

## Thinking of running for Council in 2020?

### Here's what you need to know

#### What does a Councillor do?

Being a Councillor is a complex job.

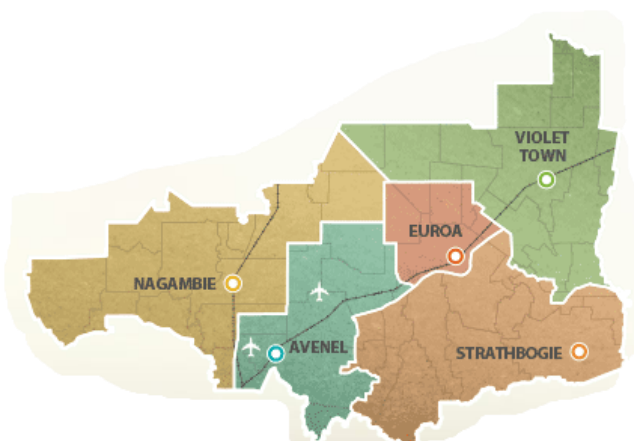
You have to be able to understand complex budgets and financial plans, legislation, be able to speak publicly and to communicate with a wide range of people across the community.

You also have to uphold the highest standards of ethics and good governance. This means being transparent about your personal interests and making decisions for the benefit of the whole municipal community, not just your ward.

Councillors also need to spend time:

- meeting with our community and responding to their queries
- attending informal and formal Council meetings (which at times can be several hours a week)
- reading a large volume of technical and strategic documents
- continuously learning and developing
- attending meetings for local, regional and State groups and organisations.

The Know your Council website provides information as to how Strathbogieshire Council performed last year in relation to a number of key indicators and provides more information about how councils operate. Visit [www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au](http://www.knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au) to find out more.



#### Are you eligible to run for Council?

The *Local Government Act 2020* outlines what makes you eligible to run for Council and what factors mean that you are disqualified from doing so. A summary of section 34 of the Act is below setting out all of the requirements and restrictions:

A person is qualified to be a Councillor of a Council if the person -

- a) is 18 years old; and
- b) is an Australian citizen or an eligible British subject referred to in section 48(1)(a) of the Constitution Act 1975; and
- c) is enrolled on the voters' roll for the Council or able to be enrolled for the Council for the election; and
- d) is not a person disqualified by any of the criteria under (2) described in the following section.

#### What disqualifies you from running for Council?

2. A person is not qualified to be a Councillor of a Council if the person –
  - a) is a member of the Parliament of Victoria or of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth; or
  - b) is employed as a Ministerial officer, a parliamentary adviser or an electorate officer by a member of the Parliament of Victoria or for a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth; or
  - c) is a Councillor of another Council or a member of a corresponding body under an Act of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth; or
  - d) is a member of Council staff of the Council; or
  - e) is an undischarged bankrupt; or

- f) has property that is subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy; or
- g) has failed to take the oath or affirmation of office of Councillor at any Council during the current term of office of that Council; or
- h) is currently disqualified from being a Councillor; or
- i) has been subject to 2 or more findings of serious misconduct by a separate Councillor Conduct Panel; or
- j) has been convicted of the offence of failing to lodge an election campaign donation return in relation to the current term of the Council; or
- k) has been convicted of an offence against this Act in the preceding 8 years for which the maximum penalty is at least 120 penalty units or a period of imprisonment of at least 12 months; or
- l) has been convicted of an offence in the preceding 8 years, committed when the person was of or over 18 years of age, which is punishable upon first conviction for a term of imprisonment of 2 years or more under the law of Victoria, or the law of any other State, or a Territory of the Commonwealth, or the law of the Commonwealth; or
- m) is disqualified from managing corporations under Part 2D.6 of the Corporations Act.

The exact wording of this clause of the Act can be found by visiting the Local Government Act 2020 webpage at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/local-government-act-2020](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/local-government-act-2020).

### Where can I find further information?

Our website contains a lot of information, including key strategic documents and a dedicated Election 2020 button where you can find a range of useful information for candidates.

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) has also prepared a toolkit for candidates. It provides useful information about the role of local government and what it means to be a councillor.

You can find the toolkits on our Election 2020 webpage [www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/1658-2020-council-elections](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/1658-2020-council-elections).

### What mandatory training is required to run for Council in 2020?

If you're thinking about standing for Council in the October 2020 election, you now need to attend a mandatory training session.

Our Chief Executive Officer has to certify that every candidate has completed the training.

The mandatory training was initially to be conducted face-to-face, but we have been advised by the State government that an online training module will now be used instead.

The online training will be managed by the Department. We will provide further information as soon as we possibly can.

The VLGA candidate information sessions planned at Euroa and Nagambie in early August will continue as this will help provide prospective candidates with information that will help you understand what it is to be a councillor.

### VLGA 2020 Candidate Information Session Strathbogie Shire Council

If you are thinking of running for Strathbogie Shire Council in 2020 then the mandatory training sessions in our region are being held at the following locations:

#### Nagambie

Date: Saturday 1 August 2020  
Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm  
Venue: Nagambie Regatta Centre,  
66 Loddings Lane, Nagambie

#### Euroa

Date: Wednesday 19 August 2020  
Time: 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm  
Venue: Strathbogie Council Conference  
Centre, Bury Street, Euroa

Please use this link to register your interest in attending: [www.vlga.org.au/events-training/2020-candidate-training-dates](http://www.vlga.org.au/events-training/2020-candidate-training-dates).