

Equal Access to Democracy Elector Brochure 2008

New South Wales local council elections 13 September 2008.

Your vote is your voice in your local area. Be heard.

Please note this brochure contains important information about the election. It's particularly important to remember:

- Polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturday 13 September 2008;
- You can only vote in the local council area or ward where you are enrolled;
- Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors in New South Wales; and
- The penalty for not voting at a local council election is \$55.00.

Do I need to vote?

Enrolment and voting is compulsory if you're an Australian citizen, living in New South Wales and 18 years of age or older at the time of the election.

Who do I vote for?

On election day, you'll need to vote for the people you want to represent you on your local council. Councillors are elected for a four-year term. You may also need to vote for the Mayor of your Council. If so you will receive a separate ballot paper.

What if there's a referendum or a poll?

If your Council is holding a referendum or poll, your vote will also count on this issue. For more information visit our website at www.elections.nsw.gov.au or call us on 1300 135 736.

Where can I vote?

Unlike state or federal elections there is no absent, interstate or overseas voting available in local council elections. This means that if you are outside your local government area or ward (if your Council has wards) on election day, you cannot vote, unless it is at a principal polling place.

Each Council area with wards will have at least one principal polling place appointed. If you are on the roll for that council area, you will be able to vote at the principal polling place.

To check your enrolment details and your nearest polling place visit our website or call us.

What if I can't get to a polling place on election day?

You can either vote early

You may be eligible to vote early at a local pre-poll voting centre. Pre-poll voting is available:

- Monday 1 September 2008 to Friday 5 September 2008; and
- Monday 8 September 2008 to Friday 12 September 2008.

Locations and opening times of all pre-poll voting centres are published on our website, will be advertised in local newspapers and are available by calling us.

OR

You can vote by post

Postal voting is also available for eligible voters. Application forms are available from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or by contacting your council or returning officer. Applications must be received by the returning officer by 5pm Monday 8 September 2008. Electors who are registered general postal voters for federal and state elections are already registered for council elections. They will automatically be sent their ballot papers without further application.

Can I get assistance in any other language?

If you need assistance in another language call 13 14 50.

How can I help someone who cannot read this brochure?

If you, or someone you know, requires assistance reading this brochure please call 1300 135 736.

Important to remember

Election day: 8am to 6pm Saturday 13 September 2008

Pre-poll voting: From Monday 1 September 2008 to Friday 5 September 2008 and Monday 8 September 2008 to Friday 12 September 2008 during business hours. Locations are available from www.elections.nsw.gov.au or simply call 1300 135 736.

Postal voting: Application forms must be received by the returning officer no later than 5pm Monday 8 September 2008. Download a postal vote application form from www.elections.nsw.gov.au, ask your Council or returning officer or simply call 1300 135 736.

After election day: Give us your feedback on how the election was conducted by completing our online survey at www.elections.nsw.gov.au

For more information visit

www.elections.nsw.gov.au

or call 1300 135 736

Assistance for hearing and speech impaired TTY (02) 9247 3568
