A pre-paid pre-addressed Australia Post satchel was also included.

All Braille products were produced by Vision Australia, which ensured that the instructions were written in a style appropriate for the formats. Voters from 23 councils registered to receive a Braille ballot pack.

At the close of nominations there were four uncontested elections for which registrations had been received for large print ballot material. The VEC sent these voters an uncontested leaflet in large print and telephoned to inform them they would not be required to vote.

As detailed above, the VEC provided voters who are blind or who had low vision with the opportunity to request a Braille or large print ballot paper. There is currently no provision in the legislation to provide for this. The VEC treated these requests from voters at a postal election, as requests for replacement ballot material. Requests from voters at an attendance election were treated as applications for postal votes and the VEC assisted the voters to complete a postal vote application as required by the current provisions. The production of a Braille application could not be achieved in the available time and, as such, was difficult to administer.

Recommendation 11: Provision of ballot papers in Braille

The VEC recommends that the Government considers a legislative provision that exempts voters who request a Braille ballot paper at an attendance election and who are not already registered as a General Postal Voter from the requirement to complete a written application.

6.17 Services for people experiencing homelessness

For the local government elections in 2012, in the two months prior to the close of rolls, 15 organisations providing services to those experiencing homelessness in Metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo were visited to raise awareness of the upcoming election in staff meetings. Of these, nine organisations were visited to conduct enrolment sessions which were later followed by voting sessions. Overall, these sessions resulted in 130 new enrolments and 120 votes. More than 200 additional clients were provided with information relevant to their enrolment status and participation needs.

Information about enrolment and voting provisions for people experiencing homelessness, as well as the offer of regional enrolment and/or voting sessions, was distributed regionally via the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) regional homelessness network. Other activities included:

- a 'Homeless not Voteless' resource kit which was sent to over 142 homelessness agencies across Victoria with information regarding the

'Homeless not Voteless' program and services available. This kit included information for those experiencing homelessness and the staff supporting them, along with posters and fliers to advertise the upcoming election;

- directly contacting agencies in metropolitan regions in Melbourne, Geelong and Bendigo to gauge interest and schedule sessions; and
- information on the VEC website detailing initiatives for people experiencing homelessness.

Information about enrolment and voting provisions for people experiencing homelessness was also distributed regionally via the CHP regional homeless network.

6.18 Close of voting

Voting in elections being conducted using the postal method of voting closed at 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012. Voting for those elections using the attendance method of voting closed at 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012. A number of activities take place between the close of voting and the final declaration of the result.

For postal elections these activities include:

- final processing of returned postal vote declaration envelopes;
- checking of voter entitlement for any unenrolled votes;
- identification and resolution of duplicate ballot paper envelopes;
- removal of identification flaps from ballot paper envelopes;
- opening and extraction of ballot papers from ballot paper envelopes;
- for manual counts, counting of ballot papers according to first preferences and where necessary the conduct of preference distributions;
- conducting computerised preference distributions; and
- the declaration of the result at a time that allows candidates and scrutineers reasonable time to review the result reports.

For attendance elections these activities include:

- counting first preference votes in voting centres on Saturday night;
- counting postal, early and absent votes in election offices on Saturday night and Sunday morning;
- receiving and sorting materials from voting centres;
- checking voter entitlement for any unenrolled votes;
- where manual preference distributions were required, conducting a full re-check of all ballot papers;
- conducting preference distributions where necessary, either manually or by computer; and
- the declaration of the result at a time that allows candidates and scrutineers reasonable time to review the result reports.

In the past, the VEC has noted that pushing to achieve a pre-determined declaration time resulted in less than ideal situations including processes beginning before the total number of ballot papers to be accounted for was

finalised, staff fatigue and some candidates claiming they did not have a reasonable time to review the results prior to the declaration taking place. The only avenue available to candidates to request a recount after the declaration of the result is through a Municipal Electoral Tribunal.

The VEC's timetable for counting was altered at the local government elections in 2008 to ensure that reconciliations were completed before the commencement of each stage of the process. The proposed timetable specified that extraction of ballot papers for all postal elections would commence on the Saturday morning after the close of voting. In discussions with councils, the VEC explained that the time and date of the declaration would be negotiated after the close of nominations when the size of the task was clearer. An undertaking was given that, except for any unforeseen circumstances, declarations would be completed by Friday, 2 November 2012 (five working days after election day).

For postal elections involving computer counts, some extraction of ballot papers was prioritised to ensure that data entry was completed before the end of the weekend when access to some counting venues ceased. These venues were generally at schools or TAFE colleges that needed the venues for classes on Monday, 29 October 2012.

Feedback from Returning Officers regarding the counting arrangements was positive. A number of election offices for postal elections still had a number of staff working late on Friday night due to large volumes of mail being received on Friday, 26 October 2012 and the large number of last minute voters attending election offices to vote in person. However, the arrangement allowed all mail processing to be completed and the total number of ballot paper envelopes to be determined before ballot paper extraction commenced on the following morning. Through its debriefing program the VEC has identified further administrative efficiencies that could be implemented for computer counts.

The VEC will continue to work with councils prior to the local government elections in 2016 to ensure that counts and declarations can be completed as efficiently as possible without compromising accuracy, transparency and staff wellbeing.

6.19 Counting arrangements

Various counting arrangements were used across each of the 78 local government elections. Most proportional representation counts were conducted by computer, with one manual proportional count. Most preferential counts were conducted manually, except for the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team and Greater Geelong City Council Mayoral elections, which were conducted by computer.

Proportional representation counting alone took place in 50 municipalities. In 11 municipalities, counting was by the preferential method alone, and a combination of preferential and proportional representation counts took place for 16 municipalities. No counting took place for Ararat Rural City as the election for the unsubdivided municipality was uncontested.

See Appendix 12 for details of counting arrangements for each council.

6.19.1 Manual counts

Full manual counts were conducted for three of the eight councils that used the attendance method of voting and in seven councils that used the postal method of voting. All manual counts were conducted within the municipality in which the election was held.

Where space was restricted, the extraction of ballot papers at postal elections occurred at a separate location to the count.

The proportional representation count for Yarran Ward in Gannawarra Shire Council was conducted manually due to the low numbers of voters and candidates.

6.19.2 Computer count

Computer counts were conducted for elections in unsubdivided municipalities and wards with multi-councillor vacancies (where a proportional representation count is required). Computer counts were conducted at 65 venues for five attendance elections and 62 postal elections. For the Melbourne City Council General election, a computer count was conducted for the Leadership Team (preferential count) and for the election of councillors (proportional representation count). The Greater Geelong City Council Mayoral election (preferential count) was also counted by computer due to the large number of ballot papers involved.

The computerised counts involved preferences from ballot papers being entered into the computer count application, by trained data operators, in the presence of scrutineers.

The VEC prefers to use venues such as TAFE colleges and universities for the conduct of computer counts by data entry as the infrastructure and hardware required for the count is in place along with appropriate security measures and controlled access for scrutineers and staff.

The VEC encountered difficulty sourcing computer counting venues for the local government elections in 2012 due to some venues having experienced problems with other clients, which made them unwilling to lease their venues to the VEC. This restricted the types of venue available to the VEC in some areas.

Due to the growing trend for students to provide their own laptop or tablet, or for schools to use mobile laptop banks, it is becoming more difficult to source venues with established computer laboratories. It is anticipated that by the next local government elections in 2016 this issue will impact on the VEC's ability to source computer counting venues in each municipality where computerised counting is to be conducted.

The establishment of computerised counts was simplified for the local government elections in 2012 with the introduction of an updated computerised counting application that reduced the information technology infrastructure and support required. Counting staff were provided with a unique log-on and password for each election and accessed the application via a web browser.

Computerised counts took place on Saturday, 27 October 2012 for 23 regional councils and one ward of Hobsons Bay City Council. The remaining computerised counts took place on Sunday, 28 October 2012, except for

Moreland City Council where counting began on Monday, 29 October 2012. All computer counts were completed by Tuesday, 30 October 2012.

The introduction of the updated computerised counting application meant that, unlike 2008 where smaller regional counts were conducted manually, all proportional representation counts were counted by computer (with the exception of Yarran Ward in Gannawarra Shire Council).

The requirement to vacate a number of computer count venues located in colleges or universities by Monday morning to allow classes to resume put additional pressure on some counts to work shifts that were longer than desirable over election weekend and meant that some recounts were required to be conducted outside of the relevant municipality.

The VEC recognises it will need to consider its computer counting strategy for future elections. Lifting the legislative requirement for Council to pass a resolution agreeing to conduct computer counts outside the municipality would provide greater flexibility in this regard. This would also assist with countback requirements during the term of a council.

Recommendation 12: Counting outside the municipality

The VEC recommends that the Government considers removing the requirement for a Council to pass a resolution in accordance with Regulation 93(2) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 thereby providing for circumstances where a Returning Officer (or election service provider) cannot secure a suitable counting venue within the municipal district.

6.20 Recounts

Clause 13 of Schedule 3 of the LG Act states that the Returning Officer may, if he or she thinks fit, or at the written request of a candidate, conduct a recount of votes at any time before a candidate has been declared elected.

Recounts were conducted in six municipalities. In all cases, there was no change in the successful and unsuccessful candidates.

Where the original count was conducted manually, the recount was conducted manually. If the original count was conducted by computer, the recount was conducted using the same method. A recount involves a full review of all ballot material.

If the recount is conducted by computer, the recount includes the following steps:

- A recheck of all informal ballot papers. At the completion of the recheck, the Returning Officer may decide that it is unnecessary to proceed to a full recount. The Returning Officer adds any ballot papers now identified as formal to the original count database as a further batch and recalculates the result. The VEC refers to this as a partial recount.
- If proceeding to a full recount, the preferences on every ballot paper are re-entered into the computer application, which saves the information and checks that the re-entered preferences are the same as they were for the corresponding ballot paper at the original count. If they are the same, the

original record is maintained on the database. If they are not the same, the operator is alerted to check the data entry, and if confirmed, the original preferences for that ballot paper are overwritten with the confirmed preferences.

Council	Ward	Recount type	Recount type	Original critical margin	Final critical margin	Total ballot papers	Change in the critical margin
Alpine	Unsubdivided	Computer	Full	3	4	8,717	+1
Golden Plains	Unsubdivided	Computer	Full	4	1	12,237	-3
Knox	Baird	Manual	Full	28	28	8,301	0
Moreland	North-East	Computer	Partial then full	1	4	27,405	+3
Swan Hill	Robinvale	Manual	Full	19	20	1,442	+1
Macedon Ranges ⁶	South	Computer	Full	10	7	8,639	-3

Figure 4: Recounts conducted during the local government elections in 2012.

After the results for all wards of Hume City Council had been declared, the Returning Officer became aware of a discrepancy in the count of ballot papers for Aitken Ward. Investigation found that 1,100 ballot papers had not been data entered at the computer count and remained uncounted. Despite the declaration having been made, the VEC determined it was necessary to data enter the uncounted ballot papers and recalculate the count to reinstate confidence in the results of the election and remove uncertainty about the effect of the discrepancy. After notifying all candidates and the Council, the uncounted ballot papers were data entered, and the result for Aitken Ward recalculated. The successful and unsuccessful candidates were unchanged.

6.21 Declaration of results

All results for 77 of the 78 councils were declared on or by Wednesday, 31 October 2012, with the final ward declared on Friday, 2 November 2012. A table showing the dates for declarations of results can be found at Appendix 13.

6.22 Reports to Councils

Pursuant to clause 14 of Schedule 3 of the LG Act, the Returning Officer at a local government election is required to prepare a report to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant council on the conduct of the election within three months of election day.

Final reports on each election were sent to Chief Executive Officers on Thursday, 24 January 2013. The reports included a certified record of ballot papers and declarations printed, issued, used, spoiled and returned as required by the legislation. Comprehensive details and statistics regarding election arrangements and outcomes were also included in the reports.

⁶ This election was subject to an inquiry by the Municipal Electoral Tribunal. The decision of the Municipal Electoral Tribunal made a minor change to the margin from the recount, which is not reflected in Figure 4.

6.23 Successful candidates

Appendix 14 contains a list of successful candidates. A list of all candidates is provided on the CD that accompanies this report.

6.24 Voter turnout

Voter turnout is measured as the number of formal and informal votes received by the close of voting, as a percentage of voters on the roll.

At the local government elections in 2012, voter turnout for all those entitled to vote (excluding elections for Melbourne City Council's Leadership Team and Geelong City Council's Mayor) was 70.96%. The rate for postal elections (72.53%) was higher than that for attendance elections (63.62%). Turnout rates decreased across all categories compared with 2008 rates, which is of concern to the VEC and countering this decline will be a focus of evaluation and future planning. See Figure 5 and Appendices 14 and 15 for further detail.

Regulation 116 of the LGR details the provisions for the enforcement of compulsory voting in local government elections. There are several categories of entitlement for which voting is not compulsory, and a number of reasons for which a person may be excused for failing to vote.

6.25 Informal voting rates

The incidence of informal voting at the local government elections in 2012 was 5.51%, an increase on the rate seen in 2008. The rate of informal voting remained significantly higher for attendance elections, at 10.09% compared to postal elections, with a rate of 4.65%.

A vote is declared informal when a voter does not complete their ballot paper according to the instructions or their voting intention is not clear. For a ballot paper to be considered formal in a local government election, the voter must complete an unbroken sequence of preferences filling every box on the ballot paper commencing with the number 1 (full preferential voting). Ballot papers that do not comply with the formality rules are not admitted to the count.

	Turnout %			Informality %		
	2004 2005	2008	2012	2004 2005	2008	2012
All Councils (ex Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	73.89	74.68	70.96	4.60	4.99	5.51
All Councils (inc Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)		74.36	70.89		4.98	5.39
Attendance	67.59	70.03	63.62	9.84	9.90	10.09
Postal (ex Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	75.51	75.96	72.53	3.50	3.75	4.66
Postal (inc Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)		75.51	72.32		3.77	4.58

Figure 5: Turnout and informal voting rates over time (% of all votes cast)

An analysis of informal voting showed that informal voting at the local government elections in 2012 increased as the number of candidates increased. In general, there were higher numbers of candidates for multi-councillor wards than for single-councillor wards. The average rate of informal voting in multi-councillor wards was 4.51 %, compared with 3.44% in single-councillor wards.

Candidates	% informal votes 2012 (average)
2 – 5	3.06
6 – 10	4.14
11 – 15	5.87
>15	8.13
16-20	7.67
21-25	11.33
>25	8.09

Figure 6: Average informality rates compared to numbers of candidates for all elections, 2012 local government elections

Candidates	% informal votes 2005 (average)	% informal votes 2008 (average)	% informal votes 2012 (average)
2 – 5	6.89	6.07	6.59
6 – 10	9.78	8.26	8.64
11 – 15	15.23	12.59	11.62
>15	21.09	18.24	18.33
16-20	21.09	16.68	15.42
21-25	-	21.37	21.23
>25	-	-	-

Figure 7: Average informality rates compared to number of candidates for attendance elections

Candidates	% informal votes 2005	% informal votes 2008	% informal votes 2012
2-5	2.59	2.05	2.48
6-10	3.38	2.72	3.11
11-15	4.67	4.05	4.81
>15	7.76	6.28	7.63

Figure 8: Informality rates compared to numbers of candidates for postal elections

The disparity between attendance and postal elections in relation to the rate of voter turnout and the incidence of informal voting has been a consistent feature over time (see Figure 9).

Local government elections	2004	2005	2004 & 2005	2008	2012
Postal elections (a)	75.07	75.66	75.51	75.96	76.48
Attendance elections	55.65	72.80	67.59	70.03	63.62

Figure 9: Voter turnout rates over time (% of enrolled voters who cast a vote)

(a) 2008 and 2012 figure exclude Melbourne City Council leadership team.

6.26 Communication campaigns

The VEC provided each council with a comprehensive communication campaign developed to meet legislative requirements and increase voter awareness and participation in the elections. The VEC's Communication Team coordinated the development and placement of advertising, development and distribution of media releases and preparation of election information for the VEC's website. Each council's advertising and communication campaign comprised the following basic components:

- council-specific statutory press advertisements;
- State-wide advertising;
- direct mail pieces;
- council-specific election information on the VEC website;
- council-specific media releases;
- communication services for voters with special needs; and
- a range of optional communication products.

6.26.1 Statutory advertising

The Returning Officer is required to place four statutory notices during the conduct of a local government election:

- notice of entitlement date;
- notice of election;
- voting details; and
- declaration of results.

The content of the advertisements is guided by legislation. This has resulted in the VEC adopting an information-based rather than a motivational approach to press advertising. The large amount of content required poses a challenge to effective communication so, to increase reader attention and recall, each press advertisement was themed. Press advertisements for the Melbourne City Council General Elections were themed 'Your Melbourne. Your Vote.' For all other elections, the VEC used the theme 'Your Community. Your Opportunity.'

Each statutory press advertisement (except the declaration of results advertisement) was branded with both the council logo and the VEC's trademark 'ribbon', with the council logo the more prominent. In addition, notices included either the VEC's enrolment hotline or an election specific contact phone number as well as the VEC's web address, and (if requested by council) telephone numbers for a multi-language information and interpreting service operated through VITS Language Link.

As an optional extra, each council was offered the option of including a 'voting reminder' advertisement which ran in the week prior to election day. This advertisement followed the design and content of the statutory campaign.

67 councils requested that reminder advertising be included in their campaign and this resulted in 204 advertisements being placed.

This is discussed further in section 6.26.11.

As a smaller advertisement that ran after many of the election offices had closed, the declaration of results included the VEC's web address only.

See Appendix 9 for samples of the voting details postal and attendance election advertisements.

6.26.2 Advertisement placement

More than 1,110 statutory advertisements (including reminder advertising) were placed for the 78 local government elections. Councils nominated which newspapers largely circulating in their area they wanted to carry their advertising. The majority were booked in the 'early general news' (EGN) section of suburban newspapers as display ads, however, some councils also requested line advertisements in the public notices sections of other newspapers (often *The Age* or *Herald Sun*). Stonnington City Council requested options that included full display advertisements in *The Age*, *Herald Sun*, *The Australian*, the local press and in eight CALD publications, resulting in the largest campaign of any council.

It is important to note that neither the VEC, nor the Victorian Government's Master Agency Media Services (MAMS) provider, is able to dictate or determine placement on any given page within the EGN section.

Another key factor affecting the rollout of statutory advertisements was the fact that the Victorian Government's MAMS contract for functional advertising was won by Zenith Optimedia in early September 2012. Prior to this the contract had been held by Mitchell and Partners.

Although the booking schedule and associated core staff were transferred to the new provider, the booking process changed. This change was implemented as smoothly as possible and the new supplier was extremely sensitive to the VEC's needs during such a critical period. However, the change in the booking process meant that several advertisements required resizing much later than under the original procedure and a number of deadlines became extremely short. No advertisement publication was affected as a result of these changes.

6.26.3 Monitoring of advertisements

Statutory press advertisements must appear within nominated periods as defined in the LG Act. In a number of municipalities it was necessary to use smaller regional and rural publications with the consequence that in some cases it was difficult for the VEC to confirm within the available timeframe that publication of advertisements had occurred.

To help ensure advertisements appeared in accordance with the statutory timelines, the VEC undertook a number of measures including:

- booking advertisements to appear within a timeframe that allowed for publication still within legislated timelines if rebooking was required;
- briefing the Victorian Government's MAMS provider on the necessity of meeting timelines, and of supplying a work plan reflecting these timelines well in advance of publication dates;
- requiring Returning Officers to make regular checks of publications; and
- requesting that councils track the publication of statutory advertisements and advise the VEC immediately of any errors with placement or non-appearance of advertisements.

It should be noted that, despite the above measures, the VEC was not in a position to guarantee placement of statutory advertisements as booked. Nevertheless, despite the very high volume of advertisements over the election period, there was only one instance of non-placement of a statutory advertisement, and one incorrect placement of a non-statutory advertisement. In the first case a replacement notice was published within the legislated time frame, and in the second case, a corrected notice was published.

The VEC's monitoring systems also detected three instances where one (non-critical) error in detail was published. In each instance a correction notice was run in the following week.

6.26.4 State-wide advertising

The conduct of 78 local government elections simultaneously provided an opportunity to promote the elections as a single, major electoral event.

The State-wide campaign was structured around the two major electoral phases of enrolment (from early to mid August 2012) and voting (throughout October 2012). The campaign involved advertising in the local, regional and major daily press, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) press, on metropolitan, regional and CALD radio and online through search engine marketing and targeted Facebook ads.

Total expenditure for the State-wide campaign was \$311,937.90 ex. GST (less than 8 cents per voter) which was \$91,164.79 under what the VEC had quoted to councils. This compares with \$327,737.67 (around 8.2 cents per voter) at the 2008 local government elections and \$2,793,083 State-wide advertising expenditure for the 2010 State Election. The VEC aimed to reduce the costs passed on to each council without compromising on the breadth of the campaign. Wherever possible, fewer, more prominent ads were placed. For example, radio

advertising was booked only for breakfast and drive timeslots, the times which ratings demonstrate have the highest audiences.

Councils were invoiced on a cost per elector basis with invoicing differences being based on municipality type (metropolitan or regional) and the associated needs. Metropolitan councils paid for updates to the 20 Victorian Interpreting & Translating Service (VITS) Language Link telephone recordings on a cost per elector basis (see section 6.26.9). However, the VEC funded the CALD media release campaign and the production and distribution of commercial radio audio grabs and translated copy on the VEC website.

All State-wide press advertising included a telephone enquiry number (enrolment hotline, election office direct line or other specific service line) that was relevant to the particular phase of the election. The VEC's web address, Facebook address and Twitter handle were also included in these advertisements. Telephone numbers for the multi-language information and interpreting service operated through VITS Language Link were included on advertisements where appropriate.

See Appendix 8 for samples of the State-wide campaign press advertisements.

6.26.5 Direct mail pieces

Voter notice - EasyVote letters

Returning Officers are required to provide all eligible voters with a voter notice for attendance local government elections. To meet the requirements of Regulation 43 of the LGR, the VEC developed a voter notice, or *EasyVote* letter.

Each voter (except General Postal Voters) received a personally addressed *EasyVote* letter that contained their entitlement address, a map of their ward, details of where to vote, postal and early voting arrangements, election enquiry telephone numbers, telephone numbers for the VITS Language Link service and a one sentence translation in up to six languages selected by each council.

In 2008, the *EasyVote* letter was produced as a black and white direct mail piece and this cost-effective method was repeated in 2012. Over 691,647 *EasyVote* letters were mailed for the 2012 local government elections at a cost per elector of approximately \$0.55 cents (including postage).

See Appendix 7 for a sample *EasyVote* letter.

Uncontested election leaflets

The VEC presented the uncontested election leaflet as a necessary product to all subdivided councils for the local government elections in 2012, where one or more ward was uncontested.

Nearly 94,873 uncontested election leaflets were mailed for 27 uncontested elections at a cost per voter of approximately \$0.70 (including postage).

See Appendix 10 for a sample uncontested leaflet.

6.26.6 Social media campaign

Using paid promotion on Facebook, the VEC targeted voters by geographic area and topics of interest. This Facebook promotion targeted searchers in areas with

a history of lower participation, and was also triggered by topic searches that it is believed may be of interest to people whose details, may not be up to date on the roll or who may be less likely to participate. For example, searches related to renting, landlords and university may suggest that users have moved address and might not have updated their enrolment details.

This paid advertising was supported by a defined timeline of social media posts on Facebook and Twitter designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign, and to seed conversation about the democratic process.

By November 2012, the VEC's Facebook following had reached more than 2,900 and the Twitter feed was followed by more than 1,100. In addition, a total of 2,053 posters used the VEC's seeded "#...votes" tags 5,004 times during the election period.

A review of the user data available for this period through Facebook's analysis systems indicated increases in follower numbers from the target demographics such as young people (particularly young males) and spikes were evident in the target geographic areas.

6.26.7 VEC website

The internet is a major information source for voters, candidates and media during major elections. During the council election period, the VEC's website is a combination of municipality-specific pages and pages with information of a general nature relating to all councils.

For each council, the municipality-specific pages provided information including:

- the electoral structure of the municipality;
- how to enrol or update your details;
- how to vote;
- how to nominate;
- information on who had registered a how-to-vote card (attendance elections);
- candidates' details, including the candidates' statements (for postal elections) and indications of preferences; and
- election results.

The pages with general information included those providing:

- information about services available for people with disabilities, including audio files for those who are blind or have low vision and a video in Auslan for people who are deaf or hearing-impaired;
- translated audio files for those voters who were not literate in their own language;
- a translated enrolment form for non-English speakers;
- information for candidates;
- a facility for people to check their enrolment details on the State electoral roll;

- an online candidate helper which candidates could use to fill out their nomination form and provide other information relating to their candidacy;
- a facility for people wishing to work in election offices to register their interest;
- election information in 20 languages other than English and in Easy English;
- media releases, media advisories and a media information kit;
- a list of all candidates across all municipalities; and
- advice for people who were interstate or overseas.

During the period of the communication campaign (1 August to 31 October 2012) the VEC's website had 544,384 visits, with 328,787 unique visitors and required more than 719 updates. A total of 73.18% of users used a computer to access the website and, interestingly, 25.91% used a mobile platform such as a smartphone or tablet over that period.

Eight of the 25 most frequently accessed pages from 1 August to 31 October 2012 were results pages, with Moreland, Glen Eira, Melbourne and Geelong City councils' results pages being those with the highest number of discrete visitors.

The single most-viewed page between 1 August and 31 October 2012 was the general information page on council elections (58,312 unique visitors). This page was specially created for the elections and most viewers perused it for around one minute.

In 2012, the VEC's website also provided an application that directed the user to the relevant council election page when an address was provided.

It is difficult to extrapolate the number of downloads of forms from the number of pageviews. However, during the campaign period, the AEC enrolment form was the most frequently viewed item (12,438 unique pageviews). The overseas notification form (in PDF and Word format) was the second most frequently viewed item (4,376 unique pageviews) followed by the General Postal Vote form (1,936), which many people appeared to have confused with the postal vote application form for attendance elections, nomination forms (1,525) and the Candidate Handbook Postal (1,064).

A total of 3,582 emails were received via info@vec website between 6 August and 9 November 2012, with 2,921 of these received between 11 October and 9 November 2012. This compares to 1,265 for the 2008 local government elections and 1,913 for the 2010 State Election. The turnaround time on responses for the majority of emails was within 24 hours, with most responses to emails being made within 12 hours of receipt.

6.26.8 Media relations

Media releases formed an important part of the communication campaign, assisting journalists by providing factual information for election reporting.

To help nurture a good working relationship with key media representatives, the VEC conducted two media briefing sessions — one for major metropolitan media outlets about the Melbourne City Council Elections and the other for both metropolitan and regional media outlets about local government elections in

general. Journalists from *The Age*, *Herald Sun*, Fairfax Community Newspapers, Leader Newspapers and ABC Radio attended along with communication staff from a number of councils. A detailed Media Information Kit was supplied and was emailed to journalists who were unable to attend the briefing.

The communications campaign also involved the production of six council-specific media releases for each of the 78 councils holding elections in 2012, and the distribution of these releases to a council-specific media contacts list. In addition, corresponding State-wide media releases (six media releases and five media advisories) containing general information, were distributed to the major metropolitan daily newspapers, commercial radio and television broadcasters. Over 1,500 elections-related newspaper articles were published across the State from late August to early November 2012.

MP3 radio audio grabs, featuring either the Acting Electoral Commissioner or the VEC's Manager of Election Services were recorded and distributed with a corresponding media release in the immediate lead up to important deadlines. The radio media campaign generated more than 150 news items between late August and the last week of elections (late October) in 2012.

Returning Officers and communication staff at the VEC responded to media enquiries and interview requests throughout the election period. Media interest peaked during the nomination period and over the election weekend, with enquiries seeking clarification about candidate nomination, election timelines and election results.

See Appendix 8 for examples of State-wide coverage. All non-council-specific media releases were published on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/about/VEC-media-council.html.

6.26.9 Communication services for voters with special needs

Along with providing ballot packs in large print and Braille, the VEC worked with Vision Australia to provide information about the local government elections for blind and low vision voters. Two specific communication pieces went to those on the Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia mailing lists. Downloadable large-print and MP3 audio files were available on the VEC website, there was onsite access to assisted reading equipment at Vision Australia centres, and the promotion of the elections on Vision Australia Radio throughout Victoria.

The VITS Language Link telephone interpreting and multi-language information service operated throughout the election period. All State-wide press advertising included interpreting service telephone numbers, as did the statutory and reminder press advertisements for those councils that had requested them. For the period 19 September to Friday, 26 October 2012, a total of 4,695 calls were made to the VITS Language Link service. Of these, 2,847 callers obtained the information required from the pre-recorded message in their language while 1,848 required the assistance of an interpreter.

Election year	August	September VITS calls	October VITS calls	November VITS calls	Total
2012 – local government	117	65	4,692	N/A*	4,874

Election year	August	September VITS calls	October VITS calls	November VITS calls	Total
elections					
2008 - local government elections	N/A*	191	191	7,859	8,241
2005 - local government elections (54 councils)	N/A*	96	67	5,549	5,712

Figure 10: Number of calls to VITS during election period in 2005-2012

*Election moved forward by one month due to change in legislation.

The VEC engaged ethnic media specialists to translate two media releases for distribution to 69 ethnic publications in 17 languages (Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese).

The languages selected were those recommended by LEBA Ethnic Media and the Victorian Multicultural Commission on the basis of 2006 Census data, the growth trends of new and emerging communities, and the availability, distribution and suitability of ethnic media publications.

The releases were distributed to almost 100 ethnic publications. More than 170 articles were published in response to the media releases, with more than \$75,000 worth of media space secured.

Information on enrolment and voting at the local government elections in 2012 was also available to download in 20 languages on the VEC website (Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Cantonese, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese).

Media release	Publication period	Advertising value (inc GST)
Enrol to Vote Phase	8–31 August 2012	\$36,014.86
Voting Phase	26 September –27 October 2012	\$40,354.35

Figure 11: Coverage of media releases in CALD publications

6.26.10 Telephone enquiry services

Each Returning Officer provided a telephone enquiry service at their election office from Wednesday, 19 September 2012 to the close of voting. Typically calls related to voting entitlement and compulsory voting, roll queries, ballot pack despatch and non-receipt of ballot packs, overseas or interstate voters, requests for a postal vote, and inquiries about where to vote (both early and on election day). Overflow calls were answered by the VEC's overflow call centre (located at head office) between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm. Just over 150,500 calls

were received altogether with 132,253 received at election offices around the State.

The election office telephone enquiry services were linked to the VEC's overflow call centre, which also answered calls to the VEC's 131 832 telephone number. Over 43,800 calls were answered at the VEC's overflow call centre between Wednesday, 19 September and Friday, 3 November 2012. Over 18,000 of these calls were directly related to a specific council.

Appendix 11 contains a table of the number of enquiry calls received during the election period at election offices and by the overflow centre. Over 20% of calls related to attendance elections and, even though these comprised only 10% of elections, this represents 18.6% of the total number of electors across all elections (see Figure 12: Enquiry calls received, 2012 local government elections).

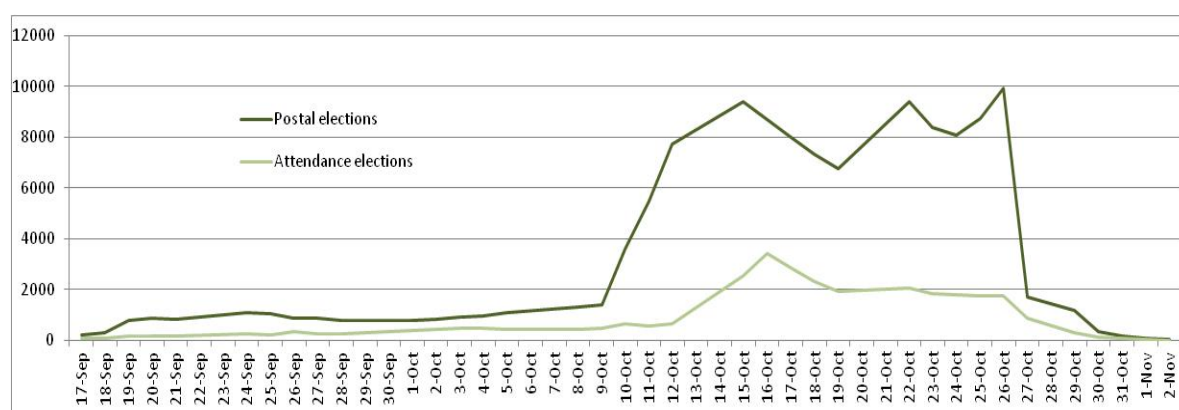


Figure 12: Enquiry calls received, 2012 local government elections

6.26.11 Optional communication products

To complement communication campaigns, the VEC offered councils the following two optional communication products.

Multi-language voting instructions

The VEC provided an option to councils to make multi-language voting instructions available to their voters. Due to the high volume and tight production timelines involved, a 'one-size-fits-all' product was developed for the local government elections in 2012.

To meet council community language requirements as effectively as possible, the VEC selected languages on the basis of the results of surveys of council requirements, cross-referenced with ABS data and recommendations made by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

For postal elections, the VEC produced step-by-step leaflet containing voting instructions in 24 languages (Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chinese traditional script, Chinese simplified script, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese). One sentence translations, directing people to the VITS Language Link telephone number, were included for languages that could not be accommodated in the leaflet (Filipino, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Nuer, Portuguese, Romanian, Sinhalese and Tamil).

The leaflet also contained step-by-step illustrations and VITS Language Link telephone numbers to enable non-English speaking voters to speak with a member of the VEC staff via an interpreter.

28 councils (excluding Melbourne City Council) selected this product in 2012, reaching over 2.06 million voters via ballot packs, at a cost of 4.7 cents per elector. Melbourne City Council's multi-language voting instructions were published in the Councillor and Leadership Team booklets in the six languages requested by the Council (Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Italian and Korean).

For attendance elections, the VEC produced two-step 'how to vote' instructions in 20 languages (Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese traditional script, Chinese simplified script, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Italian, Khmer, Macedonian, Maltese, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese).

The attendance election voting instructions were printed on the inner facing panel of each voting compartment.

Non-statutory advertising

On request by individual councils, the VEC placed (additional) non-statutory advertisements during the election period.

A total of 67 councils requested that a voting reminder advertisement be published during the final two weeks before election day (204 placements). Two councils also requested that their voting reminder notices be published twice and one council requested additional radio advertising to coincide with the voting reminder press advertising.

6.26.12 Additional products and services

Along with the information booklet series detailed in section 6.26.13, the VEC provided a number of additional products and services to complement the communication campaigns, which were not costed back to councils.

Information DVD: Auslan

The VEC produced an updated Auslan DVD for the local government elections in 2012. Signed by an Auslan interpreter and with optional subtitles, the DVD contained information explaining voting and enrolling entitlements, nomination procedures and voting procedures. This resource was promoted primarily through VicDeaf (2,100 copies) and via online and print newsletters, word-of-mouth and disability networks.

Available free of charge by contacting the Victorian Electoral Commission or Vic Deaf, the DVD could also be viewed on the VEC website.

Information DVD: Proportional Representation

Changes to a number of council structures following the conduct of Electoral Representation Reviews meant that some councils would experience the proportional representation counting system for the first time at these elections.

In order to assist candidates, council staff and other interested parties to understand the principles and application of proportional representation, the VEC developed a 10 minute DVD illustrating how this vote-counting system works.

The DVD was made available to all candidates and disks were mailed to interested parties on request. The content of the DVD was also available on the VEC website.

Braille and large print ballot packs

The VEC ran an opt-in service for blind and low vision voters wishing to receive Braille or large-print ballot papers. This service was promoted through direct mail (via email, Braille and CD) via the Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia client databases, and on radio 3AW and Vision Australia Radio.

Easy English information booklets

Election information was produced in Easy English with assistance from Scope Victoria for people with low English literacy, and learning and cognitive disabilities. The VEC distributed around 3,000 community information kits, which contained either the postal or attendance booklets with other collateral to community information centres and migrant resource centres.

Election information packs

Election specific information packs were sent to more than 800 community and government organisations across Victoria, including Indigenous groups, migrant resource centres, CALD community groups, aged care providers, community legal centres, community information centres, youth organisations and disability groups. Election specific resource packs were also sent to all 128 Victorian Members of Parliament and all councils.

The Age Education Supplement

The VEC sponsored the production of *The Age* Education Supplement 'Make a Difference in Your Community', which was distributed with *The Age* on Monday, 20 August 2012 to an overall readership of 670,000. The supplement specifically aimed to engage young people in the local government elections, reached 95% of all Victorian schools with 25,000 teachers sent copies directly. In addition, a teacher's guide 'Make a Difference in Your Community' was made available to download for teachers to use within the classroom.

Information, enrolment and voting sessions

In the three-months prior to election day, enrolment information and voter education sessions were delivered to groups traditionally under-represented in voter turnout, including CALD community members, young people and people experiencing homelessness. Six sessions were provided to disability groups and five sessions to CALD groups.

6.26.13 Election information booklet series

The VEC updated its series of information booklets to provide candidates, media and other interested parties with easily accessible election information from the VEC website or in hard copy. Copies of these booklets are included on the CD that accompanies this report.

The booklets in the series were:

1. **Structural Overview and Key Dates**

Provides information on all of Victoria's 79 councils, their structure, the number of councillors to be elected and if the election was scheduled to be conducted by postal or attendance voting. The booklet also included a summary of changes to legislation and election timelines and notes the status of the re-scheduled Brimbank City Council General Election.

2. ***Municipal Voters Roll – Information for Councils***

Includes an overview of voting entitlements and procedures for the production of the municipal voters' roll.

3. ***Municipal Electoral Tribunals and Case Studies***

Explains the Municipal Electoral Tribunal process and provides case studies from inquiries conducted by the Municipal Electoral Tribunal following the local government elections in 2008.

4. ***Electoral Advertising and Campaign Material***

Covers legal responsibilities for candidates in relation to the preparation and publication of electoral advertising and campaign material.

5. ***Counting Arrangements***

Includes a description of the processes between the close of voting and the declaration of the election and estimated timetables for attendance, postal and Melbourne City Council counts.

6. ***Costing Local Government Elections***

Explains the VEC's method of costing for local government elections and the procurement process followed by the VEC and councils.

7. ***Ballot Paper Tracking – Postal Elections***

Explains and illustrates the ballot paper reconciliation processes implemented by Returning Officers at postal elections.

8. ***Ballot Paper Tracking – Attendance Elections***

Explains and illustrates the ballot paper reconciliation processes implemented by Returning Officers at attendance elections.

The VEC expects to publish further booklets in this series to provide some analysis and evaluation of aspects of the local government elections in 2012. Any additional publications will be available from the VEC's website or by contacting the VEC.

6.27 Compulsory voting enforcement

Councils are obliged to enforce the compulsory voting provisions of the LG Act. Councils may choose to contract the enforcement of compulsory voting to the VEC. After the local government elections in 2012, 73 councils contracted the VEC to conduct compulsory voting enforcement on their behalf.

6.27.1 Appointment of Prosecution Officer

Prior to the commencement of compulsory voting enforcement by the VEC the Chief Executive Officer under section 40(2)(a) of the LG Act is required to appoint a VEC staff member as a Prosecution Officer for the purpose of section 40 of the LG Act. All councils fulfilled this requirement prior to the commencement of the enforcement process.

6.27.2 Provision of list of non-voters

The VEC prepared for all councils, regardless of whether the VEC was appointed to conduct compulsory voting enforcement, a list of persons who were required to vote at the elections but who appeared not to have voted. The list was forwarded to those councils that had not appointed the VEC for compulsory voting enforcement. For all other councils the list was provided to the prosecution officer.

6.27.3 Enforcement Process

Compulsory voting enforcement is conducted in three stages. Where the VEC has been contracted to do this work on the council's behalf, all three stages of non-voter follow up will be undertaken. The VEC believes that, in fairness to all apparent non-voters, it is important to complete the entire process. A standardised non-voter follow-up service has been provided to all councils. The Prosecution Officer has established a list of reasons for failing to vote that will be deemed to be acceptable excuses across all councils in addition to the excuses prescribed in Regulation 116(2) of the LGR.

Stage one of the non-voter process is a requirement of the LG Act and the remaining stages are pursuant to the provisions of the *Infringements Act 2006*.

Stage one is a mandatory requirement. An Apparent Failure to Vote Notice is sent to each voter who appeared to have failed to vote. No penalties are collected against this notice.

Preparations for the mail-out of the Apparent Failure to Vote notices commenced in late November 2012 and involved scanning 1,677 marked rolls for eight attendance elections to capture voters who voted at an early or election day voting centre. Six staff members were responsible for the scanning and reconciliation of the marked rolls over a two week period.

Additionally, up to 50 staff were appointed to process ballot material returned after close of voting, return to sender ballot material and voter information reports containing details of voters unable to vote at an election and excuses recorded by telephone overflow service. A total of 8,039 staff hours were required to undertake this task.

Due to the large number of Apparent Failure to Vote Notices to be despatched (505,582), the mail out was staggered over eight dates commencing Tuesday, 15 January 2013, with the last mail out occurring on Friday, 8 February 2013.

The VEC appointed approximately 115 staff to process responses to Apparent Failure to Vote Notices with a maximum of 102 staff working on any one day. All responses to the notice were sorted to the relevant council prior to processing

through the Election Management System. A total of 21,072 staff hours were required to undertake this task.

Stage two of the process, the despatch of 333,143 Infringement Notices commenced on Tuesday, 5 March with the first of seven mail outs. The final despatch took place on Wednesday, 3 April. The penalty amount against this notice is currently set at \$70 and to date \$4,246,640 has been collected in penalties across all councils. The Infringement Notice stage is due to be completed by early May.

The Penalty Reminder Notice stage of the process for all councils will take place during May. The Penalty Reminder stage of enforcement incurs the original penalty amount plus costs. The completion date for this notice is anticipated to be early July. At the conclusion of the compulsory voting process, all councils will be provided with a final list of non-voters. Councils proposing to lodge outstanding infringements with the Infringement Court must do so within six months of the issuing of the Infringement Notice.

All materials relating to compulsory voting enforcement will be returned to councils for storage in accordance with Regulation 114 of the LGR.

6.27.4 Issue in Greater Bendigo City Council

Following the mail out of Apparent Failure to Vote Notices to apparent non-voters for Greater Bendigo City Council, the VEC identified an omission in the process of marking voters off the roll at the election office. The omission meant that some voters had returned their ballot material but were not marked off the roll and, as a consequence, these voters were issued with an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice in error.

The VEC retrieved the election records and was able to review the declaration flaps that had been set aside from the ballot paper envelope during the extraction and counting operations. The declarations were checked against the list of non-voters and any voter who had returned their ballot material was removed from the non-voter list and any further enforcement action. Following these checks, the Prosecution Officer also wrote to the affected voters to confirm that their ballot material had been received and included in the counting process and that no further action was necessary in relation to the Apparent Failure to Vote Notice.

6.28 Complaints

Complaints in relation to local government elections generally fall into two categories. The first category consists of complaints relating to the LG Act that are more appropriately dealt with by the LGICI. Neither the Returning Officer nor the Electoral Commissioner has authority to investigate these matters.

The second category is comprised of complaints relating to the administration of the election, to which it is appropriate that the VEC respond on behalf of the Returning Officer.

Prior to the local government elections in 2012, the VEC met with LGICI to develop a complaints procedure. The agreed procedure aimed at ensuring that all complaints were handled by the organisation best suited to respond, minimising double handling, reducing response times and providing LGICI with the

opportunity to directly review all relevant complaints so that legislative or other solutions could be developed and recommended if appropriate.

The VEC reviewed its complaints handling and related procedures to ensure that complaints were handled as efficiently as possible. Complaint receipt, filing protocols and document templates individualised responses and cover letters prepared within the target acknowledgement time of 24 hours. For a complaint to be considered formal, it had to be received in writing. The 24 hour acknowledgement time target was met for the vast majority of the complaints received by the VEC.

6.28.1 Details of complaints

A total of 325 complaints were received in relation to the local government elections in 2012, the majority between 1 October 2012 and 10 December 2012. This is an increase on the 223 complaints received in relation to the 2008 local government elections.

Just over 77% of the complaints received by the VEC were related to the application of the LG Act and were forwarded to the LGICI, with the VEC acknowledging these complaints and advising the complainant that their correspondence had been forwarded. The VEC also advised the person complained about that a complaint had been received, the nature of the complaint and where applicable, that the complaint had been referred to the LGICI.

	2005*	2008	2012
Complaints referred to Local Government Victoria		137	252
Complaints concerning the administration of the election		86	73
Total complaints	215	223	325

Figure 13: Number of complaints received by VEC, local government elections, 2005-2012
* 2005 – 54 councils

The majority of complaints contained allegations that a breach of the LG Act had occurred. These complaints contained allegations of lack of authorisation of electoral material (61), false or defamatory information (22), misleading or deceptive material (43) and eligibility or fitness of the candidate to stand (9).

A large number related to allegations about candidate conduct (70) whether in breach of the LG Act and/or of a criminal or civil nature. This is a significant increase on the 12 complaints received about candidate conduct at the previous local government elections in 2008.

Other complaints related to the removal or distribution of campaign material by persons unknown, the content of newspaper editorials or articles, the placement of campaign material in public places, the use of the voters list for campaigning and the security of ballot material.

Of the complaints relating to administrative aspects of the elections, the main issues raised related to the enforcement of legislated deadlines, candidate eligibility rulings, candidate statement content, how-to-vote card content, the

conduct of election staff and a perceived lack of security relating to the handling of ballot material.

The division of responsibilities between the Returning Officer, the Electoral Commissioner and the LGICI in responding to complaints caused a degree of confusion for complainants. However, an explanation by phone was generally sufficient to clarify understanding.

A significant number of the complaints alleging misleading or deceptive electoral matter and false and defamatory statements were lodged by first-time candidates.

Complaint category	2008	2012
Eligibility or fitness to be candidate	10	9
Conduct of candidate	12	70
Improper [or lack of] authorisation of electoral material	32	62
False or defamatory information	61*	22
Misleading or deceptive material	*	43
Conduct of Returning Officer or Voting Centre Manager	6	1
Election administration	**	28

Figure 14: Main categories of complaints received 2008, 2012 local government elections

*These categories were combined in 2008 data

** This category not used in 2008

6.29 Applications to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal

Section 45 of the LG Act provides for a candidate or a group of at least 10 voters who dispute the validity of the election, to apply for an inquiry into the election by a Municipal Electoral Tribunal. Applications must be lodged within 14 days of the declaration of the result of an election.

Following the local government elections in 2012, five applications were lodged with the Municipal Electoral Tribunal. This is a significant reduction on the twelve applications lodged after the 2008 elections. The details of the five applications are shown in Figure 15.

Council	Ward	Summary of grounds as provided by applicant
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleged errors in data entry during the original computer count • Alleged lack of access for scrutineers to the counting venue and review of informal ballot papers • Alleged inclusion of formal ballot papers that should have been ruled as informal • Alleged mishandling of returned ballot packs by a candidate during hand-delivery to the election office
Manningham City Council	Mullum Mullum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegedly disqualified candidate remained on the ballot paper for the election and, although not elected, influenced the outcome of the election
Moreland City Council	North-East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleged fraud in the handling of postal voting applications by a candidate and their supporters • Alleged bribery by a candidate to illicit votes
Port Phillip City Council	Albert Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleged offences caused by a candidate's how-to-vote card, including in its content and distribution
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Robinvale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleged offences against the LG Act by a candidate • Alleged irregularities in the preparation of the municipal voters' roll • Alleged lack of access to the election office in Swan Hill for Robinvale voters

Figure 15: Details of applications to the Municipal Elections Tribunal

At the time of preparing this report, the Municipal Electoral Tribunal had released decisions on three of the five inquiries:

- The applications were dismissed in the enquiries relating to Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Swan Hill Rural City Council; and
- The Municipal Electoral Tribunal found the Manningham City Council election was valid despite an allegedly disqualified candidate.

The remaining matters, regarding elections in Moreland City Council and Port Phillip City Council, were still before the Municipal Electoral Tribunal.

Following the completion of each inquiry, affected persons have a period of seven days in which to apply to VCAT for a review of a decision by the Municipal Electoral Tribunal (see section 48(2) of the LG Act).

6.29.1 Referring a matter to a Municipal Electoral Tribunal

The VEC has noted that the LG Act does not currently contain a provision for the Returning Officer (or electoral service provider) to refer a matter to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal. Without the capacity to apply for a Municipal Electoral Tribunal, those responsible for conducting a local government election must rely on a candidate or a group of at least 10 voters in the election to make an application.

Recommendation 13: Applying to a Municipal Electoral Tribunal

The VEC recommends that the Government considers a mechanism for a Returning Officer (or election service provider) at a local government election to refer a matter of concern in relation to that election to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal.

6.30 Election Costs

The VEC operates a marginal cost recovery program and does not pass on costs for using resources existing from its general operations. Only costs that directly relate to delivery of a council election are considered for invoicing back to councils. This is different from other jurisdictions where local government elections are conducted by the election services provider on a full cost recovery basis. The VEC reviews its prices and rates regularly to capture inflation in its products and services and to ensure costs are maintained in line with the election service plan and each council's service requirements.

The VEC plans to invoice councils in up to two stages:

1. Following the completion of election and post-election activities, except for compulsory voting enforcement (where applicable); and
2. As soon as possible after all costs involved with compulsory voting enforcement have been confirmed for those councils who are using this service.

Revenue from penalties paid to the VEC during the compulsory voting enforcement program are entirely remitted to the respective council. The VEC does not use the revenue to off-set invoices. A net cost is useful, however, to consider the underlying cost of conducting local government elections.

Year	No. of councils using the VEC for the election	Total cost invoiced to councils (ex. GST) (\$'000)	Number of councils using the VEC for compulsory voting enforcement	Non-voter payments (\$'000)	Total net cost for Councils (\$'000)
2008	79	16,458	70	6,019 ⁷	10,439
2012	78	19,192 ⁸	73	2,996 ⁹	16,169

Figure 16: Summary of costs invoiced to councils and compulsory voting revenue remitted to councils following the 2008 and 2012 elections

The total marginal costs incurred by the VEC for the conduct of the local government elections in 2012 was \$19,192,380.38 (ex. GST), including an estimated amount to conclude compulsory voting. Marginal costs included all direct labour and associated on-costs, materials, equipment, mail processing, postage, advertising, printing, rent, utilities, insurance, computer equipment, software licences and software maintenance. Final costs will be reported in the VEC's local government activity report for 2013/14.

From time to time the cost of elections to councils is raised in policy discussions and, in determining future local government election arrangements, the Government may wish to consider, in consultation with the sector, an appropriate costing methodology to apply in Victoria. The VEC has outlined the benefits of adopting a single service provider option earlier in this report (see Recommendation 4 in section 6.2 of this report).

7 DEBRIEFING AND EVALUATION

7.1 Debriefing

The VEC conducted a comprehensive internal and external debriefing program following the conduct of the local government elections in 2012.

Returning Officers and their staff submitted a written report including comments for consideration at future elections. Returning Officers were also invited to attend a one-day debriefing session in mid-December 2012. Five sessions were conducted, including one session specifically addressing the Melbourne City Council elections. Of the VEC's 78 Returning Officers, 76 attended a debriefing session. One Returning Officer provided written feedback only.

VEC managers and team leaders conducted debriefing sessions with VEC project staff who had worked on the elections and individual debriefing sessions were conducted with the VEC's service providers. Councils were also invited to provide written feedback to the VEC, and 56 councils did so.

⁷ Penalties paid to the VEC up to 2 September 2009.

⁸ Includes the sum of costs invoiced for stage one and an estimate of stage two costs.

⁹ Penalties paid to the VEC up to 16 April 2013.

A consolidated report listing all the matters raised through the debriefing activities has been prepared to assist and inform the VEC when planning for future local government elections.

7.2 Evaluation surveys

In November 2012, the VEC invited feedback on aspects of the conduct of the local government elections in 2012 directly from voters, candidates, and election officials using an online survey tool.

The feedback provided by election officials will be used to improve arrangements for the VEC's future election activity, including State and local government elections. The information obtained from voters and candidates through the online surveys is summarised in this report.

7.2.1 Voters

The voter survey comprised 34 predominantly non-compulsory questions. It was advertised in the major daily newspapers and on the VEC website and there were 592 respondents. There was almost an even split of gender with 48% female and 52% male respondents, and 97% of respondents reported speaking mainly English at home. Of the 81% who provided age data, 80% were aged 40 years or over. See Figure 17 for the breakdown by age group of these respondents.

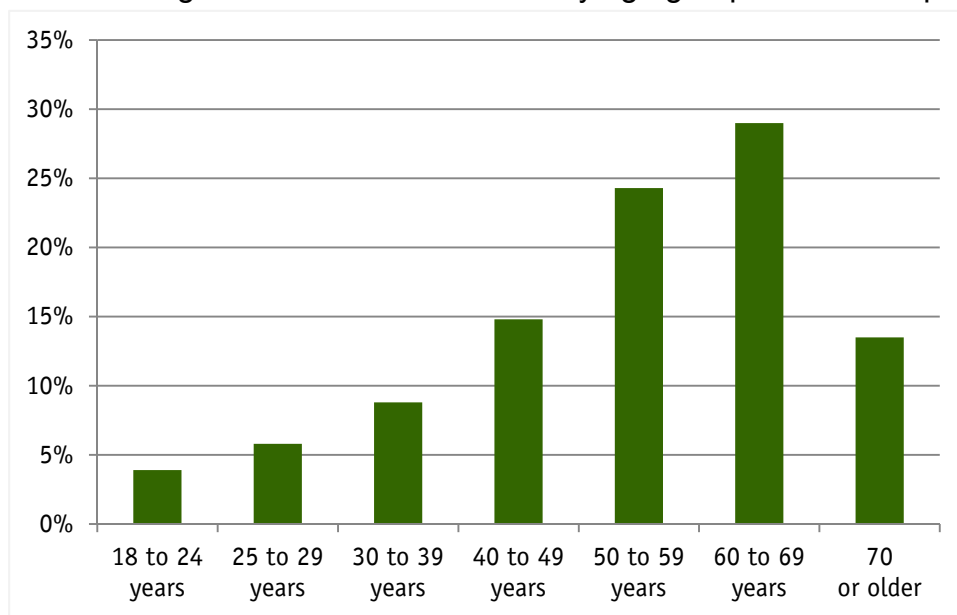


Figure 17: Voter survey, proportion of respondents by age range

A total of 93.6% of survey respondents stated that they had voted in the council elections, and only one of these declined to comment on why they voted. Almost 320 said it was important to vote and that they cared about the services in their local community. Not wanting to get a fine motivated 137 respondents to vote. Of those who selected 'other' reasons for voting, there was a mix of people complaining about compulsory voting and an equal number who commented about the removal of existing councillors. The importance of democracy and the civic right and responsibility to vote were also noted.

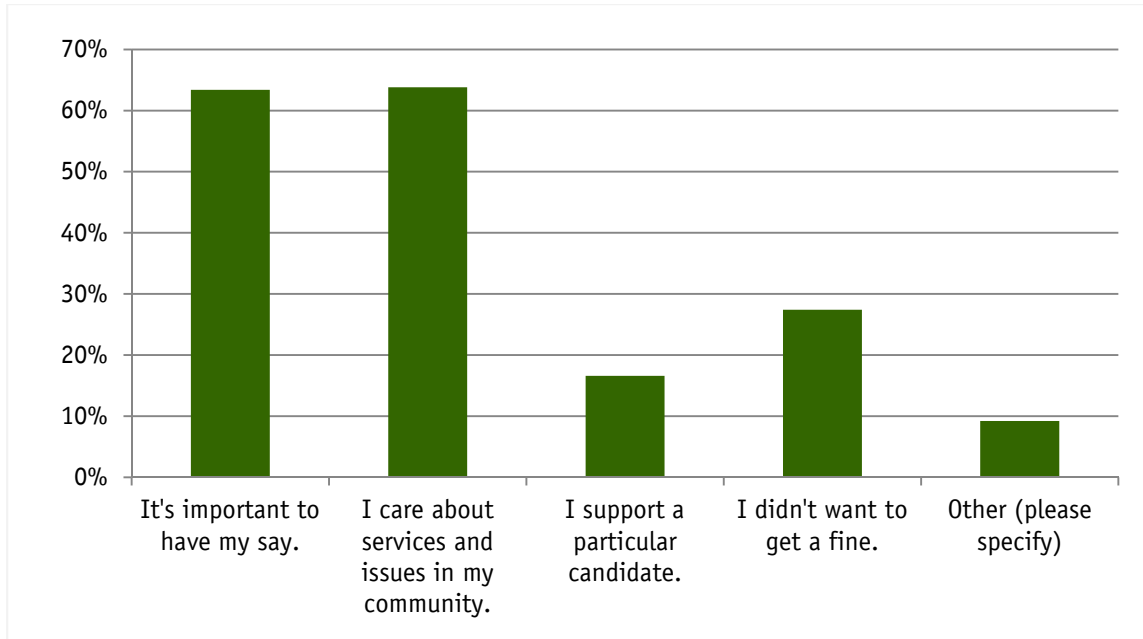


Figure 18: Voter survey, reasons for voting (multiple selections allowed)

Of the 35 respondents who expanded on why they didn't vote, 34% said they didn't receive a ballot pack, with other reasons including incorrectly assuming that voting in person (attendance voting) was available, not enough information about candidates and living in an uncontested ward.

Most of the survey respondents came from metropolitan councils, with the largest individual numbers of respondents being from attendance election councils.

Of the total of metropolitan 498 voters who responded, 36% were from attendance election councils. Of those who responded to the question about voting entitlements in other municipalities, 82% had none, 11% had other entitlements and voted in those elections, and 7% had them but didn't vote in any other election.

Respondents who voted in an attendance election were asked to indicate what method they had used to vote. Some 38% voted at an early voting centre, 13% voted by post and 48% voted at a voting centre on election day. This accords with the increasing trend towards early or pre-poll voting that has been observed at many Victorian, Australian and interstate elections.

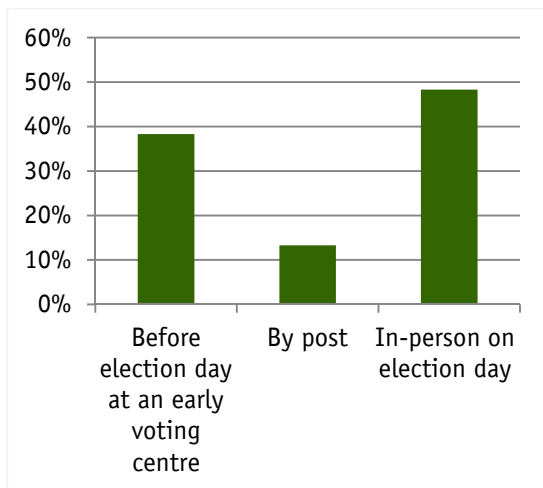


Figure 19: Voter survey, voting method of those who voted in attendance elections

Over 95% of respondents expressed awareness of the 2012 council elections. Of those, awareness primarily came from suburban newspapers (54.1%) and major daily (32%) newspapers and direct mail from the VEC 34.4% and candidates (48.1%). Just over 9% of respondents registered social media as a source of awareness of the elections (see Figure 20). Nearly 18% of respondents chose 'other' with the majority of these stating that they became aware of the elections because they worked in local government or were politically active (e.g. member of a party, candidate).

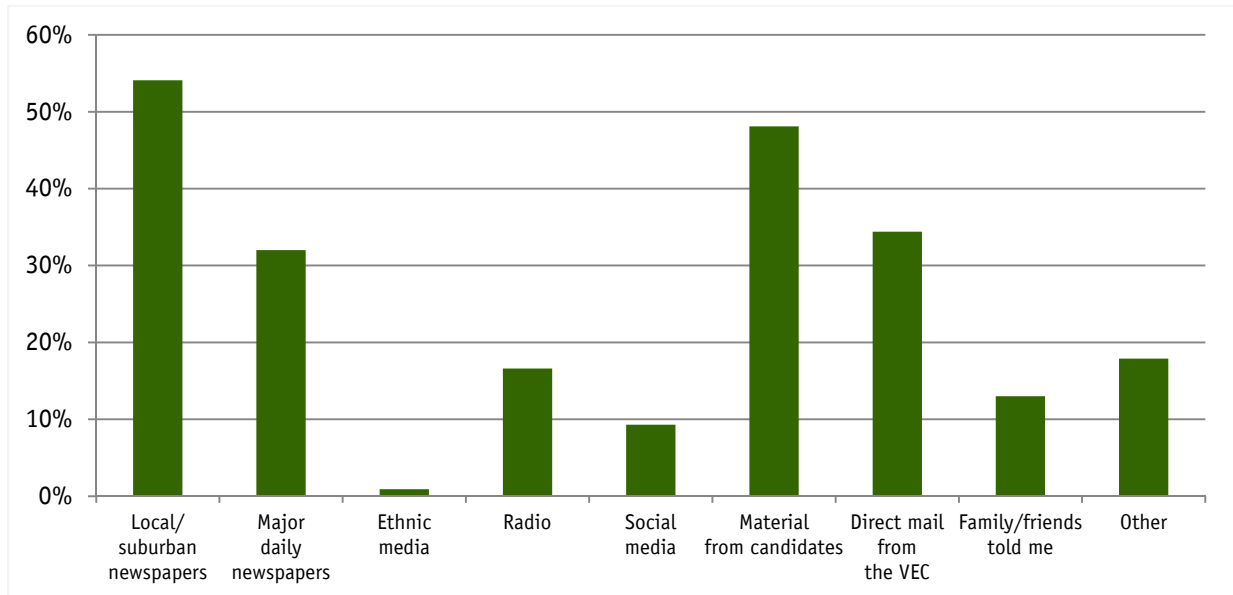


Figure 20: Voter survey, sources of awareness about elections

Almost 63% of respondents who had been aware of the elections reported seeing or hearing VEC advertising. Suburban newspaper advertising and the VEC's direct mail were rated as the most helpful advertising people saw, followed by the metropolitan newspaper advertisements (see Figure 21).

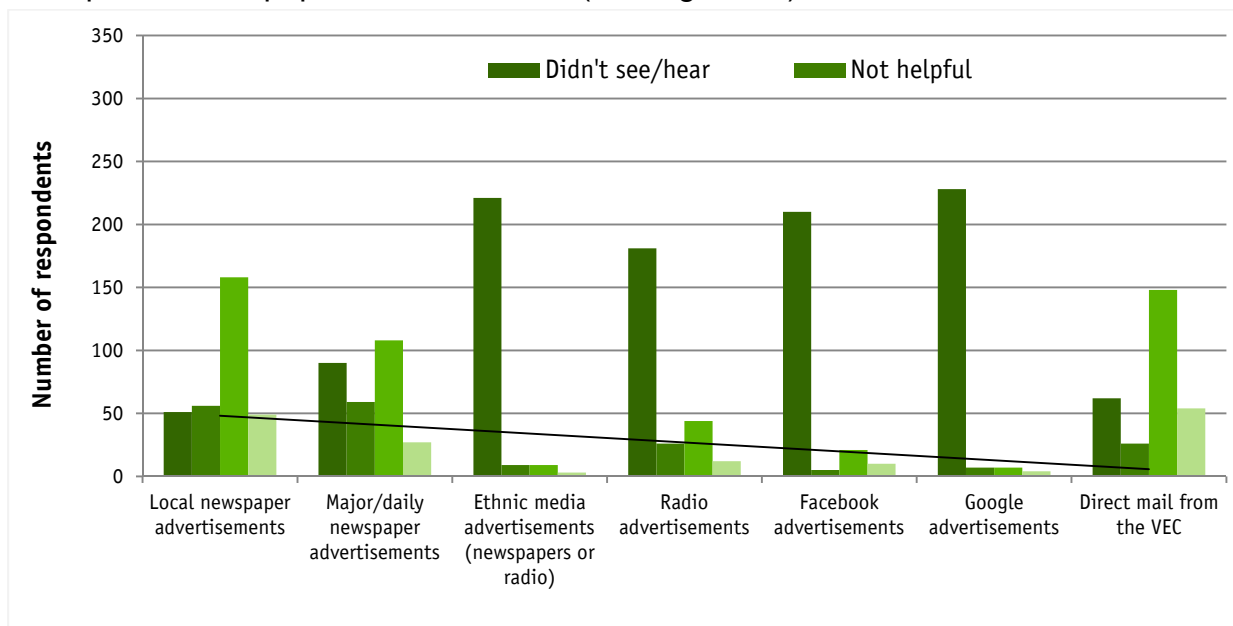


Figure 21: Voter survey, helpfulness of advertising methods

Commentary stated overwhelmingly that there was not enough information provided about candidates for both postal and attendance elections. Respondents reported that candidate statements provided in ballot packs for postal elections were too short and rudimentary to be helpful. There was also a strong call to include political affiliations with the candidate statements. Only 56% of survey participants responded to the question about overall satisfaction with advertising. Of these, 51% were satisfied or extremely satisfied, 17% were neutral and 27% were either dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied.

In relation to attendance voting experience, the overall level of satisfaction of the 165 respondents with the experience had an average score of 3.26 out of 5. The experience components with the highest degree of satisfaction related to the helpfulness and efficiency of staff, and the lowest level of voter satisfaction expressed was with the accessibility of the voting centre (see Figure 22).

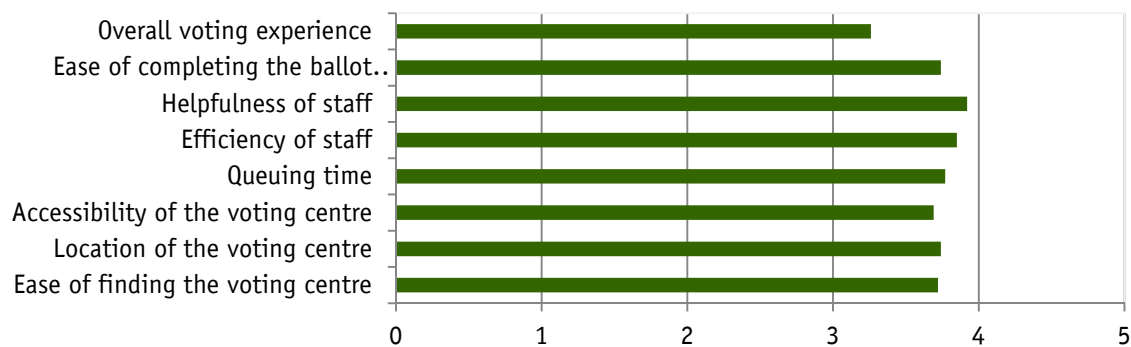


Figure 22: Voter survey, overall satisfaction with attendance voting experience

The 24 respondents who voted in attendance areas and applied for a postal vote were most satisfied with the clarity of the instructions on the ballot pack and least satisfied with the time taken for the ballot pack to arrive. Almost 46% of respondents received the pack within 1-3 days, 33% received it within 4-7 days, 17% reported that it was more than 7 days before the pack arrived, and one respondent reported that they did not receive a ballot pack.

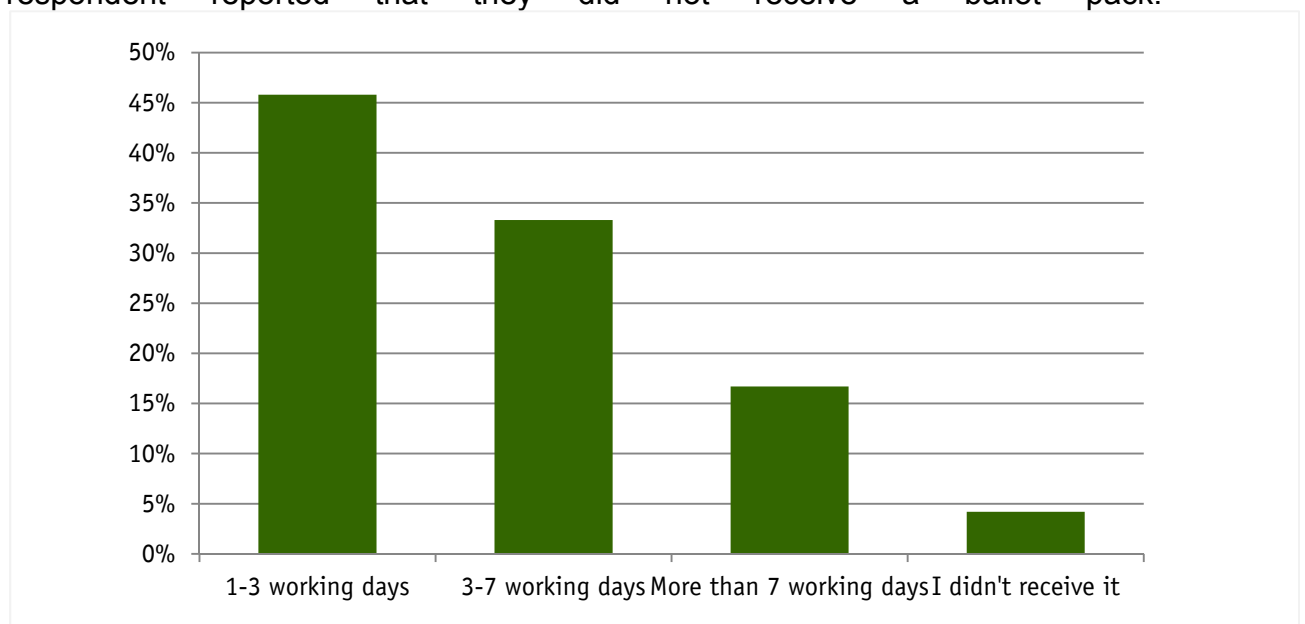


Figure 23: Voter survey, time taken for postal ballot pack to arrive (attendance elections)

Almost 90% of respondents who voted in postal elections, provided a response relating to the delivery of their ballot pack. Almost 73% of these respondents received their ballot pack at least two weeks before the close of voting. A further 19% said they received it a week prior to the close of voting, almost 6% said it arrived less than a week prior to the close of voting and almost 3% said that they had to go and vote at the election office as their ballot pack hadn't arrived by 26 October.

In terms of satisfaction with the content of the ballot pack, respondents were most satisfied with the voting instructions and least satisfied with the candidate statements – reflecting the narrative responses in which respondents expressed great dissatisfaction with the general lack of information about candidates.

Almost 20% (99) of respondents contacted the VEC by telephone over the election period and average rating for pleasantness of staff of 5.4 out of 7 and rated the staff member's knowledge of the subject at 4.85 out of 7. The overall rating of the telephone experience was 4.63 out of 7. Some 77% of callers waited 1-3 minutes to have their call answered, 13% waited 4-6 minutes, 2% waited 7-10 minutes, 5% waited more than 10 minutes and 3 respondents said they couldn't get through at all.

Just over 6% (33) of respondents contacted the VEC by email during the election period. People who contacted the VEC by email were most satisfied with the quick response to their enquiry and the staff member's level of knowledge and least satisfied with the helpfulness of the response. Over 36% received a response within the same working day, 15% said they received it the next working day and 27% said it took 2-3 working days and 6 respondents said that they received no response. The VEC's system indicates that all emails were answered and the longest would have been 2-3 days including weekend days.

Over 50% of survey respondents visited the VEC's website during the election period. Web visitors were most satisfied with the council election finder application and the council election results finder. The overall weighted average satisfaction with the website was 4.43 out of 7.

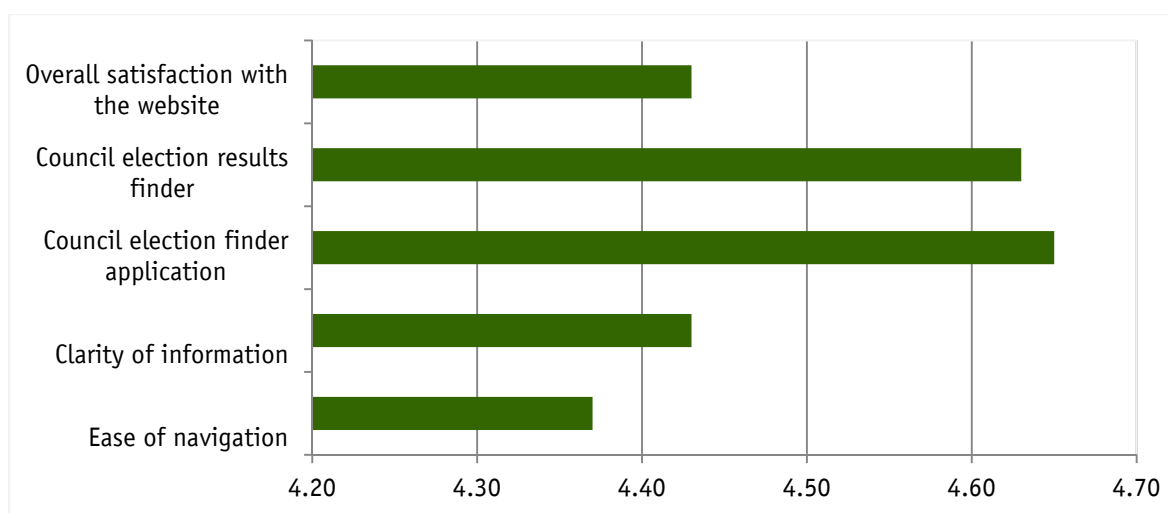


Figure 24: Voter satisfaction with information on VEC website

Almost 80% of 514 respondents didn't know that the VEC had a Facebook page. Of those who were aware, just fewer than 7% (35) visited it. This could possibly be attributed to the age demographic of the respondents. The average satisfaction level with the information provided on the VEC facebook page was 4.91 out of 7.

Almost 78% of respondents were not Twitter users – a further 15% use Twitter but were not aware of the VEC's Twitter handle (name). Some 8% (40) of respondents either followed the VEC's Twitter feed or saw the VEC's posts. There was positive feedback on the quality of the VEC's Twitter feed from those who followed it.

Only 46 survey participants responded when asked for suggestions about how elections could be communicated in future. The majority suggested that email would be superior to direct mail. TV and radio advertising was also suggested.

7.2.2 Candidates

The VEC invited candidates who stood in the 2012 council elections, and who provided an email address to rate their satisfaction with a range of elements of the 2012 council elections using an online survey. A total of 353 candidates responded to the survey with 92% completing the questionnaire. This figure comprises 17.6% of the total number of candidates who nominated. Just over 86% of respondents stood for election in postal elections and 14% stood in attendance elections.

Summary

There was a reasonable spread of responses from both metropolitan and regional/rural councils, although the higher individual numbers tended to be from metropolitan councils with those represented averaging around 2-3% of respondents. Casey City Council was the most well represented council with 16 respondents.

Almost all respondents (98%) said that they obtained a copy of the Candidate Handbook, which provided information on all aspects of nominating, candidate statements, HTVCs, authorisation and complaints processes, scrutineers and vote counting timelines (see Figure 25) Almost half of the respondents (45%) obtained the Handbook when they nominated, 35% collected it from a candidate information session, 30% downloaded it from the VEC's website and 7% collected it from the VEC. Some 96% of respondents considered that the Handbook was available at the appropriate time. The remainder indicated it would be better much earlier – say six months prior to the election.

Respondents were most satisfied with the information on nomination procedures – with the average satisfaction rating of 4.2 out of a possible 5, followed closely by information on how-to-vote card registrations (4.1) and candidate statements (4.0). They were least satisfied with information on the counting of votes (3.87) – however, this may still be viewed as a very healthy average satisfaction rating.

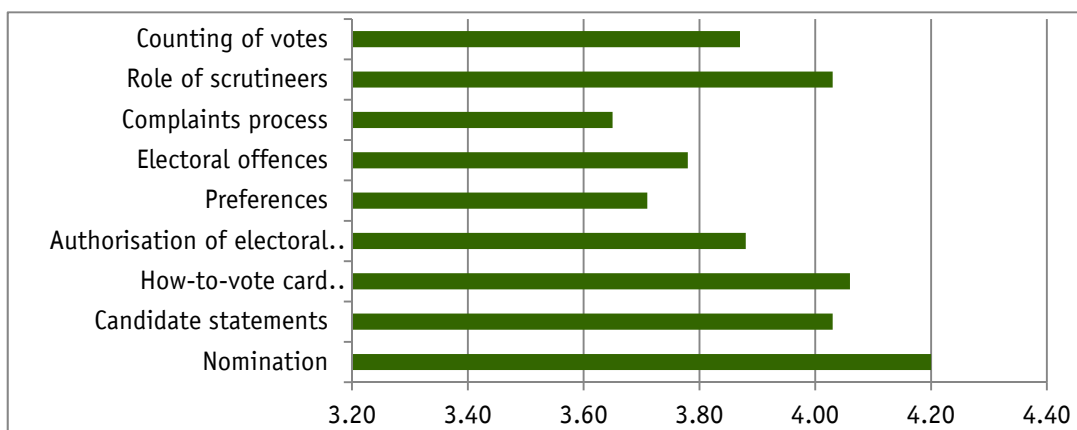


Figure 25: Candidate survey, satisfaction with the information provided in the Candidate Handbook

If the respondents required further information about the election, 96% sought it from the Returning Officer, 8% from the VEC head office and 5% from council. Some 91% felt that they received this information within an acceptable timeframe.

In terms of the candidate information sessions, 58% (191) of respondents indicated that they had attended a candidate information session conducted by a Returning Officer, 26% attended a council run session, 25% attended a computer count information session, 19% attended an MAV information session and 11% attended a VLG Act session. A total of 29% said that they did not attend any information session.

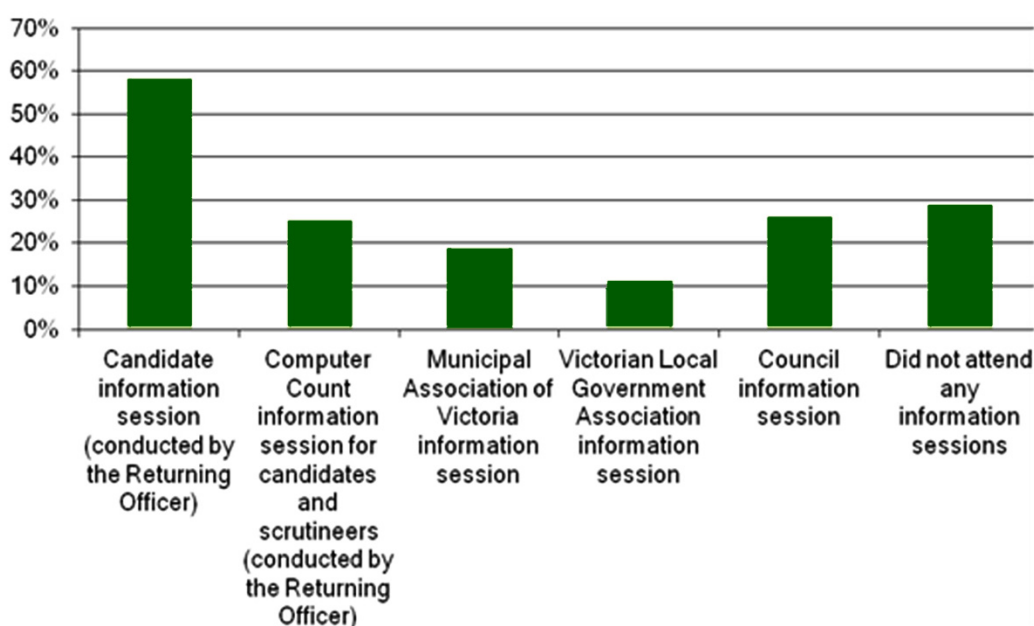


Figure 26: Candidate survey, information sessions attended (multiple selections allowed)

Of those who had attended an information session with a Returning Officer, the highest average satisfaction levels (out of a possible 5) recorded related to the venue (4.19), followed by the time of day (4.15), opportunities to seek clarification or further information (4.14), the relevance and usefulness of the session (4.03), length of the session (4.01), handouts and slides (3.96) and presentation style (3.90).

When asked for suggestions for improvement of the Returning Officer's information session, almost half of the respondents indicated the sessions were good and did not require any change. The remainder included suggestions relating to advertising of sessions, presentation style and knowledge of the presenter and venue.

The reasons for not attending an information session predominantly included having enough information in the candidate handbook or having previously been a councillor and knowing what to do already. Other than that, workloads and timing prevented some candidates from being able to attend. Several indicated that they either didn't know there were information sessions or that the information sessions had concluded by the time they decided to run.

When asked what other information could be provided to candidates, the majority of responses indicated that the information currently provided was adequate and of high quality. The key themes of those who felt further information could be provided related to more information on preferences – how they work, and a significant number of respondents felt that more information on the expectations and time commitments of councillors once elected would be useful. This last suggestion is probably one for the MAV or councils to consider.

The VEC provided an online Candidate Helper, through which candidates could nominate and provide statements and an indication of preferences. Some 73% of the 335 respondents who addressed this question used the Candidate Helper. When asked about their satisfaction with the three key elements, respondents gave an average rating of 4.32 out of a possible 5 for the nomination procedure, 4.24 for the candidate statements and 4.09 for the indication of preferences. When queried as to how the Candidate Helper might be improved, suggestions included removing the need to visit the election office to complete the nomination, the ability to upload a photo online, making it easier to find and available earlier on the VEC website, and reviewing the candidate statement section so that more detail can be provided, checked and word count notified.

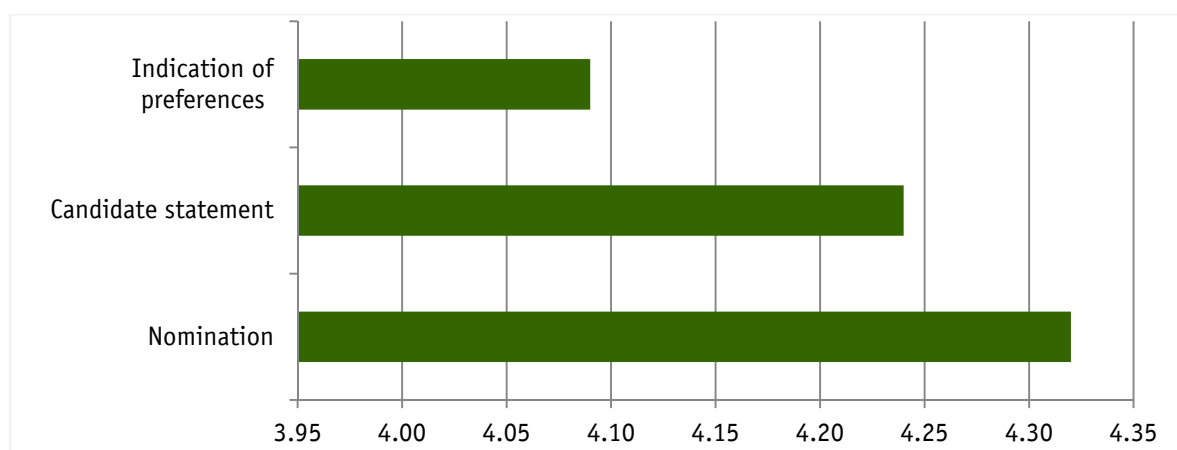


Figure 27: Candidate survey, satisfaction with online candidate helper

Candidate bulletins were provided to candidates, with 92% of respondents reporting having received these by email, 3% by mail and 2% in person. Some 4% of respondents said they did not receive any candidate bulletins. When asked

to rate their satisfaction with the candidate bulletins, the highest average rating related to the ease of receiving the bulletin with 77.6% of respondents rating their satisfaction as 4 or 5 out of 5, followed by the usefulness of the information (63.4%), the content (61.4%) and the number of bulletins received (60.7%). Around half of those who commented (53) thought the bulletins were ‘good’ and ‘helpful’. Suggestions for improvements included having more of them and providing more regular updates on the number of votes received (cumulative total).

When asked to rate their satisfaction with their interaction with election officials, the highest satisfaction level was with the helpfulness of election officials – with 86.7% of respondents rating it 4 or 5 out of 5, followed by impartiality (86.1%), promptness (86%), professionalism (85.5%), attention to detail (82.6%), and knowledge (79.3%). The overwhelming majority of the 60 comments about election officials were that they were extremely competent and of an excellent standard. There were several comments calling the impartiality of staff or the Returning Officer into question, several suggesting the knowledge and computer literacy of staff could have been better and a couple of comments related to inconsistencies in the application of rules and processes.

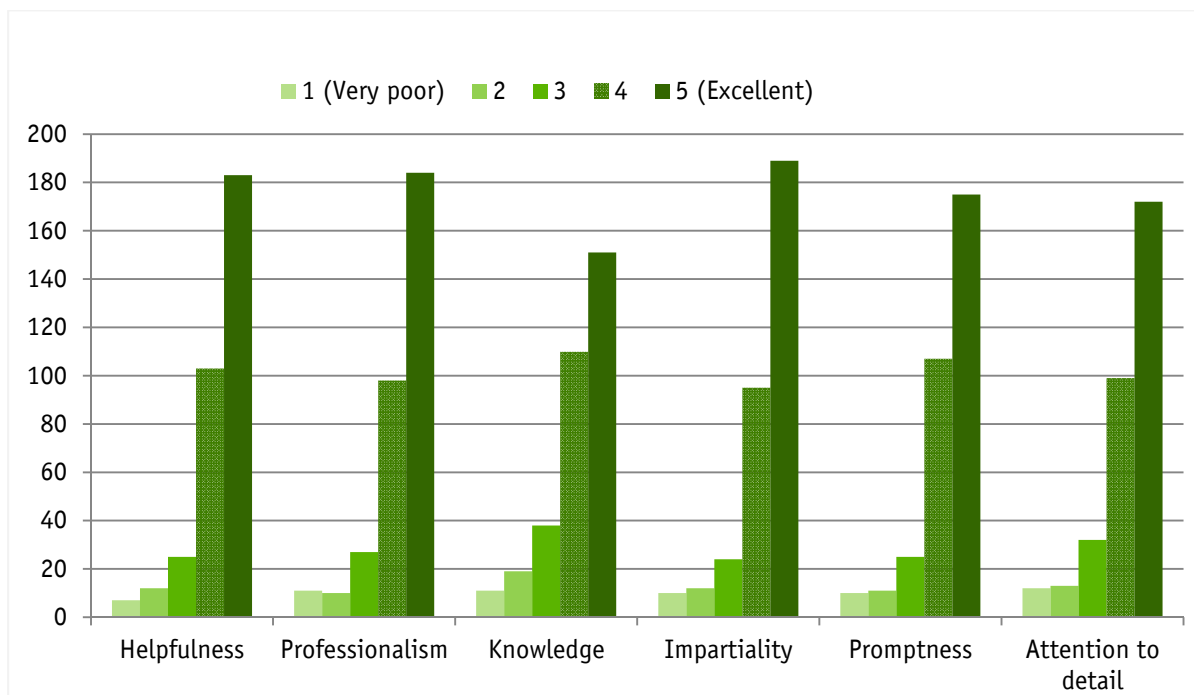


Figure 28: Candidate survey, satisfaction with interactions with election staff

When asked how quickly the respondent received a response from election staff upon contact, almost 76% of those who contacted the staff in person got an immediate response, 55% who made contact by phone had an immediate response and a further 20% of those who made contact this way had a response within half a day, those who emailed a query generally had a response within half a day (36%) or within 1-2 days (14%). Several respondents said they didn't receive any response.

Some 75% of respondents felt that they received enough information about the counting process and 55% stated that they had appointed a scrutineer.

Only 38% of respondents or their scrutineers attended a computer count information session. Of those who attended a session, participants were most satisfied with the ability to seek further information or clarification with an average weighted rating of 4.0 out of 5. Next they were most satisfied with the time of day (3.94), venue (3.93), relevance and usefulness of the information (3.91), length of the session (3.88), followed by presentation style and handouts that both received ratings of 3.83. Of the 18 who commented on why they did not attend, almost half said that a scrutineer attended on their behalf or that they did not have time to attend.

When rating their satisfaction with the count process and declaration of results, respondents rated their satisfaction with the scrutineer management process most highly (3.59) followed by the results declaration process (3.43) and then the count process (3.37).

Almost 1 in 3 respondents made comment on the count process and declaration of results. The major complaints were that the process was slow and tedious and there were far too many delays (or changes to times and dates of counts) and computer glitches. Many also complained about miscommunication or a complete lack of communication around the reasons for the delays. A number of respondents suggested that all candidates should be formally advised of the results – ideally by email. In some instances where they couldn't attend they were advised that they would be notified of the result but this did not occur.

Of the respondents who saw or heard advertising for the council elections, 89% read about them in the local papers, followed by the Age (21%) and Herald Sun (14%). Radio (14%), direct mail (13%) and Facebook (9%) were other communication channels identified. Of the 50 respondents who selected 'other' for where they heard about the elections, many were previously councillors or heard about it via council. The overall impression of the communication campaign for the election had a weighted average score of 3.14 out of 5.

Some 75% of respondents had no involvement in the complaints handling process, whilst 19% lodged one or more complaints. Just over 7% of respondents said that they had been notified of one or more complaints being lodged about them or their activity. When asked to disregard whether the respondents was happy with the outcome of the complaint - but to instead just rate their satisfaction with the complaints handling process – those who had a complaint lodged against them were most satisfied with a weighted average score of 2.97 out of 5. Next came satisfaction with the information provided about the complaints handling process in the candidate information booklet (2.77), then acknowledgement time after lodging a complaint (2.73), interaction with complaints handling staff (2.72) and the overall impression of the complaints handling process (2.28).

A total of 44 respondents provided comments about the complaints handling process. A significant number complained that the VEC was powerless and either ignored or did nothing about the complaint. A similar proportion was unhappy with the performance or outcome of the complaint forwarded to the LGICI. Several respondents say they have still not received any response to their complaint.

When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the conduct of the council elections, the weighted average score was 3.58 out of a possible score of 5.

Respondents were invited to provide feedback about their election experience. There was an overwhelming majority of complaints about dummy candidates running and calls for optional preferential voting to address this issue. There were also significant numbers of comments about the VEC not having the power to address issues and concerns about postal voting generally (lack of awareness, missing ballots, ballot packs not received). There were also calls to shorten the early voting period, force candidates to declare political affiliations and to decry the practice of dirty tricks tactics employed by other candidates. A small number of candidates complained that the publication of their email address on the VEC's website resulted in them being inundated with spam emails and some candidates also suggested better communication of the elections and voting methods.

8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Local government election timelines

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2012

ATTENDANCE ELECTION TIMELINE

Exhibition Roll Date	JUL 19	THU	(100 days before Election Day)
Public Notice of Entitlement Date	AUG 8	WED	
	AUG 14	TUE	
Exhibition Period	AUG 27	MON	
Entitlement Date	AUG 31	FRI	(57 days before Election Day) 4pm
Publication of Election Notice	SEP 3	MON	
	SEP 8	SAT	
Opening of Election Office	SEP 19	WED	
Certification of Voters Roll Opening of Nominations	SEP 20	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 25	TUE	Closes 12 noon
Commence Postal and Early Voting First day for Registration of How-to-Vote cards	SEP 26	WED	
Mailout EasyVote Card	OCT 12	FRI	
Last day for Registration of How-to-Vote cards	OCT 19	FRI	Closes 12 Noon
Close of Postal Voting Application	OCT 25	THU	Closes 12 Noon
Close of Early Voting	OCT 26	FRI	
ELECTION DAY	OCT 27	SAT	Voting Closes 6 pm
	OCT 28	SUN	Counting

Results declared between Sunday 28 October and Friday 2 November.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2012

POSTAL ELECTION TIMELINE

Exhibition Roll Date	JUL 19	THU	(100 days before Election Day)
Public Notice of Entitlement Date	AUG 8	WED	
	AUG 14	TUE	
Exhibition Period	AUG 27	MON	
	AUG 31	FRI	(57 days before Election Day) 4pm
Publication of Election Notice	SEP 3	MON	
	SEP 8	SAT	
Opening of Election Office	SEP 19	WED	
Certification of Voters' Roll Opening of Nominations	SEP 20	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 25	TUE	Closes 12 noon
Lodgement of Candidates' Statements	SEP 26	WED	Candidate Statements Close 12 noon
Indications of Preferences	SEP 28	FRI	Preferences Close 12 noon
Mail-out of Ballot Packs/ Uncontested Ward Leaflets	OCT 9	TUE	
	OCT 10	WED	
	OCT 11	THU	
Close of Voting	OCT 26	FRI	Voting Closes 6 pm
ELECTION DAY	OCT 27	SAT	

Results declared between Sunday 28 October and Friday 2 November.

CITY OF MELBOURNE ELECTIONS 2012

NINE COUNCILLORS ELECTION TIMELINE

Exhibition Roll Date	JUL 19	THU	(100 days before Election Day)
Public Notice of Entitlement Date	AUG 8	WED	Publication dates within this period to be confirmed
	AUG 14	TUE	
Exhibition Period	AUG 27	MON	
	AUG 31	FRI	(57 days before Election Day) 4pm
Publication of Election Notice	SEP 3	MON	Telephone Enquiry Service Commences
	SEP 8	SAT	Publication dates within this period to be confirmed
Opening of Election Office	SEP 19	WED	
Certification of Voters Roll Opening of Nominations	SEP 20	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 25	TUE	Closes 12 noon
Candidate Grouping & Name Registration	SEP 27	THU	Closes 12 noon Ballot Draw-time to be advised
Group/Ungrouped Statements and Group Voting Tickets/Indication of Preferences	OCT 1	MON	Closes 12 noon
Mail-out of Ballot Packs	OCT 9	TUE	
	OCT 11	THU	
CLOSE OF VOTING	OCT 26	FRI	Voting Closes 6 pm
Election Day	OCT 27	SAT	Extraction of ballot papers
	OCT 28	SUN	Counting commences

CITY OF MELBOURNE ELECTIONS 2012

LEADERSHIP TEAM ELECTION TIMELINE

Exhibition Roll Date	JUL 19	THU	(100 days before Election Day)
Public Notice of Entitlement Date	AUG 8	WED	Publication dates within this period to be confirmed
	AUG 14	TUE	
Exhibition Period	AUG 27	MON	
Entitlement Date	AUG 31	FRI	(57 days before Election Day) 4pm
Publication of Election Notice	SEP 3	MON	Telephone Enquiry Service Commences
	SEP 8	SAT	Publication dates within this period to be confirmed
Opening of Election Office	SEP 19	WED	
Certification of Voters Roll Opening of Nominations	SEP 20	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 25	TUE	Closes 12 noon Ballot Draw-time to be advised
Team Name Registration	SEP 27	THU	Closes 12 noon
Team Statements and Preferences	OCT 1	MON	Closes 12 noon
Mail-out of Ballot Packs	OCT 9	TUE	
	OCT 11	THU	
CLOSE OF VOTING	OCT 26	FRI	Voting Closes 6 pm
Election Day	OCT 27	SAT	Extraction of ballot papers
	OCT 28	SUN	Counting commences

Appendix 2: Municipal voter count by ward

Municipality	Ward	State Roll data	Council Data					Certification	Amendments		Revised Total	
		EC List	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Total	Additions		Deletions
Alpine Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	9,089	2,390	19	26			2,435	11,524		2	11,522
Ararat Rural City Council	Un-Subdivided	8,011	1,068	2				1,070	9,081			9,081
Ballarat City Council	Central	20,237	2,575			7		2,582	22,819		1	22,818
	North	23,123	1,677	2		2		1,681	24,804		1	24,803
	South	22,879	2,222			2		2,224	25,103	1		25,104
	Total	66,239	6,474	2	0	11	0	6,487	72,726			72,725
Banyule City Council	Bakewell	11,228	1,020	4		2		1,026	12,254			12,254
	Beale	12,732	601	2		1		604	13,336			13,336
	Griffin	12,337	1,218	3		9		1,230	13,567			13,567
	Grimshaw	12,089	1,081	6		6		1,093	13,182			13,182
	Hawdon	12,817	850	5		6		861	13,678			13,678
	Ibbott	13,060	1,033	9		2		1,044	14,104			14,104
	Olympia	11,413	1,732	5		5		1,742	13,155			13,155
	Total	85,676	7,535	34	0	31	0	7,600	93,276			93,276
Bass Coast Shire Council	Anderson	4,537	1,349	3				1,352	5,889			5,889
	Churchill	1,821	3,470	4		1		3,475	5,296			5,296
	Hovell	3,825	1,611	4		1		1,616	5,441			5,441
	Leadbeater	3,494	2,032	1				2,033	5,527			5,527
	McHaffie	2,139	3,647	2		1		3,650	5,789			5,789
	Thompson	2,665	3,860	1				3,861	6,526			6,526
	Townsend	3,290	3,127	1		1		3,129	6,419			6,419
	Total	21,771	19,096	16	0	4	0	19,116	40,887			40,887

Baw Baw Shire Council	Drouin	6,977	1,024	5			1,029	8,006		8,006	
	Mount Worth	7,284	616			1	617	7,901		7,901	
	North	6,700	1,159			2	1,161	7,861		7,861	
	Warragul	10,372	713				713	11,085		11,085	
	Total	31,333	3,512	5	0	3	0	3,520	34,853		34,853
Bayside City Council	Central	27,426	2,039	3			2,042	29,468	1	1	29,468
	Northern	19,527	1,481	4	1		1,487	21,014		7	21,007
	Southern	19,521	1,179	3			1,182	20,703		2	20,701
	Total	66,474	4,699	10	1	0	1	4,711	71,185		71,176
Benalla Rural City Council	Un-Subdivided	10,419	910	1		5	916	11,335		11,335	
Boroondara City Council	Bellevue	11,114	678				678	11,792		1	11,791
	Cotham	11,545	699				699	12,244	1	1	12,244
	Gardiner	10,962	1,182	1			1,183	12,145			12,145
	Glenferrie	10,290	2,839		1		2,840	13,130	1	2	13,129
	Junction	10,850	1,714				1,714	12,564			12,564
	Lynden	11,395	821				821	12,216			12,216
	Maling	11,441	784	2			786	12,227		1	12,226
	Maranoa	11,089	761	1			762	11,851			11,851
	Solway	11,647	753	1			754	12,401		1	12,400
	Studley	10,925	1,330				1,330	12,255			12,255
	Total	111,258	11,561	5	1	0	0	11,567	122,825		122,821
Brimbank City Council			No Election								
Buloke Shire Council	Lower Avoca	1,564	287				287	1,851			1,851
	Mallee	1,300	339			1	340	1,640			1,640
	Mount Jeffcott	2,142	329			4	333	2,475			2,475
	Total	5,006	955	0	0	5	0	960	5,966		5,966

Campaspe Shire Council	Echuca	9,478	713	3				716	10,194			10,194
	Kyabram-Deakin	8,716	314					314	9,030			9,030
	Rochester	2,990	252					252	3,242			3,242
	Waranga	2,524	544					544	3,068			3,068
	Western	2,980	306					306	3,286			3,286
	Total	26,688	2,129	3	0	0	0	2,132	28,820			
Cardinia Shire Council	Central	19,713	5,429					5,431	25,144	1		25,145
	Port	10,474	846					851	11,325			11,325
	Ranges	18,099	1,809					1,809	19,908	1		19,909
	Total	48,286	8,084	0	0	7	0	8,091	56,377			56,379
Casey City Council	Balla Balla	13,020	1,451	2				1,453	14,473	123		14,596
	Edrington	28,606	2,215					2,215	30,821	2		30,823
	Four Oaks	31,275	1,448	3				1,451	32,726	1	1	32,726
	Mayfield	27,278	3,155					3,155	30,433	1	122	30,312
	River Gum	29,433	3,016	12				3,028	32,461	1		32,462
	Springfield	26,520	2,076	3				2,079	28,599	2	1	28,600
	Total	156,132	13,361	20	0	0	0	13,381	169,513			
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Flynn	1,242	399					400	1,642			1,642
	Maryborough	5,695	332					341	6,036			6,036
	Paddys Ranges	1,337	292					292	1,629	2		1,627
	Tullaroop	1,327	225					226	1,553			1,553
	Total	9,601	1,248	0	9	0	2	1,259	10,860			10,858
Colac Otway Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	15,295	4,491	3		10		4,504	19,799			19,799
Corangamite Shire Council	Central	5,458	412					412	5,870			5,870
	Coastal	1,466	305					305	1,771			1,771
	North	1,488	382					382	1,870			1,870
	South-Central	1,850	113					113	1,963			1,963

	South-West	1,715	143					143	1,858			1,858
	Total	11,977	1,355	0	0	0	0	1,355	13,332			13,332
Darebin City Council	Cazaly	30,828	3,842	10		5		3,857	34,685	3		34,688
	La Trobe	28,182	3,187	8		1		3,196	31,378			31,378
	Rucker	31,394	4,626	8		5		4,639	36,033	1		36,034
	Total	90,404	11,655	26	0	11	0	11,692	102,096			102,100
East Gippsland Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	31,730	7,914			1	7,915	39,645		3	39,642	
Frankston City Council	North-East	29,544	3,680					3,680	33,224		1	33,223
	North-West	25,642	5,201					5,201	30,843			30,843
	South	29,626	3,498			1		3,499	33,125			33,125
	Total	84,812	12,379	0	1	0	0	12,380	97,192			97,191
Gannawarra Shire Council	Avoca	1,038	228					228	1,266			1,266
	Murray	1,126	229					229	1,355			1,355
	Patchell	3,206	327			3		330	3,536			3,536
	Yarran	2,577	177			1		178	2,755			2,755
	Total	7,947	961	0	0	4	0	965	8,912			8,912
Glen Eira City Council	Camden	28,356	2,960			4		2,964	31,320			31,320
	Rosstown	29,076	4,400			6		4,406	33,482			33,482
	Tucker	30,894	2,408			5		2,413	33,307			33,307
	Total	88,326	9,768	0	0	15	0	9,783	98,109			98,109
Glenelg Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	14,470	2,336	3	1	1	2,341	16,811			16,811	
Golden Plains Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	13,379	2,708			11	2,719	16,098	1	19	16,080	
Greater Bendigo City Council	Eppalock	22,350	2,987	2		1		2,990	25,340			25,340
	Lockwood	25,274	1,672	2				1,674	26,948		1	26,947
	Whipstick	25,172	2,270	2		6		2,278	27,450		1	27,449
	Total	72,796	6,929	6	0	7	0	6,942	79,738			79,736

Greater Dandenong City Council	Lightwood	22,972	2,844		6		2,850	25,822	1		25,823
	Paperbark	23,671	2,718		6		2,724	26,395		1	26,394
	Red Gum	19,565	5,677		33		5,710	25,275	2		25,277
	Silverleaf	16,577	1,428	2	2		1,432	18,009			18,009
	Total	82,785	12,667	2	0	47	0	12,716	95,501		
Greater Geelong City Council	Austin	13,094	730				730	13,824			13,824
	Beangala	10,500	2,990	2		1	2,993	13,493		1	13,492
	Brownbill	12,041	1,246	1			1,247	13,288			13,288
	Buckley	13,582	1,736	2			1,738	15,320			15,320
	Cheetham	14,219	919	1			920	15,139			15,139
	Corio	12,693	1,095	3			1,098	13,791			13,791
	Coryule	8,490	5,737	1			5,738	14,228	1	1	14,228
	Cowie	13,191	593			1	594	13,785			13,785
	Deakin	14,086	631	6			637	14,723	1		14,724
	Kardinia	13,540	907	2			909	14,449			14,449
	Kildare	12,055	649	1			650	12,705			12,705
	Windermere	14,596	1,067				1,067	15,663			15,663
	Total	152,087	18,300	19	0	2	0	18,321	170,408		
Greater Shepparton City Council	Un-Subdivided	40,944	2,424	4			2,428	43,372			43,372
Hepburn Shire Council	Birch	3,005	1,291	1		12	1,304	4,309			4,309
	Cameron	1,490	529	2		3	534	2,024			2,024
	Coliban	1,449	575			3	578	2,027			2,027
	Creswick	3,691	557			3	560	4,251	2		4,253
	Holcombe	1,318	746	1		4	751	2,069			2,069
	Total	10,953	3,698	4	0	25	0	3,727	14,680		

Hindmarsh Shire Council	East	1,449	216				216	1,665		1,665	
	North	1,371	284				284	1,655		1,655	
	West	1,587	143	1			144	1,731		1,731	
	Total	4,407	643	1	0	0	0	644	5,051		5,051
Hobsons Bay City Council	Cherry Lake	16,099	1,938	8	4		1,950	18,049		2	18,047
	Strand	23,198	2,741	9			2,750	25,948		2	25,946
	Wetlands	17,757	2,113	3			2,116	19,873		4	19,869
	Total	57,054	6,792	20	0	4	0	6,816	63,870		
Horsham Rural City Council	Un-Subdivided	14,067	1,371			7	1,378	15,445			15,445
Hume City Council	Aitken	33,612	4,827	210			5,037	38,649	1	2	38,648
	Jacksons Creek	29,364	3,028	3			3,031	32,395			32,395
	Meadow Valley	41,862	2,126	4			2,130	43,992	3		43,995
	Total	104,838	9,981	217	0	0	0	10,198	115,036		
Indigo Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	11,486	1,377		1	3	1,381	12,867		2	12,865
Kingston City Council	Central	33,375	3,986	5			3,991	37,366			37,366
	North	32,126	3,699	5	1	1	3,706	35,832	1	1	35,832
	South	35,501	3,431	7			3,438	38,939	1	1	38,939
	Total	101,002	11,116	17	1	1	0	11,135	112,137		
Knox City Council	Baird	10,952	1,476	4			1,480	12,432			12,432
	Chandler	11,030	800	4			804	11,834	2		11,836
	Collier	10,895	613	5			618	11,513		1	11,512
	Dinsdale	10,392	1,118	3			1,121	11,513	2		11,515
	Dobson	12,714	677	2			679	13,393			13,393
	Friberg	12,677	739	3			742	13,419			13,419
	Scott	12,555	529	3			532	13,087			13,087
	Taylor	13,147	485				485	13,632			13,632
	Tirhatuan	12,169	782	5			787	12,956	1		12,957

	Total	106,531	7,219	29	0	0	0	7,248	113,779			113,783
Latrobe City Council	Central	11,212	1,026	1				1,027	12,239			12,239
	East	21,767	1,212	4				1,216	22,983			22,983
	South	5,806	526	1				527	6,333			6,333
	West	11,980	847	3				850	12,830			12,830
	Total	50,765	3,611	9	0	0	0	3,620	54,385			54,385
Loddon Shire Council	Boort	1,325	251					255	1,580			1,580
	Inglewood	1,250	278		2	1		281	1,531			1,531
	Tarnagulla	908	564	2		4		570	1,478			1,478
	Terrick	1,258	240			4		244	1,502		1	1,501
	Wedderburn	1,025	462		1	2		465	1,490			1,490
	Total	5,766	1,795	2	3	15	0	1,815	7,581			7,580
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	East	9,726	1,159	2				1,161	10,887			10,887
	South	10,706	783	1				784	11,490			11,490
	West	10,072	1,263					1,263	11,335	2	2	11,335
	Total	30,504	3,205	3	0	0	0	3,208	33,712			33,712
Manningham City Council	Heide	28,108	1,192	10				1,202	29,310			29,310
	Koonung	26,989	1,850	3				1,853	28,842			28,842
	Mullum Mullum	28,102	1,067	10				1,077	29,179			29,179
	Total	83,199	4,109	23	0	0	0	4,132	87,331			87,331
Mansfield Shire Council	Bonnie Doon	807	1,141					1,141	1,948		6	1,942
	Jamieson	683	1,419					1,419	2,102		3	2,099
	Mansfield	3,248	686					686	3,934	1	10	3,925
	Tolmie	1,114	969					969	2,083		6	2,077
	Total	5,852	4,215	0	0	0	0	4,215	10,067			10,043

Maribyrnong City Council	River	12,227	3,436				3,436	15,663		1	15,662
	Stony Creek	13,377	2,524	1	1		2,526	15,903		1	15,902
	Yarraville	18,414	3,836	6			3,842	22,256	1	5	22,252
	Total	44,018	9,796	7	0	1	0	9,804	53,822		
Maroondah City Council	Arrabri	24,886	2,411				2,411	27,297			27,297
	Mullum	23,507	2,859	3	1		2,863	26,370			26,370
	Wyreena	24,698	2,052				2,052	26,750			26,750
	Total	73,091	7,322	3	0	1	0	7,326	80,417		
Melbourne City Council	Un-Subdivided	43,691	64,823				64,823	108,514	26	106	108,434
Melton City Council	Cambridge	19,445	3,592	4	1		3,597	23,042	2	1	23,043
	Coburn	28,165	5,418		5		5,423	33,588		1	33,587
	Watts	17,233	2,160		3		2,163	19,396			19,396
	Total	64,843	11,170	4	9	0	0	11,183	76,026		
Mildura Rural City Council	Un-Subdivided	34,743	3,319	1			3,320	38,063	1	1	38,063
Mitchell Shire Council	Central	8,587	840	1			841	9,428			9,428
	North	7,480	1,118				1,118	8,598			8,598
	South	7,398	1,533			6	1,539	8,937		1	8,936
	Total	23,465	3,491	1	0	6	0	3,498	26,963		
Moira Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	20,467	2,956		2	3	2,961	23,428		1	23,427
Monash City Council	Glen Waverley	19,269	1,475	2	1		1,478	20,747			20,747
	Mount Waverley	32,505	2,885	6			2,891	35,396	1	1	35,396
	Mulgrave	29,258	1,285	5			1,290	30,548	1		30,549
	Oakleigh	28,965	5,420			4	5,424	34,389	1		34,390
	Total	109,997	11,065	13	1	4	0	11,083	121,080		
Moonee Valley City Council	Buckley	27,488	2,782	12	12	1	2,807	30,295			30,295
	Myrning	24,725	4,002	12	23		4,037	28,762			28,762
	Rose Hill	24,218	1,416	33	14	1	1,464	25,682	1		25,683

	Total	76,431	8,200	57	0	49	2	8,308	84,739			84,740
Moorabool Shire Council	Central Moorabool	2,874	407		2	2		411	3,285			3,285
	East Moorabool	11,942	1,662	9	2	6		1,679	13,621			13,621
	West Moorabool	2,663	715	1	4	1		721	3,384			3,384
	Woodlands	2,500	759	2	2			763	3,263		2	3,261
	Total	19,979	3,543	12	10	9	0	3,574	23,553			23,551
Moreland City Council	North-East	36,578	4,641					4,641	41,219	2	1	41,220
	North-West	37,233	3,881					3,881	41,114	4		41,118
	South	23,579	6,067					6,067	29,646	3	1	29,648
	Total	97,390	14,589	0	0	0	0	14,589	111,979			111,986
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Briars	39,439	3,727	5		7		3,739	43,178	1		43,179
	Cerberus	11,273	1,116			1		1,117	12,390	1		12,391
	Nepean	9,995	14,558			5		14,563	24,558	2		24,560
	Red Hill	8,541	3,805	1		4		3,810	12,351		2	12,349
	Seawinds	25,037	15,217	1		5		15,223	40,260	3		40,263
	Watson	12,035	600			1		601	12,636			12,636
	Total	106,320	39,023	7	0	23	0	39,053	145,373			145,378
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Calder	1,749	306					306	2,055			2,055
	Castlemaine	6,521	492					492	7,013			7,013
	Coliban	1,647	519					519	2,166			2,166
	Loddon River	1,723	462					462	2,185			2,185
	Tarrengower	1,619	437					437	2,056			2,056
	Total	13,259	2,216	0	0	0	0	2,216	15,475			15,475
Moyne Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	11,736	2,368	4				2,372	14,108	16		14,124
Murrindindi Shire Council	Cathedral	1,010	779	1		2		782	1,792		1	1,791
	Cheviot	1,511	382					382	1,893			1,893

	Eildon	1,098	802		3	2		807	1,905	1		1,906
	King Parrot	1,462	514				1	515	1,977			1,977
	Kinglake	1,548	427					427	1,975			1,975
	Koriella	1,250	625	2		1	2	630	1,880			1,880
	Red Gate	1,960	244				3	247	2,207			2,207
	Total	9,839	3,773	3	0	6	8	3,790	13,629			13,629
Nillumbik Shire Council	Blue Lake	6,674	271	2				273	6,947			6,947
	Bunjil	6,176	167					167	6,343			6,343
	Edendale	6,781	202					202	6,983			6,983
	Ellis	5,996	189			2		191	6,187			6,187
	Sugarloaf	6,647	261					261	6,908		1	6,907
	Swipers Gully	6,394	208	2				210	6,604	1		6,605
	Wingrove	6,109	292					292	6,401			6,401
	Total	44,777	1,590	4	0	2	0	1,596	46,373			46,373
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Central	1,149	367			3	1	371	1,520			1,520
	Kara Kara	2,415	690	2		5	1	698	3,113			3,113
	South West	1,029	579			3		582	1,611			1,611
	Stawell	4,250	368			2		370	4,620			4,620
	Total	8,843	2,004	2	0	13	2	2,021	10,864			10,864
Port Phillip City Council	Albert Park	9,430	1,956	2				1,958	11,388		1	11,387
	Carlisle	9,366	2,974	1				2,975	12,341		1	12,340
	Catani	7,926	3,009	7		1		3,017	10,943			10,943
	Emerald Hill	7,361	2,845	1				2,846	10,207			10,207
	Junction	7,680	4,357	6				4,363	12,043	1		12,044
	Point Ormond	9,364	2,726	2				2,728	12,092		1	12,091
	Sandridge	8,477	2,125	4		1		2,130	10,607	1	2	10,606
	Total	59,604	19,992	23	0	2	0	20,017	79,621			79,618

Pyrenees Shire Council	Avoca	1,118	309		7		316	1,434			1,434	
	Beaufort	1,150	278		1		279	1,429			1,429	
	De Cameron	673	746		2		748	1,421			1,421	
	Ercildoune	973	447		6		453	1,426			1,426	
	Mount Emu	1,060	330		3		333	1,393			1,393	
	Total	4,974	2,110	0	0	19	0	2,129	7,103			7,103
Queenscliffe Borough Council	Un-Subdivided	2,594	1,620	1	2	50	1	1,674	4,268		4,268	
South Gippsland Shire Council	Coastal-Promontory	4,031	5,244	2		3		5,249	9,280		9,280	
	Strzelecki	8,294	1,071	2				1,073	9,367		9,367	
	Tarwin Valley	8,169	995	1				996	9,165		9,165	
	Total	20,494	7,310	5	0	3	0	7,318	27,812		27,812	
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	12,282	1,120	2		2		1,124	13,406	1	13,405	
Stonnington City Council	East	23,367	3,612	2		2	22	3,638	27,005	23	23	27,005
	North	21,382	6,933	3	3		24	6,963	28,345	25	25	28,345
	South	19,908	5,379				39	5,418	25,326	37	39	25,324
	Total	64,657	15,924	5	3	2	85	16,019	80,676			80,674
Strathbogie Shire Council	Honeysuckle Creek	1,095	222			6		228	1,323		1,323	
	Hughes Creek	1,038	205			9		214	1,252		1,252	
	Lake Nagambie	1,915	706			27		733	2,648	1	2,649	
	Mount Wombat	987	369	1		18		388	1,375		1,375	
	Seven Creeks	2,438	261	2		3		266	2,704		2,704	
	Total	7,473	1,763	3	0	63	0	1,829	9,302			9,303
Surf Coast Shire Council	Anglesea	2,841	3,978			45		4,023	6,864		6,864	
	Lorne	1,313	2,080			52		2,132	3,445		3,445	
	Torquay	9,164	3,987			17		4,004	13,168		13,168	
	Winchelsea	5,774	689			7		696	6,470		6,470	

	Total	19,092	10,734	0	0	12	1	0	10,855	29,947			29,947
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Central	8,020	365					1	366	8,386			8,386
	Lakes	1,751	265						265	2,016			2,016
	Murray-Mallee	1,845	170						170	2,015	2		2,017
	Robinvale	1,946	104						104	2,050			2,050
	Total	13,562	904	0	0	0	0	1	905	14,467			14,469
Towong Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	4,634	851	1					852	5,486			5,486
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Un-Subdivided	20,495	1,231	1		11			1,243	21,738			21,738
Warrnambool City Council	Un-Subdivided	23,019	2,111	1		2			2,114	25,133	1		25,134
Wellington Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	29,854	12,326	1					12,327	42,181	12		42,193
West Wimmera Shire Council	Un-Subdivided	3,234	784						784	4,018			4,018
Whitehorse City Council	Central	20,630	1,512	2					1,514	22,144			22,144
	Elgar	20,202	3,259	1		4	3		3,267	23,469			23,469
	Morack	20,850	1,154	1	1	2			1,158	22,008			22,008
	Riversdale	19,409	2,326	3					2,329	21,738	1		21,739
	Springfield	20,993	2,135	3					2,138	23,131		1	23,130
	Total	102,084	10,386	10	1	6	3		10,406	112,490			112,490
Whittlesea City Council	North	25,382	4,927	6	2	7			4,942	30,324	1	7	30,318
	South East	41,376	3,618	3		16			3,637	45,013		26	44,987
	South West	36,781	4,458	3		21			4,482	41,263		20	41,243
	Total	103,539	13,003	12	2	44	0		13,061	116,600			116,548
Wodonga City Council	Un-Subdivided	24,120	2,957	1					2,958	27,078	1	3	27,076
Wyndham City Council	Chaffey	35,944	6,579	1					6,580	42,524			42,524
	Harrison	29,526	10,547	3		3			10,553	40,079			40,079
	Iramoo	27,401	4,366	4		3			4,373	31,774		1	31,773
	Total	92,871	21,492	8	0	6	0		21,506	114,377			114,376

Yarra City Council	Langridge	16,933	4,048					4,048	20,981			20,981
	Melba	17,552	5,378	1	2	3		5,384	22,936		2	22,934
	Nicholls	17,936	4,662	2	2			4,666	22,602	1		22,603
	Total	52,421	14,088	3	4	3	0	14,098	66,519			66,518
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Billanook	12,255	301	3				304	12,559			12,559
	Chandler	11,008	350	4				354	11,362			11,362
	Chirnside	11,794	501	5				506	12,300			12,300
	Lyster	10,949	464	7				471	11,420			11,420
	Melba	11,735	770	4			1	775	12,510			12,510
	O'Shannassy	10,993	1,308	4				1,312	12,305			12,305
	Ryrie	11,474	720	3		1		724	12,198		2	12,196
	Streeton	10,968	459	6	1			466	11,434	1		11,435
	Walling	12,164	688	3				691	12,855			12,855
Total	103,340	5,561	39	1	1	1	5,603	108,943			108,942	
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Dunmunkle	1,613	293					293	1,906			1,906
	Hopetoun	1,418	238					238	1,656			1,656
	Warracknabeal	2,349	343					343	2,692			2,692
	Total	5,380	874	0	0	0	0	874	6,254			6,254
State Totals		3,521,971	574,430	720	72	8	106	576,036	4,098,007	338	499	4,097,846

(a) Council electors -property sold (b) Council electors omitted(c) State roll coding errors

N – Non-resident owner

A – Resident owner (not on EC list)

P - Occupier ratepayer

O – Corporation (owner)

T – Corporation (occupier)

Appendix 3: Details of Returning Officers and election offices

Council	Returning Officer	Election office address
Alpine Shire Council	Andrew Robertson	Alpine Shire Council Election, 52 Norton Street, Wangaratta
Ararat Rural City Council	Kevin Waterhouse	Ararat Rural City Council Offices, Cnr Vincent and High Streets, Ararat
Ballarat City Council	Colin Nicholson	Lvl 2 Central Square Shopping Centre, 18 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat
Banyule City Council	Bob Oldfield	9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
Bass Coast Shire Council	Janine Taylor	Bass Coast Civic Centre, 76 McBride Avenue (access via Baillieu Street), Wonthaggi
Baw Baw Shire Council	Phillip Robinson	75A Queen Street, Warragul
Bayside City Council	Elaine Milne	16/354 Reserve Road, Cheltenham
Benalla Rural City Council	Jim Shanahan	33 Sydney Road, Benalla
Boroondara City Council	Graeme Cobb	25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell
Buloke Shire Council	Julie Nix	Donald District Office, 31 McCulloch Street, Donald
Campaspe Shire Council	Wayne Park	11 Murray Valley Highway, Echuca
Cardinia Shire Council	Rob Rutter	Gallery Room, Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham
Casey City Council	Ian Herron	Old Shire Offices, 160 Sladen Street, Cranbourne
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Robyn Walker	Community Hub, Shire Offices, 12-22 Nolan Street, Maryborough
Colac Otway Shire Council	Elizabeth Reeves	139 Wilson Street, Colac
Corangamite Shire Council	John Angel	Corangamite Civic Centre, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown
Darebin City Council	Mike King	1A/99 Bell Street, Preston
East Gippsland Shire Council	Sandra Wood	54 Service Street, Bairnsdale
Frankston City Council	Ian Smyth	62 Playne Street, Frankston
Gannawarra Shire Council	Mardi Messer	Gannawarra Shire Council, 47 Victoria Street, Kerang
Glen Eira City Council	Jill Esplan	East Caulfield Reserve Social Room, Dudley Street, Caulfield East
Glenelg Shire Council	Jan Lineker	Drill Hall, 26 Bentinck Street, Portland
Golden Plains Shire Council	Colin Riley	Golden Plains Shire Council Offices, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn
Greater Bendigo City Council	Tony McDowell	First Floor Shop 3 The Beehive Plaza, 18 Pall Mall, Bendigo
Greater Dandenong City Council	Bill Irvine	279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
Greater Geelong City Council	Eeon Macaulay	Lvl 2/10 Moorabool Street, Geelong
Greater Shepparton City Council	Mick Bastian	2/164 Welsford Street, Shepparton

Council	Returning Officer	Election office address
Hepburn Shire Council	Jeff Stewart	2 Duke Street, Daylesford
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Lynne Sargent	85 Nelson Street, Nhill
Hobsons Bay City Council	Rose McVicar	Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona
Horsham Rural City Council	Graeme Sargent	24 Darlot Street, Horsham
Hume City Council	Peter Murray	Broadmeadows Town Hall, 1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows
Indigo Shire Council	Trevor Deacon	Chiltern Community Centre, 52 Main Street, Chiltern
Kingston City Council	Peter Cole	Level 5, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham
Knox City Council	Leonie Taylor	Unit 3/794 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully
Latrobe City Council	Alan Bright	126-130 George Street, Morwell
Loddon Shire Council	Andrew Howlett	37 Peppercorn Way, (parallel to Loddon Valley Highway), Serpentine
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Kate Daniel	Mechanics Institute, 71 Mollison Street, Kyneton
Manningham City Council	Helen Halliday	2 Hummell Way, Doncaster
Mansfield Shire Council	Jo Wise	Stringybark Room, Council Offices, 33 Highett Street, Mansfield
Maribyrnong City Council	Heather Oke	92 Nicholson Street, Nicholson Street Mall (next to Commonwealth Bank), Footscray
Maroondah City Council	Greg Irvine	Ringwood Square Shopping Centre, Shop 24A 59 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood
Melbourne City Council	Bill Lang	Grnd Flr, Melbourne Town Hall, Administration Building, 120 Swanston Street,
Melton City Council	Peter Long	Community Hall, 232 High Street, Melton
Mildura Rural City Council	Trevor Leighton	2/118 Eighth Street, Mildura
Mitchell Shire Council	Alison Ridley	Mitchell Shire Council Offices, 113 High Street, Broadford
Moira Shire Council	Tim Gerrish	59 Broadway Street, Cobram
Monash City Council	Jeff Gazzard	Monash Seminar and Training Centre, 1A Atherton Road, Oakleigh
Moonee Valley City Council	Kathryn Freeman	67L Matthews Avenue Cnr Hawker Street, Airport West
Moorabool Shire Council	Doug Lindsay	Lerderderg Library, 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh
Moreland City Council	Bob Guest	Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Julie Allan	Shop 2, 1391-1395 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Bob Twyford	155 Barker Street, Castlemaine
Moyne Shire Council	Lynda Beekhof	Blackwood Centre, Commercial Road, Koroit
Murrindindi Shire Council	Peter Williams	Murrindindi Shire Council Service Centre, Semi Circle, Yea
Nillumbik Shire Council	Tony Buttler	Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough

Council	Returning Officer	Election office address
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Andy McCann	Media Centre, Grandstand, Central Park, 10-12 Main Street, Stawell
Port Phillip City Council	Trevor Sutherland	1st Floor, 19-25 Raglan Street, South Melbourne
Pyrenees Shire Council	Peter Reid	Beaufort Community Development Centre, 1 Lawrence Street, Beaufort
Queenscliffe Borough Council	Helen Frieë	Municipal Offices, 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff
South Gippsland Shire Council	Sheryl Bruce	52A Bair Street, Leongatha
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Leanne Huf	Martin J. Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton
Stonnington City Council	Ed Stewart	Banquet Hall, Malvern Town Hall, Cnr Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern
Strathbogie Shire Council	Ian Wise	Council Offices, 109A Binney Street, Euroa
Surf Coast Shire Council	John Manley	1/28A Baines Crescent, Torquay
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Tamara Matthews	Town Hall, 53-57 McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Towong Shire Council	Harold Cover	Towong Shire Council Offices, 32 Towong Street, Tallangatta
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Elaine Broadway	52 Norton Street, Wangaratta
Warrnambool City Council	Russell Isaac	Bayside City Plaza, 24-36 Fairy Street, Warrnambool
Wellington Shire Council	Julie Duffy	Port of Sale Civic Centre, 70 Foster Street, Sale
West Wimmera Shire Council	Iain McNee	Edenhope Business Centre, 45 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope
Whitehorse City Council	Keith Crothers	183-185 Springvale Road, Nunawading
Whittlesea City Council	Chris Montgomery	Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
Wodonga City Council	Alan Cuman	5/155 Melbourne Road, Wodonga
Wyndham City Council	Mary Noonan	3-5 Werribee Street, Werribee
Yarra City Council	Henry Gaughan	Fitzroy Town Hall, Reading Room Entrance, 201 Napier Street, Fitzroy
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Les Johnson	5 Moores Road, Monbulk
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Fiona Werner	Yarriambiack Shire Council Offices, 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

Appendix 4: Details of information sessions for candidates

Municipality	Address	Date	Time
Alpine Shire Council	Council Chambers, Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Ararat Rural City Council	Council Chambers, Corner of Vincent and High Streets, Ararat	Monday, 17 September 2012	6.00 pm
Ballarat City Council	Trench Room, Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.30 pm
Banyule City Council	Council Chambers, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Bass Coast Shire Council	Council Chambers, Bass Coast Shire Council Civic Centre, Wonthaggi	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Cowes Cultural Centre, Meeting Room 1, Thompson Avenue, Cowes	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Baw Baw Shire Council	Council Chambers, Civic Place, Warragul	Thursday, 13 September 2012	6.00 pm
Bayside City Council	Bayside Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	3.00 pm
	Bayside Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.00 pm
Benalla Rural City Council	Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre, Samaria Road, Benalla	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Boroondara City Council	Boroondara Room, Council Offices, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Borough of Queenscliffe Council	Town Hall, 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.00 pm
Buloke Shire Council	District Office, 65 Horace Street, Sea Lake	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.30 pm
	District Office, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.30 pm
Campaspe Shire Council	Function Room, 35 Heygarth Street, Echuca	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Cardinia Shire Council	Council Chambers, Shire Offices, Henty Way, Pakenham	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Casey City Council	Council Chambers, Magid Drive, Narre Warren	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	2.30 pm
	Council Chambers, Magid Drive, Narre Warren	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.30 pm
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Community Hub, Shire Offices, 12-22 Nolan Street, Maryborough	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.30 pm
Colac Otway Shire Council	Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre, Gellibrand Street, Colac	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Corangamite Shire Council	Old Council Chambers, Corangamite Civic Centre, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Darebin City Council	Council Chambers, 350 High Street, Preston	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm

Municipality	Address	Date	Time
East Gippsland Shire Council	Bairnsdale Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street, Bairnsdale	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Frankston City Council	Acacia Room, Frankston Civic Centre, Corner of Young and Davey Streets, Frankston	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.30 pm
Gannawarra Shire Council	Council offices, 47 Victoria Street, Kerang	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Glen Eira City Council	Yarra Yarra Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, Corner of Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield	Wednesday, 12 September 2012	6.30 pm
Glenelg Shire Council	Reception Room, Glenelg Shire Council, 71 Cliff Street, Portland	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Golden Plains Shire Council	Rokewood Memorial Hall, Ferrars Road, Rokewood	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.30 pm
Greater Bendigo City Council	Reception Room, Town Hall, Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo	Tuesday, 21 August 2012	7.30 pm
Greater Dandenong City Council	Springvale Customer Service Centre, 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Greater Geelong City Council	Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong	Monday, 3 September 2012	6.30 pm
	Geelong City Hall, 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong	Monday, 10 September 2012	6.30 pm
Greater Shepparton City Council	Council Board Room, 90 Welsford Street, Shepparton	Monday, 17 September 2012	6.30 pm
Hepburn Shire Council	Town Hall, 76 Vincent Street, Daylesford	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Council Chamber, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Hobsons Bay City Council	Meeting Room 3, Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Drive, Altona	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Horsham Rural City Council	Reception Room, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue, Horsham	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.00 pm
Hume City Council	Council Chamber, 1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Indigo Shire Council	Chiltern Memorial Hall, 90 Conness Street, Chiltern	Monday, 17 September 2012	6.00 pm
Kingston City Council	Council Offices, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Knox City Council	Knox City Council, Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Latrobe City Council	Nambur Wariga, Corporate Headquarters, 141 Commercial Road, Morwell	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.00 pm
Loddon Shire Council	37 Peppercorn Way (parallel to Loddon Valley Highway), Serpentine	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.30 pm
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Mechanics Institute, 71 Mollison Street, Kyneton	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Manningham City Council	Council Chambers, Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster	Thursday, 13 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Council Chambers, Council Offices, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm

Municipality	Address	Date	Time
Mansfield Shire Council	Council Chambers, 33 Highett Street, Mansfield	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.30 pm
Maribyrnong City Council	Reception Room, Maribyrnong Council Offices, Corner of Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Maroondah City Council	Council Chambers, City Offices, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Melbourne City Council	Melbourne Town Hall, Administration Building, 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Melbourne Town Hall, Administration Building, 120 Swanston Street, Melbourne	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	12.30 pm
Melton City Council	Melton Community Hall, Meeting Room 4, 232 High Street, Melton	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Mildura Rural City Council	Council Committee Room, Deakin Avenue, Mildura	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Mitchell Shire Council	Council Chambers, 113 High Street, Broadford	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Moira Shire Council	Cobram Civic Centre, Punt Road, Cobram	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.30 pm
Monash City Council	Council Chambers, Monash Civic Centre, 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Moonee Valley City Council	Moonee Valley Civic Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Moorabool Shire Council	Moorabool Shire Offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Moreland City Council	Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 90 Bell Street, Coburg	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Shire Offices, 90 Besgrove Street, Rosebud	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	4.00 pm
	Shire Offices, 2 Queen Street, Mornington	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Shire Offices, 21 Marine Parade, Hastings	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	5.00 pm
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Ray Bradfield Room, Victory Park, Castlemaine	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Moyne Shire Council	Blackwood Centre, Commercial Road, Koroit	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Murrindindi Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council Service Centre, Semi Circle, Yea	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.30 pm
Nillumbik Shire Council	Council Chambers, Civic Drive, Greensborough	Monday, 17 September 2012	6.30 pm
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Council Chamber, Western Highway Office, 50-52 Longfield Street, Stawell	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.30 pm
	Committee Room, Town Hall, 40 Napier Street, St Arnaud	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.30 pm
Port Phillip City Council	1st Floor, 19-25 Raglan Street, South Melbourne	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.30 pm
Pyrenees Shire Council	Lexton Community Centre, Corner of Williamson and Goldsmith Streets, Lexton	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm

Municipality	Address	Date	Time
South Gippsland Shire Council	Council Chamber, Michael Place, Leongatha	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Martin J. Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.30 pm
Stonnington City Council	Malvern Town Hall, Corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Strathbogie Shire Council	Council Offices, 109A Binney Street, Euroa	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Surf Coast Shire Council	Lorne Fig Tree Community House, 16 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Anglesea Senior Citizens Centre, McMillan Street, Anglesea	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	5.30 pm
	Surf Coast Shire Council Offices, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.30 pm
	Winchelsea Senior Citizens Centre, Harding Street, Winchelsea	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Meeting Room 1, Town Hall, 53-57 McCallum Street, Swan Hill	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Towong Shire Council	Corryong Council Offices, 76 Hansen Street, Corryong	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
	Towong Shire Council Offices, 32 Towong Street, Tallangatta	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Wangaratta Government Centre, Council Chamber, Corner of Ovens and Ford Streets, Wangaratta	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	6.00 pm
Warrnambool City Council	Reception Room, Warrnambool Civic Centre, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Wellington Shire Council	Wellington Room, Port of Sale Civic Centre, 70 Foster Street, Sale	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	11.00 am
West Wimmera Shire Council	Civic Centre, 49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.30 pm
	Shire Offices, Baker Street, Kaniva	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.30 pm
Whitehorse City Council	Whitehorse Civic Centre, Main Service Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	7.00 pm
Whittlesea City Council	Fountain View Room, Council offices, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm
Wodonga City Council	Wodonga City Council Offices, 104 Hovell Street, Wodonga	Tuesday, 18 September 2012	6.00 pm
Wyndham City Council	Civic Centre, 45 Princes Highway, Werribee	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Yarra City Council	Meeting Room 1, Richmond Town Hall, Bridge Road, Richmond	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Council Offices, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale	Wednesday, 19 September 2012	7.00 pm
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Function Room, Shire Offices, 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal	Monday, 17 September 2012	7.00 pm

Appendix 5: VEC discussion paper: Conformity with how-to-vote cards

Under the preferential system operating in Victorian local government elections, voters have to number every square on the ballot paper. In unsubdivided councils and multi-councillor wards, there are often large numbers of candidates on the ballot paper. The nature of the preferential system encourages candidates to negotiate preference arrangements with each other, so that they can benefit from preferences flowing from elected or excluded candidates. To maximise their chances of election, candidates issue directions to voters on how to allocate their preferences. In elections conducted by post, candidates may include their advised indications of preferences, to be printed with the candidate statements included in the ballot packs that the VEC posts to every voter. In attendance elections, candidates and their supporters distribute registered how-to-vote cards to voters outside voting centres.

The VEC can provide information on the degree to which voters conform with candidates' how-to-vote instructions. For elections counted by computer, the VEC holds the preferences for each vote, which can be sorted by candidate and by conformity with how-to-vote instructions. After the 2008 local government elections, the VEC selected ten elections for study – all for multi-councillor electorates. To ensure a representative sample, the VEC selected attendance and postal elections, from inner suburban, outer suburban and regional areas, and covering a range of socio-economic variables. To achieve comparability, the VEC selected the same councils for the 2012 elections, though including all three wards in the cities of Ballarat and Whittlesea. The elections chosen were as follows:

Council and Ward	Type of election	Geographic position	Percentage speaking a language other than English at home
Ballarat – Central, North and South Wards	Postal	Provincial	5.7
Casey – Mayfield Ward	Postal	Outer suburban	32.6
East Gippsland	Postal	Rural	4.9
Glen Eira – Camden Ward	Attendance	Middle suburban	33.8
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum Ward	Attendance	Middle/outer suburban	62.2
Macedon Ranges – West Ward	Postal	Peri-urban	6.8
Maroondah – Wyreena Ward	Postal	Outer suburban	14.8
Moreland – South Ward	Attendance	Inner suburban	43.7
Stonnington – North Ward	Attendance	Inner suburban	25.7
Whittlesea – North, South East and South West Wards	Postal	Outer suburban / peri-urban	48.7

How-to-vote conformity in 2012

The following table shows the degree to which voters in the above elections complied with candidates' how-to-vote instructions:

Council	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Ballarat - Central	16,684	7,300	43.8%
Ballarat - North	19,247	8,567	44.5%
Ballarat - South	18,912	7,517	39.8%
Casey - Mayfield	19,280	8,412	43.6%
East Gippsland	27,679	11,916	43.1%
Glen Eira - Camden	18,861	7,480	39.7%
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum	13,482	3,489	25.9%
Macedon Ranges - West	8,087	3,074	38.0%
Maroondah - Wyreena	18,398	9,451	51.4%
Moreland - South	13,728*	5,466	39.8%
Stonnington - North	12,068*	4,617	38.3%
Whittlesea - North	20,749	9,732	46.9%
Whittlesea - South East	30,617*	15,036	49.1%
Whittlesea - South West	27,683*	11,588	41.9%
TOTAL	265,475	114,583	42.8%

* Total votes for candidates indicating preferences

Somewhat fewer than half of the voters surveyed followed their first chosen candidates' directions. Those directions clearly had a strong influence on the results of the elections, but over half the voters made up their own minds on the allocation of preferences. How-to-vote conformity ranged from 25.9% in Greater Dandenong to 51.4% in Maroondah, with eight of the 14 elections having a conformity rate in the 40s.

To what extent did factors such as the type of election and the nature of the area affect voters' responses? The following table compares how-to-vote conformity in postal elections with that in attendance elections. Substantially more voters in postal elections followed how-to-vote instructions. The explanation probably relates to the nature of the elections. In postal elections, all voters receive candidates' preference indications (where submitted), and have plenty of time to peruse them. By contrast, candidates in attendance elections are not necessarily able to distribute their how-to-cards to all voters.

Election type	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Attendance	58,139	21,052	36.2%
Postal	207,336	92,593	44.7%

Nine of the elections examined were in the Melbourne metropolitan area, and five were in regional areas. Regional councils tend to have a lower informal voting rate than metropolitan ones, and it might be conjectured that regional voters would also show a greater tendency to

follow how-to-vote instructions. However, the table below shows that there was no real difference between metropolitan and rural elections.

Area	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Metropolitan	174,866	75,271	43.0%
Regional	90,609	38,374	42.4%

Councils with high proportions of residents speaking a language other than English (LOTE) tend to have higher informal voting rates than councils with low proportions of LOTE speakers. Does this also apply to how-to-vote conformity? The table below shows no real difference: voters in local government areas with few LOTE speakers were no more likely to follow how-to-vote directions than voters in areas where LOTE speakers were concentrated.

LOTE speakers	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
> 40% of residents	106,259	45,311	42.6%
< 10% of residents	90,609	38,374	42.4%

The elections examined mostly had large numbers of candidates. The informal voting rate tends to increase with the number of candidates, and it might be expected that voters' ability to follow how-to-vote instructions would decline as the number of candidates increases. The following table shows the number of number of candidates for each election and the percentage compliance with how-to-vote instructions. When these two variables were compared, there was a fairly weak positive correlation coefficient of .4089 – which means that the more candidates there were, the more likely voters were to follow how-to-vote instructions. Possibly a large field of candidates is so intimidating to some voters that they turn to how-to-vote instructions as a guide.

Council/Ward	Number of candidates	Percentage of ballot papers following HTV instructions
Ballarat - Central	8	43.8%
Ballarat - North	6	44.55
Ballarat - South	8	39.7%
Casey - Mayfield	14	43.6%
East Gippsland	17	43.1%
Glen Eira - Camden	11	39.7%
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum	11	25.9%
Macedon Ranges - West	6	38%
Maroondah - Wyreena	14	51.4%
Moreland - South	8	39.8%
Stonnington - North	15	38.3%
Whittlesea - North	11	46.9
Whittlesea - South East	22	49.1%
Whittlesea - South West	15	43.2%

It is also possible to examine how voters for individual candidates behaved. Compliance with candidates' how-to-vote instructions ranged from none at all (for Peter Cooke in Stonnington, who probably did not distribute any how-to-vote cards) to 57% (for Les Willmott in Maroondah). In Stonnington, a non-candidate, Ms Annabel Clayton, registered a how-to-vote card giving a first preference to Jami Klisaris, but only 33 voters followed her advised order of preferences. Political parties were active in some of the elections, and members of parties stood as candidates, but as the LG Act does not recognise political parties, the VEC has no information to identify party candidates. However, it is possible to identify incumbent councillors, winning candidates and candidates who did not receive a refund of their deposit because they obtained less than 4% of the vote. A reasonable hypothesis is that incumbent councillors would have achieved some recognition during their term and that voters would be more likely to follow their how-to-vote instructions. The same could apply to winning candidates, who by definition had popular support. The following table shows how-to-vote conformity by council for different categories of candidate.

Council	Percentage of ballot papers following HTV instructions			
	Incumbent councillors	Winning candidates	Non-deposit candidates	All candidates
Ballarat - Central	43.8%	47.1%	34.8%	43.8%
Ballarat - North	45.5%	46.5%		44.5%
Ballarat - South	42.5%	42.3%	28.3%	39.7%
Casey - Mayfield	51%	48.8%	32.2%	43.6%
East Gippsland	44.2%	43.9%	40.9%	43.1%
Glen Eira - Camden	38.8%	44.1%	20.5%	39.7%
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum	31.5%	31.2%	2.8%	25.9%
Macedon Ranges - West	37.5%	39.3%		38%
Maroondah - Wyreena	54.5%	53.9%	45%	51.4%
Moreland - South	50.3%	42.2%		39.8%
Stonnington - North	32%	36.3%	27.5%	38.3%
Whittlesea - North	55%	52.2%	34.6%	46.9%
Whittlesea - South East	57.7%	57%	38.8%	49.1%
Whittlesea - South West	49.4%	46.5%	34.7%	41.9%
TOTAL	46.9%	46.2%	36.5%	42.8%

The results confirm that voters for incumbent councillors and winning candidates were more inclined than average to follow how-to-vote instructions, and voters for minor candidates were much less inclined to follow instructions. These tendencies were particularly strong in the attendance elections, probably because councillors, winning candidates and their helpers were able to hand out how-to-vote cards to voters entering voting centres, while many of the minor candidates did not do so consistently.

Comparison with 2008

The table below shows the changes in how-to-vote conformity between the 2008 and 2012 elections.

Council/Ward	Conforming votes 2008 (%)	Conforming votes 2012 (%)	Percentage point change
Ballarat - Central	43	44	+1
Casey - Mayfield	42	44	+2
East Gippsland	45	43	-2
Glen Eira - Camden	43	40	-3
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum	35	26	-9
Macedon Ranges - West	46	38	-8
Maroondah - Wyreena	55	51	-4
Moreland - South	42	40	-2
Stonnington - North	50	38	-12
Whittlesea – East/South East	49	49	-
TOTAL	45	43	-2

Overall, and in most councils, there was very little change from 2008 to 2012. The rate of how-to-vote conformity declined more in attendance elections, at an average rate of 4.7 percentage points compare to 1.8 percentage points in postal elections. In Stonnington City Council, which switched from a postal election in 2008 to attendance in 2012, the rate of how-to-vote conformity declined by 12 percentage points, from 50% to 38%. It appears that how-to-vote cards in attendance elections are increasingly ineffective in directing voters, while there is little variation in the efficacy of the candidates' directions in the ballot packs posted to all voters in postal elections.

Donkey votes

A donkey vote is a vote cast by a voter who numbers the squares down the ballot paper, without caring about the nature of the candidates on offer. Candidates are pleased if they get the top spot on the ballot paper when the draw for positions takes place, because they will have the advantage of the donkey vote. The size of the donkey vote has been a matter for discussion.

It is possible to measure the donkey vote for these elections. None of the lead candidates for each election advised a vote straight down the ballot paper. Although it is necessary to allow for random variation, its effects were very small in these elections. The number of possible combinations increases exponentially with the number of candidates; with six candidates, there are 720 possible orders of preferences; with eight candidates, there are 40,320 possible combinations; and with 11 candidates, there are 39,916,800 combinations. In the table below, the proportion of the donkey vote attributable to random variation has been subtracted for the election with six candidates (Ballarat's North Ward).

Council/Ward	Donkey votes	Percentage of total votes
Ballarat - Central	220	1.32%
Ballarat - North	359	1.73%*
Ballarat - South	279	1.48%
Casey - Mayfield	415	2.15%
East Gippsland	222	0.80%
Glen Eira - Camden	185	0.98%

Council/Ward	Donkey votes	Percentage of total votes
Greater Dandenong - Red Gum	207	1.54%
Macedon Ranges - West	134	1.66%
Maroondah - Wyreena	252	1.37%
Moreland - South	335	2.19%
Stonnington - North	476	3.84%
Whittlesea - North	239	1.15%
Whittlesea - South East	400	1.28%
Whittlesea - South West	411	1.44%
Total	4,134	1.54%

* Amount attributable to random variation (0.14%) subtracted

Across all the elections examined, donkey votes comprised 1.54% of all first preference votes, and the median rate for the elections was 1.46%. This is a remarkably low rate considering that political parties are not indicated on the ballot papers and that there were frequent complaints concerning lack of information about candidates.

There was no apparent relationship between the number of candidates and the donkey vote, with a correlation between them of -.0229. The rate of donkey voting was slightly higher in attendance elections (2% of the total) than in postal elections (1.4%). It was also higher than average (1.85%) in the six elections where the lead candidate was successful. In each case, the winning candidate's margin over the next candidate was substantially greater than the number of donkey votes they received. It may be that, rather than donkey votes helping these candidates over the line, these candidates attracted some of the donkey votes to them. Some of the donkey voters may have recognised these candidates and voted for them, though without bothering to follow their preference directions.

It is also possible to measure "reverse donkey" votes, where voters numbered up the ballot paper instead of down it. As the following table shows, the number of reverse donkey votes was insignificant in every council except Moreland.

Council/Ward	Reverse donkey votes	Percentage of total votes
Ballarat - Central	34	0.2%
Casey - Mayfield	32	0.17%
East Gippsland	34	0.12%
Glen Eira - Camden	112	0.59%
Macedon Ranges - West	27	0.33%
Moreland - South	193	1.26%
Stonnington - North	64	0.52%
Whittlesea - North	40	0.19%
Whittlesea - South East	99	0.32%
Whittlesea - South West	83	0.29%
Total	718	0.36%

Appendix 6: Sample ballot pack

VOTING IS SECRET

Have you enclosed your completed ballot paper in this envelope?
Do not enclose any other person's ballot paper.
Do not remove the envelope flap.

SEAL HERE **SEAL HERE**

PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPLETED BALLOT PAPER IN THIS ENVELOPE

Voting Instructions

IMPORTANT—You must sign and date the declaration.

DECLARATION BY VOTER— Voters unable to sign, refer to notes on the front of this envelope.

I am the voter named on this envelope.
I have enclosed my completed ballot paper in this envelope.
I have not already voted in this Council election.

HAVE YOUR DETAILS CHANGED?
If any address details are incorrect, clearly mark the changes, tick the box and the VEC will send the appropriate forms for you to update your enrolment.

NOTES

1. Detach and complete your ballot paper.
2. Put your ballot paper in this envelope and seal the envelope.
3. Sign and date the flap on the envelope. An election official will remove the flap before opening the envelope to ensure the secrecy of your vote.
4. Place the envelope in the reply paid envelope, seal and post it straight away.

• Date of birth information may be provided to Council to maintain accuracy of Council rolls.
• Details of birth information may be provided to Council to maintain accuracy of Council rolls.
• Any voter unable to vote without assistance may authorize a person to sign on their behalf. The authorized person must ensure their name is clearly written beneath their signature along with the words "authorized signatory".

FOR ENQUIRIES IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH call our free 24-hour service:

- Arabic 0800 0760 0760
- Chinese (Mandarin) 0800 0760 0760
- Chinese (Cantonese) 0800 0760 0760
- Hindi 0800 0760 0760
- Indonesian 0800 0760 0760
- Italian 0800 0760 0760
- Japanese 0800 0760 0760
- Korean 0800 0760 0760
- Malayalam 0800 0760 0760
- Marathi 0800 0760 0760
- Nepali 0800 0760 0760
- Persian 0800 0760 0760
- Punjabi 0800 0760 0760
- Russian 0800 0760 0760
- Spanish 0800 0760 0760
- Tamil 0800 0760 0760
- Telugu 0800 0760 0760
- Vietnamese 0800 0760 0760
- All other languages 0800 0760 0760

DO NOT REMOVE THIS FLAP – IT IS REMOVED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS BEFORE OPENING

BALLOT PAPER
(Please detach before completing)

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.

QUICK, Ian

Indication of Preferences
 1 QUICK, Ian
 2 KREUTZ, Heinz

KREUTZ, Heinz

Indication of Preferences
 1 QUICK, Ian
 2 KREUTZ, Heinz

Rates, planning, representing residents, these will be my highest priorities if elected. Our residential rates are the highest in Melbourne, but the council is still growing and spending yet more of our money. I have over 25 years experience in the field of industrial planning and will use my expertise to remain in the suburb of both our costs and rates. I am the past President of Save Our Suburbs with a long history of standing up for residents on planning issues. I'll get Council moving to protect the amenity of residents. I've also been engaged with many different aspects of community service, from committees on parking, planning, liquor licensing through to my current role on the Royal Children's Hospital Board. For a better council, I am seeking your supporting vote. I live in Lyndon ward with my family, please contact me with any queries. Ian.quick@borooindara.com (my website) or 0468338791.

I am independent and not endorsed by any party. As Borooindara Mayor and Lyndon Ward Councillor, I have followed the principle 'community first, politics second'. My philosophy is based on a strong sense of being responsible to my community. I can't just live for my own enjoyment, but feel an obligation to do what I can to make our community a better place to live in. I am known for integrity, accessibility, experience and producing results. Under my stewardship, Council has kept rates low, vastly improved local planning (developed a Neighbourhood Character Study and been given mandatory height controls), won several important environmental awards, including Victoria's Most Sustainable City Award, significantly improved waste management and recycling, upgraded our parks and sporting grounds, improved youth and aged care service delivery. It's been a privilege to represent you and I ask you to trust me again. Vote 1 Heinz Kreutz

Ballot Paper
Boroondara City Council
Lynden Ward
Election of 1 Councillor

Number the boxes 1 to 2 in the order of your choice.

Number every box to make your vote count. You must not use any number more than once.

QUICK, Ian
 KREUTZ, Heinz

Victorian Electoral Commission

BOROONDARA
City of Harmony

Delivery Address:
PO Box 2500
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

No stamp required if posted in Australia

Returning Officer
Boroondara Election Office
Lynden Ward
Reply Paid 87986
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

Appendix 7: Sample EasyVote letter

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO
Locked Bag 7777 GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088



Your community your opportunity

2012
Council Elections

OFFICIAL ELECTION MATERIAL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



You are enrolled in
BAKEWELL WARD
for the Banyule City Council elections
on Saturday, 27 October 2012

This is your EasyVote letter.
Take it with you when you vote to
make voting easier.

TO MAKE VOTING EASIER PLEASE SHOW THIS LETTER WHEN YOU VOTE

Council Elections 2012 Victoria
Banyule City Council elections
Election day is Saturday, 27 October 2012

Do I have to vote?
You have been sent this information because you are on the voters roll for the Banyule City Council elections.
Voting is **compulsory** for voters who were on the State roll for this election at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.
You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

VOTING IS COMPULSORY FOR VOTERS ON THE STATE ROLL FOR THIS ELECTION

Voting on election day
8.00 am to 6.00 pm on
Saturday, 27 October 2012

1. Greensborough College - Nell Street Campus, 155 Nell Street, Greensborough (AWA)
2. Greensborough Primary School, 130 Grimshaw Street, Greensborough (NWA)
3. Streeton Primary School, 209 Yallambie Road, Yallambie (AWA)

FWA = Full wheelchair access
AWA = Assisted wheelchair access
NWA = No wheelchair access

Voting before election day
In person
Early voting is now available at:

- 9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough (AWA)
- Customer Service Centre, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe (FWA)
- Customer Service Centre, 44-52 Turham Road, Rosanna (FWA)

Open: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday
9.00 am to 8.00 pm on Thursday, 25 October
9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October
9.00 am to 12 noon on Saturday, 20 October
(9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough only).

By post
Download a postal vote application from vec.vic.gov.au or call (03) 9435 6580. Complete and return the application immediately so that your ballot paper can be mailed to you. Your completed postal vote must be in the hands of the Returning Officer before 6.00 pm on election day.

You are enrolled in
BAKEWELL WARD

YOU CAN VOTE WITHOUT YOUR EASYVOTE LETTER BUT IT MAY TAKE LONGER

How do I vote?

1. Read the directions on your ballot paper.
2. Number the boxes 1 to 9 in the order of your choice.
3. Number every box to make your vote count. You must not use any number more than once.

Candidates
The candidates, in ballot paper order, are:

WALDRON, Carole
HORTON, Peter
DI PASQUALE, Mark
PRATTEN, Richard
CASSARINO, Mark
MACNEIL, Sandra
POUND, David
MCCOLL, Karen-Joy
BUTTERFIELD, Noel

One candidate will be elected to represent Bakewell Ward.
Candidate contact details are available at vec.vic.gov.au/BanyuleElection.html

Need more information?
Call (03) 9435 6580 or visit vec.vic.gov.au/BanyuleElection.html

For enquiries in languages other than English call our Interpreting service:

- Arabic 9209 0190
- Amharic 9209 0190
- Bosnian 9209 0191
- Bosnian 9209 0191
- Cantonese 9209 0101
- Chinese (Cantonese) 9209 0101
- Croatian 9209 0192
- Dari 9209 0193
- Dinka 9209 0119
- Greek 9209 0103
- Italian 9209 0104
- Italian 9209 0104
- Korean 9209 0196
- Macedonian 9209 0105
- Macedonian 9209 0105
- Chinese (Mandarin) 9209 0105
- Persian 9209 0195
- Russian 9209 0107
- Serbian 9209 0108
- Somali 9209 0108
- Spanish 9209 0109
- Spanish 9209 0109
- Turkish 9209 0110
- Vietnamese 9209 0111
- Vietnamese 9209 0111
- All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**
This election is being conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of Banyule City Council.

Banyule City Council

Appendix 8: Sample State-wide advertising

Enrol

2012 Local Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity



Local council elections will be held this October for every council in Victoria (except Brimbank City Council).

To vote at your local council election, you need to be correctly enrolled by **4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August**.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday, 27 October 2012; **and**
- you are not on the State electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present residential address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

Updating or enrolling online

To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to update your enrolment with no need for paper forms.

If you are enrolling for the first time, or you have changed your name, or you don't have a driver licence, you can pre-complete your form online at vec.vic.gov.au

You will then need to print it out, sign it and have it witnessed prior to returning it.

For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling using a paper form

If you would prefer to enrol or update your details on a paper form, you can collect an enrolment form from any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office.

 facebook.com/electionsvic  @electionsvic

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• ገጽገጽ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari

• Динка 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian

• Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese

• All other non-English languages 9209 0112

1300 805 478 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Braille and large print ballot papers

2012 Local Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity



Options for blind and low vision voters

Local council elections will be held this October for every council in Victoria (except Brimbank City Council).

Braille and large print ballot papers will be available for voters who would prefer to vote this way - however registration is required.

If you know of someone who would prefer to vote using braille or large print ballot papers, please ask them to register for this service by calling (03) 8620 1114.

All registrations must be received by **Tuesday, 18 September 2012**.

Only voters who register for this service will be able to receive braille or large print ballot papers.

If you have previously registered to receive large print or braille ballot papers for elections, please contact us to ensure that your details are up to date.

vec.vic.gov.au

 facebook.com/electionsvic  @electionsvic

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Update your address

2012 Local Council Elections **Have you changed your address?**



78 local council elections are happening this October*

If you have recently moved, you must update your enrolment so that you can vote at your new address.

You should also update your postal address if this is different from where you are enrolled — this includes changes to your post office box if you have one.

Ballot packs and voter information will be mailed in October.

To check if you provided a postal address when you last enrolled, call 1300 805 478 or check your State enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au

Postal addresses are important

Updating or enrolling online

To update your address, just visit vec.vic.gov.au and use the online application to update your enrolment with no need for paper forms.

If you are enrolling for the first time, or you have changed your name, or you don't have a driver licence, you can pre-complete your form online at vec.vic.gov.au. You will then need to print it out, sign it and have it witnessed prior to returning it.

For more information please visit vec.vic.gov.au or call 1300 805 478.

Updating or enrolling using a paper form

If you would prefer to enrol or update your details on a paper form, you can collect an enrolment form from any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office.

Council entitled voters


If you're not eligible to be on the State roll, you may still be entitled to vote. Check with the council.

Completed enrolment forms must be received by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

 [facebook.com/electionsvic](https://www.facebook.com/electionsvic)  [@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic)

* Brimbank City Council is not having an election in 2012.

1300 805 478 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

2012 Local Council Elections Your Community Your Opportunity



Local council elections are now on



Local council elections are being held in 78 councils throughout Victoria this month

Depending on where you are enrolled to vote, you should receive your ballot pack or EasyVote letter in the mail in the next few days.

Ballot packs are being sent to everyone on the voters roll in councils that are having postal elections and EasyVote letters are being sent to everyone on the voters roll in councils that are having attendance elections (unless you have registered as a general postal voter).

Some councils have one or more wards that are uncontested. There will be no voting in these wards and everyone on the voters roll will receive an uncontested leaflet instead of an EasyVote letter or ballot pack.

As Ararat Rural City Council is entirely uncontested there will be no voting for that council and the names of the candidates who will be elected will be advertised. Brimbank City Council is not having an election in 2012.

Voting in a postal election

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked P for 'postal elections' this week.

These ballot packs contain your ballot paper(s), voting instructions, a statement from each candidate and envelopes to return your vote(s).

For your vote to count, your completed ballot paper(s) must be in the hands of the Returning Officer for your local council election by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012**.

Voting in an attendance election

EasyVote letters will be mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked A for 'attendance voting' this week.

This letter includes a list of the candidates and voting centre locations in your ward, as well as information about early and postal voting alternatives.

Voting centres for these councils will be open between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm on **Saturday, 27 October 2012** at locations throughout your municipality.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election on **Friday, 31 August 2012**.

Enrolled voters may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the council in which you are entitled to vote*; or
- you applied to council to be on the roll*.

* If you are on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council you **MUST** vote - even if you do not live in the City of Melbourne.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

Special notice for Melbourne City Council and Greater Geelong City Council voters

Voting for Melbourne City Council also includes the direct election of a Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

Voting for Greater Geelong City Council also includes the direct election of a Mayor.

Visit the councils' pages on vec.vic.gov.au for more information about how to correctly complete your ballot papers for these elections.

facebook.com/electionsvic @electionsvic

Questions? Contact your election office:

Alpine Shire Council	P	(03) 5722 1212	Hobsons Bay City Council	P	(03) 9315 0005	Borough of Queenscliffe	P	(03) 5264 7430
Ararat Rural City Council	N/U	-	Horsham Rural City Council	P	(03) 5382 3770	South Gippsland Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5662 2218
Ballarat City Council	P	(03) 5331 1812	Hume City Council	P	(03) 9302 1036	Southern Grampians Shire Council	P	(03) 5572 4101
Banyule City Council	A/U	(03) 9435 6580	Indigo Shire Council	P	(02) 6024 7296	Stonnington City Council	A	(03) 9804 3105
Bass Coast Shire Council	P	(03) 5662 2218	Kingston City Council	P	(03) 9583 6224	Strathbogie Shire Council	P	(03) 5762 7173
Baw Baw Shire Council	P	(03) 5622 0557	Knox City Council	A/U	(03) 9752 2205	Surf Coast Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5264 7430
Bayside City Council	P	(03) 5953 1125	Latrobe City Council	P	(03) 5133 3247	Swan Hill Rural City Council	P	(03) 5032 1411
Benalla Rural City Council	P	(03) 5762 7173	Loddon Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5443 6220	Towong Shire Council	P	(02) 6024 7296
Boroondara City Council	P	(03) 9804 0028	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	P	(03) 5422 2934	Wangaratta Rural City Council	P	(03) 5722 1212
Brimbank City Council	N	-	Manningham City Council	P	(03) 9840 2390	Warrambrook City Council	P	(03) 5561 0861
Buloke Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5032 1411	Mansfield Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5762 7173	Wellington Shire Council	P	(03) 5152 5526
Campanse Shire Council	P	(03) 5480 9116	Maribyrnong City Council	P	(03) 9687 4013	West Wimmera Shire Council	P	(03) 5382 3770
Cardinia Shire Council	P	(03) 5940 4867	Maroondah City Council	P	(03) 9847 0005	Whitehorse City Council	P	(03) 9894 0053
Casey City Council	P	(03) 5995 4309	Melbourne City Council	P	(03) 9654 4717	Whittlesea City Council	P	(03) 8405 3987
Central Goldfields Shire Council	P	(03) 5460 4131	Melton City Council	P	(03) 8746 5993	Wodonga City Council	P	(02) 6024 7296
Colac Otway Shire Council	P	(03) 5231 1308	Mildura Rural City Council	P	(03) 5022 1145	Wyndham City Council	P	(03) 8742 6091
Corangamite Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5231 1308	Mitchell Shire Council	P	(03) 5784 1003	Yarra City Council	A	(03) 9417 0550
Darbin City Council	P	(03) 9416 7019	Moira Shire Council	P	(03) 5871 2125	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	P	(03) 9756 6052
East Gippsland Shire Council	P	(03) 5152 5526	Monash City Council	P	(03) 9563 0083	Yarriambiack Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5382 3770
Frankston City Council	P	(03) 9783 3556	Moonee Valley City Council	P	(03) 9334 2118			
Gannawarra Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5032 1411	Moorabool Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5331 1812	P Postal:	Ballot material will be mailed to you.	
Glen Eira City Council	A	(03) 9563 5013	Moreland City Council	A	(03) 9350 1208	A Attendance:	Voting will be in person at a voting centre.	
Glenelg Shire Council	P	(03) 5572 4101	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	P	(03) 5981 1339	U Uncontested:	One or more wards within the council are uncontested. There will be no voting in uncontested wards.	
Golden Plains Shire Council	P	(03) 5264 7430	Mount Alexander Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5460 4131	N No voting:	There will be no voting in these councils in 2012.	
Greater Bendigo City Council	P	(03) 5443 6220	Moyness Shire Council	P	(03) 5561 0861			
Greater Dandenong City Council	A	(03) 9791 7170	Murrindindi Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5784 1003			
Greater Geelong City Council	P	(03) 5223 1145	Nillumbik Shire Council	P	(03) 9432 0063			
Greater Shepparton City Council	P	(03) 5822 0203	Northern Grampians Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5358 2941			
Hepburn Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5331 1812	Port Phillip City Council	A	(03) 9686 1775			
Hindmarsh Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5382 3770	Pyrenees Shire Council	P	(03) 5331 1812			

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- **Arabic** 9209 0190
- **Ambharic** 9209 0100
- **Arabic** 9209 0100
- **Bosanski** 9209 0191
- **Bosnian** 9209 0192
- **Cambodian** 9209 0101
- **Chinese (Cantonese)** 9209 0102
- **Croatian** 9209 0193
- **Dari** 9209 0193
- **Dinka** 9209 0119
- **Dinka** 9209 0103
- **Greek** 9209 0104
- **Italian** 9209 0104
- **Italian** 9209 0104
- **Korean** 9209 0194
- **Macedonian** 9209 0106
- **Macedonian** 9209 0106
- **Chinese (Mandarin)** 9209 0106
- **Persian** 9209 0195
- **Persian** 9209 0195
- **Russian** 9209 0108
- **Russian** 9209 0107
- **Serbian** 9209 0108
- **Serbian** 9209 0108
- **Somali** 9209 0108
- **Somali** 9209 0108
- **Spanish** 9209 0110
- **Spanish** 9209 0110
- **Turkish** 9209 0110
- **Turkish** 9209 0110
- **Vietnamese** 9209 0111
- **Vietnamese** 9209 0111

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

2012 Local Council Elections Your Community Your Opportunity



Local council elections are now on

Local council elections are being held in 78 councils throughout Victoria this month

Depending on where you are enrolled to vote, you should have either received your ballot pack in the mail, or you may be required to vote in person on Saturday, 27 October 2012.

Some councils have one or more wards that are uncontested. There will be no voting in these wards and everyone on the voters roll has been sent an uncontested leaflet instead of an *EasyVote* letter or ballot pack.

Voting in postal elections

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed from 9 October 2012 to voters enrolled for councils having postal elections.

If you have not received your ballot pack, call the election office for your local council during business hours (Monday to Friday).

For your vote to count, your completed ballot paper(s) must be in the hands of the Returning Officer for your local council election by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012**.

Voting in attendance elections

Some councils in metropolitan Melbourne will be having attendance elections. If you are on the voters roll for these councils you should have received an *EasyVote* letter, which lists the candidates and details your voting options.

Voting for these councils will take place from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on **Saturday, 27 October 2012**.

Who are you voting for?

You are voting to elect councillors who will represent you on your local council. The councillors you elect will serve until the next local council elections in October 2016.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

ገጽገጽ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • ភាសាខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari
Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled voters may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the council in which you are entitled to vote^a; or
- you applied to council to be on the roll^a.

^a If you are on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council you **MUST** vote - even if you do not live in the City of Melbourne.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Special notice for Melbourne City Council and Greater Geelong City Council voters

Voting for Melbourne City Council also includes the direct election of a Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

Voting for Greater Geelong City Council also includes the direct election of a Mayor.

Visit the councils' pages on vec.vic.gov.au for more information about how to correctly complete your ballot papers for these elections.

Questions? Contact your election office:

Benalla Rural City Council	(03) 5762 7173
Campaspe Shire Council	(03) 5480 9116
Greater Shepparton City Council	(03) 5822 0203
Moira Shire Council	(03) 5871 2125
Strathbogie Shire Council	(03) 5762 7173

For all other councils or more information, please visit vec.vic.gov.au



[facebook.com/electionsvic](https://www.facebook.com/electionsvic)



[@electionsvic](https://twitter.com/electionsvic)

vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission

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2012 Local Council Elections Your Community Your Opportunity



Local council elections are now on



Local council elections are being held in 78 councils throughout Victoria this month

Depending on where you are enrolled to vote, you should have already received your ballot pack or EasyVote letter in the mail.

Ballot packs were sent to everyone on the voters roll in councils that are having postal elections and EasyVote letters were sent to everyone on the voters roll in councils that are having attendance elections (unless you are registered as a general postal voter).

Some councils have one or more wards that are uncontested. There will be no voting in these wards and everyone on the voters roll has been sent an uncontested leaflet instead of an EasyVote letter or ballot pack.

As Ararat Rural City Council is entirely uncontested there is no voting for that council. The names of the candidates who will be elected are listed at vec.vic.gov.au
Brimbank City Council is not having an election in 2012.

Voting in a postal election

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked P for 'postal elections' from 9 October 2012.

If you have not received your ballot pack, call the election office for your local council during business hours (Monday to Friday).

For your vote to count, your completed ballot paper(s) must be in the hands of the Returning Officer for your local council election by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012**.

Voting in an attendance election

EasyVote letters were mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked A for 'attendance voting' from 12 October 2012. Voting for these councils will take place from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on **Saturday, 27 October 2012**.

A list of candidates, voting centre locations and information about early and postal voting alternatives are on your EasyVote letter and at vec.vic.gov.au

Who are you voting for?

You are voting to elect councillors who will represent you on your local council. The councillors you elect will serve until the next local council elections in October 2016.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled voters may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants. You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the council in which you are entitled to vote⁴; or
- you applied to council to be on the roll⁴.

⁴ If you are on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council you **MUST** vote - even if you do not live in the City of Melbourne.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

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Voting for Greater Geelong City Council also includes the direct election of a Mayor.

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facebook.com/electionsvic @electionsvic

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Ararat Rural City Council	N/U	-	Horsham Rural City Council	P	(03) 5382 3770	South Gippsland Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5662 2218
Ballarat City Council	P	(03) 5331 1812	Hume City Council	P	(03) 9302 1036	Southern Grampians Shire Council	P	(03) 5572 4101
Banyule City Council	A/U	(03) 9435 6580	Indigo Shire Council	P	(02) 6024 7296	Stonnington City Council	A	(03) 9804 3105
Bass Coast Shire Council	P	(03) 5662 2218	Kingston City Council	P	(03) 9583 6224	Strathbogie Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5762 7173
Baw Baw Shire Council	P	(03) 5622 0557	Knox City Council	A/U	(03) 9752 2205	Surf Coast Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5264 7430
Bayside City Council	P	(03) 9583 1125	Latrobe City Council	P	(03) 5133 3247	Swan Hill Rural City Council	P	(03) 5032 1411
Benalla Rural City Council	P	(03) 5762 7173	Loddon Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5443 6220	Towong Shire Council	P	(02) 6024 7296
Boroondara City Council	P	(03) 9804 0028	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	P	(03) 5422 2934	Wangaratta Rural City Council	P	(03) 5722 1212
Brimbank City Council	N	-	Manningham City Council	P	(03) 9840 2390	Warrambrook City Council	P	(03) 5561 0861
Buloke Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5032 1411	Mansfield Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5762 7173	Wellington Shire Council	P	(03) 5152 5526
Campaspe Shire Council	P	(03) 5480 9116	Maribyrnong City Council	P	(03) 9687 4013	West Wimmera Shire Council	P	(03) 5382 3770
Cardinia Shire Council	P	(03) 5940 4867	Maroondah City Council	P	(03) 9847 0005	Whitehorse City Council	P	(03) 9894 0053
Casey City Council	P	(03) 5995 4309	Melbourne City Council	P	(03) 9654 4717	Whittlesea City Council	P	(03) 8405 3987
Central Goldfields Shire Council	P	(03) 5460 4131	Melton City Council	P	(03) 8746 5993	Wodonga City Council	P	(02) 6024 7296
Colac Otway Shire Council	P	(03) 5231 1308	Mildura Rural City Council	P	(03) 5022 1145	Wyndham City Council	P	(03) 8742 6091
Corangamite Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5231 1308	Mitchell Shire Council	P	(03) 5784 1003	Yarra City Council	A	(03) 9417 0550
Darbin City Council	P	(03) 9416 7019	Moira Shire Council	P	(03) 5871 2125	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	P	(03) 9756 6052
East Gippsland Shire Council	P	(03) 5152 5526	Monash City Council	P	(03) 9563 0083	Yarriambiack Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5382 3770
Frankston City Council	P	(03) 9783 3556	Moonee Valley City Council	P	(03) 9334 2118			
Gannawarra Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5032 1411	Moorabool Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5331 1812	P Postal:	Ballot material has been mailed to you.	
Glen Eira City Council	A	(03) 9563 5013	Moreland City Council	A	(03) 9350 1208	A Attendance:	Voting will be in person at a voting centre.	
Glenelg Shire Council	P	(03) 5572 4101	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	P	(03) 5981 1339	U Uncontested:	One or more wards within the council are uncontested. There is no voting in uncontested wards.	
Golden Plains Shire Council	P	(03) 5264 7430	Mount Alexander Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5460 4131	N No voting:	There will be no voting in these councils in 2012.	
Greater Bendigo City Council	P	(03) 5443 6220	Moyness Shire Council	P	(03) 5561 0861		For more information, please visit vec.vic.gov.au	
Greater Dandenong City Council	A	(03) 9791 7170	Murrindindi Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5784 1003			
Greater Geelong City Council	P	(03) 5223 1145	Nilumbik Shire Council	P	(03) 9432 0063			
Greater Shepparton City Council	P	(03) 5822 0203	Northern Grampians Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5358 2941			
Hepburn Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5331 1812	Port Phillip City Council	A	(03) 9686 1775			
Hindmarsh Shire Council	P/U	(03) 5382 3770	Pyrenees Shire Council	P	(03) 5331 1812			


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 • ግዕዝ 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0181 Bosnian • ភ្នំ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
 • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
 • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Appendix 9: Sample Council-specific advertising

Notice of entitlement (statutory)

Alpine Shire Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity



ALPINE SHIRE

Are you enrolled to vote?

You must be on the voters roll by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012 to be eligible to vote in October's local council elections.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday, 27 October 2012; **AND**
- you live in Alpine Shire and you are on the State electoral roll for your present address; or
- you own property in Alpine Shire, don't live in the municipality, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records*; or
- you enrolled through Council for this October's elections.

*If you own more than one property in the municipality, you may specify to Council the property for which you wish to claim entitlement by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday, 27 October 2012; **AND**
- you are not on the State electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present residential address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do you enrol?

Download an enrolment form from vec.vic.gov.au, or pick one up at any post office, Centrelink or Australian Electoral Commission office, and return it to the Victorian Electoral Commission by 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in Alpine Shire ; or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in Alpine Shire and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality, e.g. you are a shop tenant and are either named on the Council's rates records to receive the rates notice or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place; or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in Alpine Shire and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality.

If you meet the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Alpine Shire Council on (03) 5755 0555 for a special enrolment form.

Checking your enrolment

You can check your enrolment details during business hours from Monday, 27 August to 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012, at the following locations:

- Central Reservations Office
6 Big Muster Drive, Dinner Plain
- Council Offices,
Great Alpine Road, Bright
- Mount Beauty Library
Lakeside Avenue, Mount Beauty
- Myrtleford Library
O'Donnell Avenue, Myrtleford


You can object to errors in the roll until 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012 by writing to:

Paul Strickland
Registrar for the Voters Rolls
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

The roll for council elections closes at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• ገጽገጽ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
• Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
• 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
• Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
• Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

1300 805 478 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Notice of election (statutory)

Alpine Shire Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity

ALPINE SHIRE

Postal election this October

Alpine Shire Council
Councillors: 7

Voting
Ballot packs will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October. Your completed ballot paper must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012.

If you will be away
If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday, 31 August 2012, your ballot pack can be redirected by mailing a request to:

Returning Officer
Alpine Shire Council elections
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins St
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign the request. Alternatively, you can fax your request to (03) 9277 7126. Your request must be received by Thursday, 20 September 2012.

How to nominate as a candidate
A completed nomination form, together with a \$250 nomination fee, must be lodged in person with the Returning Officer from 9.00 am on Thursday, 20 September to 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012 at:

Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright

To help reduce waiting time while applications are processed, prospective candidates are encouraged to pre-complete their nomination form online using the "Candidate Helper" at vec.vic.gov.au from Friday, 14 September. This form must then be printed out and lodged with the Returning Officer along with the \$250 nomination fee.

Call the Returning Officer from Wednesday, 19 September 2012 on (03) 5755 0508 to make a nomination appointment.

Candidate information session

When: 7.00 pm, Wednesday, 19 September
Where: Council Chambers, Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright

Candidate Information Kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available at the information session.

Andrew Robertson
Returning Officer
Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright
Tel: (03) 5722 1212 for general enquiries
Office opens: 9.00 am, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Nominations close at 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Large print and braille ballot papers
Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters with low vision who register by Tuesday, 18 September 2012. To register, call (03) 8620 1114 during business hours.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • ግዛዘቲ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic
 • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian
 • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
 • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka
 • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
 • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
 • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian
 • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali
 • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
 • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other languages 9209 0112

vec.vic.gov.au

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Victorian Electoral Commission

Voting details – Postal elections (statutory)

Alpine Shire Council Election

Your Community Your Opportunity

ALPINE SHIRE

Watch out for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October 2012. If you do not receive your ballot pack by Wednesday, 17 October, call (03) 5722 1212 during business hours.

How to return your ballot paper

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope or hand-deliver it to the Returning Officer during business hours at:

- Hub Election Office, 52 Norton Street, Wangaratta
- Alpine Shire Council Customer Service Centre, Lakeside Avenue, Mount Beauty
- Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright
- Alpine Shire Council Customer Service Centre, Corner of Standish Street and O'Donnell Avenue, Myrtleford

Your completed ballot paper must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by **6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012.**

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election are included in the voting material and online at vec.vic.gov.au

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Andrew Robertson
Returning Officer
Alpine Shire Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright
9.00 am - 5.00 pm, 22 October - 24 October 2012
9.00 am - 8.00 pm, Thursday, 25 October 2012
9.00 am - 6.00 pm, Friday, 26 October 2012

Your vote must reach the Returning Officer by 6.00 pm on Friday, 26 October 2012

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • ግዛዘቲ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
 • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
 • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

(03) 5722 1212 or vec.vic.gov.au

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Victorian Electoral Commission

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Voting details – Attendance elections (statutory)

Banyule City Council Elections

Your Community Your Opportunity

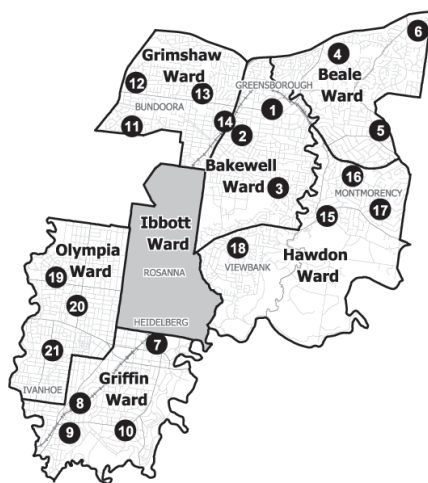


Enrolled voters will receive an *EasyVote* letter in the mail. It includes your enrolment details and where to vote. Take this *EasyVote* letter with you when you vote. You can vote without it, but it may take longer. Ibbott Ward is uncontested and is not having an election. There will be no voting in this ward.

Where to vote on election day

Voting centres are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on election day, Saturday, 27 October 2012.

Voting closes at 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012



Bakewell Ward

- Greensborough College - Nell Street Campus, 155 Nell Street, Greensborough (AWA)
- Greensborough Primary School, 130 Grimshaw Street, Greensborough (NWA)
- Streton Primary School, 209 Yallambie Road, Yallambie (AWA)

Beale Ward

- Greenhills Primary School, 27-29 Mine Street, Greensborough (AWA)
- Sherbourne Primary School, 17 Outlook Crescent, Briar Hill (AWA)
- St Helena Secondary College, 50 Wallowa Road, St Helena (AWA)

Griffin Ward

- Heidelberg Primary School, Corner Cape and Darebin Streets, Heidelberg (AWA)
- Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School, Corner Noel Street and Upper Heidelberg Road (access via Noel Street), Ivanhoe (AWA)
- Ivanhoe Grammar School, The Ridgeway, Ivanhoe (FWA)
- St George's Anglican Church, 47-53 Warncliffe Road, Ivanhoe East (AWA)

FWA - Full wheelchair access

AWA - Assisted wheelchair access

NWA - No wheelchair access

Grimshaw Ward

- Bundoora Secondary College, Balmoral Avenue, Bundoora (AWA)
- Concord Playgroup, 9 Cameron Parade, Bundoora (AWA)
- Watsonia North Primary School, 16 Sharpes Road, Watsonia (NWA)

Hawdon Ward

- Watsonia Primary School, 240 Nell Street West, Watsonia (AWA)
- Lower Plenty Primary School, Main Road (access via Prosperity Road), Lower Plenty (NWA)
- Montmorency Primary School, 60a Rattray Road, Montmorency (AWA)

Olympia Ward

- Montmorency South Primary School, 64 Buena Vista Drive, Montmorency (AWA)
- Viewbank Primary School, 2 Nevin Parade, Viewbank (AWA)
- Olympic Leisure Centre, 15 Alamein Road, Heidelberg West (FWA)
- St Pius X Parish Hall, 419 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West (AWA)
- Waratah Special Development School, 228 Banksia Street, Ivanhoe West (FWA)

Voting before election day

In person - early voting is open now at:

Banyule Election Office, 9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough (AWA)

at the following times:

- 9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays
- 9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 29 September
- 9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 6 October
- 9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 13 October
- 9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 20 October
- 9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October
- 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

Customer Service Centre, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe (AWA), and Customer Service Centre, 44-52 Turnham Road, Rosanna (AWA)

at the following times:

- 9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays, from Monday, 15 October
- 9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October
- 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

By post

Download a postal vote application from vec.vic.gov.au or call (03) 9435 6580 to request an application.

To allow time for you to complete and return your ballot paper by mail, it is advised that the Returning Officer receives your postal vote application by Monday, 22 October.

If it is too late to return it by mail, hand-deliver your completed ballot paper to a voting centre listed above.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed online at vec.vic.gov.au and on the *EasyVote* letter sent to enrolled voters from Friday, 12 October.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for residents who were on the voters roll for this election on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Bob Oldfield

Returning Officer

9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough

9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays

9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 29 September

9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 6 October

9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 13 October

9.00 am - 12.00 pm Saturday, 20 October

9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October

9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

- ግዕዝ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian
- 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داری 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • ЕЛНУКЕ 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean
- Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomaali 9209 0108 Somali
- Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
- All other non-English languages 9209 0112

(03) 9435 6580 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Voting reminder – Postal elections (non-statutory)

Ballarat City Council Elections *Your Community Your Opportunity*



Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday, 9 October 2012.

If you have not received your ballot pack, call the Returning Officer on (03) 5331 1812 immediately to arrange a replacement.

How to return your ballot paper

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope.

You can also hand deliver your ballot material to the Returning Officer during business hours at:

- Lvl 2 Central Square Shopping Centre, 18 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat

Or to:

- The Phoenix, 25 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat
- Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat

All hand delivered ballot papers must be submitted inside the declaration envelope provided in your ballot pack.

Candidates

The candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed in the ballot material and online at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must complete your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number **ALL** the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote (but won't be fined if you don't) if:

- you are aged 70 years or over; or
- you live outside the municipality; or
- you applied to Council to be on the roll.

Vote counting

The votes for each ward will be counted using the proportional representation method.

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

Colin Nicholson Returning Officer

Lvl 2 Central Square Shopping Centre,
18 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat

9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays

9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October

9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

***Your vote must reach
the Returning Officer
by 6.00 pm on Friday,
26 October 2012***

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• አማርኛ 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • **Bosanski** 9209 0191 Bosnian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Cambodian • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
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Victorian Electoral Commission

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Voting reminder – Attendance elections (non-statutory)

Banyule City Council Elections Your Community Your Opportunity

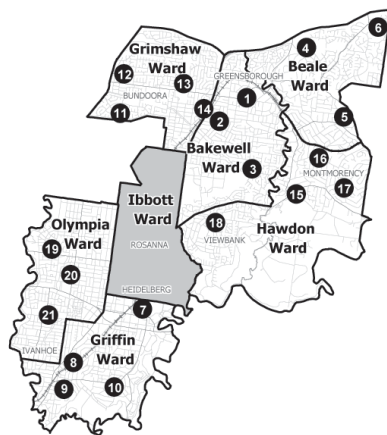


Enrolled voters in contested elections should have received an *EasyVote* letter in the mail. It includes your enrolment details and where to vote. Take this *EasyVote* letter with you when you vote. You can vote without it, but it may take longer. Ibbott Ward is uncontested and is not having an election. There will be no voting in this ward.

Where to vote on election day

Voting centres are open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on election day, Saturday, 27 October 2012.

Voting closes at 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012



Bakewell Ward

- Greensborough Primary School, 130 Grimshaw Street, Greensborough (NWA)
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- Streton Primary School, 209 Yallambie Road, Yallambie (AWA)

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- Lower Plenty Primary School, Main Road (access via Prosperity Road), Lower Plenty (NWA)
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- Viewbank Primary School, 2 Nevin Parade, Viewbank (AWA)

Olympia Ward

- Olympic Leisure Centre, 15 Alamein Road, Heidelberg West (FWA)
- St Pius X Parish Hall, 419 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West (AWA)
- Waratah Special Development School, 228 Banksia Street, Bellfield (FWA)

Voting before election day

In person - early voting is open now at:

Banyule Election Office, 9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough (AWA), Customer Service Centre, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe (AWA), and Customer Service Centre, 44-52 Turnham Road, Rosanna (AWA)

at the following times:

- 9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays, except:
- 9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October
- 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

By post

If you have applied for a postal vote, you must ensure that your ballot material reaches the Returning Officer **by 6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012**. If it is too late to return it by mail, hand-deliver your completed ballot material (including the declaration envelope) to a voting centre listed above.

Candidates

The candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed online at vec.vic.gov.au and on the *EasyVote* letter sent to enrolled voters from Friday, 12 October 2012.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for voters who were on the State roll for this election at 4.00 pm on Friday, 31 August 2012.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants.

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Vote counting

The votes for each ward will be counted using the preferential method. Ibbott Ward is uncontested and is not having an election. There will be no voting in this ward.

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

Bob Oldfield

Returning Officer

9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays
9.00 am - 8.00 pm Thursday, 25 October
9.00 am - 6.00 pm Friday, 26 October

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- 09209 0190 Amharic • 09209 0100 Arabic
- 09209 0191 Bosnian • 09209 0192 Cambodian
- 09209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • 09209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
- 09209 0102 Croatian • 09209 0193 Dari • 09209 0119 Dinka
- 09209 0103 Greek • 09209 0104 Italian
- 09209 0194 Korean • 09209 0105 Macedonian
- 09209 0195 Persian • 09209 0196 Russian
- 09209 0107 Serbian • 09209 0108 Somali
- 09209 0109 Spanish • 09209 0110 Turkish
- 09209 0111 Vietnamese • All other languages 09209 0112

(03) 9435 6580 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission

Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Notice of results (statutory)

Banyule City Council
**Declaration of
election results**



The following councillors were elected at the elections held on Saturday 27 October 2012:

Bakewell Ward
DI PASQUALE, Mark

Beale Ward
PHILLIPS, Wayne

Griffin Ward
MULHOLLAND, Jenny

Grimshaw Ward
GAROTTI, Rick

Hawdon Ward
BRIFFA, Steven

Ibbott Ward
MELICAN, Tom
(elected unopposed)

Olympia Ward
LANGDON, Craig


Bob Oldfield
Returning Officer
29 October 2012

The Victorian Electoral Commission conducted these elections on behalf of Banyule City Council.

vec.vic.gov.au Victorian Electoral Commission 


Authorised by E. A. Williams, Acting Electoral Commissioner,
530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Appendix 10: Sample uncontested election leaflet



Banyule
CITY COUNCIL

Banyule City Council elections
IBBOTT WARD
October 2012



Council Elections
2012
Victoria


At the close of nominations for the Ibbott Ward election, one nomination was received for the single vacancy. Therefore, Tom Melican will be elected unopposed.

There will be no voting in this ward.

Bob Oldfield
Returning Officer

SAMPLE

Information: (03) 9435 6580 or vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Appendix 11: Number of enquiry calls received at election offices during the election period

Council	3-14 Sept	17-21 Sept	24-28 Sept	1-5 Oct	8-12 Oct	15-19 Oct	22-26 Oct	Election day	29 Oct-2 Nov	Total
Melbourne City Council	13	49	74	92	421	1339	1372	0	0	3360
Alpine Shire Council		36	44	53	84	164	209	0	0	590
Ararat Rural City Council		21	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Ballarat City Council		17	58	45	224	627	611	0	0	1582
Banyule City Council		102	244	283	363	1217	1203	77	0	3489
Bass Coast Shire Council		52	31	75	271	420	608	0	0	1457
Baw Baw Shire Council		41	17	40	146	271	283	0	0	798
Bayside City Council		34	45	72	416	903	1038	0	0	2508
Benalla Rural City Council		20	19	15	54	105	94	0	0	307
Boroondara City Council		69	140	124	607	1114	1565	0	0	3619
Borough of Queenscliffe Council		7	13	10	34	55	80	0	1	200
Buloke Shire Council		14	26	16	29	49	54	0	0	188
Campaspe Shire Council		26	33	33	82	154	164	0	0	492
Cardinia Shire Council		13	43	53	238	708	932	0	0	1987
Casey City Council		121	157	211	1483	2114	2260	0	0	6346
Central Goldfields Shire Council		51	43	22	74	172	131	0	0	493
Colac Otway Shire Council		16	15	28	50	112	152	0	0	373
Corangamite Shire Council		12	11	18	33	77	102	0	0	253
Darebin City Council		77	106	78	416	1327	1546	0	0	3550
East Gippsland Shire Council		31	56	58	174	346	428	0	0	1093
Frankston City Council		35	69	64	508	1067	1050	0	0	2793
Gannawarra Shire Council		21	45	26	46	73	81	0	0	292
Glen Eira City Council		82	264	254	405	2530	1235	104	151	5025
Glenelg Shire Council		27	54	52	70	166	187	0	0	556
Golden Plains Shire Council		33	54	41	127	205	300	0	3	763
Greater Bendigo City Council		38	67	82	430	712	933	0	0	2262

Council	3-14 Sept	17-21 Sept	24-28 Sept	1-5 Oct	8-12 Oct	15-19 Oct	22-26 Oct	Election day	29 Oct-2 Nov	Total
Greater Dandenong City Council		5	158	254	301	1388	1285	86	0	3477
Greater Geelong City Council		111	232	225	1065	2666	2143	0	177	6619
Greater Shepparton City Council		58	130	109	255	649	643	0	0	1844
Hepburn Shire Council		4	11	9	46	126	122	0	0	318
Hindmarsh Shire Council		14	30	22	33	64	100	0	0	263
Hobsons Bay City Council		29	78	95	555	929	920	0	36	2642
Horsham Rural City Council		45	94	66	101	197	303	0	0	806
Hume City Council		88	201	194	514	1050	986	0	0	3033
Indigo Shire Council		19	26	27	46	117	170	0	0	405
Kingston City Council		95	138	100	564	1559	1215	0	0	3671
Knox City Council		85	86	230	359	1536	0	0	0	2296
Latrobe City Council		26	41	81	198	405	0	0	0	751
Loddon Shire Council		3	6	7	41	67	88	0	0	212
Macedon Ranges Shire Council		58	44	44	172	360	491	0	0	1169
Manningham City Council		66	104	103	560	1087	1078	0	79	3077
Mansfield Shire Council		16	18	14	49	92	84	0	0	273
Maribyrnong City Council		67	109	95	260	548	747	0	0	1826
Maroondah City Council		51	68	63	450	828	1067	0	42	2569
Melton City Council		92	155	103	376	1014	1251	0	105	3096
Mildura Rural City Council		15	37	33	130	331	357	0	0	903
Mitchell Shire Council		32	48	20	139	260	233	0	0	732
Moira Shire Council		72	87	107	169	333	425	0	0	1193
Monash City Council		36	74	82	428	1182	1497	0	25	3324
Moonee Valley City Council		0	42	52	523	792	983	0	0	2392
Moorabool Shire Council		6	17	15	72	202	198	0	0	510
Moreland City Council		84	126	200	317	562	981	0	0	2270
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council		77	222	225	1055	1780	1858	0	97	5314

Council	3-14 Sept	17-21 Sept	24-28 Sept	1-5 Oct	8-12 Oct	15-19 Oct	22-26 Oct	Election day	29 Oct-2 Nov	Total
Mount Alexander Shire Council		73	62	33	105	245	187	0	0	705
Moyne Shire Council		10	26	20	54	87	98	0	0	295
Murrindindi Shire Council		16	23	10	70	133	117	0	0	369
Nillumbik Shire Council		25	59	30	189	422	175	0	0	900
Northern Grampians Shire Council		62	59	58	54	91	106	0	0	430
Port Phillip City Council		32	46	64	106	1634	1139	60	0	3081
Pyrenees Shire Council		1	6	4	20	61	59	0	0	151
South Gippsland Shire Council		36	20	50	183	287	414	0	0	990
Southern Grampians Shire Council		22	44	43	54	133	150	0	0	446
Stonnington City Council		32	81	185	248	1442	1260	0	0	3248
Strathbogie Shire Council		15	16	11	44	85	79	0	0	250
Surf Coast Shire Council		59	97	76	236	385	558	0	5	1416
Swan Hill Rural City Council		32	74	41	74	120	133	0	0	474
Towong Shire Council		7	10	9	19	50	72	0	0	167
Wangaratta Rural City Council		69	80	100	159	309	394	0	0	1111
Warrnambool City Council		18	44	34	96	157	174	0	0	523
Wellington Shire Council		34	61	59	185	368	456	0	0	1163
West Wimmera Shire Council		10	24	14	25	50	80	0	0	203
Whitehorse City Council		46	67	80	545	1140	1044	0	0	2922
Whittlesea City Council		60	80	75	682	1111	1159	0	35	3202
Wodonga City Council		39	51	54	94	245	356	0	0	839
Wyndham City Council		59	102	84	504	1243	1411	0	0	3403
Yarra City Council		67	215	351	143	1395	855	0	103	3129
Yarra Ranges Shire Council		81	77	68	456	1026	1414	0	0	3122
Yarriambiack Shire Council		18	36	27	41	78	123	0	0	323

Appendix 12: Details of counting arrangements

Municipality	Number of councillors	Electoral structure	Count type	Election Type
Alpine	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Ararat	7	Unsubdivided	Count not required	Postal
Ballarat	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Banyule	7	7 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Bass Coast	7	7 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Baw Baw	9	1 three-Cr ward, 3 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Bayside	7	1 three-Cr ward, 2 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Benalla	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Boroondara	10	10 Single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Brimbank	No election until March 2015			
Buloke	7	1 three-Cr ward, 2 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Campaspe	9	2 three-Cr wards, 3 single-Cr wards	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Cardinia	9	1 two-Cr ward, 1 three-Cr ward, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR	Postal
Casey	11	1 single-Cr ward, 5 two-Cr wards	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Central Goldfields	7	3 single-Cr wards, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Colac Otway	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Corangamite	7	4 single-Cr wards, 1 three-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Darebin	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
East Gippsland	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Frankston	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Gannawarra	7	2 single-Cr wards, 1 two-Cr ward, 1 three-Cr ward	Manual PR and Manual PD	Postal
Glen Eira	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Glenelg	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Golden Plains	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Greater Bendigo	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Greater Dandenong	11	3 three-Cr wards, 1 two-Cr ward	Computer PR	Attendance
Greater Geelong	1 + 12	1 Mayor, 12 single-Cr wards	Computer PD and Manual PD	Postal
Greater Shepparton	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Hepburn	7	2 two-Cr wards, 3 single-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal

Municipality	Number of councillors	Electoral structure	Count type	Election Type
			and Manual PD	
Hindmarsh	6	3 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Hobsons Bay	7	2 two-Cr wards, 1 three Cr ward,	Computer PR	Postal
Horsham	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Hume	11	1 three-Cr ward, 2 four-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Indigo	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Kingston	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Knox	9	9 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Latrobe	9	1 single-Cr ward, 2 two-Cr wards, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Loddon	5	5 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Macedon Ranges	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Manningham	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Mansfield	5	3 single-Cr wards, 1 two-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Maribyrnong	7	2 two-Cr wards, 1 three-Cr ward	Computer PR	Postal
Maroondah	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Melbourne	2 + 9	1 Lord Mayor, 1 Deputy Lord Mayor 1 nine-Cr - unsubdivided	Computer PD and Computer PR	Postal
Melton	7	1 three-Cr ward, 2 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Mildura	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Mitchell	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Moira	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Monash	11	1 two-Cr ward, 3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Moonee Valley	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Moorabool	7	3 single-Cr wards, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Moreland	11	1 three-Cr ward, 2 four-Cr wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Mornington Peninsula	11	3 single-Cr wards, 1 two-Cr ward, 2 three-Cr wards	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Mount Alexander	7	4 single-Cr wards, 1 three-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Moyne	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Murrindindi	7	7 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Nillumbik	7	7 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Northern Grampians	7	2 single-Cr wards, 1 two-Cr ward, 1 three-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Port Phillip	7	7 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Pyrenees	5	5 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal

Municipality	Number of councillors	Electoral structure	Count type	Election Type
Queenscliffe	5	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
South Gippsland	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Southern Grampians	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Stonnington	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Strathbogie	7	3 single-Cr wards, 2 two-Cr wards	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Surf Coast	9	1 single-Cr ward, 2 two-Cr wards, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Swan Hill	7	3 single-Cr wards, 1 four-Cr ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Towong	5	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wangaratta	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Warrnambool	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wellington	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
West Wimmera	5	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Whitehorse	10	5 two-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Whittlesea	11	1 three-Cr ward, 2 four-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Wodonga	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wyndham	11	1 three-Cr ward, 2 four-Cr wards	Computer PR	Postal
Yarra	9	3 three-Cr wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Yarra Ranges	9	9 single-Cr wards	Manual PD	Postal
Yarriambiack	7	2 two-Cr wards, 1 three-Cr ward	Computer PR	Postal

PD = Preference Distribution

PR = Proportional Representation

Appendix 13: Dates of declarations of results

Municipality	Declaration date and time
Ararat Rural City Council (u)	12 noon on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Murrindindi Shire Council	4.30 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Loddon Shire Council	6.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Hindmarsh Shire Council	7.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
West Wimmera Shire Council	7.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Mansfield Shire Council	7.15 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Strathbogie Shire Council	8.00 pm on Saturday, 27 October 2012
Bass Coast Shire Council	10.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Wellington Shire Council	10.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Yarriambiack Shire Council	10.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Glenelg Shire Council	11.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Indigo Shire Council	11.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Southern Grampians Shire Council	11.00 am on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Gannawarra Shire Council	12 noon on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Pyrenees Shire Council	12 noon on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Towong Shire Council	2.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Northern Grampians Shire Council	2.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Benalla Rural City Council	3.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Central Goldfields Shire Council	3.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Buloke Shire Council	4.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Corangamite Shire Council	4.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Horsham Rural City Council	5.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Swan Hill Rural City Council (r)	5.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Mount Alexander Shire Council	5.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Boroondara City Council	6.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	6.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Nillumbik Shire Council	8.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	8.30 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Manningham City Council	10.00 pm on Sunday, 28 October 2012
Hepburn Shire Council	9.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Baw Baw Shire Council	9.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Wangaratta Rural City Council	9.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Maribyrnong City Council	9.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Wodonga City Council	9.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Ballarat City Council	9.30 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Moorabool Shire Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
South Gippsland Shire Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Surf Coast Shire Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Whitehorse City Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Maroondah City Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Alpine Shire Council (r)	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
East Gippsland Shire Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Mildura Rural City Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Moyne Shire Council	10.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Borough of Queenscliffe Council	10.30 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Moirra Shire Council	10.30 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Melton City Council	11.00 am on Monday, 29 October 2012
Latrobe City Council	12 noon on Monday, 29 October 2012
Mitchell Shire Council	1.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Greater Bendigo City Council	2.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Greater Shepparton City Council	3.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Macedon Ranges Shire Council (East & West Wards)	4.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Port Phillip City Council	4.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Cardinia Shire Council	4.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012

Municipality	Declaration date and time
Warrnambool City Council	5.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Moonee Valley City Council	5.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Knox City Council (r)	5.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Wyndham City Council	5.30 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Yarra City Council	5.30 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Bayside City Council	6.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Colac Otway Shire Council	6.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Frankston City Council	6.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Hobsons Bay City Council	6.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Banyule City Council	7.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Darebin City Council	7.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Monash City Council	7.00 pm on Monday, 29 October 2012
Glen Eira City Council	9.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Hume City Council	9.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Greater Dandenong City Council	10.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Melbourne City Council	10.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Stonnington City Council	10.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Golden Plains Shire Council (r)	11.00 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Campaspe Shire Council	3.00 pm on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Macedon Ranges Shire Council (South Ward) (r)	5.00 pm on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Whittlesea City Council	6.00 pm on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Kingston City Council	6.00 pm on Tuesday, 30 October 2012
Greater Geelong City Council	9.00 am on Tuesday, 31 October 2012
Casey City Council	6.00 pm on Wednesday, 31 October 2012
Moreland City Council (North West and South Wards)	6.00 pm on Wednesday, 31 October 2012
Moreland City Council (North East Ward) (r)	7.05 pm on Friday, 2 November 2012

(r) recount conducted

(u) entirely uncontested

Appendix 14: Election details

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Alpine Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		7	13	75.64%	3.93%	11524	
		ROPER, Peter						
		KEEBLE, Tony						
		JANAS, Ron						
		VONARX, Jan						
		FARRELL, Kate						
		FORSYTH, John						
		PEARCE, Daryl						
Ararat Rural City Council 2012 – Postal [U]	Unsubdivided		7	7	0.00%	0.00%	9081	
		WOODS, Murray Winston						
		HULL, Fay						
		ALLGOOD, Gwenda Mary						
		HULL, Gary						
		McKENZIE, Colin						
		HARRIS, Ian George						
		WILSON, Ian Francis						
Ballarat City Council 2012 - Postal			9	22	77.51%	2.70%	72725	
	Central Ward	McINTOSH, Samantha	3	8	75.22%	2.79%	22818	
		BURT, John Charles						
		COATES, Belinda						
	North Ward	COLTMAN, Vicki	3	6	79.57%	2.47%	24803	
		PHILIPS, John						
		JOHNSON, Amy						
	South Ward	HUDSON, Des	3	8	77.55%	2.86%	25104	
		MORRIS, Joshua						
		INNES, Peter						
Banyule City Council 2012 -			7	38	70.74%	7.78%	79172	68

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Attendance								
	Bakewell Ward	DI PASQUALE, Mark	1	9	70.57%	11.12%	12254	15
	Beale Ward	PHILLIPS, Wayne	1	2	75.64%	5.19%	13336	3
	Griffin Ward	MULHOLLAND, Jenny	1	8	69.18%	7.13%	13567	16
	Grimshaw Ward	GAROTTI, Rick	1	7	71.20%	8.83%	13182	14
	Hawdon Ward	BRIFFA, Steven	1	5	73.27%	6.76%	13678	10
	Ibbott Ward [U]	MELICAN, Tom	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	0
	Olympia Ward	LANGDON, Craig	1	6	64.45%	8.21%	13155	10
Bass Coast Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	26	71.13%	2.00%	40887	
	Anderson Ward	DREW, Bradley	1	3	71.61%	2.28%	5889	
	Churchill Ward	WRIGHT, Phil	1	3	66.94%	2.31%	5296	
	Hovell Ward	RANKINE, Neil	1	4	72.80%	1.54%	5441	
	Leadbeater Ward	LE SERVE, Clare	1	5	72.34%	2.58%	5527	
	McHaffie Ward	BROWN, Kimberley	1	4	71.01%	1.80%	5789	
	Thompson Ward	PHILLIPS, Andrew	1	3	69.22%	1.99%	6526	
	Townsend Ward	CRUGNALE, Jordan	1	4	73.73%	1.58%	6419	
Baw Baw Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	26	77.28%	2.83%	34853	
	Drouin Ward	JONES, Tricia	2	5	71.36%	2.35%	8006	
		WILLIAMSON, Terry						
	Mount Worth Ward	COOK, Murray	2	6	79.81%	2.33%	7901	
		HARRINGTON, Bill						
	North Ward	BALFOUR, David	2	4	78.08%	3.16%	7861	
		BROWN, Deborah Mary						
	Warragul Ward	GAUCI, Joe	3	11	79.19%	3.27%	11085	
		MURPHY, Gerard						
		POWER, Mikaela						
Bayside City Council 2012 - Postal			7	48	70.22%	6.33%	71176	
	Central Ward	LONG, James	3	20	69.54%	7.53%	29467	
		HARTNEY, Stephen						
		FREDERICO, Felicity						
	Northern Ward	HEFFERNAN, Michael John	2	16	68.37%	5.90%	21007	
		DEL PORTO, Alex						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Southern Ward	STEWART, Heather EVANS, Laurence	2	12	73.08%	5.12%	20702	
Benalla Rural City Council 2012 - Postal			7	9	78.87%	3.80%	11335	
	Benalla Rural City Council	KING, Justin R. DAVIS, Peter DUNN, Peter JENKINS, Ross MARTIN, Suzy ALEXANDER, Barbara RICHARDS, Margaret	7	9	78.87%	3.80%	11335	
Boroondara City Council 2012 - Postal			10	37	71.27%	2.99%	122821	
	Bellevue Ward	PARKE, Jim	1	4	76.02%	2.44%	11791	
	Cotham Ward	VOCE, Judith	1	5	73.77%	3.51%	12244	
	Gardiner Ward	ROSS, Coral	1	4	69.93%	2.61%	12145	
	Glenferrie Ward	HURD, Steve	1	3	58.87%	2.54%	13129	
	Junction Ward	WEGMAN, Jack	1	2	67.82%	3.61%	12564	
	Lynden Ward	KREUTZ, Heinz	1	2	75.88%	3.29%	12216	
	Maling Ward	ADDIS, Jane	1	6	73.93%	2.93%	12226	
	Maranoa Ward	MALLIS, Philip	1	2	74.10%	3.19%	11851	
	Solway Ward	CHOW, Kevin	1	7	76.87%	2.40%	12400	
	Studley Ward	HEALEY, Phillip	1	2	66.73%	3.35%	12255	
Borough of Queenscliffe Council 2012 – Postal	Unsubdivided		5	7	75.94%	2.72%	4268	
		MERRIMAN, Bob BUTLER, H��l��ne SALTER, Susan WASTERVAL, Sue CHRISTIE, Graham	5	7	75.94%	2.72%	4268	
Buloke Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	11	81.41%	1.05%	4326	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Lower Avoca Ward	POLLARD, David Thomas	2	3	79.96%	0.95%	1851	
		McLEAN, Stuart John						
	Mallee Ward [U]	MATHER, Reid	2	2	N/A	N/A	0	
		WHITE, Ellen						
	Mount Jeffcott Ward	TELLEFSON, Leo John	3	6	82.51%	1.13%	2475	
		MILNE, Graeme						
		SHARP, Gail D.						
Campaspe Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	22	78.44%	2.56%	28820	
	Echuca Ward	MADDISON, Ian	3	9	77.31%	2.96%	10194	
		BRADBURY, Emma						
		JARMAN, Paul						
	Kyabram-Deakin Ward	DANIELI, Robert	3	6	77.70%	2.38%	9030	
		PANKHURST, Neil						
		HOWELL, Carol						
	Rochester Ward	WILSON, Leigh G.	1	2	83.25%	3.71%	3242	
	Waranga Ward	WESTON, Adrian	1	3	78.65%	0.99%	3068	
	Western Ward	TOLL, Greg	1	2	79.03%	2.08%	3286	
Cardinia Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	20	70.17%	3.62%	56379	
	Central Ward	ROSS, Collin	4	9	64.77%	4.71%	25145	
		OWEN, Jodie						
		BLENKHORN, George						
		LEMPRIERE, Kate						
	Port Ward	MOORE, Graeme	2	4	77.90%	2.36%	11325	
		YOUNG, David						
	Ranges Ward	OWEN, Brett	3	7	72.60%	3.18%	19909	
		WILMOT, Leticia						
		BAXTER, Tania						
Casey City Council 2012 - Postal			11	85	70.72%	6.51%	169519	
	Balla Balla Ward	ABLETT, Geoff	1	4	72.10%	3.07%	14596	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Edrington Ward	SEREY, Susan	2	18	72.07%	6.79%	30823	
		MORLAND, Mick						
	Four Oaks Ward	KAPLON, Rafal	2	22	73.45%	9.62%	32726	
		CRESTANI, Rosalie Bianca						
	Mayfield Ward	STAPLEDON, Amanda	2	14	67.53%	5.81%	30312	
		ROWE, Gary James						
	River Gum Ward	SMITH, Wayne	2	16	68.66%	7.07%	32462	
		ROSARIO, Damien						
	Springfield Ward	AZIZ, Sam	2	11	71.15%	4.40%	28600	
		WASS, Jo						
Central Goldfields Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	13	80.08%	2.06%	10858	
	Flynn Ward	SMITH, John	1	2	74.06%	2.30%	1642	
	Maryborough Ward	NIXON, Paula	4	7	81.20%	1.75%	6036	
		LOVETT, Geoff						
		McIVOR, Wendy						
		RINALDI, Barry						
	Paddys Ranges Ward	VAN BEVEREN, John Andrew	1	2	82.91%	2.30%	1627	
	Tullaroop Ward	ROBERTSON, Ian	1	2	79.14%	2.77%	1553	
Colac Otway Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	14	78.17%	4.48%	19799	
		WOODCROFT, Terry						
		SMITH, Chris						
		HART, Stephen						
		McCRICKARD, Mick						
		CROOK, Brian						
		DELAHUNTY, Michael						
		RUSSELL, Lyn						
Corangamite Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	10	79.49%	1.68%	7728	
	Central Ward	GSTREIN, Ruth	3	5	79.28%	1.40%	5870	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		O'CONNOR, Christopher John OAKES, Wayne R.						
	Coastal Ward [U]	HARKIN, Peter	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	North Ward [U]	SMITH, Geoff	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	South-Central Ward [U]	BEARD, Joanne	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	South-West Ward	TROTTER, Neil David	1	2	80.14%	2.55%	1858	
Darebin City Council 2012 - Postal			9	52	67.53%	7.72%	102100	
	Cazaly Ward	FONTANA, Vince WILLIAMS, Julie LI, Bo	3	18	67.55%	7.73%	34688	
	La Trobe Ward	GRECO, Gaetano LAURENCE, Tim VILLELLA, Angela	3	17	71.14%	7.59%	31378	
	Rucker Ward	McCARTHY, Trent TSITAS, Steven WALSH, Oliver	3	17	64.36%	7.82%	36034	
East Gippsland Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		9	17	74.99%	6.90%	39645	
		ELLIS, Dick ROWE, Jane NEAL, Peter BUCKLEY, Ben McNEILL, Jeff FRESHWATER, Michael REEVES, Mark PELZ, Marianne WILKIN, John						
Frankston City Council 2012 - Postal			9	21	67.44%	3.87%	97191	
	North-East Ward	MAYER, Sandra HAMPTON, Colin O'REILLY, Michael	3	5	68.83%	3.35%	33223	
	North-West Ward	AITKEN, Glenn	3	10	63.80%	4.87%	30843	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		DOOLEY, James						
		SPELMAN, Rebekah						
	South Ward	CUNIAL, Brian	3	6	69.44%	3.53%	33125	
		TAYLOR, Darrel						
		TAYLER, Suzette						
Gannawarra Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	9	80.83%	1.69%	7557	
	Avoca Ward	GANNON, Neil W.	1	2	79.30%	2.69%	1266	
	Murray Ward [U]	AERTSEN, Oscar	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Patchell Ward [U]	den HOUTING, Keith	3	3	N/A	N/A	3536	
		ARIANS, Mark						
		GIBSON, Brian						
	Yarran Ward	GOULDING, Neville Charles	2	3	81.52%	1.25%	2755	
		LEARMONTH, Lorraine						
Glen Eira City Council 2012 - Attendance			9	33	68.03%	10.58%	98109	51
	Camden Ward	LIPSHUTZ, Michael	3	11	66.72%	9.75%	31320	21
		DELAHUNTY, Mary						
		SOUNNESS, Thomas						
	Rosstown Ward	ESAKOFF, Margaret	3	8	66.67%	8.81%	33482	10
		OKOTEL, Karina						
		PILLING, Neil						
	Tucker Ward	HYAMS, Jamie	3	14	70.62%	13.00%	33307	20
		LOBO, Oscar						
		MAGEE, Jim						
Glenelg Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	11	74.42%	3.88%	16811	
	Glenelg Shire Council	WHITE, Geoff	7	11	74.42%	3.88%	16811	
		WILSON, Gilbert Desmond						
		RANK, Anita Maree						
		STEPHENS, Karen Anne						
		NORTHCOTT, John						
		HALLIDAY, Robert Reuben						
		OBERLANDER, Maxwell						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Golden Plains Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	12	76.02%	4.35%	16098	
	Golden Plains Shire Council	HANSFORD, Nathan John	7	12	76.02%	4.35%	16098	
		VAUGHAN, Greg						
		McARTHUR, Bill						
		BLAKE, Jenny						
		PHELAN, Des						
		CAMERON, Andrew						
		KIRBY, Helena Angela						
Greater Bendigo City Council 2012 - Postal			9	21	77.45%	2.40%	79736	
	Eppalock Ward	CAMPBELL, Rod	3	9	77.44%	3.01%	25340	
		WERAGODA, Mark						
		LEACH, Helen						
	Lockwood Ward	FYFFE, Rod	3	7	79.19%	2.14%	26947	
		CHAPMAN, Elise						
		LYONS, Barry						
	Whipstick Ward	COX, Peter	3	5	75.76%	2.09%	27449	
		RUFFELL, Lisa						
		WILLIAMS, James						
Greater Dandenong City Council 2012 - Attendance			11	41	68.70%	11.13%	95503	82
	Lightwood Ward	O'REILLY, Sean	3	7	71.63%	8.26%	25823	18
		CHEA, Youhorn						
		TRUONG, Loi						
	Paperbark Ward	BLADES, Roz	3	14	71.24%	13.40%	26394	17
		BROWN, Peter						
		TAK, Meng Heang						
	Red Gum Ward	MEMETI, Jim	3	11	60.24%	11.46%	25277	24
		KIRWAN, Matthew						
		LONG, Angela						
	Silverleaf Ward	SAMPEY, Maria	2	9	72.64%	11.52%	18009	23
		KELLY, John						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Greater Geelong City Council 2012 - Postal			13	59	75.89%	2.89%	170,408	
	Mayor	FAGG, Keith	1	9	76.29%	3.29%	170408	
	Austin Ward	IRVINE, John Robert	1	5	73.55%	2.24%	13824	
	Beangala Ward	FARRELL, Jan	1	4	73.64%	2.02%	13492	
	Brownbill Ward	HEAGNEY, Michelle	1	6	72.70%	2.95%	13288	
	Buckley Ward	RICHARDS, Andy	1	5	76.74%	2.29%	15320	
	Cheetham Ward	MACDONALD, Rod	1	2	77.74%	2.00%	15139	
	Corio Ward	FISHER, Kylie	1	3	70.21%	2.91%	13791	
	Coryule Ward	ELLIS, Lindsay	1	5	72.03%	2.43%	14228	
	Cowie Ward	KONTELJ, Eddy	1	5	78.11%	2.47%	13785	
	Deakin Ward	NELSON, Ron	1	3	82.17%	3.71%	14724	
	Kardinia Ward	HARWOOD, Bruce	1	4	75.31%	2.07%	14449	
	Kildare Ward	KONTELJ, Stretch	1	2	76.63%	1.87%	12705	
	Windermere Ward	ANSETT, Tony	1	6	76.08%	2.68%	15663	
Greater Shepparton City Council 2012 - Postal			7	26	80.10%	9.53%	43372	
	Unsubdivided	OROSZVARY, Leslie Alexander						
		MUTO, Milvan						
		HOULIHAN, Jenny						
		SUMMER, Fern						
		PATTERSON, Dennis						
		RYAN, Kevin Gunna						
		POLAN, Michael						
Hepburn Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	15	76.18%	2.51%	12613	
	Birch Ward	REDWOOD, Kate	2	6	72.57%	2.17%	4309	
		NICLAS, Pierre						
	Cameron Ward	NEWITT, Neil	1	2	78.51%	2.58%	2024	
	Coliban Ward	KLEIN, Sebastian John	1	2	74.69%	2.38%	2027	
	Creswick Ward	HENDERSON, Don	2	4	79.43%	2.84%	4253	
		MAY, Greg						
	Holcombe Ward [U]	McCLENAGHAN, William Marks	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Hindmarsh Shire Council 2012 - Postal			6	11	81.27%	2.61%	3396	
	East Ward	SCHNEIDER, Tony NELSON, Debra	2	6	82.10%	3.00%	1665	
	North Ward [U]	LOWE, Ronald Edwin CHIVELL, Elizabeth	2	2	N/A	N/A	0	
	West Ward	ROBINS, Wendy GERSCH, Rob	2	3	80.47%	2.23%	1731	
Hobsons Bay City Council 2012 - Postal			7	41	71.57%	5.69%	63863	
	Cherry Lake Ward	BRIFFA, Tony WILSON, Sandra	2	14	72.17%	5.45%	18047	
	Strand Ward	ALTAIR, Angela HEMPHILL, Peter	3	16	69.52%	6.77%	25947	
	Wetlands Ward	MORGAN, Paul GRIGOROVITCH, Luba GATES, Colleen	2	11	73.71%	4.57%	19869	
Horsham Rural City Council 2012 - Postal			7	11	81.79%	2.50%	15445	
	Horsham Rural City Council	GRIMBLE, David EXELL, Susan Joy RADFORD, Mark A. CLARKE, Pamela Nance BARBER, Robin Leslie PHELAN, Tony PHILLIPS, Heather R.	7	11	81.79%	2.50%	15445	
Hume City Council 2012 - Postal			11	47	73.15%	6.21%	115039	
	Aitken Ward	NUNN, Casey JESSOP, Drew BAMUNUSINGHE, Chandra	4	22	72.43%	8.29%	38649	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		BOLTON, Alan William						
	Jacksons Creek Ward	POTTER, Ann Therese Elizabeth	3	10	72.41%	3.97%	32395	
		OGILVIE, Jack						
		MEDCRAFT, Steve Jack						
	Meadow Valley Ward	PORTER, Geoff	4	15	74.32%	6.04%	43995	
		PATSIKATHEODOROU, Helen						
		DOUGALL, Vic						
		ATMACA, Adem						
Indigo Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		7	17	77.72%	6.56%	12867	
		CHAMBERS, Don						
		CROUCHER, Peter						
		MURDOCH, Barbara Joan						
		O'CONNOR, Jenny						
		GAFFNEY, Bernard						
		TRENERY, James						
		HORNE, Roberta						
Kingston City Council 2012 - Postal			9	52	71.25%	6.31%	112137	
	Central Ward	GLEDHILL, Geoff	3	28	70.64%	9.40%	37366	
		BROWNLEES, Ron						
		WEST, Rosemary						
	North Ward	STAIKOS, Steve	3	10	72.28%	4.21%	35832	
		BARTH, Tamara						
		PEULICH, Paul						
	South Ward	BEARSLEY, Tamsin	3	14	70.88%	5.34%	38939	
		EDEN, David						
		RONKE, John Morgan						
Knox City Council 2012 - Attendance			9	26	74.04%	7.57%	90758	41
	Baird Ward	LOCKWOOD, Peter	1	5	66.77%	8.93%	12432	9
	Chandler Ward	MORTIMORE, John	1	2	68.95%	8.00%	11836	2
	Collier Ward [U]	COSSARI, Joe	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	0

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Dinsdale Ward [U]	GILL, Adam	1	1	N/A	N/A	2	0
	Dobson Ward	ORPEN, Karin	1	3	72.93%	7.42%	13393	9
	Friberg Ward	HOLLAND, Tony	1	6	77.75%	8.75%	13419	7
	Scott Ward	COOPER, David	1	3	76.13%	6.08%	13087	7
	Taylor Ward	PEARCE, Darren	1	2	79.71%	6.55%	13632	3
	Tirhatuan Ward	SEYMOUR, Nicole	1	3	74.92%	7.57%	12957	4
Latrobe City Council 2012 - Postal			9	22	73.72%	3.42%	54385	
	Central Ward	SINDT, Christine	2	6	70.15%	3.26%	12239	
		MIDDLEMISS, Graeme						
	East Ward	KAM, Sandy	4	8	76.06%	3.76%	22983	
		HARRIMAN, Dale						
		O'CALLAGHAN, Kellie						
		ROSSITER, Michael						
	South Ward	WHITE, Darrell Keith	1	2	73.91%	3.80%	6333	
	West Ward	GIBSON, Sharon	2	6	72.81%	2.75%	12830	
		GIBBONS, Peter						
Loddon Shire Council 2012 - Postal			5	7	75.50%	1.87%	2979	
	Boort Ward [U]	BEATTIE, Neil	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Inglewood Ward [U]	CONDLIFFE, Colleen	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Tarnagulla Ward	CURNOW, Geoff	1	2	76.25%	2.04%	1478	
	Terrick Ward	McKINNON, Cheryl	1	2	74.75%	1.69%	1501	
	Wedderburn Ward [U]	HOLT, Gavan Lindsay	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	29	74.04%	3.87%	33712	
	East Ward	MORABITO, Joe	3	8	73.55%	3.25%	10887	
		HACKETT, Graham						
		McLAUGHLIN, Henry						
	South Ward	MOWATT, Russell Stewart	3	15	75.19%	5.53%	11490	
		PIPER, Sally						
		LETCHFORD, John						
	West Ward	JUKES, Roger	3	6	73.36%	2.74%	11335	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		ANDERSON, Jennifer CONNOR, John						
Manningham City Council 2012 - Postal			9	35	75.62%	5.04%	87331	
	Heide Ward	GOUGH, Geoff KLEINERT, Michelle GRIVOKOSTOPOULOS, Jim	3	8	76.46%	3.69%	29310	
	Koonung Ward	YANG, Jennifer O'BRIEN, Stephen HAYNES, Dot	3	12	74.20%	4.85%	28842	
	Mullum Mullum Ward	DOWNIE, Meg McLEISH, Paul GALBALLY, Sophy	3	15	76.19%	6.59%	29179	
Mansfield Shire Council 2012 - Postal			5	12	72.72%	2.09%	7944	
	Bonnie Doon Ward	SLADDIN, Paul	1	3	69.10%	1.42%	1942	
	Jamieson Ward [U]	BATE, Russell William	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Mansfield Ward	ROBINSON, Ray HOGAN, Ellen Joy	2	6	76.51%	2.26%	3925	
	Tolmie Ward	ATTELEY, Margaret Colville	1	2	68.95%	2.37%	2077	
Maribyrnong City Council 2012 - Postal			7	29	63.90%	4.17%	53816	
	River Ward	CARTER, Sarah McDONALD, Cameron	2	7	64.48%	3.19%	15662	
	Stony Creek Ward	QUACH, Nam CUMMING, Catherine	2	10	63.60%	4.20%	15902	
	Yarraville Ward	CLARKE, Michael ZAKHAROV, Martin MILES, Grant	3	12	63.69%	4.85%	22252	
Maroondah City Council 2012 -			9	39	72.81%	5.63%	80417	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Postal								
	Arrabri Ward	THOMAS, Natalie GLEESON, Christina DIB, Tony	3	10	73.36%	4.73%	27297	
	Mullum Ward	LAMONT, Nora FRASER, Ann MARKS, Samantha	3	15	72.11%	6.49%	26370	
	Wyreena Ward	WILLMOTT, Les STEANE, Rob FITZGERALD, Liam Francis	3	14	72.94%	5.71%	26750	
Melbourne City Council 2012 - Postal			10	49	59.98%	3.26%	108,434	
	Councillors	LOUEY, Kevin OKE, Cathy ONG, Ken WOOD, Arron PINDER-MORTIMER, Beverley FOSTER, Richard WATTS, Jackie MAYNE, Stephen LEPPERT, Rohan	9	40	60.01%	2.16%	108434	
	Leadership Team	DOYLE, Robert (Lord Mayor) RILEY, Susan (Deputy Lord Mayor)	1	9	59.94%	4.35%		
Melton City Council 2012 - Postal			7	72	68.52%	9.58%	76026	
	Cambridge Ward	MAJDLIK, Kathy DUNN, Nola	2	22	68.46%	8.48%	23043	
	Coburn Ward	BORG, Broden RAMSEY, Sophie TURNER, Bob	3	30	66.75%	11.25%	33587	
	Watts Ward	CARLI, Lara CUGLIARI, Renata	2	20	71.66%	8.14%	19396	
Mildura Rural City Council 2012 - Postal			9	14	76.02%	5.06%	38063	
	Unsubdivided	CUPPER, Ali						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		ARNOLD, John						
		MILNE, Glenn						
		THORBURN, Max						
		JOSLYN, Jill						
		BROWN, Greg						
		PEART, Sharyon						
		HARRIS, Judi						
		ECKEL, Mark						
Mitchell Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	22	72.75%	2.98%	26962	
	Central Ward	PARKER, Rodney John	3	7	76.13%	2.97%	9428	
		STEWART, Kelley						
		LEE, Ross						
	North Ward	SANDERSON, Rhonda	3	8	71.80%	2.87%	8598	
		MELBOURNE, Bill						
		CHISHOLM, Bill						
	South Ward	CORNISH, Bob	3	7	70.10%	3.11%	8936	
		MULRONEY, Kevin						
		MARSTAELLER, Sue						
Moira Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		9	18	75.95%	6.72%	23428	
		BOURKE, Kevin Joseph						
		MONK, Alex						
		CLEVELAND, Gary Ronald						
		MANSFIELD, Peter						
		COX, Edward J.						
		BUCK, Wendy						
		KEENAN, Brian Francis						
		MARTIN, Marie Katharine						
		McPHEE, Don						
Monash City Council 2012 - Postal			11	58	73.88%	5.59%	121083	
	Glen Waverley Ward	LAKE, Geoff	2	9	78.74%	3.02%	20747	
		NOLAN, Katrina						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Mount Waverley Ward	LO, Jieh-Yung	3	14	73.18%	5.23%	35397	
		MORRISSEY, Tom						
		LITTLE, Brian						
	Mulgrave Ward	KLISARIS, Paul	3	15	76.81%	5.49%	30549	
		DAVIES, Robert						
		DRIEBERG, Micaela						
	Oakleigh Ward	DIMOPOULOS, Stephen	3	20	69.06%	7.86%	34390	
		PONTIKIS, Bill						
		ZOGRAPHOS, Theo						
Moonee Valley City Council 2012 - Postal			9	26	72.24%	3.99%	84740	
	Buckley Ward	SHARPE, Narelle	3	10	73.61%	4.34%	30295	
		CHANTRY, Jan						
		GIULIANO, Paul						
	Myrmong Ward	NATION, Cam	3	9	66.64%	3.93%	28762	
		CUSACK, James						
		MARSHALL, Nicole						
	Rose Hill Ward	SIPEK, John	3	7	76.89%	3.67%	25683	
		SURACE, Andrea						
		CORNISH, Shirley						
Moorabool Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	12	71.84%	3.22%	16906	
	Central Moorabool Ward	TATCHELL, Paul	1	4	76.19%	3.88%	3285	
	East Moorabool Ward	DUDZIK, Tonia	4	6	70.79%	3.05%	13621	
		COMRIE, Allan Edmund						
		EDWARDS, David						
		SPAIN, John						
	West Moorabool Ward [U]	SULLIVAN, Thomas Gerard	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Woodlands Ward [U]	TOOHEY, Pat	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
Moreland City Council 2012 -			11	49	64.46%	16.06%	111987	106

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Attendance								
	North-East Ward	BOLTON, Sue THOMPSON, Rob TETI, Michael THOMPSON, Lenka	4	24	66.48%	21.23%	41221	55
	North-West Ward	YILDIZ, Oscar KAVANAGH, John DAVIDSON, Helen GILLIES, Lita	4	17	68.21%	15.42%	41118	35
	South Ward	TAPINOS, Lambros RATNAM, Samantha HOPPER, Meghan	3	8	56.44%	8.65%	29648	16
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council 2012 - Postal			11	43	68.52%	4.37%	145378	
	Briars Ward	SHAW, Anne COLOMB, Bev DIXON, Andrew	3	11	70.17%	4.77%	43179	
	Cerberus Ward	GARNOCK, David	1	3	68.21%	2.38%	12391	
	Nepean Ward	RODGERS, Tim FRASER, Hugh	2	8	65.46%	3.52%	24560	
	Red Hill Ward	MARTIN, Frank	1	3	68.96%	2.33%	12349	
	Seawinds Ward	PITTOCK, Graham GIBB, David CELI, Antonella	3	14	67.63%	6.26%	40263	
	Watson Ward	BOWDEN, Lynn	1	4	71.53%	2.61%	12636	
Mount Alexander Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	23	79.00%	2.26%	13290	
	Calder Ward	BARBER, Tim	1	2	82.09%	2.25%	2055	
	Castlemaine Ward	COLE, Chris BELL, Tony HOWARD, Jessica	3	10	79.67%	2.42%	7013	
	Coliban Ward	HENDERSON, Christine	1	6	73.64%	2.57%	2166	
	Loddon River Ward [U]	REDDEN, Michael	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Tarrengower Ward	TELFORD, Sharon	1	4	79.28%	1.41%	2056	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Moyne Shire Council 2012 - Postal	unsubdivided		7	9	79.75%	2.55%	14108	
		DOUKAS, Jim	7	9	79.75%	2.55%	14108	
		PURCELL, James						
		WOLFE, Mick						
		PARKER, Jill						
		RYAN, Colin						
		LEUTTON, Ralph						
		KEANE, Anthony						
Murrindindi Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	12	73.44%	1.82%	5904	
	Cathedral Ward	CHALLEN, Christine	1	3	71.52%	2.42%	1791	
	Cheviot Ward [U]	KENNEDY, John Wilson	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Eildon Ward	MAGNER, Bernie	1	2	74.40%	1.62%	1906	
	King Parrot Ward [U]	RUHR, Cris	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Kinglake Ward [U]	DERWENT, Andrew	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Koriella Ward [U]	WALSH, John Christopher	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Red Gate Ward	RAE, Margaret Ida	1	3	74.17%	1.53%	2207	
Nillumbik Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	44	76.69%	3.12%	46373	
	Blue Lake Ward	KLEIN, Meralyn	1	3	77.53%	3.10%	6947	
	Bunjil Ward	VAN HULSEN, Anika	1	4	77.39%	2.89%	6343	
	Edendale Ward	YOUNG, Michael Robert	1	12	76.41%	3.52%	6983	
	Ellis Ward	PERKINS, Peter	1	6	77.82%	3.26%	6187	
	Sugarloaf Ward	KING, Ken	1	8	73.49%	2.94%	6907	
	Swipers Gully Ward	HATTAM, Bronnie	1	8	76.59%	3.83%	6605	
	Wingrove Ward	COLEMAN, Helen	1	3	77.85%	2.25%	6401	
Northern Grampians Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	11	78.31%	1.96%	7751	
	Central Ward	ERWIN, Kevin A.	1	2	78.55%	1.76%	1520	
	Kara Kara Ward	ANDERSON, Jim	2	2	N/A	N/A	0	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	[U]							
		DRISCOLL, Tony						
	South West Ward	RUSSELL, Paul	1	2	78.09%	3.58%	1611	
	Stawell Ward	RICE, Wayne	3	5	78.31%	1.46%	4620	
		EMERSON, Murray						
		HYSLOP, Karen						
Port Phillip City Council 2012 - Attendance			7	27	49.40%	6.19%	79618	83
	Albert Park Ward	STEVENS, Amanda	1	4	57.28%	6.02%	11387	17
	Carlisle Ward	HUXLEY, Vanessa	1	5	51.12%	6.85%	12340	19
	Catani Ward	THOMANN, Serge	1	3	43.07%	5.39%	10943	5
	Emerald Hill Ward	HORVATH, Anita	1	3	48.70%	6.78%	10207	8
	Junction Ward	BOND, Andrew	1	6	38.11%	7.97%	12044	15
	Point Ormond Ward	TOUZEAU, Jane	1	3	51.80%	5.43%	12091	11
	Sandridge Ward	VOSS, Bernadene	1	3	56.24%	5.23%	10606	8
Pyrenees Shire Council 2012 - Postal			5	10	77.22%	2.81%	7103	
	Avoca Ward	EASON, Ron	1	2	78.24%	4.19%	1434	
	Beaufort Ward	O'CONNOR, Michael	1	2	79.50%	2.64%	1429	
	De Cameron Ward	VANCE, Robert J.	1	2	72.48%	1.94%	1421	
	Ercildoune Ward	CLARK, David	1	2	79.17%	3.45%	1426	
	Mount Emu Ward	KEHOE, Tanya	1	2	76.67%	1.69%	1393	
South Gippsland Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	13	74.72%	2.05%	18647	
	Coastal- Promontory Ward	DAVIES, Mohya	3	4	71.63%	1.65%	9280	
		KENNEDY, Kieran						
		HARDING, Jeanette						
	Strzelecki Ward	BRUNT, Lorraine	3	6	77.78%	2.40%	9367	
		NEWTON, Bob						
		McEWEN, Andrew						
	Tarwin Valley Ward [U]	HUTCHINSON-BROOKS, Nigel	3	3	N/A	N/A	0	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		HILL, Don						
		FAWCETT, James David						
Southern Grampians Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		7	10	81.65%	3.84%	13406	
		CALVANO, Albert	7	10	81.65%	3.84%	13406	
		DARK, Peter						
		ARMSTRONG, Cathy						
		BATTISTA, Paul						
		DAWSON, Dennis						
		COLLITON, Bruach						
		RAINSFORD, Katrina						
Stonnington City Council 2012 - Attendance			9	36	56.20%	10.31%	80674	43
	East Ward	DAVIE, Erin	3	8	64.37%	9.11%	27005	10
		McMORROW, John						
		STUBBS, Adrian						
	North Ward	CHANDLER, John	3	15	49.41%	11.52%	28345	20
		KLISARIS, Jami						
		KOCE, Matthew						
	South Ward	SEHR, Melina	3	13	55.08%	10.58%	25324	13
		ULLIN, Claude						
		HIBBINS, Sam						
Strathbogie Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	14	78.92%	2.25%	8051	
	Honeysuckle Creek Ward	STORER, Patrick	1	2	79.82%	2.18%	1323	
	Hughes Creek Ward [U]	LITTLE, Malcolm	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Lake Nagambie Ward	PURBRICK, Alister John	2	4	75.95%	1.54%	2649	
		SWAN, Debra Elaine						
	Mount Wombat Ward	WEATHERALD, Robin Hull	1	2	77.16%	4.34%	1375	
	Seven Creeks	FURLANETTO, Colleen	2	5	82.29%	1.93%	2704	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Ward							
		WILLIAMS, Graeme Mick						
Surf Coast Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	25	74.84%	2.92%	26502	
	Anglesea Ward	COKER, Libby SMITH, Margot Ann	2	6	71.85%	1.91%	6864	
	Lorne Ward [U]	GOLDSWORTHY, Clive	1	1	N/A	N/A	0	
	Torquay Ward	FISHER, Eve	4	11	73.37%	3.52%	13168	
		BELL, David K. HODGE, Rose McKITERICK, Brian						
	Winchelsea Ward	NOCKLES, Rod WELLINGTON, Heather	2	7	80.99%	2.79%	6470	
Swan Hill Rural City Council 2012 - Postal			7	18	78.51%	2.61%	14471	
	Central Ward	CRUICKSHANK, Greg KILEY, Jessie CROWE, Jim ADAMSON, Michael	4	10	80.18%	2.63%	8386	
	Lakes Ward	McPHEE, Les	1	4	80.65%	1.35%	2016	
	Murray-Mallee Ward	NORTON, Gary W.	1	2	77.71%	3.95%	2019	
	Robinvale Ward	KATIS, John Nicholas	1	2	70.34%	2.50%	2050	
Towong Shire Council 2012 - Postal			5	12	78.03%	3.34%	5486	
		WORTMANN, David John FRASER, Mary JOYCE, Peter Anthony SCALES, Aaron I. GADD, Debi						
Wangaratta Rural	Unsubdivided		7	19	82.70%	6.63%	21738	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
City Council 2012 - Postal								
		JOYCE, Don						
		PARISOTTO, Rozi						
		FIDGE, Julian						
		ATKINS, Tammy						
		AMERY, Noel						
		McINERNEY, Lisa						
		O'BRIEN, Paul						
Warrnambool City Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		7	12	81.61%	3.54%	25133	
		ERMACORA, Jacinta						
		NEOH, Michael						
		HULIN, Peter						
		ASKEW, Robert						
		KELSON, Brian						
		SYCOPOULIS, Peter						
		GASTON, Kylie						
Wellington Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		9	14	68.77%	5.45%	42181	
		ROSSETTI, Scott Andrew						
		DAVINE, Emilie						
		McCUBBIN, Darren						
		HOLE, Malcolm						
		McIVOR, Patrick						
		CROSSLEY, Carolyn						
		CLEARY, Peter John						
		WENGER, Bob						
		DUNCAN, John F.						
West Wimmera Shire Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		5	8	76.85%	2.46%	4018	
		MEYER, Bruce						
		HAWKINS, Ron						
		JONES, Annette						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		WAIT, Warren WAIT, Richard						
Whitehorse City Council 2012 - Postal			10	30	74.17%	3.35%	112490	
	Central Ward	MUNROE, Andrew MASSOUD, Denise	2	5	74.63%	3.59%	22144	
	Elgar Ward	CHONG, Robert HARRIS, Helen	2	4	71.43%	2.54%	23469	
	Morack Ward	CARR, Raylene BENNETT, Bill	2	5	77.73%	2.94%	22008	
	Riversdale Ward	ELLIS, Sharon DAVENPORT, Andrew	2	8	72.17%	3.77%	21739	
	Springfield Ward	STENNETT, Ben DAW, Philip	2	8	75.01%	3.94%	23130	
Whittlesea City Council 2012 - Postal			11	48	74.30%	7.02%	116548	
	North Ward	KIRKHAM, Ricky GRIFFIN, Rex	3	11	71.30%	4.02%	30318	
	South East Ward	DAVIS, Nicola LALIOS, Mary ALESSI, Sam KELLY, Norm HARRIS, Ken	4	22	76.32%	9.03%	44987	
	South West Ward	KOZMEVSKI, Stevan PAVLIDIS, Kris SINCLAIR, Darryl SPINELLI, Adrian	4	15	74.31%	6.89%	41243	
Wodonga City Council 2012 - Postal	Unsubdivided		7	13	73.06%	5.43%	27078	
		BYATT, Mark Anthony WANGMAN, Rodney SPEEDIE, Anna MAHOOD, Lisa KERR, Eric FRASER, Michael John						

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
		WATSON, John K. D.						
Wyndham City Council 2012 - Postal			11	46	67.13%	6.79%	114376	
	Chaffey Ward	BOURKE, Shane Peter GUPTA, Gautam GIBBONS, John BRITTAN, Marie	4	19	67.95%	8.30%	42524	
	Harrison Ward	FAIRCLOUGH, Bob GOODFELLOW, Glenn HEGEDICH, Adele KHAN, Intaj	4	18	63.58%	7.32%	40079	
	Iramoo Ward	MARCUS, Heather GIBBONS, Peter MAYNARD, Peter John	3	9	70.50%	4.25%	31773	
Yarra City Council 2012 - Attendance			9	21	51.72%	7.55%	66518	32
	Langridge Ward	JOLLY, Stephen STONE, Amanda BARBOUR, Geoff	3	7	52.38%	6.59%	20981	10
	Melba Ward	HUGGINS, Simon COLEMAN, Misha VLAHOGIANNIS, Phillip	3	7	51.16%	8.68%	22934	10
	Nicholls Ward	GAYLARD, Sam FRISTACKY, Jackie COLANZI, Roberto	3	7	51.67%	7.32%	22603	12
Yarra Ranges Shire Council 2012 - Postal			9	39	73.15%	3.42%	108942	
	Billanook Ward	McCARTHY, Maria	1	10	74.93%	3.76%	12559	
	Chandler Ward	CALLANAN, Jason	1	3	74.29%	3.08%	11362	
	Chirnside Ward	WITLOX, Andy	1	2	77.57%	3.20%	12300	
	Lyster Ward	DUNN, Samantha	1	2	70.84%	3.72%	11420	
	Melba Ward	AVERY, Terry	1	3	73.94%	2.51%	12510	
	O'Shannassy Ward	CHILD, Jim	1	3	68.24%	3.26%	12305	
	Ryrie Ward	McALLISTER, Fiona	1	12	73.10%	3.65%	12196	

Council U= uncontested	Electorate	Elected	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Streeton Ward	CLIFF, Noel	1	2	72.90%	4.25%	11435	
	Walling Ward	COX, Len	1	2	72.42%	3.41%	12855	
Yarriambiack Shire Council 2012 - Postal			7	11	80.36%	1.49%	4598	
	Dunmunkle Ward	KINGSTON, Raymond John GRANGE, Terry	2	3	79.80%	1.84%	1906	
	Hopetoun Ward [U]	McLEAN, Andrew Robert BALLENTINE, Helen	2	2	N/A	N/A	0	
	Warracknabeal Ward	ZANKER, Kylie Louise MASSEY, W. Graeme WOODS, Lisa Maree	3	6	80.76%	1.24%	2692	

Appendix 15: Snapshot of results

All councils

Sate-wide	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
All Councils (ex City of Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	2012	628	271	1,973	7.28	70.96	5.51	3,993,895	156,240	2,834,064	2008	629	1,953	74.68	4.99	3,704,057	2,766,310	-3.72	0.52
All Councils (ex City of Melbourne Leadership Team)	2012	629	272	1,982	7.29	71.18	5.42	4,164,303	160,512	2,964,073	2008	629	1,953	74.68	4.99	3,704,057	2,766,310	-3.5	0.43
All Councils (ex Geelong Mayor)	2012	630	272	1,991	7.32	70.67	5.49	4,102,329	159,067	2,899,060	2008	631	1,975	74.36	4.98	3,801,904	2,827,113	-3.69	0.51
All Councils (inc City of Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	2012	631	273	2,000	7.33	70.89	5.39	4,272,737	163,339	3,029,069	2008	631	1,975	74.36	4.98	3,801,904	2,827,113	-3.47	0.41
Attendance	2012	72	39	271	6.95	63.62	10.09	702,337	45,099	446,811	2008	81	341	70.03	9.9	797,604	558,557	-6.41	0.19
Postal (ex City of Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	2012	556	232	1,702	7.34	72.53	4.66	3,291,558	111,141	2,387,253	2008	548	1,612	75.96	3.75	2,906,453	2,207,753	-3.43	0.91
Postal (ex City of Melbourne Leadership Team)	2012	557	233	1,711	7.34	72.71	4.58	3,461,966	115,413	2,517,262	2008	548	1,612	75.96	3.75	2,906,453	2,207,753	-3.25	0.83

Postal (ex Geelong Mayor)	2012	558	233	1,720	7.38	72.13	4.65	3,399,992	113,968	2,452,249	2008	550	1,634	75.51	3.77	3,004,300	2,268,556	-3.38	0.88
Postal (inc City of Melbourne Leadership Team and Geelong Mayor)	2012	559	234	1,729	7.39	72.32	4.58	3,570,400	118,240	2,582,258	2008	550	1,634	75.51	3.77	3,004,300	2,268,556	-3.19	0.81

Melbourne City Council																			
	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Leadership Team	2012	2	1	18	18	59.94	4.35	108,434	2,827	64,996	2008	2	22	62.14	4.67	97,847	60,803	-2.2	-0.32
Councillors	2012	9	1	40	40	60.01	2.16	108,434	1,407	65,071	2008	7	32	62.26	2.64	97,847	60,923	-2.25	-0.48

Greater Geelong City Council																			
	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Mayor	2012	1	1	9	9	76.29	3.29	170,408	4,272	130,009								76.29	3.29
Councillors	2012	12	12	50	4.17	75.48	2.48	170,408	3,190	128,620	2008	12	43	75.91	2.35	107,826	81,849	-0.43	0.13

Attendance elections – metropolitan

Attendance Metropolitan	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Banyule City Council	2012	7	7	38	6.33	70.74	7.78	79,172	4,357	56,006	2008	7	42	75.11	6.93	91,904	69,033	-4.37	0.85
Glen Eira City Council	2012	9	3	33	11.00	68.03	10.58	66,743	7,063	59,680	2008	9	26	69.22	8.06	95,406	66,039	-1.19	2.52
Greater Dandenong City Council	2012	11	4	41	10.25	68.70	11.13	95,503	7,299	65,607	2008	11	40	71.90	10.09	91,593	65,859	-3.2	1.04
Knox City Council	2012	9	9	26	3.71	74.04	7.57	90,756	5,085	67,199	2008	9	31	76.37	6.37	99,487	75,974	-2.33	1.2
Moreland City Council	2012	11	3	49	16.33	64.46	16.06	111,987	11,592	72,185	2008	11	50	68.41	15.34	105,116	71,910	-3.95	0.72
Port Phillip City Council	2012	7	7	27	3.86	49.40	6.19	79,618	2,434	39,333	2008	7	42	51.29	6.63	64,944	33,309	-1.89	-0.44
Stonnington City Council	2012	9	3	36	12.00	56.20	10.31	80,674	4,672	45,336	2008	Stonnington City Council held its elections by postal voting in 2008					-8.9	5.26	
Yarra City Council	2012	9	3	21	7.00	51.72	7.55	66,518	2,597	34,402	2008	9	22	54.88	6.94	63,577	34,891	-3.16	0.61

Postal elections – metropolitan

Postal Metropolitan	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Bayside City Council	2012	7	3	48	16	70.22	6.33	71,176	3,164	49,981	2008	7	33	74.18	4.42	69,010	51,191	-3.96	1.91
Boroondara City Council	2012	10	10	37	3.7	71.27	2.99	122,821	2,615	87,539	2008	10	32	74.16	2.7	96,040	71,228	-2.89	0.29
Brimbank City Council	2012	There were no elections held for Brimbank City Council in 2012									2008	11	55	77.87	15.17	123,412	96,095	N/A	N/A
Casey City Council	2012	11	6	85	14.17	70.72	6.51	169,519	7,807	119,887	2008	11	52	74.84	3.93	153,374	114,792	-4.12	2.58
Darebin City Council	2012	9	3	52	17.33	67.53	7.72	102,100	5,320	68,945	2008	9	48	72.76	6.18	98,694	71,805	-5.23	1.54

Frankston City Council	2012	9	3	21	7	67.44	3.87	97,191	2,535	65,547	2008	9	29	71.88	4.02	90,848	65,305	-4.44	-0.15
Hobsons Bay City Council	2012	7	3	41	13.67	71.57	5.69	63,863	2,602	45,709	2008	7	37	73.11	7.57	62,165	45,447	-1.54	-1.88
Hume City Council	2012	11	3	47	15.67	73.15	6.21	115,039	5,228	84,150	2008	9	46	76.58	3.43	105,504	80,795	-3.43	2.78
Kingston City Council	2012	9	3	52	17.33	71.25	6.31	112,137	5,045	79,897	2008	9	53	74.62	6.47	108,591	81,031	-3.37	-0.16
Manningham City Council	2012	9	3	35	11.67	75.62	5.04	87,331	3,329	66,041	2008	9	40	79.19	4.94	85,881	68,013	-3.57	0.1
Maribyrnong City Council	2012	7	3	29	9.67	63.9	4.17	53,816	1,434	34,386	2008	7	38	66.89	2.51	50,375	33,696	-2.99	1.66
Maroondah City Council	2012	9	3	39	13	72.81	5.63	80,417	3,296	58,553	2008	9	36	75.87	4.71	78,139	59,285	-3.06	0.92
Monash City Council	2012	11	4	58	14.5	73.88	5.59	121,083	5,005	89,458	2008	11	43	78.84	3.7	119,575	94,271	-4.96	1.89
Moonee Valley City Council	2012	9	3	26	8.67	72.24	3.99	84,740	2,444	61,214	2008	9	19	73.62	2.95	81,330	59,874	-1.38	1.04
Nillumbik Shire Council	2012	7	7	44	6.29	76.69	3.12	46,373	1,109	35,564	2008	7	57	80.88	2.48	45,374	36,698	-4.19	0.64
Stonnington City Council	2012	Stonnington City Council held its elections by attendance voting in 2012									2008	9	36	65.10	5.05	76,004	49,475	-8.9	5.26
Whitehorse City Council	2012	10	5	30	6	74.17	3.35	112,490	2,796	83,436	2008	10	33	77.43	3.05	111,639	86,445	-3.26	0.3
Whittlesea City Council	2012	11	3	48	16	74.3	7.02	116,548	6,080	86,595	2008	9	32	79.46	3.51	96,638	76,789	-5.16	3.51
Wyndham City Council	2012	11	3	46	15.33	67.13	6.79	114,376	5,216	76,777	2008	9	22	73.89	2.91	86,495	63,915	-6.76	3.88

Postal elections – Regional and outer metropolitan

Postal Regional and outer Metropolitan	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Alpine Shire Council	2012	7	1	13	13	75.64	3.93	11,524	343	8,717	2008	7	15	78.47	4.67	11,224	8,808	-2.83	-0.74
Ararat Rural City Council	2012	7	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	2008	7	12	81.77	3.16	9,053	7,403	-81.77	-3.16
Ballarat City Council	2012	9	3	22	7.33	77.51	2.7	72,725	1,524	56,367	2008	9	40	79.53	3.84	67,624	53,783	-2.02	-1.14
Bass Coast Shire Council	2012	7	7	26	3.71	71.13	2	40,887	581	29,082	2008	7	17	76.12	2.13	16,613	12,645	-4.99	-0.13
Baw Baw Shire Council	2012	9	4	26	6.5	77.28	2.83	34,853	762	26,935	2008	9	25	81.89	2.03	31,042	25,420	-4.61	0.8
Benalla Rural City Council	2012	7	1	9	9	78.87	3.8	11,335	340	8,940	2008	7	14	81.79	2.92	11,265	9,214	-2.92	0.88
Borough of Queenscliffe	2012	5	1	7	7	75.94	2.72	4,268	88	3,241	2008	5	9	78.12	1.34	4,196	3,278	-2.18	1.38
Buloke Shire Council	2012	7	3	11	3.67	81.41	1.05	4,326	37	3,522	2008	7	9	84.92	0.77	4,422	3,755	-3.51	0.28
Campaspe Shire Council	2012	9	5	22	4.4	78.44	2.56	28,820	578	22,606	2008	9	16	81.06	1.89	24,758	20,070	-2.62	0.67
Cardinia Shire Council	2012	9	3	20	6.67	70.17	3.62	56,379	1,434	39,562	2008	7	17	75.54	2.48	45,215	34,156	-5.37	1.14
Central Goldfields Shire Council	2012	7	4	13	3.25	80.08	2.06	10,858	179	8,695	2008	7	13	81.83	1.7	9,293	7,604	-1.75	0.36
Colac Otway Shire Council	2012	7	1	14	14	78.17	4.48	19,799	693	15,477	2008	7	21	83.01	6.1	19,225	15,958	-4.84	-1.62
Corangamite Shire Council	2012	7	5	10	2	79.49	1.68	7,728	103	6,143	2008	7	11	82.94	1.41	7,671	6,362	-3.45	0.27
East Gippsland Shire Council	2012	9	1	17	17	74.99	6.9	39,645	2,050	29,729	2008	9	29	77.53	9.58	37,586	29,139	-2.54	-2.68
Gannawarra Shire Council	2012	7	4	9	2.25	80.83	1.69	4,021	55	3,250	2008	7	10	82.86	1.48	7,665	6,351	-2.03	0.21
Glenelg Shire Council	2012	7	1	11	11	74.42	3.88	16,811	486	12,510	2008	7	17	78.83	5.22	16,504	13,010	-4.41	-1.34

Postal Regional and outer Metropolitan	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Golden Plains Shire Council	2012	7	1	12	12	76.02	4.35	16,098	532	12,237	2008	7	11	77.26	3.06	14,447	11,162	-1.24	1.29
Greater Bendigo City Council	2012	9	3	21	7	77.45	2.4	79,736	1,482	61,755	2008	9	40	80.03	1.63	66,193	52,976	-2.58	0.77
Greater Shepparton City Council	2012	7	1	26	26	80.1	9.53	43,372	3,312	34,740	2008	7	19	82.45	6.98	41,198	33,967	-2.35	2.55
Hepburn Shire Council	2012	7	5	15	3	76.18	2.51	12,613	241	9,608	2008	7	14	78.49	1.33	9,959	7,817	-2.31	1.18
Hindmarsh Shire Council	2012	6	3	11	3.67	81.27	2.61	3,396	72	2,760	2008	6	7	84.98	1.86	1,711	1,454	-3.71	0.75
Horsham Rural City Council	2012	7	1	11	11	81.79	2.5	15,445	316	12,632	2008	7	13	84.94	3.47	14,978	12,722	-3.15	-0.97
Indigo Shire Council	2012	7	1	17	17	77.72	6.56	12,867	656	10,000	2008	7	16	80.9	6.22	12,049	9,748	-3.18	0.34
Latrobe City Council	2012	9	4	22	5.5	73.72	3.42	54,385	1,373	40,090	2008	9	34	77.86	2.1	46,809	36,445	-4.14	1.32
Loddon Shire Council	2012	5	5	7	1.4	75.5	1.87	2,979	42	2,249	2008	5	8	80.73	0.85	3,207	2,589	-5.23	1.02
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	2012	9	3	29	9.67	74.04	3.87	33,712	966	24,961	2008	9	36	79.06	3.56	31,235	24,695	-5.04	0.34
Mansfield Shire Council	2012	5	4	12	3	72.72	2.09	7,944	121	5,777	2008	5	8	77.26	1.35	5,739	4,434	-4.54	0.74
Melton City Council	2012	7	3	72	24	68.52	9.58	76,026	4,991	52,093	2008	7	34	72.57	5.17	63,369	45,986	-4.05	4.41
Mildura Rural City Council	2012	9	1	14	14	76.02	5.06	38,063	1,463	28,936	2008	9	17	80.79	5	36,906	29,817	-4.77	0.06
Mitchell Shire Council	2012	9	3	22	7.33	72.75	2.98	26,962	585	19,615	2008	9	24	77.48	2.53	24,229	18,772	-4.73	0.45
Moira Shire Council	2012	9	1	18	18	75.95	6.72	23,428	1,196	17,793	2008	9	13	79.73	4.11	22,477	17,920	-3.78	2.61
Moorabool Shire Council	2012	7	4	12	3	71.84	3.22	16,906	391	12,145	2008	7	11	76.52	2.86	15,138	11,584	-4.68	0.36
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	2012	11	6	43	7.17	68.52	4.37	145,378	4,350	99,616	2008	11	28	74.18	2.63	63,558	47,145	-5.66	1.74
Mount Alexander Shire Council	2012	7	5	23	4.6	79	2.26	13,290	237	10,499	2008	7	22	80.36	1.95	14,917	11,988	-1.36	0.31
Moyne Shire Council	2012	7	1	9	9	79.75	2.55	14,108	287	11,251	2008	7	16	82.62	4.41	13,486	11,142	-2.87	-1.86
Murrindindi Shire Council	2012	7	7	12	1.71	73.44	1.82	5,904	79	4,336	2008	7	13	78.53	2.49	8,075	6,341	-5.09	-0.67

Postal Regional and outer Metropolitan	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of elections	Number of candidates	Average # candidates /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	# informal votes	Votes	Year	Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections	Votes	change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
Northern Grampians Shire Council	2012	7	4	11	2.75	78.31	1.96	7,751	119	6,070	2008	7	7	0	0	0	0	78.31	1.96
Pyrenees Shire Council	2012	5	5	10	2	77.22	2.81	7,103	154	5,485	2008	5	8	80.21	2	4,124	3,308	-2.99	0.81
South Gippsland Shire Council	2012	9	3	13	4.33	74.72	2.05	18,647	285	13,933	2008	9	16	79.7	1.88	27,052	21,560	-4.98	0.17
Southern Grampians Shire Council	2012	7	1	10	10	81.65	3.84	13,406	420	10,946	2008	7	12	85.68	2.85	13,329	11,420	-4.03	0.99
Strathbogrie Shire Council	2012	7	5	14	2.8	78.92	2.25	8,051	143	6,354	2008	7	15	82.66	1.53	7,572	6,259	-3.74	0.72
Surf Coast Shire Council	2012	9	4	25	6.25	74.84	2.92	26,502	580	19,834	2008	9	15	74.54	4.76	27,389	20,415	0.3	-1.84
Swan Hill Rural City Council	2012	7	4	18	4.5	78.51	2.61	14,471	297	11,361	2008	7	14	79.22	2.45	12,418	9,837	-0.71	0.16
Towong Shire Council	2012	5	1	12	12	78.03	3.34	5,486	143	4,281	2008	5	15	81.63	4.23	5,416	4,421	-3.6	-0.89
Wangaratta Rural City Council	2012	7	1	19	19	82.7	6.63	21,738	1,192	17,978	2008	7	13	81.32	3.82	20,979	17,061	1.38	2.81
Warrnambool City Council	2012	7	1	12	12	81.61	3.54	25,133	726	20,512	2008	7	18	82.6	5.48	23,931	19,767	-0.99	-1.94
Wellington Shire Council	2012	9	1	14	14	68.77	5.45	42,181	1,581	29,009	2008	9	12	70.74	3.79	41,779	29,553	-1.97	1.66
West Wimmera Shire Council	2012	5	1	8	8	76.85	2.46	4,018	76	3,088	2008	5	11	80.23	2.15	4,052	3,251	-3.38	0.31
Wodonga City Council	2012	7	1	13	13	73.06	5.43	27,078	1,075	19,784	2008	7	20	76.68	7.37	25,331	19,424	-3.62	-1.94
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	2012	9	9	39	4.33	73.15	3.42	108,942	2,722	79,690	2008	9	41	77.46	2.78	94,394	73,113	-4.31	0.64
Yarriambiack Shire Council	2012	7	3	11	3.67	80.36	1.49	4,598	55	3,695	2008	7	12	82.33	0.92	6,467	5,324	-1.97	0.57

