



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE

Strong Field of Candidates to Contest Record Number of Local Government Postal Elections

A total of 727 candidates have nominated for the 412 vacancies available in the 76 local government elections being conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

When nominations closed at 4.00 pm on Thursday 8 September 2011, the numbers showed that there are 321 contested vacancies, and 90 candidates have been elected unopposed. In addition, one vacancy for the Shire of Roebourne will remain unfilled and will need to go to an extraordinary election at a date after the 15 October 2011 ordinary elections.

WA Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately said that as is usually the case, a large proportion of candidates left nominating to the final day.

“This rush at the end of nominations certainly makes life interesting for Returning Officers, and the Commission is now working hard with its contractors to get around 1.2 million election packages printed and compiled ready for dispatch over the coming days.

“The 74 postal elections and two in person elections being conducted by the Commission involve about 95% of the State’s enrolled electors,” said Mr Gately.

While the Mayors of Cambridge and Victoria Park were re-elected unopposed, the following local government districts with a popularly elected mayor or president will see contested ballots: Albany, Carnarvon, Greater Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Melville, Nedlands, Perth, South Perth, Vincent and Wanneroo. The City of Melville has the most mayoral candidates with four, whereas the high profile Perth and Vincent elections will see just two candidates vying for the senior role on council.

Mr Gately said, “Other metropolitan council elections attracting a high level of candidate interest include the City of Gosnells where 19 candidates are vying for 6 vacancies, and the Town of Bassendean with 14 candidates for 6 vacancies.

“In the country, the Shire of Esperance attracted 21 candidates for 9 vacancies, Harvey 12 for 7 vacancies, and Kalgoorlie 3 mayoral candidates along with 12 candidates for 6 councillor vacancies. In the inaugural elections for the new City of Greater Geraldton 4 candidates are contesting the mayoral ballot and a total of 21 candidates are contesting the 14 councillor vacancies.”



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

The names of all candidates contesting the October elections can be found on the Commission's website at www.waec.wa.gov.au and will be published in The West Australian newspaper on Wednesday 14 September 2011.

The profiles of all candidates have been posted to notice boards at individual local government offices and will be included in the election packages to be posted to electors in those districts where postal elections are being conducted.

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 9 September 2011

Media Contact: Chris Avent, 9214 0409