

## **6.5 Melbourne City Council Elections: Victoria Electoral Commission (VEC) Report**

**Report Author:** David Thompson, Director Governance and Legal

**Report Presenter:** David Thompson, Director Governance and Legal

**Executive Leader:** Mans Bassi, Chief Operating Officer

### **Executive Summary**

1. The Victorian Electoral Commission (the VEC) has prepared the Election Report Melbourne City Council 2024 Local Government Elections (the Election Report).
2. The Election Report prepared by the VEC includes detailed information about candidate services, issuing and return of ballot papers, the computer count and declaration of the results, voter participation, the advertising and communication campaign, complaints and post-election activities.
3. The responsibility for preparing and submitting the Election Report to the Chief Executive Officer rests with the VEC, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020.

### **Recommendation from management**

4. That Council resolve to note the Election Report provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission for the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election.

**Purpose**

5. To submit to Council the Election Report (**Attachment 1**) prepared by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election.

**Background**

6. The Election Report prepared by the VEC includes detailed information about candidate services, issuing and return of ballot papers, the computer count and declaration of the results, voter participation, the advertising and communication campaign, complaints and post-election activities.
7. The responsibility for preparing and submitting the Election Report to the Chief Executive Officer rests with the VEC, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations).
8. Section 83 of the Regulations requires that:
  - 8.1 the VEC must prepare a report to the Chief Executive Officer on the conduct of the election within the period of six months after election day.
  - 8.2 the report must include a certified record of the number of ballot-papers and declarations printed, issued, used, spoiled and returned.
  - 8.3 the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that the report is submitted to the Council at the earliest practicable meeting of the Council held after the report is received by the Chief Executive Officer.
  - 8.4 the VEC's Election Report was received by the Chief Executive Officer on 7 May 2025.

**Key considerations**

9. A summary of the key points in the Election Report prepared by the VEC includes but is not limited to:
  - 9.1 there were 11 Leadership Team nominations (consisting of 22 individual candidates). All 11 Leadership Team pairs registered a team name.
  - 9.2 there were 58 nominations for the Council election. 53 candidates subsequently registered groups and 5 candidates were ungrouped. There were 16 groups registered and all groups registered a group name.
  - 9.3 all 16 groups lodged a group statement and 15 groups lodged a group voting ticket. Of the 5 ungrouped councillor candidates, 5 lodged a candidate statement, 4 lodged a photograph and 3 lodged an indication of preferences.
  - 9.4 fifteen of the 16 Councillor groups had registered one group voting ticket by the deadline. The Victorian Socialists group did not lodge a group voting ticket by the deadline and was therefore ineligible to be listed as a group above the line on the ballot paper. The Victorian Socialists candidates were listed below the line next to the ungrouped candidates.
  - 9.5 the VEC election manager received 287 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.
  - 9.6 the VEC election manager issued a total of 157 early votes for the election.
  - 9.7 the VEC mailed 136,552 ballot packs between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October 2024 (5,887 ballot packs were returned to the Election Office by Australia Post).
  - 9.8 the VEC election manager issued 118 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, 14 were admitted to the count.
  - 9.9 replacement ballot packs were issued to 5,431 voters during the voting period.

- 9.10 the VEC election manager received a total of 71,890 returned ballot papers envelopes by the close of voting at 6pm on Friday 25 October 2024.
  - 9.11 the VEC election manager accepted 25,915 ballot paper envelopes during the extended postal vote receipt period.
  - 9.12 the total returned ballot paper envelopes for the Melbourne City Council was 97,805.
  - 9.13 the VEC election manner set aside 2,290 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process die to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of an unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.
  - 9.14 following the extraction of ballot papers from ballot paper envelopes, a total of 92,455 ballot papers for the Leadership Team and 91,745 ballot papers for Councillor election proceed to the count.
  - 9.15 no requests for a recount were received following the computer count.
10. The results of the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election for both the Leadership Team and Councillor elections were declared at 2:30pm on Friday 8 November 2024 in the Commons Area, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne.
  11. The overall participation rate in the election was 70.79 per cent which is lower than both the state average of 83.79 per cent (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 68.79% rate at the 2020 Melbourne City Council general election.
  12. The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election was 3.66 per cent compared to the state average of 3.51 per cent). An informality rate of 3.38% was recorded at the Melbourne City Council general election in October 2020.
  13. The VEC received 53 written complaints in relation to the election.

### **Legal**

14. By submitting the VEC's Election Report to Council, all statutory requirements under section 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 have been met.

### **Finance**

15. There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation from management.

### **Conflict of interest**

16. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### **Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities**

17. The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* as it does not raise any human rights issues.

### **Health and Safety**

18. No OHS issues or opportunities been identified in the preparation of this report.

### **Consultation**

19. Community consultation and engagement is not applicable. The VEC is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria. As required under the Regulations, the

responsibility for preparing and submitting the Election Report to the Chief Executive Officer rests with the VEC.

**Relevance to Council Plan and Council Policies**

20. There are no policies or related Council documents.

**Social and environmental impacts**

Social impacts

21. There are no social implications arising from the recommendation contained in the report.

Environmental impacts

22. There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendation contained in the report.

**Gender Impact Assessment**

23. A Gender Impact Assessment was not required.

**Attachment List**

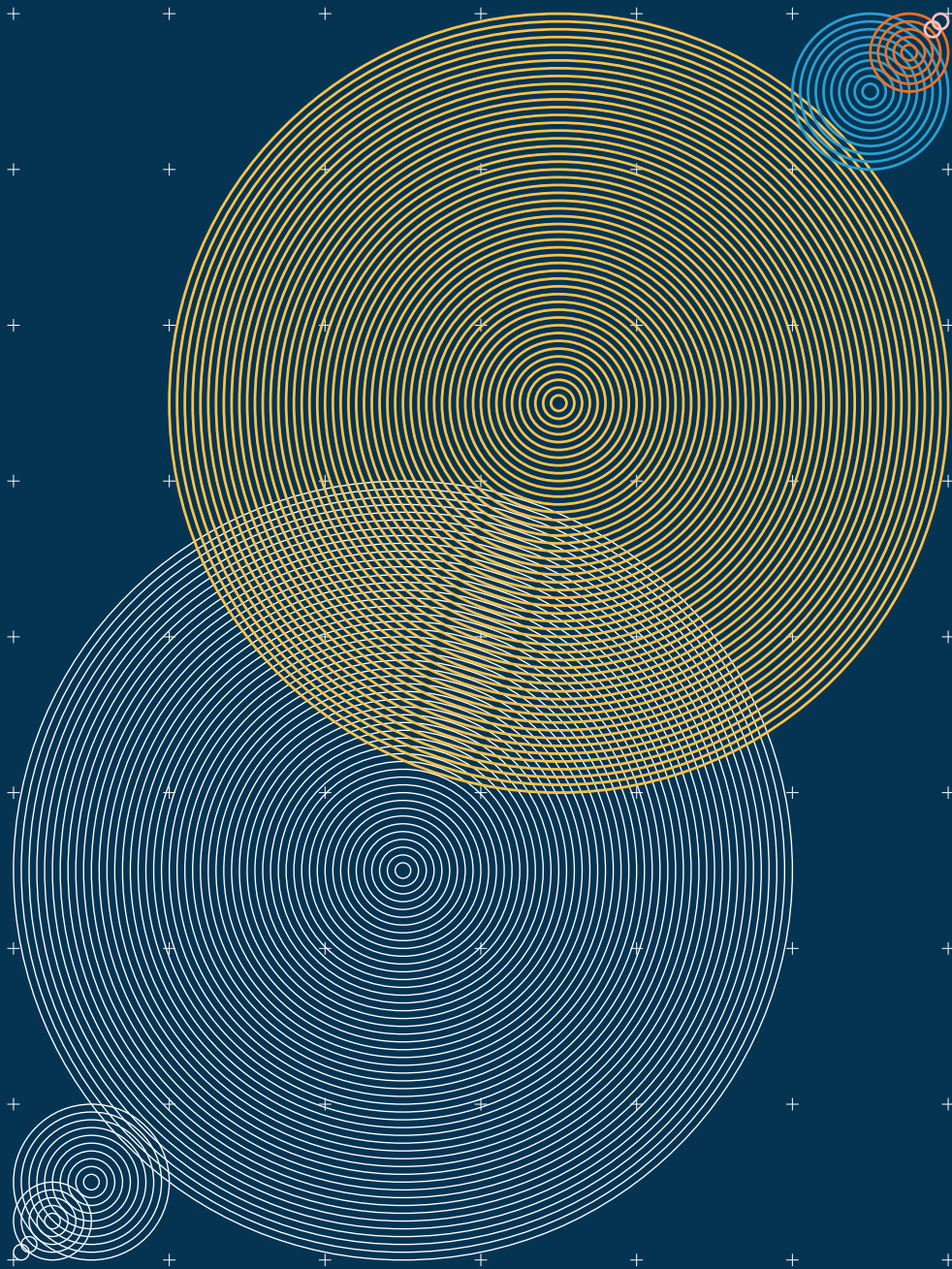
1. VEC - Melbourne City Council - L G 24 Election Report ( May 2025) [6.5.1 - 60 pages]

# Election report

## Melbourne City Council

### 2024 Local government elections

April 2025



**Letter of Transmittal**

14 April 2025

Ms Alison Leighton  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Ms Leighton

Pursuant to Regulation 83 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020, I submit this report to the Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne City Council on the general election held in October 2024.

Yours sincerely



**Sven Bluemmel**  
Electoral Commissioner

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this nation, as the traditional custodians of the lands on which the VEC works and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging. The VEC is committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

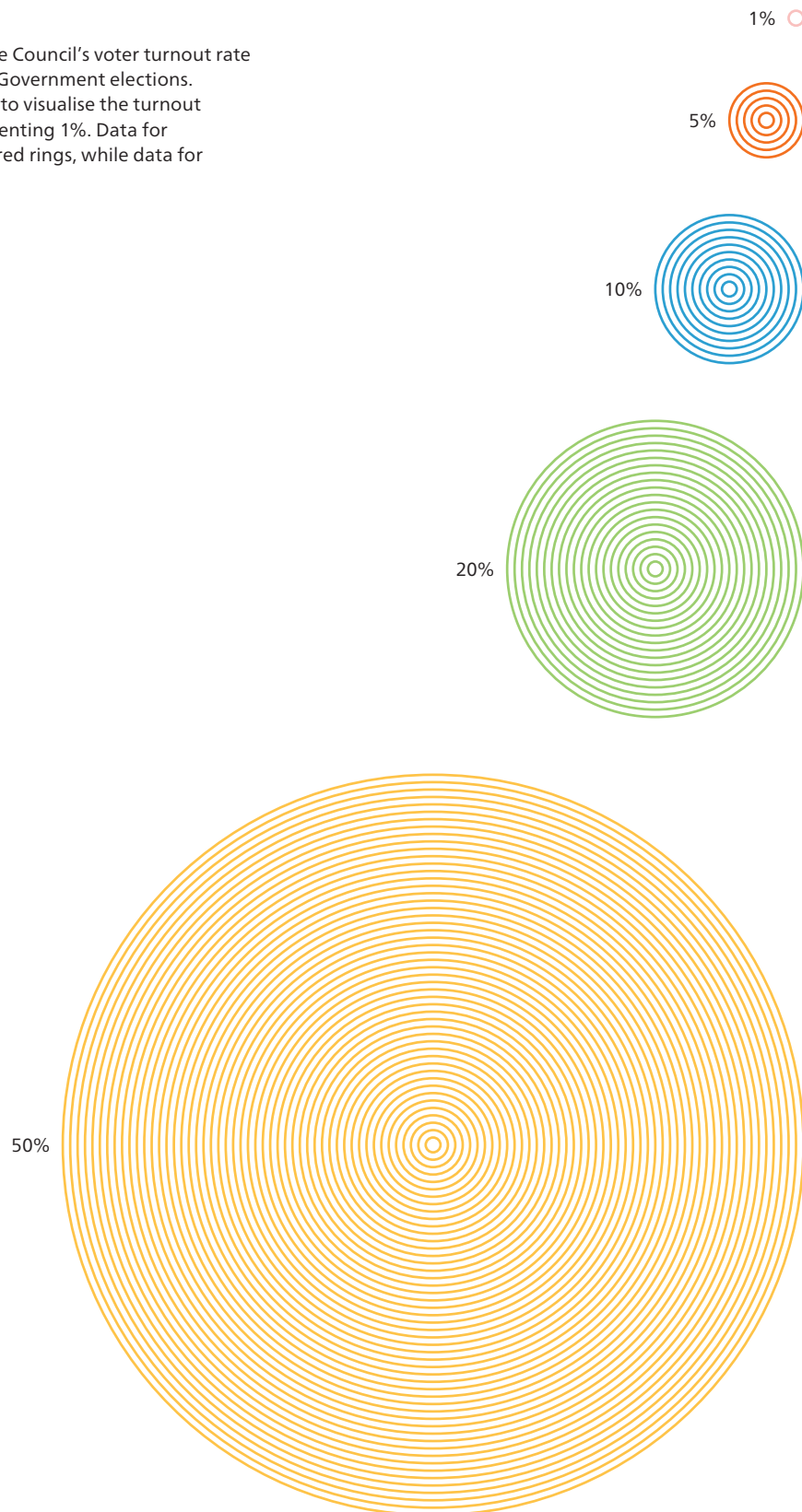
**Election report**  
**Melbourne City Council**  
2024 Local government elections

**Voter turnout (front cover)**

Graphic representation of the Council's voter turnout rate for the 2024 and 2020 Local Government elections. Rings are grouped into units to visualise the turnout percentage, each ring representing 1%. Data for 2024 is depicted using coloured rings, while data for 2020 is shown in white.

Melbourne City Council

Turnout (2024): 67.47%  
Turnout (2020): 66.73%



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# 1. Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every 4 years as set out in the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (**LG Act**). In 2024, general elections were held for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils with Saturday 26 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election items including compulsory voting enforcement.

## About the Victorian Electoral Commission

The VEC is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 2002* (Vic) (**Electoral Act**). The VEC's principal functions are to conduct State elections, local government elections, certain statutory elections and polls, commercial and community elections, and to support electoral representation processes for local councils and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for State electoral boundaries. The VEC is also responsible for maintaining the Victorian register of electors and administering political funding and donation disclosure laws. The VEC has a mandated role to conduct electoral research, provide communication and education services, and inform and engage Victorians in the democratic process.

Sven Bluemmel is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Dana Fleming is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

The Electoral Commissioner heads the VEC's Executive Management Group that comprises the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, the Executive Director, Corporate Services and 7 Directors, each leading the main functional areas of the VEC. Each Director acts as subject matter experts and oversees legislative responsibilities under the LG Act and the Electoral Act.

The VEC has a dedicated local government election program framework that incorporates a range of programs, projects and activities that are supported through strategic planning, project management, and process mapping. The program is overseen by the VEC's Delivery Group and has sponsorship from the Executive Management Group.

## 2. Key changes

### Changes in legislation

The *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024 (Vic)* received royal assent on 25 June 2024 and introduced a number of changes to local government electoral legislation.

The VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2024 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

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#### Key changes from *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024*

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Close of roll	<p>The date for the close of roll was extended from 57 days to 80 days before the election. For all elections after the October 2024 general elections, including by-elections, the date for the close of roll will be 73 days before election day.</p> <p>The previous timelines were no longer viable due to an increase in the scale and complexity of local government elections, including changes to enrolment entitlements, population growth, higher number of wards, likely increase in the number of candidates, and reduction in mail services offered by Australia Post.</p> <p>By moving the date earlier other key dates including nomination day, the lodgement date for candidate statements and questionnaires, and the period for mailing out of ballot materials have been brought forward through the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (Vic)</i> (<b>LG Regulations</b>) to ensure they are sustainable.</p>
Certification of the roll	<p>The timeframe for roll certification was increased to 23 business days (previously 13 business days) to ensure CEOs (or their delegates) and the VEC have adequate time to process enrolment applications and complete related roll certification processes.</p>
Candidate statement word limit	<p>In response to the pandemic, the <i>City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2022 (Vic)</i> permitted candidate statements to be increased from 250 to 350 words for the Leadership Team and Councillor Groups and from 200 words to 300 words for ungrouped Councillor candidates for the 2020 Melbourne City Council elections, acknowledging that candidates at these elections would face restrictions in campaigning.</p> <p>As candidates would no longer face pandemic-based barriers to campaigning activities, the word limit was reverted to 250 words for the Leadership Team and Councillor Groups and 200 words for ungrouped Councillor candidates. Equivalent amendments were also applied to the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations</i> applying a 200 word limit for candidates at all other councils.</p> <p>Returning to the original word limit allowed the VEC to produce smaller candidate statement booklets, reducing associated printing costs and administrative burden.</p>
Rejection and amendment of candidate statements	<p>The time allowed for a candidate to amend their statement was reduced by one day to now be the day after the close of nominations (or 38 days from the election). This aligned the periods for rejections and amendments with the earlier deadline for lodging a candidate statement, allowing additional time to print ballot packs.</p> <p>For Melbourne City Council, it was the day after the close of lodgement of candidate statement (or 32 days from the election).</p>

Melbourne City Council

Key changes

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**Key changes from *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Act 2024***

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Close of candidate statements, photos and questionnaires	The deadline for submitting a candidate statement, photograph and questionnaire was amended to close the same day as the close of nominations at 12 noon, facilitating a more efficient process for candidates and allowing the VEC more time to print ballot packs. This did not apply to Melbourne City Council.
Mailout of ballot pack	The timeline for conducting the mailout of ballot materials was extended from occurring over 3 business days to 4 business days, allowing the VEC to manage the risk of mail service level reductions and provide additional safeguards against election fraud.

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### 3. Election dates

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#### Key timelines for the Melbourne City Council 2024 local government election

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Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Wednesday 12 June 2024
Close of roll	4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024
Opening of the election office to the public	Monday 9 September 2024
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Monday 9 September 2024
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 17 September 2024
Leadership Team: Close of Team name registration	12 noon Thursday 19 September 2024
Councillors: Close of candidate groups and group name registration	
Ballot draw	After 3 pm Thursday 19 September 2024
Leadership Team: Close of lodgement of team statements, preferences and candidate questionnaires	12 noon Monday 23 September 2024
Councillors: Close of lodgement of statements, group voting tickets, ungrouped candidate indication of preferences, and candidate questionnaires	
General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October 2024
Close of voting	6 pm Friday 25 October 2024
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 26 October 2024
Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 1 November 2024
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 15 November 2024

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## 4. About Melbourne City Council

Melbourne City Council is comprised of a Leadership Team (including the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and 9 councillors elected from an unsubdivided municipality.

The Melbourne City Council elections are conducted in accordance with the LG Act, the *City of Melbourne Act 2001 (CoM Act)* and the City of Melbourne (Electoral) Regulations 2012 (**CoM Regulations**).

The structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2012.

Figure 1: The electoral structure of Melbourne City Council at the general election held on 26 October 2024.



## 5. Voters' roll

Melbourne City Council prepared the voters' roll in accordance with the CoM Act. The VEC provided a list of those enrolled within the City of Melbourne under the Electoral Act to be enrolled without application in accordance with sections 9A(1) and 11 of the CoM Act. The VEC was also available to provide assistance to Melbourne City Council to compile the voters' roll.

Pursuant to section 11D(5)(a) of the CoM Act, the Registrar, —the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Melbourne City Council—certified the voters' roll on Monday 9 September 2024.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election included 136,563 enrolled voters.

### Composition of the voters' roll

The LG Act specifies that the voters' roll for a local government election is formed by combining 2 separate lists of voters.

- › The Electoral Commissioner's list (EC list) – list of State electors that are enrolled within that local government area.
- › The Chief Executive Officer's list (CEO list) – list of council-entitled voters.

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a breakdown of the Melbourne City Council general election voters' roll.

### Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 11E of the CoM Act, Melbourne City Council may amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. If such amendment relates to the EC list, Melbourne City Council was required to obtain the VEC's approval for the amendment to be made.

All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was removed from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, the VEC made 71 amendments to the voters' roll which included 5 additions and 66 deletions.

## 6. Advertising and communication campaign

### State-wide advertising

The VEC delivered a state-wide advertising campaign to maximise public awareness and participation amongst all eligible voters. Campaign activities and consistent messaging were delivered across 2 phases – enrolment and voting – and through multiple traditional and emerging mediums, including radio, digital and social media, and offline/outdoor advertising.

### Public notices

The VEC published a series of public notices throughout the election as required by the LG Act and CoM Act. The notices included critical information relevant to each milestone of the election timeline.

For the 2024 general election, Melbourne City Council nominated the following newspapers for the public notices to appear in:

- › The Age
- › Herald Sun
- › CBD News
- › Docklands News
- › Southbank News

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the public notices.

### VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early July 2024. Whilst some council-specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

### Media liaison

An online media briefing was held on Monday 29 July 2024. The briefing was made available to view on the VEC website for media representatives unable to join the live event. The media briefing provided an overview of the planning, timeline, legislative changes and other key information for the 2024 local council elections.

Media outlets were provided with a media handbook that outlined the election timeline and key information, and provided the VEC's head office media contacts. This was made available along with other resources from the VEC's media centre webpage. The VEC's communication team supported each election manager with managing media interest locally in their council area.

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured scheduled state-wide and tailored council-specific media releases aimed at highlighting key milestones during the election and capitalise on existing general news coverage.

More information on the VEC's media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

The media program also involved a responsive media enquiry service, as well as the translation and distribution of 3 key media releases for multiple non-English news outlets in Victoria.

### Social media campaign

As part of its state-wide advertising campaign, the VEC used paid promotions on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and WeChat, targeting voters through audience segmentation.

This advertising was supported by a defined timeline of organic social media posts on the VEC's channels, designed to cover each of the key messages of the communication campaign to further extend the reach to the community and promote conversation about the democratic process.

### VEC VoterAlert advisories

State-enrolled voters can sign up to VoterAlert, our free SMS and email service, to receive reminder messages about elections that affect them. They can subscribe to messages via SMS, email, or both.

During the general election, we used VoterAlert to send direct messages on:

**Wednesday 17 July to Wednesday 31 July 2024** – 54,594 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

**Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024** – 54,180 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email advising that we had commenced posting ballot packs.

**Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024** – 40,087 voters were contacted by VoterAlert messages sent by SMS and/or email reminding voters that it was the last week to post their ballot material back to us.

More information on VoterAlert is available at **Appendix 4**.

### **Voter engagement**

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program throughout Victoria, specific to local demographics.

**Appendix 5** contains the full list of initiatives for the 2024 local government elections.

### **Democracy ambassadors**

The VEC delivered education sessions conducted by our Democracy Ambassadors to a range of councils. The sessions focused on enrolment and voting for the election. These sessions were offered to councils in priority areas and delivered at no cost to council. Where resourcing allowed, requests for sessions that were not in the priority area were also fulfilled.

Twenty-one sessions were delivered for the Melbourne City Council general election.

### **Blind and low vision services**

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low vision voters who had registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 10 September 2024.

The VEC received and processed one request for braille ballot material and 3 requests for large print material.

### **Interpreting services**

The VEC engaged the Victorian Interpreting and Language Services' Language Loop to provide a telephone interpreting service for telephone enquiries from voters who had a first language other than English. The VEC advertised direct lines for 20 languages other than English and a general line for all other languages.

### **Public enquiry service**

A centralised contact centre was established to respond to telephone public enquiries. This ensured consistency in messaging, early identification of themes and trends along with the opportunity to enable the election office to focus on election administration. The call centre was also responsible for emails received during the local government elections. Any calls regarding CEO list applications were referred to Melbourne City Council. Outside the call centre hours of operation, a recorded service was available that provided information on enrolment and voting.

The election office fielded phone queries from local candidates on issues directly related to their candidacy (as separate to general queries about running as a candidate).

Melbourne City Council implemented an Elections Helpline which was responsible for responding to entitlement and eligibility queries.

A total of 4,341 telephone calls were recorded for the Melbourne City Council general election. An overall total of 11,758 email queries were received for all councils.

Melbourne City Council

Election Manager

## 7. Election Manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials from across Victoria to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials before they are appointed for each election.

The size of election management teams depends on the size of the council. Under the LG Act, an election manager is appointed to conduct each council's election and is supported by one or more assistant election managers.

In accordance with regulation 21(1) of the LG Regulations, the VEC appointed Brenda Novak as the election manager for the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election.

The appointed assistant election managers were Neil Farmer, Richard Keeble and Wilma Peers.

Election office

Melbourne City Council

## 8. Election office

The election manager was responsible for establishing and managing the election office at the Drill Hall, 51-57 Victoria Street, Melbourne. The premises were provided by the VEC.

## 9. Candidates

Nominations for both the Leadership Team and Councillor elections opened at 9 am on Monday 9 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. A \$250 nomination fee applied for each Leadership Team pair and each candidate in the Councillor election.

### Candidate information

The VEC developed resources to support prospective candidates with the nomination process including a candidate handbook. From mid-July, candidates could access information about nominating as a candidate for the election. The online Candidate Helper, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Tuesday 20 August 2024. Candidate Helper enabled candidates to complete most of their nomination forms and other forms online before lodging them in person with the election manager.

For the 2024 Melbourne City Council general elections, the VEC's candidate information sessions were delivered in person by the election manager. Additionally, a candidate information video was available on the VEC website from Tuesday 20 August 2024.

### Nominations

#### Leadership Team election

Candidates for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor election were required to lodge their nomination as a pair. At the nomination appointment, candidates identified who was nominating for Lord Mayor and who was nominating as Deputy Lord Mayor.

At the close of nominations, there were 11 Leadership Team nominations (consisting of 22 individual candidates). All 11 Leadership Team pairs registered a team name.

A ballot draw, using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application to determine the order in which the Leadership Team candidates would appear on the ballot paper was held after 3 pm at the election office on Thursday 19 September following the close of team name registrations.

#### Councillor election

Candidates for the Councillor election were required to nominate individually to fill one of the 9 councillor vacancies, however, one or more candidates could make a joint request that their names be grouped on the ballot paper. Candidates submitting a request to be grouped were also required to specify the name under which they wished to be grouped and the order in which each candidate would appear in the group.

Group names appeared above the line on the ballot paper and next to candidate names below the line. Candidates who chose not to nominate as part of a group only appeared below the line as ungrouped candidates.

There were 58 nominations for the Councillor election. 53 candidates subsequently registered groups and 5 candidates were ungrouped. There were 16 groups registered, and all groups registered a group name.

The ballot draws to determine the group order and the order of the ungrouped candidates was held at the election office on Thursday 19 September following the ballot draw for the Leadership Team.

See **Appendix 6** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order for both elections. See **Appendix 6.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos, and **6.2** for the ballot material.

### Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with the CoM Regulations, Leadership Team and grouped councillor candidates were able to submit a 250-word statement and a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. Ungrouped councillor candidates were limited to 200 words. The deadline for the submission of candidate statements and photographs was 12 noon on Monday 23 September 2024.

Leadership Team candidates could also lodge an indication of preferences to be included in the ballot pack. The deadline for the lodgement of the indication of preferences was also 12 noon on Monday 23 September 2024. Each Leadership Team lodged a candidate statement, photographs and an indication of preferences by the deadline.

Candidates for the councillor election were permitted to lodge a group statement (or individual statement if ungrouped), group voting tickets and an ungrouped candidate indication of preferences by 12 noon on Monday 23 September 2024.

All 16 groups lodged a group statement, and 15 groups lodged a group voting ticket.

Of the 5 ungrouped councillor candidates, 5 lodged a candidate statement, 4 lodged a photograph and 3 lodged an indication of preferences.

### Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with Regulation 43 of the LG Regulations, candidates could also submit answers to a set of prescribed questions.

The Election Manager accepted questionnaires from all 22 individual candidates for the Leadership Team election and 56 of the 58 candidates for the Councillor election.

Voters could read the completed questionnaires on the VEC website or access them by contacting the election office.

### **Group Voting Tickets**

In accordance with Regulation 25 of the CoM Regulations, Councillor grouped candidates were required to register at least one, but no more than two, group voting tickets. A group voting ticket directs the election manager on the order of preferences for a vote above-the-line for a particular group of councillor candidates. The deadline for the registration of group voting tickets was 12 noon on Monday 23 September 2024.

Fifteen of the 16 Councillor groups had registered one group voting ticket by the deadline. The Victorian Socialists group did not lodge a group voting ticket by the deadline and was therefore ineligible to be listed as a group above-the-line on the ballot paper. The Victorian Socialists candidates were listed below-the-line next to the ungrouped candidates.

### **Retirement of a candidate**

In accordance with the LG Regulations, at any time after the close of nominations and before election day, a candidate may retire, or be retired by the VEC. A candidate can only retire if it will result in an uncontested election or if they are not qualified to be a Councillor. If the VEC believes a candidate was not entitled to nominate, it must formally query the candidate's qualification and invite written reasons why they are entitled. If the VEC remains satisfied that the candidate is not entitled, it must retire the candidate from the election.

When a candidate is retired from an election, the VEC is required to take all practicable steps to remove the retired candidate's name from ballot papers. If it is not practicable to do so, during the counting of votes the retired candidate's votes are passed on to other candidates according to voters' preferences.

There were no candidate retirements at the Melbourne City Council general elections.

## 10. Voting

### Ballot pack preparation and redirection

Artwork for ballot papers and candidate statements is generated using the VEC's automation tool. This tool selects from a range of pre-defined artwork templates and populates them with the relevant candidate information directly from the VEC's election management system database.

Following an extensive quality assurance process, print-ready artwork files were securely transmitted directly to the VEC's contracted ballot material printer ready for production. The VEC's contracted mail house directly printed the voters' addresses (mailing and entitlement address) and barcodes on the ballot paper envelopes in preparation for assembly and delivery of ballot packs. The VEC utilised multiple third-party providers to assemble the ballot packs prior to the mail house lodging with Australia Post. The mail house allocated a secure area within its operations that was used solely for the printing, insertion, and dispatch of ballot material. This ensured the highest standards of security were met.

Electors could apply to have their ballot material redirected to an address other than their entitlement address. Voters had until the certification day for the voters' roll (also the day that nominations open) to apply for their ballot material to be redirected. The VEC arranged for ballot material to be delivered to any voter applying for redirection to the address specified in their request. For the 2024 Melbourne City Council general elections, voters had until Monday 9 September 2024 to submit redirection requests.

The election manager received 287 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

### Early votes

Voters could request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) before the general mail out of ballot packs. The election manager processed requests and issued early votes where the request was assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Friday 20 September 2024, the day after the ballot draw, until the start of the general mail out of ballot packs on Monday 7 October 2024.

Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

The election manager issued a total of 157 early votes for the election.

### Mail-out ballot packs

The VEC mailed 136,552 ballot packs between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October 2024.

See **Appendix 7** for a breakdown of the packs sent on each day of the general mail out. The VEC did not mail ballot packs to voters who passed away between the close of roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included 287 ballot packs which were redirected to alternative addresses for voters who had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Monday 9 September 2024.

Under regulation 49(3) of the LG Regulations, no more than 35% of ballot packs were mailed or delivered to voters on any one day during the mail-out period. All ballot packs were lodged with Australia Post under the priority paid delivery timetable.

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail-out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. Australia Post confirmed all ballot packs had been delivered by Tuesday 15 October 2024.

From Tuesday 8 October until the close of voting on Friday 25 October, the VEC collected 30 discarded ballot packs from the mailbox areas of the public housing high-rise buildings in Carlton, Kensington and North Melbourne.

During the voting period, 5,887 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. In most cases, this was likely due to the addressee no longer residing at the address.

### Unenrolled votes

The election manager issued unenrolled votes to people whose names who could not be found on the voters' roll but said they were entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack included a declaration for the voter to sign. The election manager assessed the declaration and decided to admit or disallow the vote.

The election manager issued 118 unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, 14 were admitted to the count.

### Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoiled, or destroyed, could apply for a replacement vote by completing an online application form or contacting the public enquiry service.

A centralised team processed applications and mailed replacement ballot packs to the postal address provided.

Voting

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Voters also had the option to attend the election office in the council for which they hold entitlement, to have a replacement vote issued over the counter.

Replacement ballot packs were issued to 5,431 voters during the voting period.

Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

## 11. Return of ballot paper envelopes

Voters were provided with a priority reply paid envelope to return their completed ballot paper inside the ballot paper envelope. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters could also put their ballot papers and envelope in a ballot box at the election office.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election manager to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot paper from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The election manager received a total of 71,890 returned ballot paper envelopes by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 25 October 2024.

In accordance with regulation 57(3) of the LG Regulations, the election manager could accept returned ballot paper envelopes until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if they thought the voter had signed the envelope before voting closed.

The election manager accepted 25,915 ballot paper envelopes during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Melbourne City Council was 97,805.

The election manager set aside 2,290 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes for Melbourne City Council.

## 12. Results

### Extraction

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This 2-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the VEC can track the number of envelopes for ongoing reconciliation.

A total of 95,515 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

Ballot papers were extracted at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from Saturday 26 October 2024. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Tuesday 5 November 2024, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

As ballot papers were extracted from the ballot paper envelopes, they were initially sorted into two piles, Leadership Team and Councillor.

Any returned ballot paper envelopes found not to contain any ballot papers or contained more than one ballot paper for either the Leadership Team or Councillor election, were rejected and not admitted to the count.

There were 3,060 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 92,455 ballot papers for the Leadership Team and 91,745 ballot papers for Councillor election proceeded to the count.

### Above-the-Line sort for Councillor election

After extracting the ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, counting teams completed a manual sort of the ballot papers for the Councillor election to their respect above-the-line groups. Any ballot papers below-the-line or potentially informal ballot papers were set aside to proceed to the computer count or for a determination in respect to their formality.

### Computer count

A computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Friday 18 October 2024.

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for Melbourne City Council, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre.

All formal ballot papers for the Leadership Team election were data entered into the computer count application as per the preferences on each ballot paper. The system identified possible informal ballot papers which were removed and checked by the Election Manager. Any informal ballot papers deemed to be formal were returned to data entry. Ballot paper confirmed as informal by the election manager were counted and the total number was updated in the system.

For the Councillor election, ballot papers marked below the line were data entered into the application. As for the Leadership Team, possible informal ballot papers were removed during data entry for checking by the Election Manager. Following informality checking these ballot papers either remained as informal or were deemed formal below the line or above the line. Those deemed formal below the line were returned to data entry. Those ballot papers deemed formal above the line were added to the relevant above the line group.

The ballot papers marked above the line were totalled for each group and added to the computer count application against each group. Prior to calculation the total informal vote number was updated in the system.

Once all data entry had been confirmed as complete for both elections and all relevant checks and balances finalised the results were calculated whereby the application distributes preferences as per the rules of the election (preferential for Leadership Team and proportional representation for Councillors).

Results for both the Leadership Team and Councillor election were calculated at the election office at 2:30 pm on Thursday 7 November 2024.

The VEC published provisional results on its website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of the first preference results, refer to **Appendix 8**.

### Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared elected, the election manager or a candidate may initiate a recount. Election managers initiate recounts if margins in a preference distribution are close or critical. Candidates must ask for a recount in writing, with the reasons for their request. The election manager and head office staff assess candidate recount requests and either accept or deny them.

The election manager did not receive any requests for a recount following the count.

## Scrutineers

Scrutineers help deliver fair and transparent elections by observing election activities. They contribute to electoral integrity and help build public trust. Scrutineers can observe all activities involved in ballot paper and envelope processing.

Candidates are not permitted in election venues during extraction and counting activities and instead appoint scrutineers. Each candidate could appoint one scrutineer per election official involved in an activity. To appoint scrutineers, candidates completed a hardcopy 'Appointment and declaration of scrutineer form', which the candidate signed and submitted to the election manager. All scrutineers then had to sign the form's formal declaration in front of an election official. The declaration meant the scrutineers committed to eligibility and legal requirements and the VEC's conditions of entry.

A *Scrutineer handbook* was made available to all candidates and scrutineers with information on the role and responsibility of scrutineers during election activities. It included overviews of the activities so that scrutineers could understand what to expect during election activities they may attend. When scrutineers attended election venues they were briefed on their responsibilities and the processes they would witness. Scrutineers were instructed when and how they could challenge activities when ballot paper formality was being decided and votes were being counted. Scrutineers were allowed to notify election managers if they disagreed with the decision made by an election official on ballot paper formality or whether votes were counted for the selected candidate. Election managers reviewed the challenge and made a final decision on the ballot paper.

## Declaration of results

In the Service Plan, the VEC committed to complete all results declarations by Friday 15 November 2024.

The results of the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election for both the Leadership Team and Councillor elections were declared at 2:30 pm on Friday 8 November 2024 in the Commons Area, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Steet, Melbourne.

The VEC website was updated following the declaration to reflect the elected candidates from the election.

## 13. Election statistics

### Participation

Participation is measured by the number of voters marked off the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Melbourne City Council general election was 70.79%, which is lower than the State average of 83.79% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 68.79% rate at the 2020 Melbourne City Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the EC's List (73.09%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's List (68.37%).

Refer to **Appendix 9** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

### Turnout

Voter turnout is measured by the number of formal and informal ballot papers counted in the election as a percentage of voters on the voters' roll for the election.

The overall voter turnout for the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election was 67.47%. This is compared to the State average turnout of 81.46% (which excludes Melbourne City Council). The overall voter turnout at the 2020 general election for council was 66.73%.

### Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2024 Melbourne City Council general election was 3.66%, compared with the State average of 3.51%. An informality rate of 3.38% was recorded at the Melbourne City Council general election held in October 2020.

## 14. Complaints

### Type of complaints

At local government elections, complaints generally fall into 2 broad categories:

#### 1. Election Administration

Complaints about the conduct of the election and services to voters.

#### 2. Election participation and conduct

Complaints about candidates and other participants in the election, at times alleging a breach of the LG Act or local laws.

Most complaints at the 2024 local government elections related to the second category, and often alleged inappropriate or illegal action by a person or group associated with the election.

### Complaints process

The VEC have a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed with local councils and enforcement agencies. Complaints must be lodged in writing, then processed at head office. For the 2024 local government elections, customers could provide feedback and complaints online.

Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate. Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's services, or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials, are the responsibility of the VEC.

The VEC is committed to responding to each complaint within 5 working days.

### Complaints received

The VEC received 53 written complaints relating to the election for Melbourne City Council.

Please see **Appendix 10** for a description of complaints received by the VEC.

## 15. Post-election activities

### Storage of election material

The VEC will keep all records from the election safely and secretly in accordance with regulation 79 of the LG Regulations.

### Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Tuesday 17 December 2024. Eligible candidates include those elected or who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to the council on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

### Courts and tribunals

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) is responsible for hearing disputes on the validity of an election under section 311 of the LG Act.

Applications for a review of the declaration of the results of an election must be lodged within 14 days of the declaration and can be made by a candidate in the election, 10 persons who were entitled to vote at the election, or the VEC.

There were no applications to VCAT disputing the result of the Melbourne City Council general election.

## 16. Non-voter follow up

Under section 19 of the CoM Act and section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote was issued with an 'Apparent failure to vote' notice in March 2025. Apparent non-voters have 28 days to respond.

People who do not respond to the notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response, may be issued with an infringement notice in April/May that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up with a penalty reminder notice in July may also occur – this stage includes the original penalty and a penalty reminder notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the infringement and reminder notice stages.

Additionally, during the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages, non-voters may ask for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

These requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the infringement and penalty reminder notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the end of the penalty reminder notice stage.

## 17. Evaluating VEC services

The VEC is committed to providing high quality election services to its local government clients. Through a formal feedback and debriefing program, the VEC can gauge its performance and seek advice for future local government election projects.

### Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2024 and acknowledges the receipt of feedback provided by Melbourne City Council. Additional feedback can be provided to the LG2024 Program Manager by emailing [LGProgram2024@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:LGProgram2024@vec.vic.gov.au)

### Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program that includes input from all areas of its workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections began in December 2024. The VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Melbourne City Council

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

## Appendices

### Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

<b>Melbourne City Council election</b>	
<b>Ballot papers printed</b>	
Victorian Electoral Commission	171,000
Election manager	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,301</b>
<b>Ballot papers issued</b>	
General mail out	136,552
Early and replacement votes	5,588
Unenrolled declaration votes	118
Spoilt	0
Sub total	142,258
Unused	29,043
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,301</b>
<b>Declarations returned</b>	
General mail out admitted to the extraction	91,680
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	3,821
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	14
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	2,290
Declarations returned to sender	5,887
Sub total	103,692
Declarations not returned	38,566
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,258</b>

Schedule 2: Certification statement

Melbourne City Council

## Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2024 Melbourne City Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.



**Sven Bluemmel**  
Electoral Commissioner

Melbourne City Council

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

## Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Melbourne City Council election	Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 9A(1) of the CoM Act	Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 9A(3), 9B, 9C and 9D of the CoM Act	Total
Melbourne City Council	70,044	66,519	136,563

## Appendix 2: Public notices

### Schedule of public notices

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#### Close of roll notice

VEC website	Tuesday 23 July 2024
CBD News	Wednesday 24 July 2024
Docklands News	Wednesday 31 July 2024
Southbank News	Wednesday 7 August 2024
Herald Sun	Friday 26 July 2024
The Age	Thursday 25 July 2024

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#### Notice of election

VEC website	Monday 12 August 2024
CBD News	Wednesday 21 August 2024
Docklands News	Wednesday 28 August 2024
Southbank News	Wednesday 4 September 2024
Herald Sun	Friday 16 August 2024
The Age	Thursday 15 August 2024

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#### Voting details notice

VEC website	Friday 20 September 2024
CBD News	Wednesday 25 September 2024
Docklands News	Wednesday 2 October 2024
Southbank News	Wednesday 9 October 2024
Herald Sun	Friday 4 October 2024
The Age	Thursday 3 October 2024

Melbourne City Council

Appendix 2: Public notices

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**Voting reminder notice**

VEC website	Sunday 13 October 2024
CBD News	Wednesday 23 October 2024
Herald Sun	Friday 18 October 2024
The Age	Thursday 17 October 2024

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**Notice of result**

VEC website	Friday 8 November 2024
CBD News	Wednesday 20 November 2024
Docklands News	Wednesday 27 November 2024
Southbank News	Wednesday 4 December 2024
Herald Sun	Friday 22 November 2024
The Age	Thursday 21 November 2024

Appendix 2.1: Public notices

Close of roll

**Melbourne City Council postal election**  
*My council, my vote*

**You must be enrolled to vote**

A general election for Melbourne City Council will be held in October 2024. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at 4 pm on **Wednesday 7 August 2024**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Melbourne City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

**State-enrolled voters**  
**Am I enrolled to vote?**

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

**You need to enrol if:**

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 26 October 2024 and
- you live in the City of Melbourne and you are not on the State electoral roll or
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Melbourne for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

**How do I enrol?**

You can enrol online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

You can also download an enrolment form from the website.

All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at 4 pm on **Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

**How can I check my State enrolment?**

You can check your enrolment details online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) at any time, or call 131 832.

**Council-enrolled voters**  
**Am I enrolled to vote?**

You are already enrolled for this election if you own or occupy a rateable property within the City of Melbourne and live in Australia, but you are not a resident of the municipality. A maximum of 2 owners and 2 occupiers can be enrolled as council-enrolled voters for any one property.

**Who else can enrol & vote?**

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in the City of Melbourne and reside in the council area, but are not an Australian citizen, or
- you reside in a rateable property in the City of Melbourne, but are not an Australian citizen, or
- you own a rateable property in the City of Melbourne but live outside Australia, or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation (or hold an equivalent position in an Association) that occupies a rateable property solely or jointly within the City of Melbourne.\*

\* If a corporation that solely owns or occupies rateable property in the City of Melbourne does not validly appoint 2 voting representatives by 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024, Melbourne City Council is required by law to enrol the first 2 of the following (to be taken in alphabetical order):

- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the company secretaries whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia
- the directors whose postal addresses are in Victoria
- the directors whose postal addresses are elsewhere in Australia.

**How do I apply to be a Council-enrolled voter?**

If you meet any of the criteria above and wish to enrol, contact Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427 or visit [elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au) for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at 4 pm on **Wednesday 7 August 2024**.

**How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?**

You can check your enrolment details now at [elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://elections.melbourne.vic.gov.au) or by contacting Melbourne City Council on 1300 735 427.

**Thinking about standing for election?**

Melbourne City Council general elections involve 2 elections, one for the Leadership team of lord mayor and deputy lord mayor, and one for the 9 councillors. To nominate as a candidate for either of these elections, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council and
- be eligible to become a councillor and
- have completed the mandatory candidate training provided by Local Government Victoria before lodging your nomination with the Election Manager.

For further information, visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

Enrolment closes  
**4 pm Wednesday 7 August 2024**

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

**vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832**

For enquiries in languages other than English:

\* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 \* Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 \* বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 \* 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 \* 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 \* Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 \* עברית (Hebrew) 9209 0103 \* ไทย (Thai) 9209 0104 \* Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 \* 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0102 \* 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0104 \* македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 \* नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0103 \* فارسی (Persian) 9209 0105 \* ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0104 \* Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 \* اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 \* Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 \* All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bharmal, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Notice of election

**Melbourne City Council postal election**  
*My council, my vote*

Two simultaneous elections will be held for Melbourne City Council this October – one to elect the Leadership Team (Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor) and the other to elect 9 councillors.

**Voting by post this October**

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Melbourne City Council general election from Monday 7 October. Complete and return your ballot material ASAP. Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election manager by 6 pm on **Friday 25 October**.

**If you will be away**

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Wednesday 7 August, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by completing the online redirection form at [vec.vic.gov.au/redirections](http://vec.vic.gov.au/redirections), or call 131 832.

Requests for redirection must be received by 5 pm on Monday 9 September.

**Large print and braille ballot papers**

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision – please register by 5 pm Tuesday 10 September. To register, call 03 8620 1314 during business hours.

**Early votes**

If you will be away during the voting period (7 – 25 October), you can go to your local election office to vote in person, from 3 pm on Thursday 19 September. The Melbourne City Council election office is at:

Drill Hall  
51-57 Victoria Street  
Melbourne

**How to nominate as a candidate**

To nominate as a candidate, you must:

- be an Australian citizen and enrolled on the voters roll for Melbourne City Council AND
- be eligible to become a councillor should you be elected AND
- have completed the mandatory candidate training before lodging your nomination with the election manager.

There are 2 different roles you can nominate for:

- Leadership Team – Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor
- councillors – 9 vacancies.

**You can nominate for the Leadership Team or as a councillor, but not both.**

If you nominate for the Leadership Team, you need to make a single joint nomination.


If you nominate as a councillor, you must nominate individually but you can agree with other candidates to form a group and appear on the ballot paper together.

To nominate for either the Leadership Team or councillor election, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the election manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from Monday 9 September until 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September at the election office.

Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from Tuesday 20 August.

If you use the online Candidate Helper, print your pre-completed form and make an appointment to lodge it with the election manager along with the nomination fee.

Call the election manager from Monday 9 September on 131 832 to make a nomination appointment.



**Candidate information sessions**

5:30 pm Wednesday 4 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

12:30 pm Thursday 5 September at Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Candidate information kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information will be available online and from the election manager.

**Nominations close 12 noon Tuesday 17 September.**

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

**vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832**


For enquiries in languages other than English:

العربية (Arabic) 9209 0100 \* Azərbaycanca (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 \* বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 \* 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 \* 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 \* Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 \* עברית (Hebrew) 9209 0103 \* ไทย (Thai) 9209 0104 \* Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 \* 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0102 \* 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0104 \* македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 \* नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0103 \* فارسی (Persian) 9209 0105 \* ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0104 \* Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 \* اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 \* Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 \* All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bharmal, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

Voting details notice

**Melbourne City Council postal election**  
*My council, my vote*



Two elections will be held for Melbourne City Council – one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, and the other to elect 9 councillors.

**Check the mail for your ballot pack**  
 Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**. This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

**Candidates**  
 Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au). The ballot pack contains material for 2 elections. For the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, information includes a booklet with joint statements, candidate photos and indications of preferences. For councillors, the booklet has candidate photos, statements and indications of preferences, or group voting tickets if a councillor is part of a group. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au).

**How to vote correctly**  
 You will vote in 2 elections: one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and the other to elect 9 councillors. You must complete your ballot papers correctly for each vote to count.

**Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor**  
 Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidates you want to see elected, then number **all** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

**Councillors**  
 You can vote in one of 2 ways for the 9 councillors:

- Vote for a group by putting the number **1** in a box above the line. Your preferences will follow the group voting ticket.
- Vote for individual candidates by numbering **all** the boxes below the line in order of your choice. If you vote below the line, you must number **every box** and only use each number once.

**How to return your ballot pack**  
 Put your completed ballot papers in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it **ASAP** using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Drill Hall  
 51 – 57 Victoria Street  
 Melbourne




**Voting is compulsory**  
 Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.


Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**. State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | **131 832**

For enquiries in languages other than English:  
 \* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0102 \* Azərbaycani (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 \* বাংলা (Bangla) 9209 0161 \* বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 \* 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 \* 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0161 \* বাংলা (Croatian) 9209 0102 \* 中文 (Dan) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0119 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Dhivehi) 9209 0119 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Greek) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Hindi) 9209 0162 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Italian) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Japanese) 9209 0102 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Korean) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Macedonian) 9209 0105 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Hindi) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Persian) 9209 0155 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Thai) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Turkish) 9209 0110 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Urdu) 9209 0165 \* Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 \* All other non-English languages 9209 0102


Authorised by S. Bharmal, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic   



Reminder notice

**Melbourne City Council postal election**  
*My council, my vote*



Two elections are being held for Melbourne City Council – one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, and the other to elect 9 councillors.

**Check the mail for your ballot pack**  
 Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**. This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

**Candidates**  
 Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au). The ballot pack contains material for 2 elections. For the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, information includes a booklet with joint statements, candidate photos and indications of preferences. For councillors, the booklet has candidate photos, statements and indications of preferences, or group voting tickets if a councillor is part of a group. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au).

**How to vote correctly**  
 You will vote in 2 elections: one to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and the other to elect 9 councillors. You must complete your ballot papers correctly for each vote to count.

**Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor**  
 Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidates you want to see elected, then number **all** the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

**Councillors**  
 You can vote in one of 2 ways for the 9 councillors:

- Vote for a group by putting the number **1** in a box above the line. Your preferences will follow the group voting ticket.
- Vote for individual candidates by numbering **all** the boxes below the line in order of your choice. If you vote below the line, you must number **every box** and only use each number once.

**How to return your ballot pack**  
 Put your completed ballot papers in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it **ASAP** using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Drill Hall  
 51 – 57 Victoria Street  
 Melbourne




**Voting is compulsory**  
 Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.


Your completed ballot material must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**. State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | **131 832**

For enquiries in languages other than English:  
 \* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0102 \* Azərbaycani (Azerbaijani) 9209 0160 \* বাংলা (Bangla) 9209 0161 \* বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 \* 普通话 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 \* 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0161 \* বাংলা (Croatian) 9209 0102 \* 中文 (Dan) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0119 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Dhivehi) 9209 0119 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Greek) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Hindi) 9209 0162 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Italian) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Japanese) 9209 0102 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Korean) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Macedonian) 9209 0105 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Hindi) 9209 0103 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Persian) 9209 0155 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Thai) 9209 0104 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Turkish) 9209 0110 \* ភាសាខ្មែរ (Urdu) 9209 0165 \* Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 \* All other non-English languages 9209 0102

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Appendix 2: Public notices

Melbourne City Council

**Declaration of results**

**Melbourne City Council elections**  
Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to Melbourne City Council at the general election held in October 2024:


Leadership Team	Councillors
<b>Lord Mayor</b> REECE, Nick	LOUEY, Kevin (1st elected)
<b>Deputy Lord Mayor</b> CAMPBELL, Roshena	GUEST, Owen (2nd elected)
	BALL, Olivia (3rd elected)
	LIU, Gladys (4th elected)
	LIU, Philip Le (5th elected)
	SCOTT, Mark (6th elected)
	CAMILLO, Rafael (7th elected)
	ROWSE, Andrew (8th elected)
	GRIFFITHS, Davydd (9th elected)

Further details about the results are available at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

**Brenda Novak**  
Election Manager  
8 November 2024

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) | 131 832 | @electionsvic

Authorised by S. Blummel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



## Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

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### Melbourne City Council council-specific media releases and advisories

---

Enrol now for the Melbourne City Council elections	Monday 29 July 2024
Call for candidates for Melbourne City Council elections	Thursday 22 August 2024
Ballot packs mailed for Melbourne City Council elections	Monday 7 October 2024
Voting closes soon for Melbourne City Council elections	Tuesday 15 October 2024
New Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and councillors for Melbourne City Council	Friday 8 November 2024

---

### Statewide media releases and advisories

---

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming local council elections	Monday 22 July 2024
Media advisory: 2024 local council elections briefing	Monday 22 July 2024
Last chance to enrol for Victorian local council elections	Friday 2 August 2024
News Alert: Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's local council elections	Tuesday 6 August 2024
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	Monday 26 August 2024
Media advisory: Accessing candidate information for the 2024 Victorian local council elections	Friday 6 September 2024
Nominations for the 2024 Victorian local council elections now open	Monday 9 September 2024
Over 4.6 million enrolled for local council elections'	Tuesday 10 September 2024
Time is running out to nominate for this year's local council elections	Monday 16 September 2024
Electoral Commissioner calls for transparency in the use of AI in upcoming local council elections	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at local council election ballot draw	Tuesday 17 September 2024
Nominations are in for October local council elections	Wednesday 18 September 2024
Democracy ambassadors help community voices "Be Heard"	Thursday 19 September 2024
VEC retires 16 local council election candidates	Monday 30 September 2024
Voting starts next week for Victoria's local council elections	Friday 4 October 2024

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Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Melbourne City Council

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**Statewide media releases and advisories**


---

Police investigate break-in at the Ballarat election office	Thursday 10 October 2024
Voters urged to request a replacement ballot pack following van theft	Friday 18 October 2024
Local council elections voting deadline looms	Monday 21 October 2024
Final day of voting	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Results timelines for Victorian local council elections	Friday 25 October 2024
Media advisory: Media attendance at results declarations	Wednesday 6 November 2024
Suspected postal vote tampering in 2 local council elections referred for inquiry	Wednesday 13 November 2024
Didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections?	Monday 17 February 2025
Non-voters asked to explain why they didnt vote in the 2024 lcoal council elections	Thursday 6 March 2025
Infringements sent to 2024 local council election non-voters	Scheduled for Monday 14 April 2025
Act on penalty reminder notice or risk enforcement action	Scheduled for Thursday 1 July 2025

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## Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

### Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

#### Close of roll – sent from Wednesday 17 July to Wednesday 31 July 2024

VoterAlert: Vic council elections will be held by post this Oct. Make sure your details are correct before 4pm Wed 7 Aug. More info <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. If you'd rather not open links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832 to check. Unsubscribe <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

#### Mail-out of ballot packs – sent from Monday 7 October to Monday 14 October 2024

VoterAlert: ballot packs for the local council elections are on their way, arriving by 15 Oct. Complete and return before 6pm on Fri 25 Oct. For more info visit <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

#### Reminder close of voting – sent from Tuesday 22 October to Wednesday 23 October 2024

VoterAlert: return your council election ballot pack by 6pm Fri Oct 25. If your ballot pack hasn't arrived, find out how to get a replacement at <https://vec.vic.gov.au/LG24>. Ignore if you've already voted or asked for a replacement. If you'd rather not visit links in this message, look up the VEC website or call 131 832. Unsubscribe: <https://vec.vic.gov.au/voteralert>

### Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

#### Close of roll email

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

VoterAlert

Hi

Victorian local council elections are being held by post this October. You must be correctly enrolled by **4 pm on Wednesday 7 August**.

**What you need to do**

Not sure if your enrolment details are up to date? You can check online at [vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment](https://vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment)

If you've changed your address or name since you last voted in an election, you should update your details. Please also check the postal address listed on your enrolment, as this is where we will send your ballot pack.

CHECK MY DETAILS

If your details **haven't changed** since the last time you voted, get ready to vote. All voting in this election is by post. We will start posting ballot packs out from Monday 7 October.

The full list of candidates will be available on our website from 12 noon on Tuesday 17 September.

[Find out more about your council election.](#)

Voting is compulsory – don't risk a fine.

**If you own properties in more than one Victorian council**

Some people are eligible to enrol in more than one council. If you own or pay rates on a property in a Victorian council other than where you normally live, you can apply to enrol with that council. This is known as council enrolment.

Contact the council directly for more information about council enrolment.

[Find out more about council enrolment.](#)

You **must** vote for all councils you are enrolled in.

**Electoral structure changes**

Over half of Victoria's local councils have new electoral structures or have changed internal ward boundaries. You may be voting in a new ward this October.

You can check your council's ward boundaries on our [interactive map](#).

**Information in your language**

You can find election information in 20 languages other than English on our website.

[Find in-language information.](#)

**Security**

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website at [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au). You can also hover over links to confirm they go to a [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <[voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au)>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

**More information**

Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) or call us on 131 832 between 8:30 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Authorised by S. Bluermeil, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

**Our mailing address is:**  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000


This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.

UNSUBSCRIBE

[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

**Ballot pack mail-out email**

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

**VoterAlert** 

Hi

You are enrolled to vote in the 2024 local council elections.

Your vote matters. Local council elections are your chance to vote on who represents you on the local community issues that you care about.

**How to vote**

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

We have started posting ballot packs to all enrolled voters. They will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible.

If you're unsure, you can learn [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

**If you don't get a ballot pack**

Ballot packs are in the mail and will arrive by **Tuesday 15 October**.

If you don't get a ballot pack by then, you can ask us to send you a replacement by calling [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

**Moved house or away from your address**

If you are away from your mailing address you can request a replacement ballot pack. You can:

- call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- visit the election office of your **old address** to get a replacement on the spot. If you will be away during the election, you can fill in your vote there and return it straight away.

[Find my election office](#)

**Find candidates**

Information about candidates, including statements and candidate questionnaire responses are on our website.

[Find candidates](#)

**Information in your language**

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

[Find information in your language](#)

**Security**

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au). You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a [vic.gov.au](http://vic.gov.au) website before you click them.

Be aware of scams: all emails we send you will have 'Victorian Electoral Commission <[voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:voteralert@info.vec.vic.gov.au)>' as the sender. We will never ask you to enter credit card details or make payments through a website.

**More information**


For more information visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) or call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

*Authorised by S. Bluemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.*

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Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

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[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

**Last week to vote email**

Do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. Contact us with any questions.

**VoterAlert** 

**Reminder:** voting for the 2024 local council elections closes at 6 pm this Friday 25 October.

Please ignore this email if you've already voted or asked for a replacement ballot pack.

**How to vote**

Voting in these elections is by **post**.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. You can find instructions on [how to fill out a ballot paper](#) on our website.

Voting closes at **6 pm on Friday 25 October**, but your local mail collection times may be earlier than this. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

You can also drop your vote off at your local election office.

[Find my election office](#)

**If you don't get a ballot pack**

If you haven't received your ballot pack in the mail yet, you can ask us to send you a replacement by:

- visiting your election office\* to get a replacement on the spot. You can fill in your vote there and return it straight away.
- calling us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- filling in our [online form](#).

\*This must be the election office for your enrolled address. [Check your enrolment details](#) if you've recently moved.

[Find my election office](#)

**Information in your language**

Our website has information in more than 20 languages. There are also videos explaining how to vote in 10 different languages.

[Find information in your language](#)

**Security**

If you would rather not click any links in this email, all this information and more is on our website: [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au). You can hover your mouse over links to confirm they go to a [vic.gov.au](http://vic.gov.au) website before you click them.

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**More information**


For more information visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) or call us on [131 832](tel:131832) between 8:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

*Authorised by S. Bluemel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.*

**Our mailing address is:**  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll. Responses are not monitored.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



[VEC website](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Legal](#)

## Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program provides free peer-led electoral education and information sessions to those under-represented in the electoral process. This includes people with disability and their carers, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people experiencing homelessness and young people. A total of 238 sessions were provided across the state reaching over 10,000 participants.
Specialist mobile enrolment	This program delivered peer-led enrolment sessions in prisons, homeless services, schools and tertiary education settings to reach young people and Aboriginal community settings across Melbourne and regional Victoria.
CALD in-language social media videos	This project produced a series of videos in 11 different languages including Auslan. Languages were chosen to reach language groups most in need of additional support. The videos provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms, community networks, and partner organisations.
Active Citizenship program	Electoral and civics education workshops were delivered to CALD community leaders in 3 locations across regional Victoria.
Aboriginal engagement	This program delivered information and engagement sessions across the greater Melbourne area and regional Victoria. These were designed to raise awareness that voting was compulsory and taking place via post. Culturally appropriate resources were produced to provide information on how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice, including a video which was distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and partner organisations.
Easy English guide	This was produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the reader. These were distributed by Democracy Ambassadors as a key resource, and also available for download from the VEC's website.

## Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot draw order

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### Melbourne City Council – Leadership Team election

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#### RIP UP THE BIKE LANES!

VAN DER CRAATS, Anthony - Lord Mayor  
CRAGG, David Keith - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

KIM, Eylem - Lord Mayor  
POON, Bruce - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### TEAM HAKIM - RESIDENT INDEPENDENTS

HAKIM, Jamal - Lord Mayor  
ANATOLITIS, Esther - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### TEAM NICK REECE

REECE, Nick - Lord Mayor  
CAMPBELL, Roshena - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### TEAM MORGAN - MAKE MELBOURNE SAFE

MORGAN, Gary - Lord Mayor  
GE, Liz - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### TEAM KOUTA

KOUTOUFIDES, Anthony - Lord Mayor  
KHAN, Intaj - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### LIBERALS FOR MELBOURNE CITY

RIZA, Mariam - Lord Mayor  
MARTIN, Luke - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### TEAM WOOD

WOOD, Arron - Lord Mayor  
DEERING, Erin - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### THE GREENS

INGLETON, Roxane - Lord Mayor  
McRAE McLEOD, Marley - Deputy Lord Mayor

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### Melbourne City Council – Leadership Team election

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#### VOICES FOR MELBOURNE

BISINELLA, Greg - Lord Mayor  
STEVENSON, Megan - Deputy Lord Mayor

#### LABOR FOR MELBOURNE

REED, Phil - Lord Mayor  
WILLS, Virginia - Deputy Lord Mayor

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### Melbourne City Council – Councillor election grouped candidates

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Candidates	Candidate order
------------	-----------------

---

#### TEAM WOOD

LIU, Philip Le	1
OKE, Cathy	2
ZERVOS, Nicolas Paul	3
NUR, Hala	4
CAIAFA, Michael-Lee	5
WEI, Hope Lai	6
MICHELSON, Steve	7

#### TEAM MORGAN MAKE MELBOURNE SAFE

CAMILLO, Rafael	1
CALDWELL, William	2

#### VOICES FOR MELBOURNE

MASTERS, Mary	1
VASILEV-ROBERTSON, James	2

#### TEAM HAKIM - RESIDENT INDEPENDENTS

SMITH, Michael	1
LAM, Lawrence	2
GAO, Judy	3

#### TEAM KOUTA

LIU, Gladys	1
RAMANI, Zaim	2
CARNEY, Emma Elizabeth	3
TJANDRAMULIA, Olivia	4

#### RIP UP THE BIKE LANES!

GEE, Sandra	1
SINGH, Pratap	2

---

Melbourne City Council

Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot draw order

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**Melbourne City Council – Councillor election  
grouped candidates**


---

Candidates	Candidate order
------------	-----------------

---

**TEAM PARTICIPATE**

SAITO, Asako	1
JANDA, Sam	2

---

**ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY**

KATYAL, Aashna	1
BANGAAR, Rabin	2

---

**INNOVATE MELBOURNE**

ROWSE, Andrew	1
GREENWOOD, Jesse	2

---

**LIBERALS FOR MELBOURNE CITY**

GUEST, Owen	1
LISTON, You Li	2

---

**LABOR FOR MELBOURNE**

GRIFFITHS, Davydd	1
SHEIKH, Sainab Abdi	2
ALEISI, Michael	3

---

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS TO ME**

MITCHELL, Krystle	1
DURBIN, Jayden	2

---

**THE GREENS**

BALL, Olivia	1
MOON, Aaron	2
BERIH, Barry	3

---

**TEAM ELVIS MARTIN**

MARTIN, Elvis	1
GALBALLY, Sophy	2
MUJRAL, Mavi	3
LIN, Jing	4
MOORE, Paul James	5
RYMER, Melissa	6
CULLEN, James	7
KENNY-SARASA, Carole	8

---



---

**Melbourne City Council – Councillor election  
grouped candidates**


---

Candidates	Candidate order
------------	-----------------

---

**TEAM NICK REECE**

LOUEY, Kevin	1
SCOTT, Mark	2
TEH, Lisa	3
PATTISON, Jannine	4
ALI, Hamdi	5
STANLEY, Suzanne	6
HARTLEY-KEANE, Simone	7

---

**VICTORIAN SOCIALISTS**

DADICH, Daniel Nair	1
FOK, Ben	2

---

**Ungrouped Candidates**

SEND, E.	
LAND, Jake	
KANSAKAR, Aishwarya	
YUSUF, Mohamed	
FRENCH, Callum John	

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Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot draw order

Melbourne City Council

### Appendix 6.1 Candidate statements and photographs

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#### Leadership Team election

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Total number of Leadership Teams at the close of nominations	11 (22 candidates)
--	--------------------

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Total number of team names registered	11
---------------------------------------	----

---

Number of indication of preferences lodged (one per pair)	11
---	----

---

Number of Leadership Team statements lodged (one per pair)	11
--	----

---

Number of candidate photograph (two per pair)	22
---	----

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#### Councillor election

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Total number of candidates at close of nominations	58
--	----

---

Total number of group names registered	16
--	----

---

Total number of ungrouped candidates	5
--------------------------------------	---

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Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Groups: 16 Ungrouped: 5
--	----------------------------

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Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph	57
---	----

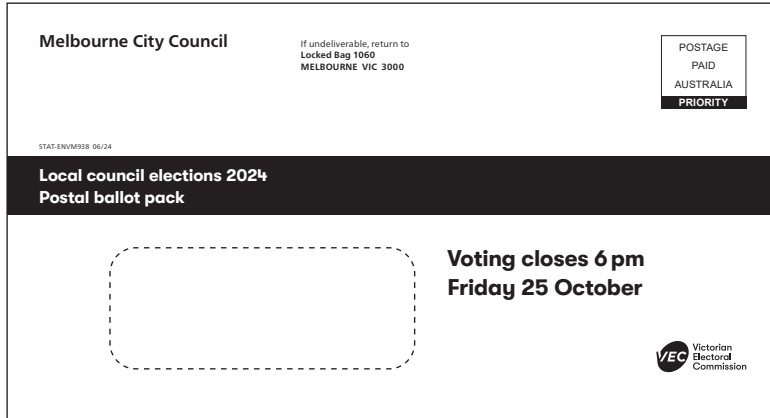
---

Melbourne City Council

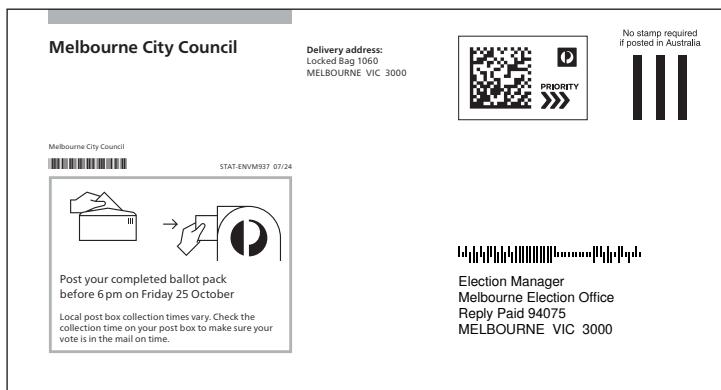
Appendix 6: Final list of candidates in ballot draw order

**Appendix 6.2: Ballot material**

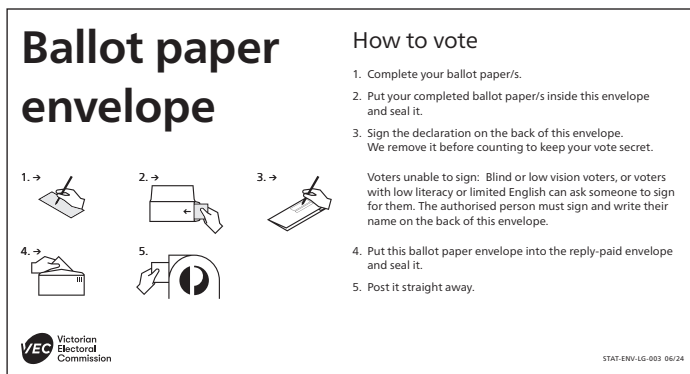
**Outer envelope**



**Reply-paid envelope**



**Ballot paper envelope**





Melbourne City Council

Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out

## Appendix 7: Daily breakdown of the general mail out

Melbourne City Council election	7 October 2024	8 October 2024	9 October 2024	10 October 2024	Total general mail out
Melbourne City Council	46,428	46,428	21,848	21,848	136,552

## Appendix 8: Result information

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### Melbourne City Council, Leadership Team election

Enrolment	136,502		
Formal votes	87,852		
Informal votes	4,603 (4.98% of the total votes)		
Total votes counted	92,455 (67.73% of the total enrolment)		
Candidate	Team	First preference votes	Percentage
VAN DER CRAATS, Anthony (Lord Mayor) CRAGG, David Keith (Deputy Lord Mayor)	RIP UP THE BIKE LANES!	3,706	4.22%
KIM, Eylem (Lord Mayor) POON, Bruce (Deputy Lord Mayor)	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	1,936	2.20%
HAKIM, Jamal (Lord Mayor) ANATOLITIS, Esther (Deputy Lord Mayor)	TEAM HAKIM - RESIDENT INDEPENDENTS	3,766	4.29%
REECE, Nick (Lord Mayor) CAMPBELL, Roshena (Deputy Lord Mayor)	TEAM NICK REECE	20,523	23.36%
MORGAN, Gary (Lord Mayor) GE, Liz (Deputy Lord Mayor)	TEAM MORGAN - MAKE MELBOURNE SAFE	4,281	4.87%
KOUTOUFIDES, Anthony (Lord Mayor) KHAN, Intaj (Deputy Lord Mayor)	TEAM KOUTA	11,345	12.91%
RIZA, Mariam (Lord Mayor) MARTIN, Luke (Deputy Lord Mayor)	LIBERALS FOR MELBOURNE CITY	11,985	13.64%
WOOD, Arron (Lord Mayor) DEERING, Erin (Deputy Lord Mayor)	TEAM WOOD	8,856	10.08%

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**Melbourne City Council, Leadership Team election**

INGLETON, Roxane (Lord Mayor) McRAE McLEOD, Marley (Deputy Lord Mayor)	THE GREENS	12,445	14.17%
BISINELLA, Greg (Lord Mayor) STEVENSON, Megan (Deputy Lord Mayor)	VOICES FOR MELBOURNE	3,079	3.50%
REED, Phil (Lord Mayor) WILLS, Virginia (Deputy Lord Mayor)	LABOR FOR MELBOURNE	5,930	6.75%

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**Successful team in the Leadership Team election**

REECE, Nick (Lord Mayor)  
CAMPBELL, Roshena (Deputy Lord Mayor)

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**Melbourne City Council, Councillors election**

Enrolment	136,502
Formal votes	89,606
Informal votes	2,139 (2.33% of the total votes)
Total votes counted	91,745 (67.21% of the total enrolment)

Groups/candidates	Votes
<b>TEAM WOOD</b>	
<b>Above the line votes (ticket votes)</b>	8,630
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
LIU, Philip Le	507
OKE, Cathy	126
ZERVOS, Nicolas Paul	15
NUR, Hala	32
CAIAFA, Michael-Lee	19
WEI, Hope Lai	11
MICHELSON, Steve	26
<b>TEAM MORGAN MAKE MELBOURNE SAFE</b>	
<b>Above the line votes (ticket votes)</b>	3,357
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
CAMILLO, Rafael	276
CALDWELL, William	21

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**Melbourne City Council, Councillors election**


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**VOICES FOR MELBOURNE**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 2,332

**Below-the-line votes:**

MASTERS, Mary 339  
VASILEV-ROBERTSON, James 18

---

**TEAM HAKIM - RESIDENT INDEPENDENTS**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 2,381

**Below-the-line votes:**

SMITH, Michael 332  
LAM, Lawrence 23  
GAO, Judy 77

---

**TEAM KOUTA**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 10,100

**Below-the-line votes:**

LIU, Gladys 432  
RAMANI, Zaim 20  
CARNEY, Emma Elizabeth 28  
TJANDRAMULIA, Olivia 8

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**RIP UP THE BIKE LANES!**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 2,639

**Below-the-line votes:**

GEE, Sandra 218  
SINGH, Pratap 21

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**TEAM PARTICIPATE**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 388

**Below-the-line votes:**

SAITO, Asako 65  
JANDA, Sam 8

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**ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 1,565

**Below-the-line votes:**

KATYAL, Aashna 117  
BANGAAR, Rabin 6

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**Melbourne City Council, Councillors election**


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**INNOVATE MELBOURNE**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	1,380
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
ROWSE, Andrew	153
GREENWOOD, Jesse	14

---

**LIBERALS FOR MELBOURNE CITY**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	12,209
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
GUEST, Owen	584
LISTON, You Li	48

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**LABOR FOR MELBOURNE**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	6,062
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
GRIFFITHS, Davydd	372
SHEIKH, Sainab Abdi	33
ALEISI, Michael	27

---

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS TO ME**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	945
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
MITCHELL, Krystle	182
DURBIN, Jayden	7

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**THE GREENS**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	11,596
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
BALL, Olivia	1,016
MOON, Aaron	45
BERIH, Barry	35

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**TEAM ELVIS MARTIN**

<b>Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)</b>	878
<b>Below-the-line votes:</b>	
MARTIN, Elvis	94
GALBALLY, Sophy	8
MUJRAL, Mavi	3
LIN, Jing	11
MOORE, Paul James	0
RYMER, Melissa	2
CULLEN, James	1
KENNY-SARASA, Carole	3

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**Melbourne City Council, Councillors election**


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**TEAM NICK REECE**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 17,562

**Below-the-line votes:**

LOUEY, Kevin	725
SCOTT, Mark	31
TEH, Lisa	32
PATTISON, Jannine	19
ALI, Hamdi	149
STANLEY, Suzanne	11
HARTLEY-KEANE, Simone	29

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**VICTORIAN SOCIALISTS**

**Above-the-line votes (ticket votes)** 0

**Below-the-line votes:**

DADICH, Daniel Nair	449
FOK, Ben	51

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**Ungrouped candidates**

SEND, E.	104
LAND, Jake	82
KANSAKAR, Aishwarya	274
YUSUF, Mohamed	224
FRENCH, Callum John	19

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**Successful candidates in the Councillor election**


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LOUEY, Kevin (1st elected)

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GUEST, Owen (2nd elected)

---

BALL, Olivia (3rd elected)

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LIU, Gladys (4th elected)

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LIU, Philip Le (5th elected)

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SCOTT, Mark (6th elected)

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CAMILLO, Rafael (7th elected)

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ROWSE, Andrew (8th elected)

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GRIFFITHS, Davydd (9th elected)

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## Appendix 9: Election participation statistics

Note: Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of total enrolment and can vary from turnout (total ballot papers counted as a percentage of total enrolment).

Melbourne City Council election participation	2020	2024	Statewide LG 2024 – excluding Melbourne City Council
18–19	75.71%	78.56%	86.64%
20–24	63.05%	65.67%	80.02%
25–29	63.38%	62.22%	74.09%
30–34	61.50%	61.86%	73.31%
35–39	63.06%	62.59%	76.18%
40–44	65.28%	65.43%	78.99%
45–49	67.21%	68.93%	81.92%
50–54	70.67%	72.66%	84.69%
55–59	74.09%	75.60%	87.46%
60–64	79.10%	78.21%	89.16%
65–69	81.82%	80.43%	90.41%
70+	82.80%	81.51%	88.77%
Voters enrolled through section 9A(1) of the CoM Act <sup>1</sup>	75.41%	73.09%	84.28%
Voters enrolled through sections 9A(3), 9B, 9C and 9D of the CoM Act <sup>2,3,4,5</sup>	63.40%	68.37%	90.95%
Total voters enrolled	68.79%	70.79%	83.79%

1 Residents enrolled on the State register of electors for an address within the City of Melbourne

2 Non-resident owners of rateable properties within the City of Melbourne

3 Owners or occupiers of rateable properties within the City of Melbourne who are not enrolled on the State register of electors and have applied to be on the voters' roll

4 Appointees of corporations who own or occupy rateable properties within the City of Melbourne

5 Deemed representatives of corporations within the City of Melbourne where appointments have not been made under section 9C

## Appendix 10: Complaints

### Written complaints received by the VEC

Where an outcome is a follow-up response, the customer may have replied to the VEC's response and the VEC has therefore replied to that follow-up email.

Where an outcome has no action taken, this could be an anonymous submission that doesn't contain feedback and therefore can't be passed on to another team.

Date	Nature of complaint	Action taken by the VEC
Tuesday 17 September 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements; Conduct of staff member	Follow-up response provided
Saturday 21 September 2024	LGI Complaint - Preferential or proportional voting; Nomination instance	Referred to LGI
Monday 30 September 2024	LGI Complaint - Candidate eligibility	Referred to LGI
Tuesday 1 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Conduct of staff member; Postal material from candidates or parties	Response provided
Tuesday 1 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Misleading and deceptive material; Source of personal or contact information; Postal material from candidates or parties	Referred to LGI
Wednesday 2 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Misleading and deceptive material	Referred to LGI
Sunday 6 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Misleading and deceptive material; Postal material from candidates or parties	Referred to LGI
Monday 7 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Misleading and deceptive material; Postal material from candidates or parties	Referred to LGI
Monday 7 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Preferential or proportional voting	Follow-up response provided
Tuesday 8 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Direct enrolment	Response provided
Tuesday 8 October 2024	VEC Complaint - VoterAlert	Response provided
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - VoterAlert; Updating enrolment	Response provided
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nature of complaint</b>	<b>Action taken by the VEC</b>
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Friday 11 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Saturday 12 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Monday 14 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Overseas and interstate voting; Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Monday 14 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Response provided
Monday 14 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Monday 14 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Incorrect enrolment	Response provided
Monday 14 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Incorrect enrolment	Response provided
Tuesday 15 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Updating enrolment	Response provided
Tuesday 15 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Head office procedures	Response provided
Wednesday 16 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Follow-up response provided
Thursday 17 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Incorrect enrolment	Referred to Enrolment
Thursday 17 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Saturday 19 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Follow-up response provided
Sunday 20 October 2024	VEC Complaint - General postal voter application	Response provided
Monday 21 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Removal from roll	Response provided
Monday 21 October 2024	LGI Complaint - Calls from candidates or parties	Referred to LGI
Monday 21 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Location of signs	Response provided
Tuesday 22 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	No action
Tuesday 22 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	No action
Tuesday 22 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process	Follow-up response provided
Tuesday 22 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Incorrect enrolment	Response provided

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nature of complaint</b>	<b>Action taken by the VEC</b>
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Information on the website; Advertising by local council	Response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Outside VEC remit	Response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal voting process; Postal vote receipt delayed	Follow-up response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Removal from roll	Response provided
Wednesday 23 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Response provided
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Checking enrolment	Response provided
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Information sent to electors; Updating enrolment; Wait times at election office	Feedback recorded
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election; Location of election office; Wait times at election office	Response provided
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Direct enrolment	Response provided
Thursday 24 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Information sent to electors; Information about candidates	Follow-up response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election	Response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election	Response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Response provided
Friday 25 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote receipt delayed	Response provided
Wednesday 30 October 2024	VEC Complaint - Removal from roll	Response provided
Friday 1 November 2024	VEC Complaint - Enrolment entitlements	Response provided
Friday 8 November 2024	VEC Complaint - Postal vote not received by election	Response provided





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April 2025

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Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
T 131 832  
[info@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vec.vic.gov.au)  
[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

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