

Local Government Elections Bulletin

No. 2 – 31 July 2017

1. Returning Office Hours of Operation

Returning Offices commenced operation on 24 July and will be open Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm throughout the nomination period. Nominations for Blayney, Oberon, Cabonne, Canada Bay and Strathfield Councils can be made at both the Council office, during Council business hours, as well as the relevant Returning Office.

Returning Office hours of operation will change for the pre-poll period. Information on these hours of operation will be provided to Councils but can also be accessed on the www.votensw.info website.

2. Information for Potential Candidates

Candidates who nominate for election must also register and appoint an official agent

All candidates and groups of candidates must register with the NSWEC and appoint an official agent prior to accepting political donations or making payments for electoral expenditure. Registering as a candidate or group of candidates with the NSWEC is a separate process to being nominated for the election. Candidates and groups must also lodge a nomination form and nomination deposit with their Returning Officer, between Monday 31 July and 12 noon, Wednesday 9 August, in order to appear on the ballot paper. For Registration and Nomination forms and more information, visit www.votensw.info/forcandidates

New laws affecting 2017 Local Council Elections for the first time

New laws promoting integrity in the Local Council electoral process commenced on 1 July 2016. Council areas having a general election in 2017 will do so for the first time since these laws commenced. It is therefore important that everyone who is contesting or otherwise participating in these elections knows and understands the rules.

The three main changes are:

- *Caps on political donations*
- *Regulation of third-party campaigners*
- *Political parties to keep a separate local government campaign account*

For more information on the new laws, go to our *website*, call 1300 022 011 or email fdc@elections.nsw.gov.au

3. Non- Residential Rolls

Every council should have received their access code and user guide for the NSWEC Non-Residential Roll Management System. You would have also received a copy of the Office of Local Government Circular No. 17-13, dated 14 June 2017 <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/17-13.pdf>

This Circular provides information regarding persons who are to be included on non-residential rolls. If you're unsure about your obligations regarding the non-residential roll, contact us on lge16-17.nrr@elections.nsw.gov.au

Please remember that 6:00pm on Monday 31 July is the time and date for the close of both the residential and non-residential rolls. After that time councils must complete their non-residential roll, have it certified as correct by the General Manager and then send to the NSWEC. We will then undertake final

checks on the applicants and inform councils which applicants have been accepted onto the non-residential roll. Finally, each council must make the list of accepted applicants for the non-residential roll available for inspection within council chambers up to Election Day.

Any general enquiries in relation to non-residential rolls can be directed to lge16-17.nrr@elections.nsw.gov.au

4. Candidate Information - Nominations

Candidate information is available on the NSWEC website www.votensw.info 'Planning to be a Candidate' for access by potential candidates. The information covers a range of topics including:

- Electoral Rolls
- Registration and Nomination Processes
- Ballot Paper Draw
- Election Campaign Finance Management
- Electoral Materials
- Voting
- Vote Counting and Results
- Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure and
- Allegations and Offences.

Nomination forms and other Candidate related forms including the Candidate Handbook are available on the NSWEC website www.votensw.info/forcandidates 'Planning to be a Candidate' link on the homepage.

All Nomination forms must be lodged by noon Wednesday 9 August 2017.

The NSWEC Candidate Helpdesk is now operational Monday to Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm. Candidate enquiries should be directed to the **Candidate Helpdesk on 1300 088 942** or via email to nominations@elections.nsw.gov.au

Nominated candidates will be displayed on the www.votensw.info website from Tuesday afternoon (after the close of rolls on Monday 31 July at 6:00pm).

Thank you for your continued co-operation in supporting the NSWEC in preparing for these elections.



John Schmidt
Electoral Commissioner