

COUNCILLORS - ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY PASSION FOR THEIR COMMUNITY

On Saturday 4 September 2021 Wentworth Shire Council will conduct councillor elections to elect nine councillors to serve for a three year term.

Why stand?

If you care about what happens in your community, want to improve services, make the roads safer or support local businesses, consider becoming a councillor.

By standing for council, you'll have opportunities to:

- help your community
- improve infrastructure
- improve planning and amenities
- build engaged communities.

Being a councillor provides an opportunity to represent your community's views on vital decisions that affect people's daily lives. It is also an opportunity to develop new skills and work with a diverse range of people.

Councillors serve their communities by listening to people in the local area and then representing those views on council.

What's it take?

To stand for council, you'll need:

- passion, commitment and time
- an interest in your community
- an interest in local government
- to be prepared to learn and be accountable
- being able to talk to people in your community and take account of different views when making decisions
- time management and organisational skills
- problem solving skills
- teamwork skills.

You need to be able to commit time to reading council business papers, attending meetings



and representing council at some events.

The time you need for this will vary across the year, but it may be 5 to 10 hours each week.

What you will need to know

If you're thinking about standing for council, you need to know about:

- responsibilities of councillors
- conduct and behaviour
- where to get help.

Candidate information sessions

Wentworth Shire Council will conduct three Councillor Information Sessions for prospective candidates in September's Local Government Elections.

- Session 1 - 28 June 2021 at 7:00pm in the Community Meeting Room, Short Street Wentworth.
- Session 2 - 29 June 2021 at 7:00pm at the Midway Centre, Midway Drive Buronga
- Session 3 - 30 June 2021 at 7:00pm at the Coomealla Club, 2-8 Matong Street Dareton

What support will you receive?

Once elected you will receive council-based training via a two-day training course on 20-21 September 2021 in Broken Hill in conjunction with Broken Hill City Council and Senior Council staff as well as other support to help you carry out your role.

Wentworth Shire Council meets expenses and provides tools to help councillors carry out their role.

To recognise what councillors do for their community, they receive an annual fee from the council (paid monthly).

The annual fee paid to a councillor for the 2021/22 financial year is \$12,400. This fee is reviewed annually by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The fee is counted as income for tax purposes.

How do you stand for election?

To be eligible to stand for election you must:

- be at least 18 years of age and an Australian citizen
- live or own property in Wentworth Shire Council
- be on the electoral roll
- not be disqualified from standing from office, e.g. if you have committed certain offences.

A proposal nominating you as a candidate then needs to be submitted by:

- at least two eligible people enrolled to vote in the Wentworth Shire Council election or:
- a registered officer of a registered political party.

Information for candidates

Candidates and groups must register with the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) before accepting political donations or incurring expenditure for an election.

All candidates and groups must appoint an official agent at the time of registration and

notify the NSWEC of the agent's appointment.

Registering for an election is a separate process from being nominated as a candidate for an election.

Find out more

The Electoral Commission NSW provides advice about becoming a candidate and registering to vote in the election at

<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Political-participants/Candidates-and-groups/Candidate-nominations-for-local-elections/Six-steps-to-being-a-candidate>

Further information can be found at

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Stand-for-Your-Community-Candidate-Guide.pdf>



Save the date

2021 NSW Local Government elections

**Saturday
4 September**

Voting is compulsory

elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21
1300 135 736

