

Where can I find out more?

To visit Council's website for more information about the local government election, scan the QR code or visit eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



Here you will find Council's business papers, publications and policies, including the Annual Report, Council Plan, Council Budget, strategies, plans, policy library, community newsletter, and recording of Council meetings.

There is also additional information on the Election including when the elections will take place, how to enroll to vote, becoming a candidate, voting, the election period and campaign donations.

When do nominations close?

Nominations must be made by 12 noon on **Tuesday 17 September 2024** at the Victorian Electoral Commission Office at **Ground Floor, 76 Main Street, Bairnsdale.**

To visit the Victorian Electoral Commission website for more information about the election and becoming a Councillor, scan the QR code or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au



To visit the Municipal Association of Victoria's website, scan the QR code or visit www.mav.asn.au



To find out about mandatory candidate training information, visit the Local Government Victoria website www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au



Of the three levels of government – Local, State and Federal – Local Government is the level that most closely affects the everyday lives of residents.

East Gippsland Shire Council provides over 100 different services and has over 44,000 residents across 21,000 square kilometres. In area, we are the second-largest shire in Victoria.

The Council is made up of nine Councillors who each represent the whole Shire.

All candidates are required to complete mandatory candidate training to understand Council and the role of a Councillor.



Standing for Council

Councillors set East Gippsland's strategic direction, establish and guide policies, set service delivery standards, and monitor performance. They represent the entire community and advocate on a wide range of issues.

East Gippsland Shire Council

273 Main Street

PO Box 1618 Bairnsdale VIC 3875

 5153 9500

 eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

 EastGippyShire

 PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875



Representing community values

Councillors are the voices of their community. They help ensure the community's values and needs are met through strategic planning, funding priorities and advocacy to state and federal governments.

You will need to understand what is important to the community and balance the community's vision with available funds and Council's obligations under law.

Can I be a Councillor?

- To nominate as a candidate, a person must be:
- an Australian citizen
- at least 18 years of age on election day
- enrolled to vote in East Gippsland Shire Council.

There are some restrictions, such as if you are bankrupt or have been convicted of certain criminal or electoral offences.

What do Councils do?

Local government enables the economic, social and cultural development of the municipal area it represents, supports individuals and groups, and provides a wide range of services for the wellbeing of the local community.

Visit www.viccouncils.asn.au for more information.



Do I have the skills needed?

Many Councillors started out by being active in the community through school associations, sporting groups, workplace action groups and similar committees.

These communication and networking skills are a great background to becoming a Councillor.

A good knowledge of local issues will help you better represent your community.

Computer skills are important as most documents and correspondence are electronic.

Other valuable skills are public speaking, time management and decision making.

Opportunities are available to develop skills in specific areas and Councillors are encouraged to take part to gain the level of skills they need.

Most valuable of all is a desire to make a positive difference for the people of East Gippsland.

How much time is involved?

You can expect to spend between 10-20 hours a week on Council matters.

Currently Council holds Ordinary Council Meetings at the Corporate Centre in Bairnsdale on a Tuesday, approximately every three weeks commencing at 6.00 pm to around 8.00 pm. Briefing sessions are held every Tuesday, commencing at 10.00 am to around 5.00 pm. However, the times do vary.

From time to time there are visits to other communities within the Shire – sometimes over two or three days.

However, the new Council will set the dates and times of its meetings based on the needs of the group.

Councillors may also sit on Advisory Boards, internal and external committees, industry groups and working parties. Councillors can join as many or as few of these groups as they wish, depending on their interest and time availability.

There are invitations to interesting community events and meetings throughout the Shire.

Perhaps most important of all, you need to set time aside to spend with and advocate for the East Gippsland community.

Will I be paid?

Councillors receive a yearly allowance, which is determined annually by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal. Paid fortnightly, it includes an amount equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (9.5%). The Councillors Support and Expenses Policy details other benefits that may be available. The policy is available on our website.

What support can I expect?

A range of support is available to ensure all community members are able to undertake the duties of a Councillor, if they are elected.

Eligible Councillors are able to access support while conducting Council business. Assistance available includes diary support for meetings and events, correspondence management, and reimbursement of travel costs.