

2023 Local Government Elections

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timing of Local Government Elections?

The next City of Joondalup Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday 21 October 2023. Local Government Elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October.

The Mayor for the City of Joondalup is elected every four years for a four-year term and was last elected in October 2021.

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

In October 2023, the City of Joondalup will hold elections for six Councillor positions.

Candidates in the 2023 October Election

Which of the current Elected Members' terms expire in 2023?

The terms of the following Elected Members expire in 2023, and they are eligible for re-election:

Cr Tom McLean JP

Cr John Logan

Cr Suzanne Thompson

Cr John Raftis

Cr Russell Poliwka

Cr Nige Jones

When do nominations for candidates open?

Thursday 31 August 2023.

When do nominations for candidates close?

Thursday 7 September 2023.

Who can be a candidate?

Anyone who is on the City of Joondalup Electoral Roll as a resident, or a non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property within the City of Joondalup (and is not disqualified) can be a candidate. Nominees of a corporate body cannot stand for election to Council.

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

Enrollment

Who is entitled to vote?

The roll for this election consists of:

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

What is the Resident's Roll?

Those residents who live in the City of Joondalup district that are enrolled in 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 or corporate bodies who own or occupy rateable property in the City of Joondalup 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 Joondalup 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 Joondalup 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 claims enrollment.

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

Yes. Electors of a local government consist of eligible non-resident property owners and occupiers and residents of the district. Local government provides services to both people and property and the rates levied are paid not only by residents but also non-resident business owners and other people who own or occupy property. Where people personally own or occupy property, but are not residents of the district, they are able to enroll to vote.

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

People who live in the City (whether they own property or rent it) are automatically enrolled for the City of Joondalup 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 25 August 2023 to be eligible to vote in the 2023 City of Joondalup 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 enroll (or nominees may be enrolled on behalf of companies) up to 5.00pm on Friday 25 August 2023 in order to be eligible to vote in the 2023 City of Joondalup Local Government Elections. Those enrolling must be on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll and reside outside of the City of Joondalup district.

What is the voting entitlement per person or property?

A person may have his or her 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 three months after the date of application.

Enrollment Forms

Enrollment forms may be obtained from the City of Joondalup website (see [Sign Up for Joondalup - City of Joondalup](#)).

Alternatively, forms can be obtained by:

- Emailing a request to **info@joondalup.wa.gov.au**; or
- Phoning **9400 4000**.

Ward Boundary Changes

At the Council Meeting held on 16 November 2021, Council considered the City's eight-year review of its ward boundaries, ward names, and councillor representation levels, and resolved in Part to amend its ward boundaries, from the 2023 ordinary local government elections.

What does this mean?

The new ward structure will result in some suburbs moving to a different ward. This means different Councillors may represent your suburb from the 2023 local government elections.

Further information and a new ward structure map is available on the City's website.

The Elections

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 voting compulsory?

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

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.

By when must the ballot paper be returned?

All ballot papers must be returned by 6.00pm on Saturday 21 October 2023 to be included in the count for election. Additional time needs to be considered to ensure delivery of the ballot papers to WAEC by Australia Post.

On Election Day, Saturday 21 October 2023, election packages can be personally delivered to the Returning Officer, who will be in the Joondalup Reception Centre, 102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup (Ground Floor of the Joondalup Civic Centre) between 8.00am and 6.00pm.

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

Elected packages are posted to all electors on the City of Joondalup 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 2023 City of Joondalup Local Government Elections will be advised on the City's website closer to the opening date of nominations.

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