

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timing of Local Government Elections?

Local Government Elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October.

The next City of Fremantle Local Government Election will be held on Saturday 16 October 2021.

The Mayor for the City of Fremantle is elected every four years for a four-year term and was last elected in October 2017.

There are 12 Councillors in the City of Fremantle and half are elected every two years to serve a term of four years.

In October 2021 the City of Fremantle will hold elections for the Mayor and six Councillor positions.

Which of the current Elected Member's terms expire in 2021?

The Mayoral position is currently vacant.

The terms of Councillors Sullivan, Fitzhardinge, Thompson, Lang, Wainwright and Archibald will expire in 2021.

When do nominations for candidates open?

Thursday 2 September 2021.

When do nominations for candidates close?

Thursday 9 September 2021 at 4.00pm.

Who can be a candidate?

Anyone who is on the City of Fremantle Electoral Roll as a resident, or a non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property within the City of Fremantle (and is not disqualified) can be a candidate.

Nominees of a body corporate cannot stand for election to Council.

Further detail on who is qualified to be a candidate is outlined in sections 2.19 to 2.24 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Who is entitled to vote?

The roll for this election consists of:

1. Individuals who live in the City of Fremantle district and who are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll (the Residents' Roll)
2. Non-resident owners or occupiers of rate-able property in the City of Fremantle district (the City's Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll).

What is the Residents' Roll?

Those residents who live in the City of Fremantle district that are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll are automatically enrolled on the Residents' Roll for local government elections.

What is the "Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll"?

Owners of land or nominees of corporate bodies who own or occupy rateable property in the City of Fremantle, but are not enrolled on the State Electoral Roll for the City of Fremantle district, may apply to be on the Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll, providing they are on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for a residential address outside that ward or the City's district.

What is a Non-Resident Owner?

A non-resident owner is a person who owns rateable land within the City of Fremantle district but is not a resident. To be eligible to be on the roll, a non-resident owner must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for the area where they live.

What is a Non-Resident Occupier?

A non-resident occupier is a person, living outside the City of Fremantle district or a ward where the election is being held, who leases or occupies rateable property within the City.

To be eligible to vote the person must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll where they live and have a right of continuous occupation under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument of the property within the district where they seek a vote. The right of continuous occupation must extend for a period of at least three months at the time the person enrolls.

Are people who do not live in the City of Fremantle able to vote?

Yes. Electors of a local government consist of eligible non-resident property owners and occupiers and residents of the district. Where people personally own or occupy property, but are not residents of the district, they are able to enrol to vote.

Is voting compulsory?

No, voting in local government elections is not compulsory in Western Australia.

Why do I have to provide a copy of my lease, tenancy agreement etc?

Under the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997 the Chief Executive Officer can make inquiries to determine a person's eligibility for enrolment, including asking for a copy of a lease or tenancy agreement to support a claim for enrolment.

When is the last day I can enrol to vote in these Elections?

People who live in the City (whether they own a property or rent it) are automatically enrolled for the City of Fremantle Local Government Elections if they are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll. They must be enrolled on the State Electoral Roll by 5.00pm, Friday 27 August 2021 to be eligible to vote in the 2021 City of Fremantle Local Government Elections.

Residents should direct enquiries about the State Electoral Roll to the Western Australian Electoral Commission on 13 63 06.

Individuals and companies that own or occupy property in the City may enrol, (or nominees may be enrolled on behalf of companies) up to 5.00pm on Friday 27 August 2021 in order to be eligible to vote in the 2021 City of Fremantle Local Government Elections. Those enrolling must be on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll and reside outside of the City of Fremantle district.

Enrolment Forms

Enrolment forms may be obtained from the City of Fremantle website (see "Council, elections and voting" under the category "Council")

Alternatively, forms can be obtained by:

Emailing: governance@Fremantle.wa.gov.au; or

Calling: 9432 9643

When does the poll close?

6pm on Saturday, 16 October 2021.

When are the votes counted?

After 6pm on Saturday, 16 October 2021.

Where can I vote?

The election is conducted via postal voting. A ballot box will be at the Fremantle Administration building Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and on Saturday, 16 October 2021 from 8am - 6pm at the City of Fremantle Town Hall.

Can I vote for the Mayor directly?

Yes. The Mayor election is also being held on 16 October 2021.

Does the City have wards?

Yes, a map of Wards is available [here](#)

What is the voting entitlement per person or property?

A person may have their name on the roll only once for each ward regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied. For the Mayoral Election a person is only entitled to vote once regardless if they are on the roll for multiple wards. A company may have a maximum of two people on the roll as nominees of that company regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied.

"Occupation" means having a right under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument, to be in continuous occupation of a definable piece of rateable property for at least the next three months after the date of application.

If I own multiple properties in the City, can I vote more than once?

No, an individual cannot vote multiple times.

Who conducts the elections?

The elections will be conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) as a postal election. Election Packages containing information on the candidates, instructions on how to vote, the ballot paper, and the return envelopes will be posted to electors about three weeks before the Election Day.

Is early or absent voting available?

No. Early or absent voting is not available for postal elections. If you are going to be away at the time of the election, you need to get someone to forward your ballot voting package to you.

When are the election results announced?

On the evening of Saturday, 16 October 2021, when the counting of votes has been finalised.

What is the system for counting votes?

The 'first past the post' system is used for local government elections, electors indicate the candidate, or candidates, of their choice by placing a tick in the box opposite the names of the chosen people, up to the number of vacancies to be filled, with candidates being elected in order of the number of votes they receive.

By when must the ballot paper be returned?

All ballot papers must be returned by 6.00pm on Saturday 16 October 2021 to be included in the count for the election. Additional time needs to be considered to ensure delivery of the ballot papers to the WAEC by Australia Post.

On Election Day, Saturday 16 October 2021 election packages can be personally delivered to the Returning Officer, between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

What if I don't receive a postal voting package?

Election packages are posted to all electors on the City of Fremantle roll approximately three weeks before Election Day. Every person on the roll will be issued a ballot paper by mail and invited to complete the ballot paper and return it to the City by 6.00pm on Election Day.

A replacement package can be issued if it has been lost or destroyed. A WAEC representative will be available at the City's Administration Centre to assist during the voting period.

For any other information or for more detail on a particular topic:

The WAEC Returning Officer for the 2021 City of Fremantle Local Government Elections is Dave Paige and he can be contact on 0458 806 791 or LGro_fre@elections.wa.gov.au.

In the meantime, further information can be obtained by visiting either the City of Fremantle website Fremantle.wa.gov.au or the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website dlgsc.wa.gov.au