

# Local Government Elections FAQ's

## Who can vote?

You must be a resident, non-resident owner or non-resident occupier of a rateable property within the Shire of Dundas, and on the electoral roll.

## How do I know if I am enrolled to vote?

Residents who are enrolled on the WA State electoral roll for an address within the Shire's boundaries are automatically enrolled on the local government roll. Non-resident owners and non-resident occupiers of rateable property are not automatically enrolled. Enrolments can be checked on the [WA Electoral Commission website](#).

## How do I vote?

Postal voting packages are sent to all eligible electors in the Shire of Dundas by the WA Electoral Commission. They contain information about candidates, ballot papers, a reply paid envelope and an information brochure on how to vote. The ballot papers are sent to the Returning Officer and are counted at the Shire offices on Election Day.

## Is it compulsory to vote?

No.

## Are there any absentee votes?

No, because a postal voting system is used. Absentee Votes are only provided for by Local Governments which operate on a voting-in-person election.

## What is optional preferential voting?

Optional preferential voting means that to be elected you need to either achieve a majority of votes in the count for a single vacancy, or a quota of votes where there is more than one vacancy to be filled. As a result, the candidates elected are more representative of the majority of voters.

Full preferential voting requires ballots to be completed by numbering each candidate with one being the top preference. Optional preferential voting does not require all boxes to be marked for the vote to be valid, for example if there are three candidates and you choose to only mark two, your vote will still be counted.

## Can I vote for the Shire President?

For larger councils, the mayor or president will be elected by the community (popularly elected) rather than by councillors. The Shire of Dundas Council elects the President and Deputy President by vote of Council.

## Can I vote if I live outside the Shire of Dundas, but I own a property within the Shire of Dundas?

Yes – provided you claim enrolment by completing and returning a relevant Owner and Occupier Enrolment Form by the closing date.

NOTE: Once you have made a claim, you do not need to re-apply for future years unless your claim expires.

## If a property is owned by a company, are Directors eligible to vote on the company's behalf?

Yes – provided the company, which owns or occupies rateable property within the electorate, nominates a director or other person to vote on its behalf. That person (or up to 2 persons nominated) must complete a relevant Owner and Occupier Enrolment Form to claim enrolment.

## Do I have to be a ratepayer to vote at Council Elections?

No – anyone who is listed on the current State Electoral roll may vote at local government elections in the ward where their address is situated. If you are registered on the electoral roll in another local government district you are still eligible to vote so long as you are registered as an occupier of a Dundas property. In this case you are required to complete a relevant Owner and Occupier Enrolment Form.

## How long is my enrolment on the Council's Owners & Occupiers Roll valid?

If you enrol as an owner of rateable property (this includes nominees of a body corporate which owns a property) then your enrolment remains valid for as long as you continue to own the property. If your property is sold you will automatically be removed from the Owners and Occupiers Roll.

If you enrol as an occupier of rateable property, then your enrolment remains valid for two ordinary elections. You are then required to re-apply.