

Victorian Electoral Commission

Report of local government electoral activity 2008-09

Part I

Report of the conduct of the 2008 local government elections



VIEC

October 2009

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Foreword by the Electoral Commissioner

I am pleased to present the Victorian Electoral Commission Report of Local Government Electoral Activity 2008-09.

For the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), 2008 was the culmination of several years of activity relating to local government. This report provides an overview of the current year's activity, and review and analysis of the electoral representation and subdivision reviews that were conducted over a number of reporting periods.

In this report, the VEC has put forward a number of recommendations with the aim of further improving the efficiency of electoral administrative processes for local government elections.

Also noted are a number of other matters that were raised during the elections or during the electoral representation and subdivision reviews. Although these matters are beyond the scope of the VEC's responsibilities, the VEC made a commitment to include them in its report.

This report is presented in four parts, each dealing with a particular area of activity.

Part I is a report of the conduct of the 2008 local government elections.

In 2008, after a rigorous tendering process involving extensive planning and preparation, the VEC was appointed to conduct elections for all 79 Victorian councils in November 2008. By July 2008 implementation of the election plan had commenced and the VEC's focus was to ensure the successful conduct of the elections, which involved providing services to 70 councils, nearly 2,000 candidates and almost four million enrolled electors.

Part I contains an overview of the elections, providing an insight into the way the VEC managed the logistical challenges presented by such a large electoral event. Details of innovations in processes, products and services are included, along with key figures and results. A brief commentary on the impact and effectiveness of recent legislative changes and a number of recommendations are included for consideration by the Government.

Part II is a report of the conduct of local government by-election and countbacks during 2008-09.

The level of activity in this area was lower than usual due to the conduct of local government elections in November 2008 (see Part I of this report). Part II provides commentary about the two local government by-elections conducted during 2008-09, along with key figures and results. There were no countbacks conducted during the reporting period.

Part IV is a report of local government electoral representation reviews conducted by the VEC between 2004 and 2008.

In Spring 2003, the Parliament of Victoria passed the *Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003*, which amended the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) to include provisions for regular, independent reviews of the electoral structures for all Victorian local councils except for the City of Melbourne. Since then, 77 of Victoria's local councils have undergone reviews in accordance with that legislation; 39 in 2004-2005 and 38 in 2007-2008.

With almost the entire State having now been reviewed, the VEC considers it an appropriate time to reflect and report on that process. Included in Part III is commentary about the conduct of the reviews, the VEC's methodology and some analysis of the impact of structures and election outcomes.

Part IV is a report of electoral subdivision reviews conducted by the VEC in 2008.

Electoral representation reviews (see Part III) are scheduled to take place before every second general election. If, in the election between representation reviews, it is likely that there will be substantial variations within a municipality in the number of voters represented by each councillor, then subdivision reviews are designed to reduce the variations by adjusting ward boundaries.

The first subdivision reviews were conducted in 2008. Included in Part IV are details about how the reviews were conducted and the principles and methods used by the VEC to reach its recommendations.

The VEC looks forward to assisting both Local Government Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria in their consideration of electoral matters and believes that the recommendations in this report will benefit such consideration. I take this opportunity to formally record my appreciation for the professional assistance provided by those two organisations, as well as that provided by the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office.

I would like to thank our contractors and suppliers for the exceptional support and service they provide, which contributes invaluable to the success of the VEC's activities.

Congratulations go to my staff for their efforts in ensuring that all VEC activity is carried out with care and diligence. Their commitment to providing Victorians with the opportunity to participate in our democracy at this important level of government was a key factor in the success of the local government elections across Victoria in 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Tully', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Tully

Electoral Commissioner

Summary

In November 2008 the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted 79 local government elections, comprising contested elections in 247 wards and unsubdivided municipalities. There were uncontested elections in 50 wards. In one ward there was no election because no candidates nominated. A by-election was held early in 2009 to elect a councillor for that ward. These elections were all conducted under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*.

Nine councils chose to conduct their elections by attendance election, while the remaining 70 councils conducted postal elections.

Features of the November 2008 elections included:

- 130 multi-councillor wards and unsubdivided councils were counted using proportional representation (four were uncontested);
- 117 single-councillor wards were counted using the preferential method (46 were uncontested);
- 14 councils had a mix of wards with preferential and proportional representation counts;
- there were 3,985,227 enrolled voters at the close of rolls;
- overall average participation was 74.68% (76.44% for postal elections and 70.03% for attendance elections);
- overall informal rate was 4.99% (3.78% for postal elections and 9.90% for attendance elections);
- 1953 candidates nominated for 631 positions;
- 212 voting centres were established for attendance elections on Saturday, 29 November and 29 early voting centres were established for the two weeks prior;
- 20 computer counting venues and 32 manual counting venues were established across the State;
- results for all councils were declared by Wednesday, 3 December;
- the VEC was appointed by 70 councils to follow-up non-voters, and a total of 371,912 Apparent Failure to Vote Notices were sent; and
- a total of 12 applications, 4 of which did not directly involve the VEC, were lodged with the Municipal Election Tribunal.
- Individual reports were delivered to all councils early in 2009 in accordance with legislation.

Summary of recommendations

A number of matters raised in this report have been highlighted for further consideration. The VEC would welcome the opportunity to work with Local Government Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria where appropriate, to discuss these matters prior to the commencement of the election planning period for the 2012 local government elections.

Recommendation 1

Deletion of Section 41A(3A): Election or poll by postal voting

Section 41A(3A) provides that any references in Schedule 2 to 31 days before election day are to be substituted with 32nd day. The references in Schedule 2 to “31 days before election day” were changed to “32 days” when the *Local Government Act 1989* was amended in August 2008.

The VEC recommends that section 41A(3A) be deleted from the *Local Government Act 1989*.

See page 2.

Recommendation 2

Definition of non-resident ratepayer

The VEC recommends that the Government considers defining “non-resident ratepayer” for the purpose of s 13(1)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* as “the property owner’s principal place of residence is not within the Municipality”.

See page 9.

Recommendation 3

Property owners to notify of change of address

The VEC recommends that the Government amends the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004 so that owners are required to notify councils of any change to their residential status or contact address.

See page 11.

Recommendation 4

Guarantee of independent service provider

The VEC recommends that the Government considers providing a guarantee to councils that an independent service will be available for the conduct of local government elections under a costing arrangement stipulated in legislation, which reflects consultation with the local government sector. (See section 6.37 of this report.)

A solution would be to make the Victorian Electoral Commissioner responsible for the conduct of all Victorian local government elections.

See page 17.

Recommendation 5

Lodgement of Candidate Statements and Indication of Preferences

The VEC recommends that the Government change the Local Government Regulations 2004 so that the time for lodgement of candidates' statements and preferences is 12.00 noon.

See page 24.

Recommendation 6

Registration of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government considers:

- a) The removal of the requirement to register how-to-vote cards. Registration provisions are not included in Commonwealth legislation, or in electoral legislation in Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, or the Northern Territory; or
- b) the removal of the requirement to register how-to-vote cards for early voting; and/or
- c) placing a limit on the number of how-to-vote cards that can be registered by any single applicant.

See page 26.

Recommendation 7

Inspection of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government amends Regulation 31(1)(a) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to require the Returning Officer to have a complete set of registered how-to-vote cards available to inspect should an enquiry be received by a voting centre manager on election day, as is currently the case for State elections.

See page 26.

Recommendation 8

Registration of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government amends Regulation 31(1)(b) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to include applicants other than candidates who register how-to-vote cards.

See page 26.

Recommendation 9

Timelines for postal elections

The VEC recommends that the Government considers extending the election timeline for postal elections – in particular, the preparation time for the assembly and despatch of high volumes of ballot packs, and the longer Australia Post delivery times that apply in some rural areas compared to that in metropolitan areas.

See page 29.

Recommendation 10

Provision of ballot papers in formats suitable for voters who are blind or have low vision

The VEC recommends that the Government legislates so that a voter who requests a Braille ballot paper at an attendance election is not required to complete a written application.

See page 33.

Recommendation 11

Computer count location

The VEC recommends that the Government removes the requirement in the legislation for a council to agree for an election count to be conducted outside the municipality, and to enable an election provider to arrange to conduct the count at a suitable venue outside the municipality in circumstances where a computer count is considered necessary due to the size and complexity of the count.

See page 38.

Recommendation 12

Uncontested wards

The VEC recommends that the Government introduces a statutory requirement that all enrolled electors in a ward that is uncontested must be notified in writing, other than in the case of an unsubdivided municipality, or where all wards are uncontested.

See page 46.

Recommendation 13

Process of responding to complaints

The VEC recommends that the Government legislates to introduce more straightforward, complaints handling processes for local government elections.

See page 57.

Recommendation 14

Review of MET decisions

The VEC recommends that the Government legislates to remove the availability of a review of a decision by a Municipal Appeals Tribunal by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

See page 62.

Recommendation 15

Procedure if recount of votes due to a tie results in a further tie

The VEC recommends that the Government includes in the legislation a requirement to conduct a second draw by lot in the situation where a tie occurs in the final distribution of a count then occurs again in a recount situation.

See page 62.

Recommendation 16

Method of tie resolution

The VEC recommends that the Government includes in the legislation clarification regarding the tie resolution method to be used (manual or computer) if a recount results in a further tie.

See page 63.

Recommendation 17

Other matters raised during the 2008 local government elections

A number of further matters have been raised during the course of these elections by voters, candidates or election officials. The VEC made a commitment to include these matters in its report so that they would be recorded.

The VEC understands that many of these matters relate to policy and therefore fall outside the VEC's responsibility. They are included here for completeness of reporting.

The VEC recommends that the Government notes the other matters raised during the 2008 local government elections, and detailed below.

(i) Conflict between Commonwealth and State legislation

A number of independent candidates contesting local government elections have complained that an inequality exists between themselves and candidates who are supported by registered political parties.

The Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (CEA) permits that roll information provided to political parties under that Act can be used for any purpose in connection with an election or referendum (Sec 91A). The CEA defines an election as any Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government election. Therefore local government candidates with a political party affiliation have access to roll data at any point in time.

Independent candidates nominating for election do not have access to roll data until they have nominated and are provided with a copy of the voters roll from the CEO of the Council under Section 24C of the Local Government Act 1989.

Under State legislation, the Electoral Act 2002 restricts the use of roll data provided to political parties to State electoral events only.

(ii) Attendance and postal elections

Where a council changes from one election method to another and where neighbouring councils have different election methods, an increase in voter confusion has been observed. A view has been expressed that all councils should have the same election method.

(iii) Definition of election day

Election day is defined in the Local Government Act 1989 as the last Saturday in November for all election types. This caused some confusion for postal elections where voting closes on Friday before election day. Many voters attended postal election offices on Saturday attempting to deliver their ballot material. The VEC will ensure that clear messages are included in election communication products at future elections.

(iv) Candidate locality

The VEC received questions from voters wanting to know where a candidate lives, particularly in multi-councillor electorates in rural areas. A view was expressed that candidates should be required to disclose where they live.

(v) Receipt of postal vote applications (attendance elections)

The closing time for the receipt of postal vote applications is 12.00 noon on the Thursday before election day. Returning Officers process any applications received up until this time and despatch the ballot material via Express Post with an Express Post return envelope enclosed. Many of these (particularly those in rural and regional areas) are not returned in time to be included in the count.

(vi) VEC artwork on campaign material

One candidate distributed campaign material using stationery that was almost identical to VEC's ballot pack design. This led to confusion with voters as to the legitimate source of the material.

(vii) Different legislative provisions for Melbourne City Council elections.

The different entitlement and compulsory voting provisions that apply for Melbourne City Council elections confuse voters who participate in elections for other municipalities in addition to the Melbourne City Council elections or those who are added to the voters roll as a result of their presence on Australian Securities and Investments Commission lists. This generates many phone enquiries during the election period and during the period for enforcement of compulsory voting.

(viii) Compulsory voting

The VEC received a number of enquiries during the conduct of the elections where voters expressed a view that voting should not be compulsory for local government elections because little is known about the candidates contesting the elections.

(ix) Vote counting systems

A view has been expressed that optional preferential or first-past-the-post counting methods should replace the current full preferential and proportional representation vote counting systems. Some voters have expressed a view that allocating preferences to all candidates without a good understanding of what they stand for is difficult. VEC analysis shows that informality increases with an increase in the number of candidates. See section 6.31.

A view has also been expressed that full preferential voting encourages candidates to seek other candidates to stand for the sole purpose of exchanging preferences.

Timetable for the 2008 local government elections

	Postal elections	Attendance elections
Exhibition roll date	Thursday, 21 August	Thursday, 21 August
Public inspection of exhibition roll	Monday 29 September – Friday, 3 October	Monday 29 September – Friday, 3 October
Entitlement date	Friday, 3 October	Friday, 3 October
Certification of voters' roll	Thursday, 23 October	Thursday, 23 October
Opening of nominations	Thursday, 23 October	Thursday, 23 October
Close of nominations	Tuesday, 28 October (12.00 noon)	Tuesday, 28 October (12.00 noon)
Last day for lodgement of candidate statements and photos	Wednesday, 29 October (4.00 pm)	
Last day for lodgement of indication of preferences	Friday, 31 October (4.00 pm)	
Opening of postal voting (attendance)		Wednesday, 29 October
First day for registration of how-to-vote cards (attendance)		Wednesday, 29 October
Opening of early voting (attendance)		Wednesday, 29 October
Dispatch of ballot packs	Tuesday, 11 November Wednesday, 12 November Thursday, 13 November	
Mailout of EasyVote Cards		Friday, 14 November
Last day for registration of how-to-vote cards (attendance)		Friday, 21 November (12.00 noon)
Close of postal voting application (attendance)		Thursday, 27 November (12.00 noon)
Close of early voting (attendance)		Friday, 28 November
Close of voting	Friday, 28 November (6.00 pm)	
Election day	Saturday, 29 November	Saturday, 29 November (8.00 am – 6.00 pm)
Counting and declaration of result (general date)	Sunday, 30 November	Sunday, 30 November

1 Legislative Framework

Local government elections are conducted within a legislative and regulatory framework. Section 74A(1) of the *Constitution Act 1975* provides that local government is a distinct and essential tier of government, consisting of democratically elected councils.

Section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (LGA) is the principal legislation for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria. The Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 (LGR) make detailed provisions for the conduct of local government elections.

1.1 Changes in legislation

The introduction of the *Local Government (Democratic) Reform Act 2003* (s.31 (1)) aligned the timing of all local government elections to coincide for the first time in November 2008 and every four years thereafter.

In its *Report of Local Government Activities 2005-06*, the VEC made certain recommendations in relation to the legislation governing local government elections. In Spring 2008 the Victorian Parliament passed the *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2008* (LGAEA) amending the LGA and a number of these recommendations were adopted.

Many of the amendments contained in the LGAEA related to changes in terminology in the legislation to reduce anomalies and provide clarification. Other amendments removed individual car parking spaces, boat moorings and storages spaces as properties for enrolment purposes. Key amendments relating to the conduct of the elections include those detailed below.

1.1.1 Close of nominations

The dates for close of nominations for both attendance and postal elections were amended so that they both occur on the same day –12.00 noon on the 32nd day before election day. Previously attendance elections closed on the day following close of nominations for postal elections.

The closing time was amended from 4.00 pm to 12.00 noon, providing consistency with the close of nominations for State elections. This greatly assisted with the preparation of ballot papers in readiness for early voting. This change also resulted in the period for the registration of how-to-vote cards commencing a day earlier than at previous elections. This amendment, in turn, affected provisions relating to:

- Notice of election Sch 2 cl(3)(2);
- Withdrawal of nominations Sch 2 cl(7)(1);
- Death of a candidate Sch 2 cl(9)(1) and (2);
- Filling of vacancies Sch 2 cl(10)(2)(a); cl(10)(4); and
- Ballot paper draws Sch 2 cl(14)(2).

1.1.2 Additional nomination requirements for candidates

As a result of the LGAEA, candidates are now required to sign a declaration on their nomination form in front of the Returning Officer. Failing that, they must provide a statutory declaration stating that they are nominating, have personally signed the declaration form and stating the reason they are unable to attend in person.

1.1.3 Electronic ballot draw

The LGAEA also introduced an option allowing Returning Officers to conduct the draw for ballot paper positions electronically.

The use of this option enabled faster publication of ballot draw results on the VEC website, and resulted in considerable reduction in ballot paper production times.

1.1.4 Misleading and deceptive election material

The previous provisions in relation to misleading and deceptive election material were amended to apply at all times, not just during the election period.

All relevant changes in legislation were highlighted to candidates at information sessions and included in the Candidate Handbook.

Recommendation 1

Deletion of Section 41A(3A): Election or poll by postal voting

Section 41A(3A) provides that any references in Schedule 2 to 31 days before election day are to be substituted with 32nd day. The references in Schedule 2 to "31 days before election day" were changed to "32 days" when the *Local Government Act 1989* was amended in August 2008.

The VEC recommends that section 41A(3A) be deleted from the *Local Government Act 1989*.

2 Regulatory Framework

The Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 (LGR) provide the framework for the conduct of local government elections. There were no changes to the LGR prior to the 2008 elections.

3 Responsibilities

3.1 Victorian Electoral Commission and the Electoral Commissioner

The VEC is not legislated as the Returning Officer for local government elections. Upon appointment by a council, an Electoral Commissioner is responsible for appointing a Returning Officer (Schedule 2 (1)(2)(c)).

Under the LGA (s.21), the VEC is responsible for the preparation of the voters list of residents.

Where the VEC has been engaged by a council to prepare the exhibition roll and voters' roll, the Electoral Commissioner is required to appoint the Registrar for the purpose of preparing the rolls within the meaning of the LGA (s.3(1)).

Where the Electoral Commission is contracted to carry out certain non-voter follow-up procedures, the Electoral Commissioner appoints a person to undertake these tasks.

The VEC does not have any remaining responsibilities under the legislation.

However in practice, where the VEC appoints a Returning Officer, the VEC provides support to the Returning Officer by:

- providing a voter information campaign;
- providing all handbooks and forms;
- providing office equipment and furniture;
- providing training in local government election procedures;
- arranging materials to be printed;
- preparing the voters rolls by merging the Electoral Commission's voters list of electors with the council's voters list of ratepayers;
- providing a computerised Election Management System to support the Returning Officer in the conduct of the election;
- arranging for the secure dispatch of ballot packs;
- providing progress reports to the council;
- notifying the Minister for Local Government of the results of the election;
- providing electoral information on the VEC's website;
- arranging legal advice as required;
- refunding candidates' nomination fees;
- producing a list of non-voters;
- organising the follow up of non-voters; and
- preparing a report for council on the conduct of the elections.

3.2 Returning Officer

A local government election must be conducted by a Returning Officer. The Returning Officer may be the council Chief Executive Officer; another member of council staff; or where an Electoral Commission is appointed to conduct the election, the Electoral Commissioner will appoint the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer:

- is responsible for the management of the election;
- is impartial and independent;
- is required to appoint a Deputy Returning Officer; and
- may delegate responsibilities (except the power of delegation) to a Deputy Returning Officer or authorised person.

The Returning Officer has no legislative authority to investigate breaches of the LGA.

3.3 Local Government Victoria and councils

Where an election is not being conducted by the council, the council's Chief Executive Officer is responsible for appointing an electoral commission to conduct the election. The council selects the type of election (postal or attendance) and negotiates the services to be provided with the appointed Electoral Commission.

The council is also responsible for the preparation of the section of the voters roll relating to ratepayers.

Local Government Victoria, within the Department of Planning and Community Development, is the agency responsible for administering and investigating breaches of the LGA.

4 Initiatives

The VEC introduced a number of initiatives both before and during the conduct of the 2008 local government elections. These initiatives are briefly outlined below with further details provided in this report.

4.1 Electronic ballot paper scanning

The VEC conducted a ballot paper scanning pilot for three municipalities during the 2008 local government elections, enabling manual data entry of ballot paper preferences to be replaced with an intelligent character recognition scanning solution. The VEC contracted SEMA Group Pty Ltd to develop the ballot paper scanning solution. The scanning solution integrated with the VEC's existing computerised counting system electronically reading and transferring ballot paper preferences into the VEC's computer count application. For more information on this initiative see page 46 of this report.

4.2 Braille and large print opt-in program

For the 2008 local government elections, the VEC liaised with Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia to offer an "opt in" service to provide large print and Braille ballot materials to members of the community registered as blind or who have low vision. Details of this initiative can be found on page 41 of this report.

4.3 Information DVD: Australian Sign Language

Following feedback received from the Electoral Access and Advisory Group (EAAG), the VEC produced an Australian Sign Language (Auslan) DVD for the 2008 local government elections explaining voting and enrolling entitlements, nomination procedures and voting procedures.

Details of this initiative can be found on page 59 of this report.

4.4 Information DVD: Proportional Representation

In order to assist candidates, council staff and other interested parties to understand the principles and application of proportional representation, the VEC developed a 10-minute DVD illustrating how this vote-counting system works.

More information about this initiative can be found on page 59 of this report.

4.5 Candidate helper

The VEC developed an online application to assist candidates with the nomination process. Candidates were able to complete their nomination details, candidate statements and indication of preferences online and print pre-populated forms to lodge with the Returning Officer. The forms included a barcode that enabled the Returning Officer to load details directly into the VEC's computerised Election Management System (EMS).

This application was designed to reduce both lodgment times for candidates and administrative overheads for Returning Officers.

A total of 56% of candidates used this new facility to complete their nomination form and 61% of candidates at postal elections used this facility to complete their personal candidate statement. See page 32 of this report.

4.6 EMS Lite

The VEC uses an office model called the hub and satellite office configuration for smaller sized councils conducting postal elections.

For the 2008 local government elections, the VEC's Information Technology Branch developed a web-based application (EMS Lite) that provided the capacity to process and administer all aspects of the nomination phase of an election at almost all of its satellite offices. See page 32 of this Report.

4.7 Fraud prevention initiative

A small number of unsubstantiated and isolated allegations that postal elections in Victoria are open to postal voting fraud have been made in the past and arose again prior to the 2008 local government elections. While acknowledging that there may be legislative and administrative measures that could further protect the integrity of postal voting, the VEC believes that postal voting fraud has not been found to be a problem in Victoria. Nevertheless, with 70 of the State's 79 municipalities conducting postal elections, the VEC implemented a number of fraud prevention and detection measures which are detailed on page 39 of this report.

4.8 Information booklet series: pre-election publications

The VEC developed a series of nine information booklets to provide candidates, media and other interested parties with easily accessible election information. The booklets were available through the VEC website or in hard copy. Details of the nine booklets in the series can be found on page 59 of this report.

4.9 Information booklet series: post-election publications

The VEC is also developing a series of post-election information publications. This series will review and evaluate aspects of the 2008 elections. Topics will include Computer Counting and Recount Analysis, Fraud Prevention, Ballot Paper Scanning, and Case Studies from the Municipal Electoral Tribunal. These publications will be made available on the VEC website as they are completed.

4.10 Online employment registration

The VEC established a facility on its website for prospective election officials to register an interest in working at the November 2008 local government elections. Material advertising this facility was distributed to TAFE colleges, universities and a number of organisations that work with a variety of community groups including Indigenous Australians, CALD communities and people with disabilities. A total of 1,770 registrations of interest were recorded via the VEC website.

The VEC also worked closely with Disability Works Victoria to encourage those with a disability to register an interest in working as an election official. The VEC

appointed all 43 people who registered and identified themselves as having a disability.

4.11 Roll update process

The VEC developed software that delivered significant improvements in the areas of roll matching and data processing, enabling it to produce voters rolls for all 79 councils within tight time frames and with significantly fewer problems than in previous local government elections. See page 23 of this report.

4.12 Statewide advertising

The alignment of local government elections for all 79 councils in 2008 provided an opportunity for their promotion as a major electoral event for all Victorian voters.

The statewide campaign involved advertising in statewide press, ethnic press, on regional television and on metropolitan, regional and ethnic radio.

All statewide press advertising included a telephone enquiry number, a text telephone (TTY) number for speech or hearing-impaired voters, the VEC website address and telephone numbers for the multi-language information and interpreting service operated through VITS Language Link. See page 51 of this report.

5 Local Government Voting Entitlements

Voting entitlement for local government elections differs from that in a State or Federal election. Elections for 78 of the 79 Victorian councils are conducted under the LGA. The Melbourne City Council elections are conducted under the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* with reference to the LGA.

5.1 Local government entitlement

Local government entitlement falls into three groups:

1. Residents in the municipality who are on the roll for the Legislative Assembly (s.12) (Electoral Commissioner List)

Enrolled residents who are 18 years and over, Australian citizens or entitled British subjects are listed on the Electoral Commissioner's list. To enrol, an enrolment form must be completed, signed and witnessed prior to entitlement day. Entitlement is based on the residential address on the enrolment form.

This category forms approximately 87% of the roll across all municipalities. The Electoral Commissioner's list database has been designed and is maintained for the purpose of producing electoral rolls for the conduct of elections at State and local government level.

2. Non-resident ratepayers (s.13) (Chief Executive Officer list)

A notice of acquisition, which includes name and date-of-birth, is completed at the time of the purchase of the property. This is the only time council has any certainty regarding residency status of the ratepayer in relation to the property, which can and does change over time.

A person who owns a rateable property in the municipal district (whether solely or jointly) and who is not a resident of the municipal district, is automatically entitled to be enrolled on the voters roll in respect of that property. This entitlement is limited to two people per rateable property.

This category forms just under 12.5% of the roll across all municipalities. Records for these people are extracted from council property databases, which are designed for the purpose of collecting rates on a property and not for extracting details of individuals for voting purposes. This presented difficulties for the VEC to ensure that all (and only) those who are entitled to vote are included on the voters roll.

3. Other ratepayer entitlements (ss.14, 15,16)(Chief Executive Officer list)

Other council entitlements include non-citizen owner occupiers and company nominees.

This group must complete an application form each election cycle to be entitled to vote, which includes up-to-date personal details. Council includes this group on its Chief Executive Officer list. This very small group makes up about 0.5% of the roll across all municipalities.

In relation to the second entitlement, the LGA is silent on the definition of non-resident. A clear definition of non-resident, which includes reference to their principal place of residence outside of the municipality, may assist councils in the preparation of the council Chief Executive Officer list.

Recommendation 2

Definition of non-resident ratepayer

The VEC recommends that the Government considers defining “non-resident ratepayer” for the purpose of s 13(1)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1989* as “the property owner’s principal place of residence is not within the Municipality”.

5.2 Melbourne City Council voting entitlements

For Melbourne City Council elections, voting entitlements differ slightly from those in other municipalities and along with the local government entitlements listed above, the following entitlements also apply:

1. A person who pays rates on a property they occupy in the City of Melbourne and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality, e.g. you are a shop tenant, and are either named on the Council’s rates records to receive the rates notice, or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place; or
2. you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the City of Melbourne and have no other voting entitlement within the municipality*.

* If a company that pays rates in the City of Melbourne did not nominate two representatives to appear on the Melbourne City Council voters roll by 4.00pm on Friday, 3 October, the Council CEO, in accordance with legislation, appointed two representatives using data provided by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission.

5.3 Roll Management

As part of the election arrangements made with each council, the VEC was responsible for the preparation of the exhibition roll and certification roll for all 79 local government elections. The Electoral Commissioner appointed the Manager of Electoral Enrolment Branch as the Registrar.

The VEC has provided roll production services to councils since 1995, and has developed sophisticated software tools and processing procedures for ensuring the quality of the voters roll. Software tools were updated to cater for the changes introduced by the *Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003*, which came into effect on 1 January 2005.

In preparation for the 2008 local government elections, extensive work was carried out by the VEC’s Enrolment Services Team with all councils to ensure that the

council data were of high quality, and included date of birth on as many council records as possible, once the close of rolls occurred.

Considerable time and effort is devoted to performing data matching and checking of names and addresses in an effort to prepare voters rolls that are as accurate as possible. Roll preparation involves the receipt of an initial Chief Executive Officer (CEO) List at exhibition roll date; an update to this CEO List at entitlement date and checking both against the new entitlement provisions of the Act. The Electoral Commissioner's (EC) list of State-enrolled electors and the CEO's list of ratepayers are merged to produce the list of entitled electors for each local government election. Every effort is made to identify people who appear on both lists and, in accordance with legislation, the council (duplicate) record is removed.

The roll preparation process commences six months before election day when preliminary data is provided by the council. This process uses sophisticated software to identify, where possible, people whose names appear on both lists. Nevertheless, significant manual work is still required. It is vital that all eligible voters are included on the final voters roll for the election, but that duplicate records are not included.

The preliminary process mirrors the process at the exhibition roll date and aims to identify and provide feedback to council on issues that will delay final processing or cause problems with the comprehensiveness and/or accuracy of the final voters roll. This very detailed feedback, including possible duplicates and the names of deceased electors, is provided to council so that the quality of the final data can be improved and processing delays minimised.

Within the seven days following the exhibition roll date (21 August –100 days before election day), each council provided data to the VEC containing details of the ratepayers who were entitled to be enrolled as at the exhibition roll date. These data were loaded into the VEC computer system and merged with the State roll data for the municipality. Matching routines were used to try to identify and remove duplicates and the names of deceased electors. Decisions on possible duplicates were made in conjunction with the relevant council. The resulting exhibition rolls were available for public exhibition from 29 September until entitlement day on 3 October 2008 (57 days before election day).

After entitlement day, changes to the exhibition roll that had occurred in the period 22 August to 3 October were received from each council. These changes were processed along with changes to the State-enrolled voters roll, to produce the voters rolls for certification. The Chief Executive Officer of each council then certified the voters roll for their municipality.

5.4 Roll production issues

The ability to produce an accurate roll relies on the VEC's capacity to identify, match and remove duplicates, as well as removing deceased electors' names. This requires significant effort and resources from council and the VEC. There is no unique identifier available in both the State enrolment register and the council ratings system register to determine that a record appearing in both registers relates to the same person. The availability of personal details (particularly date-of-birth data) that are as up-to-date and complete as possible are critical to the matching process.

Electors listed on the State roll (first entitlement category) are required to provide complete personal details at the time of enrolment, and also when any details change, such as a change of name or address.

Electors in the second entitlement category (automatically entitled non-resident ratepayers) provide the prescribed details at the time of purchase of a property. This includes their current contact details and whether the property is to be their principal place of residence. There is no legislative requirement for a property owner to notify a council of any entitlement changes, i.e. a change from resident to non-resident status. The ability of the council and VEC to identify such changes is therefore dependent on the ability to match a council record with a State roll record. This group comprises approximately 12.5% of the roll. However the processing of this group comprises 80% of the work along with significant difficulties for councils and the VEC. Where multiple records are identified as relating to the one person and different addresses are identified, it can be difficult to determine which address is the most appropriate to use.

Electors in the third entitlement category (non-citizen owner occupiers and company nominees) are required to provide up-to-date details when they apply for enrolment at each election. This leaves no doubt about entitlements and currency of Details.

Recommendation 3

Property owners to notify of change of address

The VEC recommends that the Government amends the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004 so that owners are required to notify councils of any change to their residential status or contact address.

5.5 Collection of date-of-birth data for the Chief Executive Officer's list

Regulation 15(2)(vii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004 requires property purchasers to provide date-of-birth information to local councils for the purpose of preparing voters rolls. This additional personal information greatly improves the VEC's ability to match council records with the EC's list. Unfortunately, this regulation only applies to property purchases made from the date the regulation came into force and councils are finding that compliance from solicitors is not as good as it could be.

The VEC has encouraged councils to include date-of-birth information on older property records where possible, i.e. properties purchased prior to the Local Government (General) Regulations 2004. Most councils have put administrative processes in place to collect date of birth whenever there is any contact with a ratepayer, for confirmation of identity and for addition to the records.

The VEC also initiated a project to match entire data extracts from council databases with the State roll database and feedback dates of birth where definite matches occurred. All councils participated and resulted in an increased percentage of council records with date of birth information (65.2% of all council records provided for the 2008 elections). South Gippsland Shire Council had dates of birth on 90% of

its CEO List records and only nine councils had less than 40% of records with dates of birth included. The project will be repeated before the next round of local government elections.

5.6 Data provided by council

While the collection of date-of-birth information (as an additional identifier) will assist in the ability to data match, there are still considerable difficulties in matching council voters and State-enrolled voters.

In an effort to ensure that ratepayers are not disenfranchised, councils tend to err on the side of including rather than omitting records. In the preliminary process, the 78 councils having elections (the City of Melbourne comes under different legislation) provided the VEC with 615,304 records. By acting on the VEC feedback from the preliminary process, councils sent only 493,775 records for the rolls for exhibition, a significant improvement. Importing these records into the VEC system resulted in 26,440 error messages, all of which then had to be manually resolved.

Matching the imported records against deceased electors resulted in 4,730 records being removed. Duplicate identification meant that a further 28,620 records were removed automatically by the VEC computer systems and an additional 10,497 had to be manually checked and verified to identify and remove some as duplicates.

The final rolls for the 78 local government elections had 456,146 CEO List voters on the roll; meaning that only 37,629 records (7.6%) had to be removed from the council extracts for exhibition, compared with 25% of records in 2005. The preliminary process thus significantly reduced processing time in the time-constrained exhibition roll production process.

The considerable effort and time spent on the data matching process this year significantly reduced the number of duplicates on the final rolls when compared to previous years (around 0.1% of the total CEO list electors).

5.7 Computer software

Voters roll preparation is not part of core business for councils and council software focuses on property details and rates collection rather than on voters roll functionality. Further complicating the issue, there are six software suppliers with seven different products, in various versions, in the local government market-place. None of these suppliers has a strong focus on the production of accurate voters rolls.

With the exception of one software supplier, efforts by the VEC with the software developers and councils prior to the 2005 elections produced less than satisfactory results, so the VEC took a different approach for 2008, developing software that provided improvements in two areas. New VEC software was used to create an update file from two council roll extracts, resulting in a significant increase in roll quality. Other new software enabled expanded automation of the matching processes by taking advantage of the (new) date of birth field. This enabled the VEC to process data from all 79 councils meeting the very tight timeframe without sacrificing data quality.

5.8 Voters rolls

The legislated period for the production of final voters rolls is short. The VEC began work with councils in April 2008 to ensure the production of voters rolls of the best possible quality.

5.8.1 Enrolment

A total of 3,985,227 voters were enrolled at the close of rolls for the 2008 local government elections. See Appendix 1 for a table showing Municipal Voter Count by Ward.

5.8.2 Elector amendments made to the voters rolls

Twenty one elector amendments were made to the voters rolls between the certification date and close of nominations, pursuant to S.24A of the LGA. Details of these can be found in the table in Appendix 1.

5.8.3 Whole-of-municipality scannable rolls

Whole-of-municipality scannable rolls are prepared for use in early voting centres and for issuing absent votes on election day for attendance elections. These rolls list the names of electors alphabetically within the whole municipality (excluding uncontested wards) rather than within a particular ward. Included with the name and address information is a ward identifier to ensure the correct ballot paper is given to voters.

Due to problems with the whole of municipality scannable roll for Banyule City Council and Moreland City Council, the rolls for both municipalities had to be re-created. In the case of Moreland City Council, the file that enables the roll to be scanned to identify non-voters contained incorrect references. In the case of Banyule City Council, the names of silent electors were missing from the scannable roll. Returning Officers for both elections ensured that the details of electors who had already voted were transferred onto the new rolls.

There were no repercussions in relation to the City of Moreland voters roll. Silent electors in the Banyule City Council election who attempted to vote before the problem was identified may have been told they were not on the roll. However since the problem was identified very early on the first day of early voting, the VEC considers it unlikely that any voters were affected.

Both of these types of problems will be prevented in the future by additional software checks and improved business processes.

5.8.4 Redirection of ballot papers

Following the 2005 council elections, a change was made to the VEC's processes so that if an elector submitted a change of address enrolment application after the close of roll, their contact address was automatically updated and any correspondence from the VEC (including ballot material relating to the previous address) would be sent to the new address.

Legislation requires the VEC to send ballot material that relates to the address at which electors were registered at the close of roll, even if the elector has since moved addresses.

The VEC was concerned that electors would be confused about why they had been sent ballot material that related to their previous address. On Friday 7 November 2008, the VEC mailed letters to the 2,760 affected electors, explaining the situation.

The VEC received around 150 calls from electors who received the letter. Most enquiries were from electors who required clarification about why they would receive ballot material for their old address rather than their current address.

Five electors indicated that the address where the ballot material was to be sent was not correct, and arrangements were made to ensure the ballot material for these electors would be sent to the correct address. No letters sent to affected electors were returned unclaimed.

5.8.5 Missing place names on printed rolls produced for certification

The VEC was alerted by the Northern Grampians Shire Council that place names were missing from some elector records on the printed rolls produced for certification. The problem was caused by a programming error in the hard copy roll print process. Although only a small number of place names were affected, the problem was wide spread and did occur in other municipalities. New printed rolls were extracted for all municipalities. No other roll products were affected, and the program has since been rectified.

6 Elections in Review

6.1 Planning and preparation

The VEC estimated that 12–18 months would be required for preparation and planning for the management of 79 local government elections – equivalent to that required for the management of a State election. Therefore, preparation for the 2008 local government elections commenced early in 2007.

One of the major challenges faced by the VEC was the uncertainty surrounding the number of elections it may be contracted to conduct. The VEC had received some early indication that the Australian Electoral Commission may compete for a small number of contracts. This uncertainty meant that the VEC had to plan to have the capacity and resources to enable it to provide quotations, responses to tender and ultimately to contract with any number of councils up to all 79, and involved building a great deal of flexibility into the planning process.

Further challenges included the preparation of 79 voters rolls within legislative timelines without compromising the quality of the rolls, and the preparation and dispatch of more than three million ballot packs for up to 296 different postal elections, and approximately 800,000 (EasyVote cards) for 47 attendance elections, within the specified timelines.

6.1.1 Service plan

The VEC conducted workshops with staff and service providers to determine capabilities and requirements. As a result, the VEC enhanced its processes and systems, and standardised some services to ensure that the larger volumes of electoral materials could be managed within legislative timelines. A proposed service plan was developed to ensure that the organisation was in a position to offer an election service to all councils. Using its experience from previous elections, the VEC considered the volume of products and materials, timelines, cost, quality, identified risks, and council and voter expectations. The proposed service plan included some standardisation of services as well as a limited number of optional services for councils to select.

6.1.2 Council consultation

The VEC conducted eight information and consultation sessions for councils in October 2007 to present the proposed service plan and the timelines that would need to be met by the VEC and councils. Feedback was invited. Of Victoria's 79 councils, 65 were represented at these sessions. The proposed service plan was sent to councils who were unable to attend.

Feedback was received from 60 councils, with most indicating that they were satisfied with the proposed service plan, and amendments were made in response to feedback. A small number of councils indicated concern with the VEC's proposed count and declaration timetable, which was less aggressive than it had been for previous elections. Further information on the count and declaration timetable is included in the section 6.25 of this report.

Other concerns expressed related to the VEC's proposal to conduct some counts outside the municipalities, and the proposal that all councils contribute to the cost of a State-wide advertising campaign.

The final service plan, with estimated costs, was distributed to councils in December 2007.

The VEC also participated in other meetings conducted by local government bodies including workshops with council revenue managers to discuss roll preparation arrangements.

6.2 Selection of an election service provider

Councils are required to tender for the provision of an election service if the cost of the service is expected to exceed \$100,000. Councils whose election services are expected to cost under \$100,000 are required to seek three quotations.

At the time of the introduction of the tender process in 1995, there was a competitive market for election services in Victoria, and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) was actively competing to provide local government election services. However, the AEC has not tendered or quoted for a Victorian local government election since March 2002, and the VEC was the sole respondent to all tenders and requests for quotations for the 2008 Victorian local government elections. There is no legislative requirement for a Commission to tender for, or conduct, these elections. Victoria is the only State where the Electoral Commissioner does not have legislative responsibility for the conduct of local government elections.

Between January and May 2008, 67 councils advertised tenders for election services, 11 councils requested quotations and one council exercised its option to extend an existing contract. Councils generally provided specifications for either an attendance or postal election, but some councils requested cost estimates for both.

A team of eight VEC staff worked on responding to tenders and requests for quotations. The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advertised a joint tender on behalf of 49 councils. The preparation of the consequent response was considerably more resource efficient for the VEC than responding to 49 individually advertised tenders. Nonetheless, the VEC team dedicated approximately 180 hours to the preparation of this response.

In responding to tenders or requests for quotation, the VEC provided cost estimates for a standardised product, with a limited selection of optional extras not required by legislation. This was essentially the same service package as that proposed to councils in December 2007. Optional extras included additional early voting centres for attendance elections, additional candidate information sessions, voting reminder advertisements, the inclusion of multi-language voting instructions in voting centres for attendance elections or included in ballot packs for postal elections, and responsibility for compulsory voting.

The costing schedule is determined by variables including: the number of contested wards; the number of voters on the roll; voter turnout; the number of postal vote applications and voting centres in attendance elections; and the number of candidates in postal elections.

Certainty in relation to the number of elections to be conducted by the VEC would assist with planning. Also, further efficiencies could be achieved if the requirement to tender (or request for a quotation) was removed.

The VEC has invested in manual production, ballot pack development and technology that is transparent and can be adopted by other providers. A State-wide perspective would also lead to consistency in reporting and a central repository for research data.

Recommendation 4

Guarantee of independent service provider

The VEC recommends that the Government considers providing a guarantee to councils that an independent service will be available for the conduct of local government elections under a costing arrangement stipulated in legislation, which reflects consultation with the local government sector. (See section 6.35.4 of this report.)

A solution would be to make the Victorian Electoral Commissioner responsible for the conduct of all Victorian local government elections.

6.3 Choice of attendance or postal elections

Councils have a choice of conducting an election as either an attendance election or a postal election.

Four councils decided to change the method of election for the 2008 elections. Amendments made to the LGA in August 2008 mean that in future, if a council changes the method used, the decision will have to be made at least eight months prior to the election (S.41A (2A)).

There is a preference by councils to conduct postal elections (see Table 1). This preference is believed to be due to acknowledged benefits such as lower cost, lower informal voting rate and a higher voter turnout.

Table 1: Choice of election method over time

Local government elections	2002	2003	2004	2005	2008
Postal elections	18 (82%)	47 (87%)	22 (88%)	48 (89%)	70 (89%)
Attendance elections	4 (18%)	7 (13%)	3 (12%)	6 (11%)	9 (11%)

6.4 The appointment of Returning Officers

Schedule 2 of the LGA requires that all elections are to be conducted by a Returning Officer. The Returning Officer is to be:

- the Chief Executive Officer; or

- a member of council staff appointed in writing by the Chief Executive Officer to be the Returning Officer; or
- if the council has appointed an Electoral Commission or another council to conduct the election, a person appointed in writing by the Electoral Commission or council to be the Returning Officer.

Once a council officially appointed the VEC to conduct its election, the Electoral Commissioner appointed a Returning Officer for that election from the VEC's pool of Senior Election Officials. See Appendix 2 for a list of Returning Officers appointed for the 2008 local government elections.

6.5 Election offices

Election offices were established for the conduct of the 2008 local government elections. These offices were either obtained by the VEC or provided by the Council. Some offices were located in council-owned premises, while others were commercial premises leased by the VEC. The full list of the election office addresses is included in Appendix 2.

The VEC experienced some difficulty locating suitable premises to lease due to the relatively short lease time of three to four months. As most commercial leases involve a minimum of six months, this increased the complexity of negotiation required and limited the number and type of available venues. In a number of cases, where the Council chose to provide the venue, there were limited options for suitable office space.

Frequently, available venues had been vacant for a lengthy period of time and consequently had inadequate building or telecommunication facilities. In some cases this was only able to be ascertained after the VEC had entered into the lease. Significant work was required at a number of venues to establish telecommunication lines, which proved difficult in some cases because local exchanges were already at full capacity. To overcome some of the logistical issues the VEC will consider extending the tenure of leases in the future.

The VEC established three office configurations – stand-alone, hub and satellite. Each configuration involved different equipment, staffing, hardware and software requirements and individual procedures for each configuration.

6.5.1 Stand-alone offices

Stand-alone offices are fully resourced election offices allocated to a single municipality. The 30 metropolitan councils and 8 of the larger regional elections were allocated stand-alone offices. Stand-alone offices are the most costly office configuration, but are essential for large scale elections.

6.5.2 Satellite and hub offices

The VEC provided an office model called the hub and satellite office configuration that reduced resourcing costs for the smaller-sized councils that were conducting postal elections. Specifically designed for rural and regional councils, the VEC established 16 hub offices and 25 satellite offices across Victoria.

A hub office is a fully resourced election office that shares resources and some functions with one or more satellite offices situated in neighbouring municipalities. In 2008, the return and processing of postal vote envelopes and the management of telephone enquiries took place at the hub office. Satellite offices were generally located in council premises and were the point of contact for candidates and public enquiries.

While the hub/satellite configuration is generally more complex for the VEC to administer, the resource costs are considerably reduced because staff, computer equipment and other infrastructure costs are shared.

The VEC will review office models for future elections.

6.6 Human resources

6.6.1 Contract Managers

Due to the extensive lead time required for the acquisition of resources and services and the recruitment and training of election officials, it was critical that the VEC knew as early as possible the number of councils likely to contract its services. The VEC encouraged councils to advertise tenders, or submit requests for quotation between February and April 2008 with the aim of having all contracts finalised by 30 June 2008.

The VEC appointed 11 Contract Managers to supervise the contracts for the 79 councils. The Contract Manager liaised with council representatives and provided regular feedback on the progress of the elections. The Contract Manager acted as first point of contact for any queries in relation to the contract, and was responsible for ensuring that the election was conducted in accordance with the legislation and within the terms of the contract.

The Contract Manager also performed a support role for the Returning Officer. At the conclusion of the election, the Contract Manager prepared a report on the election, including any recommendations for future elections. Each Contract Manager was experienced in the conduct of local government elections.

6.6.2 Election Support Officers

The VEC appointed 11 Election Support Officers to support Returning Officers during the election period. The Election Support Officers were centrally located, performing the role of Contract Manager as well as providing procedural advice to Returning Officers. This arrangement ensured consistent service and advice on procedural matters across the State.

6.6.3 Casual staff

Nearly 7,500 casual staff were employed during the election period. In addition, 79 Returning Officers were appointed along with 69 Deputy Returning Officers, 16 of whom were appointed to work on more than one election. To meet workload requirements, more than one Deputy Returning Officer was appointed for each of the 12 larger elections. All Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers were appointed from the VEC's pool of trained Senior Election Officials.

The VEC made an effort to employ a diverse range of people to work in election offices and voting centres during the 2008 local government elections. Employment included 743 people with fluency in a foreign language, 17 who identified themselves as having an Indigenous heritage and 43 people who identified themselves as having a disability.

6.7 Support services for Returning Officers

The VEC's support for Returning Officers includes the provision of dedicated Election Support Officers, training programs, training and operational manuals, and a Help Desk for information and technical support.

6.7.1 Training and Manuals

Newly recruited Senior Election Officials were required to attend four days of orientation training during February and March 2008.

All available Senior Election Officials then attended a two-day training seminar during April and May. Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers were then selected and they attended a further training program, between July and September, specifically in relation to the 2008 November elections. Two training programs, of two and three days respectively, were conducted to provide targeted training for postal elections and attendance elections.

The VEC provided Returning Officers and Deputy Returning Officers with comprehensive manuals explaining all procedures for the elections.

Returning Officers managing attendance elections were provided with the resources required to present localised training of Voting Centre Managers, Assistant Voting Centre Managers and Declaration Issuing Officers. Materials were also provided to support the localised training of team leaders for the conduct of manual preferential counts.

Training was provided centrally for team leaders for the conduct of computer counts and manual proportional representation counts.

All staff appointed at voting centres for attendance elections were supplied with a comprehensive manual covering procedures relating to their specific tasks and explaining the VEC's standards and values.

6.7.2 Help Desk – information and technical support

The VEC established a central Help Desk to provide support in the VEC's Election Management System (EMS) and desktop software to Returning Officers and their staff. The Help Desk was responsible for all calls from election offices. Calls were logged and were responded to in the first instance by Help Desk staff, or were referred directly to the IT Help Desk or Election Support Officers.

The Help Desk staff comprised a manager, supervisor and seven full-time staff. Staff selection was based on previous electoral experience, awareness of election procedures and knowledge of election-based computer software and processes.

6.8 Election Management System

The VEC's Election Management System (EMS) is the secure computerised system used to administer and manage elections.

Returning Officers are provided with EMS in one of two ways:

- the provision of an EMS server, computers and printers established as an office network and linked back to the VEC's central servers; or
- a laptop with a secure wireless connection that allowed the user to access a limited subset of EMS information and functions via a web based application (known as EMSLite).

The latter arrangement was used at satellite offices and removed the requirement for the VEC to install software and provide large-scale hardware at these locations.

Establishing office hardware is a large-scale logistical exercise. All hardware is pre-configured at the VEC warehouse, then packaged and shipped to election offices. Technicians are required to set up the hardware at the offices and to ensure the link to the VEC is operational. Each hub or stand-alone office was provided with a server, at least four computers and a printer.

6.9 EMS Lite

In the past, the VEC has attempted to provide Returning Officers at satellite offices with access to its computerised Election Management System (EMS) with limited success.

For the 2008 local government elections, the VEC wanted to provide the satellite office users with a technical solution to allow access to the critical areas of EMS and ensure that data for each of the satellite offices was available at the associated hub office.

The VEC's Information Technology Branch developed a web-based application (EMS Lite) that provided the capacity to process and administer all aspects of the nomination phase of an election. The application was accessed by laptop computer connected to the VEC's network via the Telstra *NextG* wireless product. EMS Lite was used at all 25 satellite offices.

6.10 Information sessions for prospective candidates

The VEC organised one or more information sessions for prospective candidates for each of the 79 Victorian municipalities (93 sessions in total) specifically targeting the election process. These information sessions were conducted by the appointed Returning Officers for each election, and were held close to the opening of nominations. See Appendix 3 for details of the VEC's information sessions for prospective candidates.

The Municipal Association of Victoria held 70 information sessions for prospective councillors between July and September 2008. Topics included:

- introduction to local government;
- introduction to your council;
- what is expected of a councillor;

- experience of a current councillor;
- campaigning; and
- councillors and decision making.

At these sessions the VEC's appointed Returning Officers provided information on the electoral process including:

- eligibility to stand;
- wards;
- nominating as a candidate;
- campaigning legalities; and
- the voting system.

6.11 Nominations

The nomination fee was \$250.00 for each candidate.

The VEC received 1,975 nominations for the 631 vacancies (275 elections) across 79 municipalities, including 22 nominations for the City of Melbourne leadership team election and 32 for the City of Melbourne councillor election.

There were 1,634 nominations for postal elections in 70 municipalities (including the City of Melbourne) and 341 nominations for attendance elections in nine municipalities. Across the 79 municipalities, 50 wards and unsubdivided municipalities experienced uncontested elections because the number of candidates was equal to the number of vacancies. Goldsmith Ward in the Pyrenees Shire experienced a failed election due to a lack of candidates at the close of nominations. A by-election was held for that ward in February 2009 (see part 2 of this report).

Nominations for postal and attendance elections opened on Thursday, 23 October and closed at 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 28 October. New legislation setting the close of nominations at 12.00 noon helped ensure that printing timelines for ballot material were able to be met. This was particularly important because the simultaneous conduct of elections for all 79 Victorian councils predictably resulted in a higher number of candidates than in previous years.

New legislation also required that candidates submit and sign their nomination form in person with the Returning Officer, or provide a statutory declaration with their signed nomination containing details required by the *Local Government Act 1989* including reasons why they could not lodge their nomination form in person. Returning Officers received an average of 450 nominations per day over a four-day period, with 460 nominations processed in three hours on the last day. A list of all candidates for the 2008 local government elections is provided on the compact disk that accompanies this report.

6.12 Online Nominations

In anticipation of the large number of candidates expected to nominate, the VEC developed a 'Candidate Helper' for candidates to submit details of nominations online. Once candidates had submitted their details online, a barcode was issued

and a printable form created. Nomination forms and the nomination fee were then lodged at the Election Office by the candidate or their representative. The online facility could only capture single nominations, not the teams of two required for the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team. Therefore, for the Melbourne City Council, the Candidate Helper was available only for the Councillor election.

Approximately 56% (1,113) of candidates completed their nomination using the Candidate Helper. Candidates were responsible for ensuring that the data provided on the nomination form was correct and were required to approve a final printout from the VEC's Election Management System.

6.13 Candidates

Each candidate was provided with an information kit that contained:

- Candidate Handbook;
- Nomination Form;
- Scrutineer Handbook;
- form for appointment and declaration of scrutineer;
- form for submitting candidate's statement (postal elections);
- sample candidate statement and indication of preferences (postal elections);
- application form for registration of how-to-vote card (attendance elections);
- election campaign donation returns;
- information on preferential and proportional representation counting systems;
- key election dates;
- a map of the municipality; and
- Returning Officer's contact details.

The table at Appendix 1 provides details of the number of candidates at the 2008 elections and at the previous election.

6.14 Ballot draw

All candidate information was held in the VEC's Election Management System (EMS). The order of names on ballot papers was determined by a single electronic random draw conducted using EMS.

For the Melbourne City Council councillors draw, the electronic draw ordered the groups. The software is able to order candidates within these groups, where the group order had not been determined by the candidates in the group. It can also order ungrouped candidates, as required by legislation. For the 2008 Melbourne City Council elections all group candidates registered a group order and there were no ungrouped candidates.

The transfer of accurate data from EMS to the ballot paper printers helped ensure that the timelines for the production of ballot material for the 247 elections were

met with no errors reported. New legislation allowed the conduct of electronic ballot draws for the first time at these elections.

6.15 Candidate statements and preferences (postal elections)

The period for lodgement of candidates' statements and photos closed at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 29 October.

The period for lodgement of indication of preferences closed at 4.00pm on Friday, 31 October. The majority of candidates submitted an indication of preferences.

The Candidate Helper provided candidates with the opportunity to create their statements online, and to check and change details before final submission. Once candidates were satisfied with the statement, the form was printed and issued with a barcode. After the ballot draw, candidates had the opportunity to enter their preferences online in the same way. Candidate statements and preferences still had to be lodged at the Election Office by the candidate or a person authorized by the candidate.

Of the 1,542 candidate statements submitted (including those from the Melbourne City Council), 943 candidate statements were completed online (61%), along with 359 indications of preferences (23%).

Candidates were responsible for the content of their statements and for their indications of preferences. Final copies of statements and preferences were printed by the Returning Officer. The candidate or a person authorized by the candidate checked and signed the forms.

Candidate statements were published as provided with no amendments to grammar or spelling by VEC staff. No discrepancies between what candidates submitted and what was published were reported. This initiative ensured that all ballot material was able to be quality assured and sent to the printer within the allocated timeframe. No errors were reported.

Candidate statements for the relevant election were provided to voters in their postal ballot packs. Candidate statements were also published on the VEC's website as required by the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 (r.38). Candidates' contact details were published on the VEC website as allowed by legislation (Schedule 2, S.11 (2)).

Deadlines for lodging candidate statements and indication of preferences in postal elections are currently set at 4.00pm. (Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 Reg 34(2) and 37 (2)(c)).

All other candidate-related deadlines (nominations and lodgement of how-to-vote cards) are 12.00 noon. For consistency, the VEC recommends that the timeline for lodgement of candidates' statements and preferences be amended to be 12.00 noon.

Recommendation 5

Lodgement of Candidate Statements and Indication of Preferences

The VEC recommends that the Government change the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 so that the time for lodgement of candidates' statements and preferences is 12.00 noon.

6.16 How-to-vote cards for attendance elections

Division 2 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 provides for how-to-vote cards for attendance elections. Only registered how-to-vote cards can be distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre during early voting, or within 400 metres of a voting centre during the hours of voting on election day.

In accordance with Regulation 27, candidates at attendance elections were able to register how-to-vote cards from Wednesday, 29 October until 12.00 noon Friday, 21 November. A total of 627 how-to-vote cards were registered for 341 candidates contesting attendance elections in nine municipalities.

The names of the candidates for whom how-to-vote cards were registered were published on the VEC's website in accordance with Regulation 31(1)(b).

In the past, the majority of how-to-vote cards were not lodged until close to the end of the lodgement period. For the 2008 local government elections, candidates commenced lodging how-to-vote cards immediately after the close of nominations on 29 October. Applications were received on a daily basis. This may indicate that candidates are aware that how-to-vote cards had to be registered in order to be distributed at early voting centres. In accordance with Regulation 29, Returning Officers advised candidates before noon on the next working day whether a how-to-vote card had been registered or refused to be registered.

The majority of candidates submitted only one or two how-to-vote cards, but a number of candidates or groups registered three or more cards.

One enquiry was received on election day concerning the colour of a how-to-vote card differing from what had been registered. This was considered by the VEC to be a minor change that did not require action.

Any person may apply to VCAT for review of a Returning Officer's decision to register or not to register a card. Such an application must be made by noon on the second working day after the day on which the Returning Officer made his or her decision. No applications were made to VCAT in relation to decisions made by Returning Officers for these elections. Appendix 13 contains a table showing the number of how-to-vote cards registered during the 2008 local government elections.

Candidates generally find the process of registering how-to-vote cards to be complicated and labour intensive. The requirement to register how-to-vote cards for distribution at early voting centres puts pressure on candidates to finalise preference allocations and complete the registration process quickly. This often leads to candidates registering more than one card to cover a range of different preference allocations.

An issue arose where campaign material was delivered by Australia Post within 400 metres of an early voting centre, and so became the subject of an application to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal.

The *Electoral Act 2002* requires that HTV cards must be registered for distribution within 400 metres of election day voting centres only and there is no requirement to register cards distributed at early voting centres.

The *Local Government Act 1989* (LGA) already includes provisions that prohibit the distribution of election material that is misleading or deceptive in addition to the provisions relating to the registration of HTV cards. There is also provision in the

LGA for a person to seek an injunction to restrain another person from distributing material that is misleading and deceptive.

Regulation 31(1)(b) requires that a list of names of candidates for whom HTV cards have been registered be published on a web site maintained by or on behalf of the Returning Officer. In practice, HTV cards are registered by applicants other than candidates and can be community groups or other parties.

Regulation 31(1)(a) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 requires the Returning Officer to provide their Voting Centre Managers with copies of all registered how-to-vote cards. This is difficult to administer because candidates do not always provide printed copies in sufficient time to make them available to Voting Centre Managers. This requirement also generates large volumes of paper, which must subsequently be disposed of.

Recommendation 6

Registration of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government considers:

- the removal of the requirement to register how-to-vote cards. Registration provisions are not included in Commonwealth legislation, or in electoral legislation in Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, or the Northern Territory; or
- the removal of the requirement to register how-to-vote cards for early voting; and/or
- placing a limit on the number of how-to-vote cards that can be registered by one applicant.

Recommendation 7

Inspection of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government amends Regulation 31(1)(a) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to require the Returning Officer to have a complete set of registered how-to-vote cards available to inspect should an enquiry be received by a voting centre manager on election day, as is currently the case for State elections.

Recommendation 8

Registration of how-to-vote cards

The VEC recommends that the Government amends Regulation 31(1)(b) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 to include applicants other than candidates who register how-to-vote cards.

6.16.1 Study of how-to-vote card conformity

Under the preferential system operating in Victorian local government elections, voters have to number every square on the ballot paper. In unsubdivided councils and multi-councillor wards, there are often large numbers of candidates on the ballot paper. The dynamics of the preferential system encourage candidates to negotiate preference deals with each other, so that they can benefit from preferences flowing from elected or excluded candidates. To maximise their chances of election, candidates issue directions to voters on how to allocate their preferences. In elections conducted by post, indications of preferences are printed below the candidate statements included in the ballot packs that the VEC posts to every voter. In attendance elections, candidates and their supporters distribute registered how-to-vote cards to voters outside voting centres.

For elections counted by computer, the VEC holds the preferences for each vote, which can be sorted by candidate and by conformity with how-to-vote instructions.

The VEC selected ten elections for study – all for multi-councillor wards (except for the unsubdivided East Gippsland Shire). To ensure a representative sample, the VEC selected attendance and postal elections, from inner suburban, outer suburban and regional areas, and covering a range of socio-economic variables.

In summary, the findings of this study of ballot papers for ten elections are:

- 45% of voters followed how-to-vote instructions;
- voters in postal elections were more likely than those in attendance elections to follow how-to-vote instructions;
- there were no clear differences in behaviour between metropolitan and regional councils, nor between councils with high proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse electors and councils with low proportions;
- the number of candidates in an election did not affect compliance with how-to-vote instructions;
- voters for incumbent councillors and winning candidates were more likely to follow how-to-vote instructions, and voters for minor candidates (those who failed to regain their deposit) were less likely to do so. This tendency was stronger in attendance elections, but not apparent in regional elections.

A paper detailing the study and findings from the study can be found at Appendix 4 of this report.

6.17 Ballot packs and voter notices

During the conduct of a postal election, the Returning Officer must “send or deliver to each voter on the voters roll who is entitled to vote at the election—

- a postal vote declaration envelope;
- the candidate statements and indications of preferences for the particular ward or municipal district;
- a ballot paper for postal voting;
- a prepaid envelope for the return of the ballot paper;
- instructions about how to vote correctly;
- notice of how and when the ballot paper must be returned;
- any document prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
- any other material that the Returning Officer thinks is appropriate.

Some councils also requested a multi-language leaflet to be included in the ballot pack (see section 6.32.10.1 of this report).

6.17.1 Design and printing of ballot papers

The VEC reviewed the design and colour of ballot papers for the 2008 elections. As for previous elections in subdivided councils, each ward was in a different colour to help ensure that electors receive the correct ballot material. Ballot papers were produced using a security background print to ensure their integrity. Additionally, some minor changes were made to the ballot papers due to the implementation of the ballot paper scanning pilot project (see section 6.25.3 of this report). The changes included the addition of read marks on each ballot papers and a white background where the voter completed their preferences.

The printer responsible for the secure printing of the ballot paper/candidate statements was contracted by the VEC in 2004 as a result of a tender process. The company worked closely with the VEC in the development of its current ballot material, which includes a ballot paper with a perforated edge attached to the candidate statements and indications of preferences.

The VEC redesigned the ballot paper layout for elections with high numbers of candidates to ensure that where a fold was necessary, the fold was in the middle of the ballot paper. This was in response to some concerns at previous elections where high numbers of candidates resulted in one or two candidate names being listed over the folded side of the ballot paper, or the fold being in the middle of a candidate’s name.

6.17.2 Production and mail-out of ballot material

Regulation 81 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 requires that the ballot packs are randomly mailed, at least 15 days before the last day of voting, with no more than 35% being mailed on any one day. Over the three-day period Tuesday, 11 November to Thursday, 13 November, the VEC mailed out 3,153,666 ballot packs for postal elections.

In addition, 11,665 postal ballot packs were dispatched to voters registered as General Postal Voters (GPVs) for attendance elections. The GPV ballot material was dispatched to voters on Monday, 10 November. A sample ballot pack can be found at Appendix 5.

The production of the ballot material for postal elections to meet this deadline would place considerable pressure on the print production and mailing, as the candidates' indication of preferences would not be finalised until Friday, 31 October. This left 11 days to prepare and print all ballot papers/candidate statements and assemble ballot packs in time for lodgement with Australia Post. To overcome this issue and reduce production times, the VEC developed and implemented new processes for the production of the artwork for the ballot paper/candidate statements.

The VEC developed a process for the extraction of ballot paper/candidate statements data from the Election Management System (EMS) using Extensible Markup Language (XML) into pre-prepared ballot paper/candidate statement templates. Each template was specifically coded to accept whatever number of candidates nominated for a particular election. The implementation of this process gave the VEC a faster turnaround of print-ready artwork of the complete ballot paper/candidate statement product. This included the ballot paper, candidate statements, photographs and indication of preferences.

By extracting the data directly from EMS, no manual intervention was required during production. All quality assurance of data took place during input into EMS. Implementation of this process meant that all artwork for postal elections was with the printer by 7.00pm on Friday 31 October.

Due to the large volumes of mail to be lodged with Australia Post on each of the three legislated dates, the VEC made arrangements with Australia Post to store prepared ballot material at their postal facility in Laverton. The ballot material was held at Laverton until the day of lodgement. It was then transported to the Dandenong Mail Centre, where it was released for lodgement.

Regional mail was then forwarded to one of five mail-sorting centres before delivery to local post offices and postal delivery agents. While this is standard Australia Post practice for mail lodged through the Dandenong Mail Centre, this process adds one day to the mail delivery times in rural areas. The delay may be compounded in some areas, where voters collect their mail from the town centre. Such delays are not generally experienced in metropolitan areas.

It should be noted however, that people in regional areas are usually accustomed to local mail delivery patterns, and the return rates of ballot material in these areas are generally higher than in metropolitan areas.

Recommendation 9

Timelines for postal elections

The VEC recommends that the Government considers extending the election timeline for postal elections – in particular, the preparation time for the assembly and despatch of high volumes of ballot packs, and the longer Australia Post delivery times that apply in some rural areas compared to that in metropolitan areas.

6.17.3 Late return of ballot material

The VEC measured ballot material received by Returning Officers on the first three business days following election day. Some of this material would have been posted on or after election day.

Table 2: Ballot material returned in the three working days after election day, by council type

Total returns (percentage of enrolment)	
Metropolitan councils	2.43%
Rural/Regional councils	1.73%

6.18 Fraud prevention initiative

In the past, there have been isolated allegations that postal elections in Victoria are open to postal voting fraud. While acknowledging that there may be legislative and administrative measures that could further protect the integrity of postal voting, the VEC believes that postal voting fraud has not been found to be a problem in Victoria. Nevertheless, with 70 of the State's 79 municipalities conducting postal elections, the VEC implemented a number of fraud detection and prevention measures including:

- postal ballot material specifically designed to fit a standard household letterbox with no protrusion;
- a detailed and effective service agreement with Australia Post ensuring a three-day ballot pack delivery program;
- forming a partnership with Crime Stoppers Victoria, including sponsored print and radio advertising campaigns aimed at encouraging members of the public to call Crime Stoppers if they observed suspicious activity in relation to the suspected theft of ballot packs or suspicious activity near letterboxes. No calls were received;
- engaging a security company to observe key locations at which large numbers of ballot packs were delivered, such as housing commission estates and high-rise apartment complexes. The observers were instructed to check for ballot papers protruding from letterboxes or having been discarded, and any suspicious activity such as people removing ballot packs from a number of letterboxes. In all, 45 ballot packs were identified as having been discarded and were collected by the observers and returned to the relevant Returning Officer;

In one area, activity that appeared suspicious was observed but was unable to be verified as such. The VEC wrote to electors in that area, advising them to contact the VEC as a matter of urgency if they had not received their ballot packs. The VEC received no response calls, but as an additional precaution, all ballot packs from these addresses were "signature checked" on return;

- first “signature check”. Where the name of the voter printed on the declaration envelope was clearly different to the name represented by a legible signature, and the Returning Officer could not be satisfied that the declaration envelope had been signed by the “usual” signature of the voter named on the declaration envelope, the declaration envelope was put aside as rejected. In cases where it was not clear (e.g. signature was illegible), the voter was given the benefit of the doubt and the declaration envelope was admitted; and
- “signature check” against source documents. Although there is no legislative requirement to do so, spot checks were conducted to compare signatures on declaration envelopes with original signatures on enrolment forms or other source documents during the 2008 Melbourne City Council elections.

Between 17 November and 28 November 2008, a total of 400 (40 per day) returned ballot packs were checked by the Returning Officer for the City of Melbourne elections. The ballot packs were randomly selected; 20 from the Council list of voters and 20 from the Electoral Commissioner’s list of voters. During these checks, 12 signatures were found to vary from the signature images on the individual’s enrolment form or corporation appointment form. Follow up was carried out and the VEC found no cause for further action.

The VEC is satisfied that no evidence has been discovered by or presented that supports the existence of deliberate, planned and systematic abuse of the postal voting system in Victoria.

6.19 Voting centres for attendance elections

Under Regulation 50 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005, for attendance elections, “the Returning Officer must appoint as many voting centres as the Returning Officer considers necessary”.

The VEC established 212 election day voting centres for the nine attendance elections. In addition, the VEC established at least one early voting centre in each municipality to operate between 9.00am and 5.00pm each weekday from October 29. Additional early voting facilities and hours were provided at councils’ request.

A list of venues proposed as voting centres for each attendance election was provided to councils by the VEC. In selecting venues, the VEC considered venues that had previously been used as voting centres at State, Federal or local government elections and ensured that, where possible, they were well located within each ward. Voting centres that were too close to ward boundaries were avoided. The VEC recommended venues that provided maximum access for voters and tried to ensure that there was at least one fully accessible voting centre in each ward. The VEC provided the list of recommended voting centres to councils for feedback, but, in keeping with the requirements of the legislation, the Returning Officer made the final decision regarding the appointment of voting centres.

6.19.1 Accessibility of voting centres

The VEC reviewed the accessibility audit tool used at previous elections and made some updates to the document based on new accessibility requirements. All attendance election Returning Officers took part in a training session in the use of

the audit tool – to gain a clear understanding of the considerations necessary when choosing venues suitable for use as a voting centre. Almost 25% of venues (52) passed the criteria for full wheelchair access.

The VEC made efforts to locate at least one venue with full wheelchair access in each ward. However, the absence of suitable venues severely limited those opportunities. The VEC was able to provide at least one fully wheelchair-accessible venue in each municipality, and there was a total of 52 fully wheelchair-accessible venues across the nine attendance elections. Of the remaining venues, 113 were classified as ‘wheelchair access with assistance’ and 51 had no wheelchair access.

6.20 Postal voting and early voting at attendance elections

The nine attendance elections had an early voting centre established at the Election Office, and early votes were able to be issued for each ward in the municipality from Wednesday, 29 October until Friday, 28 November. At least one additional early voting centre per council was established to issue early votes during the two weeks prior to election day.

All early voting centres were open week days from 9.00am – 5.00pm until Thursday, November 27 when centres operated from 9.00am – 8.00pm. All centres were open until 6.00pm on Friday, November 28. In addition, the Election Office early voting centre for the Banyule City Council elections was open on the four Saturdays prior to election day from 9.00am – 12.00 noon. A postal voting service was also provided for each of the nine attendance elections.

Postal votes made up 5.33% of all votes, and early voters comprised 17.66%, making a total of 22.99% of the total votes counted. This represents an increase of 3.99% in the number of postal and early votes counted compared to the previous round of elections.

Table 3: Number of postal and early votes at attendance elections

Total number of votes	Number of postal votes (including general postal votes)	Number of early votes
558,557	29,781 (5.33%)	98,643 (17.66%)

6.21 Services for the people who are blind or with low vision

To assist electors with low vision to read election publicity or promotional material they received, the VEC liaised with Vision Australia so that a closed-circuit television monitor (CCTV) to magnify printed material was available at each of the election offices for those councils having attendance elections. Three CCTVs were also made available for Melbourne City Council electors.

For the 2008 local government elections the VEC offered an “opt in” service for the provision of large print and Braille ballot products to members of the community registered as blind and people with low vision. The VEC liaised with Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia to provide information about the elections and the VEC’s ‘opt-in’ program for Braille or large print ballot papers for the 2008 council elections. A radio advertising campaign ran on 3AW and 3RPH (Radio for the Print

Handicapped) from 28 September 2008 to 11 October 2008 to complement the provision of information to those registered on databases.

A total of 173 people registered for the program – 25 for a Braille ballot pack, and 148 for a large print ballot pack. Feedback received by the VEC was very positive. Further evaluation and modification of the program will enable the VEC to consider providing a similar service at future elections.

The ballot packs included ballot paper, declaration envelope, candidate statements (for postal elections) and voting instructions in Braille or large print, a pre-paid and a pre-addressed Australia Post satchel.

All Braille products were produced by Vision Australia, which ensured that the instructions were written in a style appropriate for the formats. A total of 25 voters from 15 councils registered to receive a Braille ballot pack. Due to a multiple entitlement, one voter registered to receive two ballot packs.

At the close of nominations there were four uncontested elections for which registrations had been received for large print ballot material. The VEC sent these voters an uncontested leaflet in large print and telephoned to inform them they would not be required to vote.

The VEC provided voters who are blind or with low vision with the opportunity to request a Braille or large print ballot paper. There is currently no provision in the legislation to provide for this. The VEC treated these requests from voters at a postal election, as requests for replacement ballot material. Requests from voters at an attendance election were treated as applications for postal votes and the VEC assisted the voters to complete a postal vote application as required by the current provisions. The production of a Braille application could not be achieved in the available time and, as such, was difficult to administer.

Recommendation 10

Provision of ballot papers in formats suitable for voters who are blind or with low vision

The VEC recommends that the Government legislates so that a voter who requests a Braille ballot paper at an attendance election is not required to complete a written application.

6.22 Services for people experiencing homelessness

The VEC introduced a number of initiatives for people experiencing homelessness during the 2008 local government elections. These initiatives addressed two recommendations of the Electoral Matters Committee's (EMC) inquiry into the Conduct of the 2006 State Election — Recommendation 4.17: 'to consider conducting electoral education about enrolment, voting and voting rights with people experiencing homelessness and staff of homelessness organisations in accessible venues' and Recommendation 4.18: 'promoting electoral participation in transitional housing and crisis accommodation centres.'

In the two months prior to the close of rolls, seven homeless enrolment sessions were held across six agencies in metropolitan Melbourne. The VEC also provided special voting facilities at four agencies in the two weeks prior to the elections. Overall, these sessions resulted in 66 enrolments and 91 votes. More than 100 additional clients were provided with information relevant to their enrolment status and participation needs.

Information about enrolment and voting provisions for people experiencing homelessness, as well as the offer of regional enrolment and/or voting sessions, was distributed regionally via the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) regional homelessness network. Other activities included:

- contacting agencies in metropolitan regions to gauge interest and schedule sessions;
- information on the VEC website detailing initiatives for people experiencing homelessness;
- presentation at the September 2008 CHP Regional Homelessness Network Meeting, to provide information to regional agencies;
- information sheet *'Being Homeless Doesn't Make You Voteless'* distributed to VEC homelessness contacts as well as through the Council to Homeless Persons and Department of Human Services networks;
- posters and fliers provided to participating agencies; and
- media release distributed prior to the enrolment session held at St Mary's House of Welcome.

6.23 Close of voting

Voting in postal elections closed at 6.00pm on Friday, 28 November and at 6.00pm on Saturday, 29 November in attendance elections. A number of activities take place between the close of voting and the final declaration of the result.

For postal elections these activities include:

- final processing of returned postal vote declaration envelopes;
- checking of voter entitlement for any unenrolled votes;
- identification and resolution of duplicate ballot paper envelopes;
- removal of identification flaps from ballot paper envelopes;
- opening and extraction of ballot papers from ballot paper envelopes;
- for manual counts, counting of ballot papers according to first preferences and where necessary the conduct of preference distributions;
- conducting computerised preference distributions; and
- the declaration of the result at a time that allows candidates and scrutineers reasonable time to review the result reports.

For attendance elections these activities include:

- counting first preference votes in voting centres on Saturday night;
- counting postal, early and absent votes in election offices on Saturday night and Sunday morning;
- receiving and sorting materials from voting centres;
- checking voter entitlement for any unenrolled votes;
- where manual preference distributions were required, conducting a full re-check of all ballot papers;
- conducting preference distributions where necessary, either manually or by computer; and
- the declaration of the result at a time that allows candidates and scrutineers reasonable time to review the result reports.

At previous elections, councils often specified that the declaration of results should take place, where possible, on Saturday night for postal elections and Sunday night for attendance elections. In some cases, this was because councils began their induction of new councillors from Monday morning.

In order to achieve this aim for previous postal elections, some extraction of ballot papers from envelopes took place on Friday night. This involved large teams of staff – up to 150 for large postal elections – often working until after midnight. First preference counts (where applicable) took place on Saturday morning and preference distributions took place on Saturday afternoon and in many cases were not completed until late on Saturday evening.

The VEC identified that pushing to achieve a pre-determined declaration time resulted in less than ideal situations such as: processes beginning before the total number of ballot papers to be accounted for was finalised; staff fatigue; and some candidates claiming they do not have a reasonable time to review the results prior to the declaration taking place. The only avenue available to candidates to request a recount after the declaration of the result is through the courts.

To address these issues, the VEC proposed a timetable for counting that ensured that reconciliations were completed before the commencement of each stage of the process. The proposed timetable specified that extraction of ballot papers for all postal elections would commence on Saturday morning. The VEC met with councils late in 2007 to discuss the proposed timetable. The VEC explained that the time and date of the declaration would be negotiated after the close of nominations, when the size of the task became clear. An undertaking was given that all declarations would be completed by Friday, 5 December, five working days after election day.

For postal elections involving computer counts, some extraction of ballot papers was prioritised to ensure that data entry was completed before the end of the weekend, when access to some counting venues ceased. These venues were generally at schools or TAFE colleges that needed the venues for classes on Monday, 1 December.

Feedback from Returning Officers regarding the new counting arrangements was positive. A number of election offices for postal elections still had a number of staff working very late on Friday night due to large volumes of mail being received on Friday 28 November. However, the new arrangement allowed all mail processing

to be completed and the total number of ballot paper envelopes to be determined before ballot paper extraction commenced on Saturday morning. No complaints were received from candidates or scrutineers about the changes relating to the processing of ballot papers at the 2008 local government elections.

A small number of large computer counts involved data entry operators working until after midnight on Sunday, 30 November. The requirement to vacate these count venues by Monday morning to allow classes to resume meant that if delays were experienced, counting could not be suspended until the following day. For future elections, the VEC will endeavour to use computer count venues that can provide extended access should it be required.

The VEC will continue to work with councils prior to the 2012 elections to ensure that counts and declarations can be completed as efficiently as possible without compromising accuracy, transparency and staff well-being.

6.24 Counting arrangements

Various counting arrangements were used across 78 local government elections; proportional representation counts conducted manually or by computer and preferential counts conducted manually or, in the case of the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team election, by computer.

Proportional representation counting alone took place in 49 municipalities. In 15 municipalities, counting was by the preferential method alone, and a combination of preferential and proportional representation counts took place for 14 municipalities.

Computer counts for three elections were conducted utilising the ballot paper scanning solution implemented by the VEC at these elections.

No counting took place for Northern Grampians Shire, as all elections in the Shire were uncontested. See Appendix 11 for details of counting arrangements for each council.

6.24.1 Manual counts

Full manual counts were conducted in four of the nine municipalities in which attendance elections were conducted, and in 29 of the municipalities in which postal elections were conducted. All manual counts were conducted within the municipality in which the election was held.

For postal elections, in circumstances where space was restricted, the extraction of ballot papers occurred at a separate location to the count.

Proportional representation counts for 18 municipalities were conducted manually using an Excel-based software program developed by the VEC to assist with guiding and confirming the manual calculations.

6.24.2 Computer count

Computer counts were conducted for elections in unsubdivided municipalities and wards with multi-councillor vacancies (where a proportional representation count is required). Computer counts were conducted at 20 venues for five attendance elections and 40 postal elections. For the Melbourne City Council election, a

computer count was conducted for the Leadership Team (preferential count) and for the election of councillors (proportional representation count).

Forty-two of the computer counts involved preferences from ballot papers being entered into the computer count application, by trained data operators, in the presence of scrutineers. The remaining three computer counts were conducted as part of the electronic ballot paper scanning pilot, which involved the scanning of ballot papers to capture the preferences recorded for import into the computer count application. Refer to 6.25.3 for further details on ballot paper scanning.

The VEC prefers to use venues such as TAFE colleges and universities for the conduct of computer counts by data entry as the infrastructure and hardware required for the count is in place along with appropriate security measures and controlled access for scrutineers and staff.

The VEC encountered difficulty when sourcing venues for the 2008 election counts due to some TAFE colleges having experienced problems with other clients, which made them unwilling to lease their venues to the VEC. This restricted the types of venue available to the VEC in some areas.

Setting up a computer count for each election requires considerable information technology (IT) infrastructure and support. The VEC provides configured servers at each count site linked to computers situated at the venue. The set-up takes place during the week before election day.

Additional onsite support is provided during the period of the count and up to 25 trained data entry operators are employed for each count. Almost 800 data entry operators were employed by the VEC for the conduct of the computer counts.

The cost-effectiveness of conducting a computer count, and the number of computer counts that can be conducted, can be increased if two or more councils agree to use a shared location. Opportunities exist for the VEC to provide an improved level of support if fewer venues are used. Where a single location is shared by two or more councils, counts are timetabled across a number of shifts and may use multiple computer laboratories. Counts will be conducted either consecutively or simultaneously depending on the venue facilities.

In metropolitan areas, multiple councils shared a central count location in close proximity to their own municipality. The shared count centre arrangement was implemented for regional municipalities conducting computer counts with the exception of Mildura, where the distance from other councils undertaking computer counts made shared arrangements impractical. No major issue relating to scrutineers having to travel long distances was reported. This may be due to the establishment of a clear timetable of counts allowing adequate planning for those who wished to attend.

Some results were declared later than if they had been conducted in a single computer count venue. Nevertheless, these declarations occurred earlier than they would have been had a manual count been conducted. The VEC also notes that, due to the formality checking process that is part of the application, recounts are less likely after a computer count than after a manual count.

Access to some venues was unavailable after election weekend, so counts that take longer than anticipated cannot be continued on another day. This meant that, in some instances, computer count staff worked longer hours than is considered ideal.

Recommendation 11

Computer count location

The VEC recommends that the Government removes the requirement in the legislation for a council to agree for an election count to be conducted outside the municipality, and to enable an election provider to arrange to conduct the count at a suitable venue outside the municipality in circumstances where a computer count is considered necessary due to the size and complexity of the count.

6.24.3 Electronic ballot paper scanning

During the 2008 Victorian Local Government elections, the VEC conducted a ballot paper scanning pilot program. After a rigorous tender process, the VEC appointed SEMA to develop and implement an application that could be fully integrated with the VEC's computerised counting system. Intelligent character recognition (ICR) was used to scan ballot papers and all data was entered electronically, instead of being entered manually by data entry operators. Three Councils – Glen Eira, Stonnington and Yarra participated in the pilot.

All obviously informal ballot papers (e.g. blank papers) were removed. The remaining ballot papers were scanned and after a scanning accuracy check, the resulting image was analysed for formality. SEMA operators performed a check of every ballot paper to ensure the accuracy of the computerised analysis of numerals. The program applied the formality rules for the election and any potentially informal votes were identified and flagged.

All flagged ballot papers were examined for formality by Election Officials. Multiple screens enabled scrutineers to observe the checking process at all stages, and provision was made for scrutineers to query any decision and request the Returning Officer to perform a further formality check.

All ballot papers deemed to be informal were removed from the batches and re-checked by an Election Official. Preferences from all formal ballot papers were imported from the scanning software into the VEC's computer count application. The computer count application calculated results and indicated the names of successful candidates.

The feedback from the candidates and scrutineers who were involved in the ballot scanning pilot has been encouraging, and the VEC will now look at developing this technology further for use during other elections. The VEC would like to acknowledge and thank Glen Eira, Stonnington and Yarra City Councils for agreeing to take part in the pilot.

6.25 Recounts

Recounts were conducted in ten municipalities. The *Local Government Act 1989* (Sch 3 Cl 13) states that the Returning Officer may, if he or she thinks fit, or at the written request of a candidate, conduct a recount of votes at any time before a candidate has been declared as elected. Nine recounts were conducted, under this clause, before the result had been declared. All recounts confirmed the original result. The recount for the Moyne Shire Council was conducted as a result of an

application to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal. Details of the recount for the Moyne Shire Council are included in section 6.32.16 of this report.

Where the original count was conducted manually, the recount was conducted manually. If the original count was conducted by computer, the recount was conducted using the same method. A recount involves a full review of all ballot material.

If the recount is conducted by computer, the recount includes the following steps:

- A full recheck of all informal ballot papers. At the completion of the recheck, the Returning Officer may decide that it is unnecessary to proceed to a full recount. The Returning Officer adds any ballot papers now identified as formal to the original count database as a further batch and recalculates the result. The VEC refers to this as a partial recount.
- If proceeding to a full recount, the preferences on every ballot paper are re-entered into the computer application, which saves the information and checks that the re-entered preferences are the same as they were for the corresponding ballot paper at the original count. If they are the same, the original record is maintained on the database. If they are not the same, the operator is alerted to check the data entry, and if confirmed, the original preferences for that ballot paper are overwritten with the confirmed preferences.

Table 4: Recounts conducted during the November 2008 elections

Council	Ward	Recount type	Recount type	Original Critical Margin	Final Critical Margin	Total votes	Change in critical margin
Alpine		Computer	Full	3	2	8,808	-1 (-0.01%)
Greater Shepparton		Computer	Full	1	1	33,969	0 (0.00%)
Macedon Ranges	West	Computer	Full	2	2	8,530	0 (0.00%)
Wodonga		Computer	Partial	47	42	19,424	-5 (-0.03%)
Melton	Coburn	Computer	Partial	11	9	20,668	-2 (-0.01%)
Buloke	Mt Jeffcott	Manual	Full	1	1	2,186	0 (0.00%)
Moorabool	Bungal	Manual	Full	2	12	2,347	10 (0.43%)
Maribyrnong	Saltwater	Manual	Full	5	-14*	4,898	19 (0.39%)
Port Phillip	Carlisle	Manual	Full	1	14	6,134	**
Moyne		Computer	Full	3	0	11,147	3 (0.027%)

* A change in the critical margin at the last distribution changed the last candidate to be excluded but did not change the elected candidate.

**46 additional ballot papers were identified for inclusion in the count after the initial preference distribution was conducted, so comparison of the change in critical margin with other recounts is not valid.

6.26 Declaration of results

All results were declared by Wednesday 3 December 2009. A table showing the dates for declarations of results can be found at Appendix 12.

6.27 Reports to Councils

The *Local Government Act 1989* Schedule 3, Clause 14 requires the Returning Officer to prepare a report to the Chief Executive Officer on the conduct of the election within three months of election day.

Final reports on each election were sent to Chief Executive Officers on Thursday, 26 February 2009. The reports included a certified record of ballot papers and declarations printed, issued, used, spoiled and returned as required by the legislation. Comprehensive details and statistics regarding election arrangements and outcomes were also included in the reports.

6.28 Debriefing

The VEC conducted a comprehensive internal and external debriefing program following the conduct of these elections.

Returning Officers and their staff submitted a written report including comments for consideration at future elections. Returning Officers were also invited to attend a one-day debriefing session in mid-December. Five sessions were conducted, including one session specifically addressing the Melbourne City Council elections. Of the VEC's 79 Returning Officers, 76 attended a debriefing session. Two of these represented Returning Officers from two satellite offices. One Returning Officer provided written feedback only.

VEC managers and team leaders conducted debriefing sessions with VEC project staff who had worked on the elections and individual debriefing sessions were conducted with the VEC's service providers.

Councils were invited to attend a debriefing meeting or were invited to provide written feedback to the VEC, and 71 councils did so.

A consolidated report listing all the matters raised at these sessions has been prepared and the VEC will consider all matters raised when planning for future elections.

6.29 Successful candidates

Appendix 13 contains a list of successful candidates. Note: a full list of all candidates is provided on the compact disc that accompanies this report.

6.30 Voter turnout

Voter turnout is measured as the number of formal and informal votes received by the close of voting.

In the 2008 elections, voter turnout for all those entitled to vote was 76.44% for postal elections and 70.03% for attendance elections. This is an increase on the combined turnout for the 2004 and 2005 elections, which together involved all 79 councils. Appendix 13 provides details with regard to attendance and postal, and metropolitan and regional elections.

Section 116 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005 details the provisions for the enforcement of compulsory voting in local government elections. There are several categories of entitlement for which voting is not compulsory, and a number of reasons for which a person may be excused for failing to vote. The figures in Table 5 represent voter turnout as the percentage of all enrolled voters who cast a vote.

6.31 Informal voting rates

The incidence of informal voting in 2008 local government elections remained significantly higher for attendance elections, at 9.90% compared to postal elections, with a rate of 3.75%.

A vote is declared informal when an elector does not complete their ballot paper according to the instructions, and their voting intention is not clear. For a ballot paper to be considered formal in a local government election, the voter must complete an unbroken sequence of preferences commencing with the number 1 (full preferential voting). Ballot papers that do not comply with the formality rules are not admitted to the count.

Table 5: Informal voting rates over time (% of all votes cast)

Local government elections	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004 & 2005	2008
Postal elections (a)	2.77	3.29	3.37	3.64	3.50	3.75
Attendance elections	7.44	8.86	10.43	9.33	9.84	9.90

(a) 2008 figure excludes Melbourne City Council leadership team.

An analysis of informal voting showed that the informal voting for 2008 local government elections increased as the number of candidates increased. In general, there were higher numbers of candidates for multi-councillor wards than for single-councillor wards. The average rate of informal voting in multi-councillor wards was 4.51 %, compared with 3.44% in single-councillor wards.

Table 6: Informality rates compared to numbers of candidates for attendance elections

Candidates	% informal	% informal
	votes	votes
	2005	2008
2 – 5	6.89	6.07
6 – 10	9.78	8.26
11 – 15	15.23	12.59
>15	21.09	18.24

Table 7: Informality rates compared to numbers of candidates for postal elections

Candidates	% informal	% informal
	votes	votes
	2005	2008
2-5	2.59	2.05
6-10	3.38	2.72
11-15	4.67	4.05
>15	7.76	6.28

The disparity between attendance and postal elections in relation to the rate of voter turnout and the incidence of informal voting has been a consistent feature over time (see table below).

Table 8: Voter turnout rates over time (% of enrolled voters who cast a vote)

Local government elections	2004 & 2008					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005	2008
Postal elections (a)	73.78	76.42	75.07	75.66	75.51	75.96
Attendance elections	64.62	71.16	55.65	72.80	67.59	70.03

(a) 2008 figure excludes Melbourne City Council leadership team.

6.32 Communication campaigns

The VEC provided each council with a comprehensive communication campaign developed to meet legislative requirements and increase voter awareness and participation in the elections. A Communication Officer was appointed to manage each council's advertising and communications campaign. The Communication Officer coordinated the development and placement of advertising, development and distribution of media releases, and preparation of election information for the VEC's website. Each council's advertising and communication campaign comprised the following basic components:

- council-specific statutory press advertisements;
- statewide advertising;
- direct mail pieces;
- council-specific election information on the VEC website;
- council-specific media releases;
- communication services for voters with special needs;
- telephone enquiry service;
- optional communication products; and
- some additional products and services.

6.32.1 Statutory advertising

The Returning Officer is required to place four statutory notices during the conduct of a local government election:

- notice of entitlement date;
- notice of election;
- voting details; and
- declaration of results.

The content of the advertisements is guided by legislation. This has resulted in the VEC adopting an information-based rather than a motivational approach to press advertising. The large amount of content required poses a challenge to effective communication so, to increase reader attention and recall, each press advertisement was themed. Press advertisements for Melbourne City Council elections were themed 'Your Melbourne. Your Vote.' For all other councils the VEC used the theme 'Your community. Your opportunity.'

Each statutory press advertisement included a telephone enquiry number, a text telephone (TTY) number for speech or hearing-impaired voters, the VEC website address, and telephone numbers for a multi-language information and interpreting service operated through VITS Language Link for those councils that had selected this as an optional extra.

See Appendix 8 for samples of the voting details postal and attendance election advertisements.

6.32.2 Advertisement placement

The *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2008* changed the definition of public notice so that the Returning Officer, and not the council, is responsible for the selection of newspapers in which the notice is to be published.

This amendment occurred after the VEC had provided quotes and responses to tender for the 2008 local government elections. As a result, the Returning Officers advertised in the newspapers that had been selected by councils, in accordance with the legislation in force at that time.

In 2005, some cost savings were achieved by the VEC negotiating shared advertising among councils advertising in common newspapers. However the design, coordination and placement of this shared advertising required substantial, resource-intensive work, causing some concern when planning the communication campaigns for such a large number of councils. This, and the VEC's commitment to providing clear and unambiguous information, led to the VEC's decision to place individual advertisements for each council for the 2008 local government elections even if this meant that, in a few cases, advertisements for several councils were published in the one publication.

A total of around 950 statutory advertisements were placed for the 79 local government elections. The majority were booked in the 'early general news' (EGN) segment, with some councils also requesting line advertisement public notice placements in *The Age*. It is important to note that neither the VEC nor its Master Agency Media Service (MAMS) provider, Mitchell and Partners Pty Ltd, could dictate or determine placement on any given page within the EGN segment.

6.32.3 Monitoring of advertisements

Statutory press advertisements must appear according to a timeline prescribed in the *Local Government Act 1989*. The necessary use of smaller regional and rural publications in particular made it difficult for the VEC to confirm the placement of some advertisements. Increased difficulty was identified in the case of the 35 publications that fell outside both the monitoring processes and the service agreements established by the VEC's media agency, Mitchell and Partners Pty Ltd.

To help ensure advertisements appeared in accordance with the statutory timelines, the VEC undertook a number of measures including:

- booking advertisements to appear within a timeline that allowed rebooking, if required, within legislated timelines;
- briefing Mitchell and Partners Pty Ltd on the necessity of meeting timelines and of supplying a work plan reflecting these timelines well in advance of publication dates;
- requiring Returning Officers to make regular checks of publications; and
- requesting that councils track the publication of statutory advertisements and advise the VEC immediately of errors with placement or non-appearance of advertisements.

It should be noted that, despite the above measures, the VEC was not in a position to guarantee placement of statutory advertisements as booked. Nevertheless, despite the very high volume of advertisements over the election period, there was

only one instance of non-placement of a statutory advertisement (Maribyrnong City Council), and one incorrect placement of a non-statutory advertisement (Greater Dandenong City Council) that could not be remedied.

In the case of the statutory advertisement that was not placed, the VEC considered that the advertising coverage across the municipality was more than sufficient to satisfy legislative requirements. The incorrect placement of a non-statutory reminder advertisement, while inconvenient, was not a serious error.

6.32.4 Statewide advertising

The alignment of local government elections for all 79 councils in 2008 provided an opportunity for their promotion as a major electoral event for Victorian electors.

The statewide campaign was structured on a relatively even spread of advertising activity around the two major phases of enrolment (from mid to late September 2008) and voting (from mid to late November 2008). It involved advertising in statewide press (*The Age*, the *Herald Sun* and the *Weekly Times*); ethnic press; on regional television (WIN TV, Southern Cross and Prime); and on metropolitan, regional and ethnic radio.

Total expenditure for the statewide campaign was \$327,737.67 ex GST (or around 84 cents per elector) which was \$31,431.89 under what the VEC had quoted to councils. By comparison, statewide advertising expenditure on the 2006 State election totalled \$2,527,554.34.

Of this, metropolitan councils were invoiced for statewide press, ethnic press, and metropolitan and ethnic radio on a dollar per elector basis, while regional councils were invoiced for statewide press, regional radio and regional television (except for Geelong City Council) on a dollar per elector basis. All councils contributed to costs on a dollar per elector basis for the ethnic media release campaign and the production and distribution of commercial radio audio grabs, translated copy on the VEC website, and updates to the 19 VITS Language Link telephone recordings (see section 6.32.10.1).

All statewide press advertising included a telephone enquiry number, a text telephone (TTY) number for speech or hearing-impaired voters, the VEC website address and telephone numbers for the multi-language information and interpreting service operated through VITS Language Link.

See Appendix 7 for samples of the statewide campaign press advertisements.

6.32.5 Direct mail pieces

6.32.5.1 Voter notice - EasyVote cards

Returning Officers are required to provide all eligible electors with a voter notice for attendance local government elections. To meet the requirements of regulation 43 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005, the VEC developed a voter notice, or *EasyVote* card.

Each elector (except General Postal Voters) received a personally addressed *EasyVote* card that contained their entitlement address, a map of their ward, details of where to vote, postal and early voting arrangements, election enquiry telephone numbers and, for those councils that had requested it, telephone numbers for the VITS

Language Link service and a one sentence translation in up to six languages selected by these councils.

In 2008, the *EasyVote* card was produced as a black and white direct mail piece resulting in a saving for councils of around 50 per cent, when compared with a four-colour process direct mail piece. Over 800,000 *EasyVote* cards were mailed for the 2008 local government elections at a cost per elector ranging from 56 to 63 cents.

See Appendix 6 for a sample *EasyVote* card.

6.32.5.2 *Uncontested election leaflets*

In the past, uncontested election leaflets were presented to councils as an optional substitute for the ballot pack in uncontested postal ward elections and the *EasyVote* card in uncontested attendance ward elections. However, if councils did not select this product, the only controlled notification of a ward election being uncontested and requiring no action on behalf of the elector was in the statutory voting details advertisement and, if selected by that council, the non-statutory voting reminder advertisement.

The VEC's view is that the placement of an advertisement as notification of an uncontested election is insufficient for subdivided municipalities, and that the absence of anything more is likely to cause confusion around who is required to vote. Voter confusion was considered to be more likely given the increased statewide advertising activity which could not provide detail about uncontested elections. The VEC therefore presented the uncontested election leaflet as a mandatory product to all subdivided councils for the 2008 local government elections where one or more ward was uncontested.

In total, nearly 260,000 uncontested election leaflets were mailed for 44 uncontested elections at a cost per elector ranging from 51 cents to \$1.26.

No uncontested election leaflets were mailed to voters in the Northern Grampians Shire because all four elections were uncontested. The VEC and Northern Grampians Shire Council believed that Shire-wide advertising was more appropriate.

Voters in Goldsmith Ward, in the Pyrenees Shire, received an alternative notice advising of those circumstances (failed election due to lack of candidates). See Appendix 9 for a sample uncontested election leaflet.

Recommendation 12

Uncontested wards

The VEC recommends that the Government introduces a statutory requirement that all enrolled electors in a ward that is not contested must be notified in writing, other than in the case of an unsubdivided municipality or where all wards are uncontested.

6.32.6 VEC website

The internet is a major source of information for electors, candidates and media for the local council elections. During the council election period, the VEC's website is a combination of municipality-specific pages and pages with information of a general nature relating to all councils.

For each council, the municipality-specific pages provided information including:

- the electoral structure of the municipality;
- how to enrol or update your details;
- how to vote;
- how to nominate;
- candidates' details, including the candidates' statements and indications of preferences; and
- election results.

The pages with general information included:

- information about services available for people with disabilities, including audio files for those who are blind or have low vision and a video in Auslan for people who are deaf;
- information for candidates (including a video explaining how proportional representation works);
- a facility for people to check their enrolment details on the State electoral roll;
- a 'Candidate Helper' which candidates could use to fill out their nomination form and other forms relating to their candidacy;
- a facility for people wishing to work in election offices to register their interest online;
- election information in 19 languages other than English and in Easy English;
- all media releases and media advisories, the media information kit and audio grabs for radio stations to download;
- a list of all candidates across all municipalities; and
- a page tracking the progress of the vote count and successful candidates for all councils.

Significant numbers of people accessed the VEC's website, with over 1,000,000 pageviews between 22 September and 15 December. The number of unique pageviews during the election period for each set of municipality-specific pages varied considerably, from 9,839 (the City of Melbourne) to 324 (Loddon Shire).

During the enrolment phase, 4,263 enrolment forms were downloaded from the website. The summary results progress page was viewed by over 40,000 distinct visitors in the three days following the close of voting. The online media releases and advisories were also much used, with over 7,400 unique views during the election period.

In 2008 the VEC's website also provided services that had not been offered online before. Candidates could complete their nomination forms online using the 'Candidate Helper'. Around 1,113 candidates (or approximately 56% of the total

number of candidates) completed their nomination form this way, while 943 candidate statements and 359 indications of preferences were completed online.

People wishing to work in election offices could also register their interest online, and approximately 1,700 people registered for work this way. Prospective candidates were provided with more information online than previously, including a video explaining the working of proportional representation which was viewed approximately 950 times during the election period.

The VEC's webpages were regularly updated throughout the election period as information became available or changed (e.g. as enrolment closed or nominations opened and closed). During the nomination period, candidate nominations were updated to the website at least once a day. During the results period, the results pages were updated 53 times, with the successful candidates for all elections published on the website by Monday, 8 December.

Enquiries from members of the public were also received via email to the VEC. A total of 1,277 emails were received and all were replied to within 24 hours between Monday, 22 September and Friday, 5 December 2008.

6.32.7 Media relations

Media releases formed an important part of the communication campaign, assisting journalists by providing factual and accurate information for election reporting.

To help develop a good working relationship with key media outlets, the VEC conducted two media briefing sessions – one, for the major metropolitan daily newspapers, about the Melbourne City Council elections, the other dealing with council elections generally. Journalists from *The Age*, the *Herald Sun*, Fairfax Community Newspapers, Leader Newspapers and ABC Radio attended along with communication staff from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). A detailed Media Information Kit was supplied, and was emailed to journalists who were unable to attend the briefing.

A series of six media releases were supplied to local press and radio journalists throughout the election period. In addition, five statewide media releases were distributed to over 100 media contacts, including journalists representing *The Age*, the *Herald Sun* and the *Weekly Times*; ABC and commercial radio; and regional and metropolitan television broadcasters. Media releases were also distributed to over 60 community radio broadcasters.

Tailored radio media releases and MP3 audio grabs featuring either the Electoral Commissioner or the Deputy Electoral Commissioner were sent to regional and metropolitan commercial radio stations. This radio media campaign generated more than 100 news items between late September and election day.

Returning Officers and communication staff at the VEC responded to media enquiries and interview requests throughout the election period. Media interest peaked during the nomination period and over the election weekend, with enquiries seeking clarification about the voting system, election timelines and election results. An invitation to attend the declaration of results was issued to local print and broadcast media, accompanied by an explanation of how votes would be counted.

See Appendix 7 for examples of statewide coverage. All media releases are published on the VEC website at www.vec.vic.gov.au/lgreleases.html

6.32.8 Communication services for voters with special needs

Along with providing ballot packs in large print and Braille, the VEC worked with Vision Australia to provide information about the local government elections for blind and low vision voters. Downloadable large-print and MP3 audio files were available on the VEC website, there was onsite access to assisted reading equipment at Vision Australia centres, and the promotion of the elections on Radio 3RPH throughout Victoria.

The VITS Language Link telephone interpreting and multi-language information service operated throughout the election period. All statewide press advertising included interpreting service telephone numbers, as did the statutory and reminder press advertisements for those councils that had requested them. From September to November 2008, a total of 8,241 calls were made to the VITS Language Link service. Of these, 6,179 callers obtained the information required from the pre-recorded message in their language while 2,062 required the assistance of an interpreter.

Table 9: Number of calls to VITS during election period in 2005 and 2008

Election year	September VITS calls	October VITS calls	November VITS calls
2008 - local government elections	191	191	7,859
2005 - local government elections	96	67	5,549

The VEC engaged ethnic media specialists to translate two media releases for distribution to 69 ethnic publications in 17 languages (Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese).

The languages selected were those recommended by LEBA Ethnic Media and the Victorian Multicultural Commission on the basis of 2006 Census data, the growth trends of new and emerging communities, and the availability, distribution and suitability of ethnic media publications.

Information on enrolment and voting in the 2008 local government elections was also available to download in 19 languages on the VEC website (Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Persian, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese).

Table 10: Coverage of media releases in ethnic publications

Media release	Publication period	Coverage	Advertising value (ex GST)
Enrol to vote for this November's council elections	Late September 2008	74%	\$15,894.72
Voting in the November council elections	Mid-November 2008	81%	\$17,160.30

6.32.9 Telephone enquiry services

Each Returning Officer provided a telephone enquiry service at their election office from Tuesday, 22 October to the close of voting. Typically calls related to voting entitlement and compulsory voting, roll queries, ballot pack despatch and non-receipt of ballot packs, overseas or interstate voters, requests for a postal vote, and inquiries about where to vote (both early and on election day). Overflow calls were answered by the VEC's telephone enquiry service (located in head office) between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm. Just over 164,800 calls were received through the VEC telephone enquiry service.

The election office telephone enquiry services were linked to the VEC's overflow call centre, which also answered calls to the VEC's 13 18 32 telephone number. Over 29,000 calls were answered at the VEC's overflow call centre between Monday, 22 September and Friday, 5 December 2008.

In addition, the VEC operated a TTY (telephone typewriter) service to enable people with speech and hearing impairment to access the VEC enquiry service. The TTY number was printed on all election press advertising and communication products. A total of 181 calls were made to the TTY service throughout October and November 2008. However, only five callers had the appropriate equipment to connect with the VEC's service.

Appendix 10 contains a table of the number of enquiry calls received during the election period at the 79 election offices across Victoria.

6.32.10 Optional communication products

To complement communication campaigns, the VEC offered councils the following two optional communication products.

6.32.10.1 Multi-language voting instructions

The VEC provided an option to councils to make multi-language voting instructions available to their voters. Due to the high volume and tight production timelines involved, a 'one-size-fits-all' product was developed for the 2008 local government elections.

To meet council community language requirements as effectively as possible, the VEC selected languages on the basis of the results of surveys of council requirements, cross-referenced with ABS data and recommendations made by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

For postal elections, the VEC produced step-by-step leaflet containing voting instructions in 23 languages (Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chinese traditional script, Chinese simplified script, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Maltese, Persian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese). One sentence translations, directing people to the VITS Language Link telephone number, were included for languages that could not be accommodated in the leaflet (Filipino, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Nuer, Portuguese, Romanian, Sinhalese and Tamil).

The leaflet also contained step-by-step illustrations and VITS Language Link telephone numbers to enable non-English speaking voters to speak with a member of the VEC staff via an interpreter.

Twenty-two councils (excluding Melbourne City Council) selected this product in 2008, reaching over 1.8 million voters via ballot packs, at a cost of 5 cents per elector. Melbourne City Council's multi-language voting instructions were published in the Councillor and Leadership Team booklets in the six languages requested by the Council (Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Indonesian, Italian and Vietnamese).

For attendance elections, the VEC produced two-step 'how to vote' instructions in 24 languages (Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese traditional script, Chinese simplified script, Croatian, Dari, Dinka, Filipino, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Khmer - Cambodian, Macedonian, Maltese, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Sinhalese, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Turkish and Vietnamese).

The attendance election voting instructions were printed on a large format poster that was adhered to the inner facing panel of each voting compartment. Eight of the nine attendance councils selected this product in 2008 at a cost of 1 cent per elector.

6.32.10.2 *Non-statutory advertising*

On request by individual councils, the Returning Officer placed (additional) non-statutory advertisements during the election period.

A total of 59 councils requested that a *voting reminder* advertisement be published during the final two weeks before election day (around 180 placements). One council also requested its *notice of entitlement date* advertisement to be published twice.

6.32.11 Additional products and services

Along with the information booklet series detailed in section 6.32.11.6, the VEC provided a number of additional products and services to complement the communication campaigns, which were not costed back to councils.

6.32.11.1 *Advertisements*

An additional press advertisement ran in major metropolitan newspapers in August 2008 to encourage people who had moved to update their address and/or post office box number.

6.32.11.2 *Information DVD: Auslan*

Following feedback received from the Electoral Access and Advisory Group (EAAG), the VEC produced an Auslan DVD for the 2008 local government elections. Signed by an Auslan interpreter and with optional subtitles, the DVD contained information explaining voting and enrolling entitlements, nomination procedures and voting procedures. This resource was promoted through online and print newsletters, word-of-mouth and disability networks.

Available free of charge by contacting the Victorian Electoral Commission, the DVD could also be viewed on the VEC website. A total of 80 copies were requested by the public, community centres and care workers, with additional copies requested by Victorian Council of Deaf People, VicDeaf, Department of Human Services and the Deaf Education Network. Twenty-nine people viewed the DVD on the VEC website.

6.32.11.3 *Information DVD: Proportional Representation*

Changes to a number of council structures following the conduct of Electoral Representation Reviews meant that some councils would experience the proportional representation counting system for the first time at these elections.

In order to assist candidates, council staff and other interested parties to understand the principles and application of proportional representation, the VEC developed a 10 minute DVD illustrating how this vote-counting system works. The DVD was made available to all candidates and disks were mailed to interested parties on request. The content of the DVD was also available on the VEC website.

6.32.11.4 *Braille and large print ballot packs*

The VEC ran an opt-in service for blind and low vision voters wishing to receive Braille or large-print ballot papers. This service was promoted through direct mail (in Braille or on CD) via the Vision Australia and Blind Citizens Australia client databases, and on radio 3AW and 3RPH.

6.32.11.5 *Easy English information booklets*

Similar content was produced in Easy English format with assistance from Scope Victoria for people with low English literacy, and learning and cognitive disabilities. These booklets were very well received and, in response to requests, the VEC distributed around 2,880 booklets for postal elections and 2,150 booklets for attendance elections.

6.32.11.6 *Election information booklet series*

The VEC developed a series of nine information booklets to provide candidates, media and other interested parties with easily accessible election information from the VEC website or in hard copy. Copies of these booklets are included on the compact disc that accompanies this report.

The nine booklets in the series were:

- ***Structural Overview and Key Dates***

Provides information on Victoria's 79 councils, their structure, the number of councillors to be elected and if the election was to be conducted by postal or attendance voting. The booklet also included a summary of changes to legislation and election timelines.

- ***Roll Preparation***

Included an overview of voting entitlements and procedures for the production of the voters roll.

- ***Vote Counting Systems***

Describes the preferential and proportional representation counting systems and includes worked examples of each.

- ***Electoral Advertising and Campaign Material***

Covers legal responsibilities for candidates in relation to these matters. Also includes information about the complaints handling process and Municipal Electoral Tribunals.

- ***New Initiatives***

Includes an overview of the initiatives introduced by the VEC at the 2008 local government elections.

- ***Ballot Paper Scanning***

Includes more detail on the pilot program implemented for these elections where completed ballot papers for three councils were scanned using Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology.

- ***Counting Arrangements***

Included a description of the processes between the close of voting and the declaration of the election and estimated timetables for attendance, postal and Melbourne City Council counts.

- ***Ballot Paper Tracking – Postal Elections***

Explains and illustrates the ballot paper reconciliation processes implemented by Returning Officers at postal elections.

- ***Ballot Paper Tracking – Attendance Elections***

Explains and illustrates the ballot paper reconciliation processes implemented by Returning Officers at attendance elections.

6.32.11.7 *Post-election information booklet series*

The VEC expects to publish a number of booklets to form a post-election booklet series. These booklets will provide some analysis and evaluation of aspects of the 2008 local government elections, and will be available from the VEC website or by contacting the VEC.

6.32.11.8 *Election information packs*

Election specific information packs were sent to more than 800 community and government organisations across Victoria, including Indigenous groups, migrant resource centres, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community groups, aged care providers, community legal centres, community information centres, youth organisations and disability groups. Election specific resource packs were also sent to all 128 Victorian Members of Parliament and all 79 local councils.

6.32.11.9 *The Age Education Supplement*

The VEC sponsored the production of *The Age* Education Supplement 'Act Local - Understanding local government', and around 203,800 copies were distributed with *The Age* on Monday, 27 October 2008. A teacher guide, *Act Local*, was made available for download on *The Age* website, and 1,855 unique visitors to the site were registered on the day of release. Copies of the supplement were distributed in November 2008 at Parliament House Open Day and at Comview (Commercial Studies teachers' conference).

6.32.11.10 *Information, enrolment and voting sessions*

In the three-months prior to election day, enrolment information and voter education sessions were delivered to groups traditionally under-represented in voter turnout, including CALD community members, young people and people experiencing

homelessness. The VEC also delivered a local government information segment for the Indigenous audience on 3KND radio.

Information about enrolment and voting provisions for people experiencing homelessness was also distributed regionally via the CHP (Council to Homeless Persons) regional homeless network.

6.32.11.11 *Information leaflets for carers*

Leaflets containing enrolment and voting advice for families and carers of people with a cognitive impairment were distributed with the assistance of Carers Victoria, which published information on the local government elections in its newsletters.

6.33 Campaign to identify evidence of postal election fraud

A radio and print advertisement campaign coincided with the mailout of ballot packs, and security personnel were hired to conduct a total of 1,160 hours of observation around particular housing estates with bulk letterboxes in a common area in Melbourne's inner city. No concerns were raised in relation to postal election fraud by the observations of security personnel (see section 6.19).

6.34 Compulsory Voting Enforcement

Councils are obliged to enforce the compulsory voting provisions of the LGA. After the 2008 local government elections, 70 councils contracted the VEC to conduct non-voter follow up on their behalf.

Non-voter follow up is conducted in three stages. Where the VEC has been contracted to do this work on the council's behalf, all three stages of non-voter follow up will be undertaken. The VEC believes that, in fairness to all apparent non-voters, it is important to complete the entire process. A standardised non-voter follow-up service has been provided to all councils. The VEC has established a list of reasons for failing to vote that will be deemed to be acceptable excuses across all councils in addition to the excuses prescribed in the regulations (s116 (2)).

Stage one of the non-voter process is a requirement of the LGA and the remaining stages are pursuant to the provisions of the *Infringements Act 2006*.

Stage One

Stage one is a mandatory requirement. An Apparent Failure to Vote Notice is sent to each voter who appeared to have failed to vote. No penalties are collected against this notice.

Preparations for the mail-out of the Apparent Failure to Vote notices commenced in late December 2008. 2,613 marked rolls were scanned for nine attendance elections to capture voters who voted at an early or election day voting centre. Six staff members were responsible for the scanning and reconciliation of the marked rolls over a two week period.

Additionally, up to 50 staff were appointed to process ballot material returned after close of voting, return to sender ballot material and voter information reports containing details of voters unable to vote at an election.

Because of the large number of Apparent Failure to Vote Notices to be despatched (371,912), the mail out was staggered over eight dates commencing 17 February 2009 (nine attendance elections), with the last mail out occurring on 13 March 2009.

The VEC appointed approximately 100 staff to process responses to Apparent Failure to Vote Notices with a maximum of 70 staff working on any one day. All responses to the notice were sorted to the relevant council prior to processing through the Election Management System (EMS). A total of 13,868 staff hours were required to undertake this task.

Stage Two

At stage two, an Infringement Notice is sent to each voter who did not respond to the initial Apparent Failure to Vote Notice or who did not provide a valid excuse for failing to vote. The Infringement Notice includes the request for the payment of the penalty amount. Penalty amounts are indexed each year on 1 July and the penalty amount for the 2008 compulsory voting enforcement was \$57.00.

A total of 259,612 Infringement Notices were sent between 7 April and 27 April 2009. Non-voters had 42 days to respond to this notice. Legislation allows for non-voters to seek a review of a decision made against the notice, seek a payment plan or to take up the option to have the matter heard in court. Return to sender mail from the Infringement Notice phase is still deemed to be an outstanding infringement under the Infringements Act 2006. Where an infringement is withdrawn, the VEC write to the non-voter informing them of the decision.

The VEC appointed a team of specially trained staff to process penalties paid by non-voters. Non-voters have the option to pay the penalty by either BPAY, PostBillPay, EFTPOS, cheque, money order or cash. The payment of penalties by electronic means (such as BPAY or EFTPOS) has been extended to include PostBillPay, allowing non-voters to make penalty payments at any Australia Post office. 72,823 non-voters paid penalties totalling \$4,150,930.00 during the Infringement Notice stage.

70 staff members were appointed with a total of 16,570 staff hours for the processing of penalties and infringement responses to the Infringement Notice.

Stage Three

At stage three a Penalty Reminder Notice is sent to each voter who did not reply to the Stage 2 process. A total of 172,600 Penalty Reminder notices were despatched in late June 2009. Non-voters had 42 days to respond to this notice. The same processing provisions apply to the Penalty Reminder Notice as for the Infringement Notice.

At 30 June 2009, 240 staff hours had been expended for the processing of penalties and infringement responses to the Penalty Reminder Notice.

Compulsory voting enforcement will be completed for all of the 70 councils on 31 August 2009.

Penalties collected on behalf of councils will be forwarded to those councils in two stages. The first payment was made in mid-June 2009 and the second and final payment will be made after the completion of the non-voter follow-up.

The VEC anticipates that by the end of August 2009 it will have collected around \$6 million in penalty payments on behalf of councils. In general, this revenue offsets total election expenses, including compulsory voting enforcement, by around 27%. The effort required to administer the process equates to around \$2 million.

From 1 September 2009 the VEC will cease collection of electronic penalty payments. Penalties received by cheque, money order or cash will be forwarded to council for banking. Any further revenue collected by councils will further offset election expenses.

At the conclusion of the compulsory voting process, all councils will be provided with a final list of non-voters. Councils proposing to lodge outstanding infringements with the Infringement Court must do so within six months of the issuing of the Infringement Notice.

All materials relating to compulsory voting enforcement will be returned to councils for storage in compliance with Section 15 Sch. 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Regulation 114 of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2005*.

6.35 Complaints

Complaints in relation to local government elections generally fall into two categories. The first category is complaints relating to the administration of the election to which it is appropriate that the VEC respond on behalf of the Returning Officer. The second category is complaints relating to the LGA which may be more appropriately dealt with by Local Government Victoria (LGV).

Alleged breaches of the LGA are investigated by LGV. Neither the Returning Officer nor the Electoral Commissioner has authority to investigate these matters.

In previous elections, under an agreement with LGV, where a complainant alleged a breach of the LGA and the VEC believed no breach had occurred, the VEC responded directly. This resulted in the double handling of some complaints and an associated increase in time to resolve the complaint.

Prior to the November 2008 local government elections, the VEC met with LGV to develop a complaints procedure. The agreed procedure aimed at ensuring that all complaints were handled by the organisation best suited to respond, minimising double handling, reducing response times and providing LGV with the opportunity to directly review all relevant complaints so that legislative or other solutions could be developed if appropriate.

The VEC reviewed its complaints handling and related procedures to ensure that complaints were handled efficiently. This included the development of complaint receiving and filing protocols and document templates so that individualised responses and cover letters could be prepared within the target acknowledgement time of 24 hours. All complaints had to be in writing and it was decided that anonymous complaints would not be followed up. The 24 hour acknowledgement time target was met for 98% of the complaints received by the VEC.

The VEC held briefing sessions with journalists prior to the commencement of the elections with the aim of reducing the incidence of media calls for comment or updates on complaints. Journalists were advised that the VEC policy was that the VEC would neither confirm nor deny that a complaint had been received and would not provide comment on complaints.

6.35.1 Details of complaints

A total of 204 letters of complaint, raising 223 complaints, were received in relation to the 2008 local government elections. In proportion to the number of councils, this was a significant reduction on the number received during the 2005 local government elections (223 complaints over 79 elections in 2008 compared with 215 complaints over 54 elections in 2005). Just over 60% of the complaints received by the VEC related to the LGA and were forwarded to LGV, with the VEC responding to the remaining complaints.

Table 11: Number of complaints received in relation to the 2008 local government elections

Description	Quantity
Total complaints	223
Complaints referred to Local Government Victoria	137
Complaints responded to by the Victorian Electoral Commission	86

The majority of complaints contained allegations that a breach of the LGA related to false and misleading information or material (61) and lack of authorisation for material (32) had occurred. Other complaints related to eligibility or fitness of the candidate to stand (13), defamatory material or comments (12) and candidate conduct (12).

Analysis of previous local government election complaints indicated a lack of understanding of the interpretation of “misleading” as it relates to election material (LGA s.55A). The VEC believes that the inclusion of explanations of what constitutes false and misleading or defamatory statements in the Candidate Handbook may have contributed to the reduced number of complaints.

Of the complaints relating to administrative aspects of the elections, the main issues raised related to the eligibility or fitness of a person to be a candidate, the conduct of a Returning Officer or voting centre manager (6) and a perceived lack of security at election offices (5).

Table 12: Types of complaints most commonly received by the VEC during the 2008 local government elections

Issue	Quantity
Eligibility or fitness to be candidate	10
Candidate conduct	7
Conduct of Returning Officer or voting centre manager	6
Lack of security at election office	5

The division of responsibilities between the Returning Officer, the Electoral Commissioner and LGV in responding to complaints can be confusing and frustrating for the complainant. Some complainants believe there is a conflict of interest in the Minister considering complaints against political party candidates.

Recommendation 13

Process of responding to complaints

The VEC recommends that the Government legislate to introduce more straightforward, complaints handling processes for local government elections.

6.36 Applications to the Municipal Elections Tribunal

The *Local Government Act 1989* (s.45) provides for a candidate in the election, or ten voters who dispute the validity of the election, to apply for an inquiry into the election by a Municipal Electoral Tribunal (MET). Applications must be lodged within 14 days of the declaration of the result of an election.

Section 48(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989* allows a person whose interests are affected by a MET decision to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for a review of the decision.

Following the 2008 local government elections, twelve applications were lodged with the MET. These are detailed in the table below.

Table 13: Details of applications to the Municipal Elections Tribunal

Council	Ward	Summary of grounds as provided by applicant
Alpine [^]	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure by the VEC to have special arrangements in place for postal votes lodged at Mt Beauty, Tawonga, Tawonga South and Myrtleford Post Offices to be picked up and couriered to the Returning Officer prior to the close of voting. • Objection to uncounted ballot papers being left overnight in old Wangaratta Shire chambers and concern about security arrangements.
Bayside [*]	Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons and an incorporated body made and published false and defamatory statements in breach of Section 57(1) of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>(LGA). • Persons and an incorporated body printed, published documents likely to mislead or deceive an elector in breach of Section 55A of the LGA. • Authoriser of election material did not use his enrolled address. • Some election material on the internet was not authorised.
Campaspe [^]	Rochester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late posting of ballot packs gave limited time for voters to return votes. • Removal of candidate's corflute sign by VEC and opposing candidates. • Smear campaign used by other candidates. • Incorrect counting of votes using preferential rather than proportional representation as there were more than two candidates.

Hume ^	Merri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate distributed false and misleading materials in the course of the election. • The distribution of preferences was markedly inconsistent with sampling and observations of applicant's scrutineer in the course of the count. • The Returning Officer unjustifiably refused a recount of the votes.
Kingston*	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful candidate received only one vote more than the quota. • Applicant unable to call for a recount because the distribution report was not available until after the poll was declared.
Latrobe (two MET applications)	Farley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council distributed newsletter and comments by Council CEO in breach of Section 55D of the LGA. • Candidate was in breach of Section 76BA and/or Section 76D of the LGA in using Council resources for campaign purposes.
Monash*	Oakleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference of 25 votes between the applicant and the candidate with the next fewest votes when the applicant was excluded in the distribution of preferences. • Counting continued until 2.45am which may have caused fatigue to data entry operators and had an influence on procedure. • A difference of 1.4% between candidates 5 – 8 after primary votes counted which is too close. • Insufficient time to request a recount between finish of counting at 2.45am and declaration of result at 6.00pm.
Moyne#	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margin of three votes between the last two candidates for the final (seventh) vacancy. • As an example the applicant cited the fact that the VEC initiated a recount at Moorabool where the differential was two votes and the result changed by 10. • Excessive workload of data entry operators. • Major computer malfunction.

Port Phillip	Sandridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate prevented from entering and speaking at local club allegedly in breach of Section 54 of the LGA. • Candidate utilised loudspeaker device in van driven to voting centres in breach of Section 54(2)(b) of the LGA. • Candidates distributed unregistered electoral material and published on the internet connected to computers within 400 metres of a voting centre in breach of Section 56 of the LGA. • Returning Officer did not have sufficient grounds to refuse registration of 10 how to vote cards. • The Returning Officer gave misleading advice regarding certain campaign activities at voting centres on election day.
Wyndham*	Truganina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference between third and fourth highest candidate after the distribution of preferences was 20. • Conditions in room where data entry was being conducted were conducive to the possibility of errors. • Data entry was done very quickly and it was difficult for scrutineers to view ballot papers and screens.
Yarra Ranges+	Billanook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions by other candidates jeopardised the applicant's election chances.

Three applications were withdrawn prior to the directions hearings held on 5 and 6 February 2009 – Monash, Wyndham and one of the two applications for Latrobe.

A further directions hearing was listed for Bayside on 13 February but the application was withdrawn prior to the hearing.

A directions hearing for Yarra Ranges was re-listed for 6 April due to the unavailability of the applicant to attend the directions hearing on 5 February. The application was struck out by the Magistrate when the applicant failed to attend the hearing on 6 April.

Orders were made at seven directions hearings.

At the time of publication of this report (30 June 2009):

- five applications had been withdrawn (*);
- one application was struck out (+);
- one recount had been conducted – changed result for one vacancy in an unsubdivided municipality (#). Details of this recount are included in the following section;
- three applications were dismissed (^); and
- two applications are awaiting decisions.

VEC observations of current MET arrangements:

- the VEC was initially named as the respondent in all of the applications, although only eight impugned the conduct of the VEC;
- at the directions hearing for Latrobe orders were made removing the VEC as respondent and being added as *amicus curiae* (a friend of the court) to the proceedings;
- the conduct of the VEC or the Returning Officer was not impugned by the Tribunal in any of the decisions handed down; and
- there are significant cost implications arising from these arrangements that are not currently passed on to councils.

6.36.1 Moyne Shire Council –Overview of count and MET hearings

The election for the Moyne Shire Council involved the election of seven councillors for an unsubdivided municipality and used the proportional representation vote-counting method. The following is an overview of the original count, the subsequent application to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal and the two recounts that followed:

- The election result for the Moyne Shire Council election was determined using the VEC's computer count application.
- The final margin at the original count between the candidates contesting the seventh position was three votes. The original result was determined on Sunday, 30 November 2008 at around 6.15pm.
- No request for a recount was received by the Returning Officer from candidates before the declaration of the election which took place at 12.00 noon on Monday, 1 December at the Port Fairy Yacht Club.
- An application to the Municipal Electoral Tribunal was subsequently lodged on Tuesday, 9 December 2008 by Mr Richard Prendergast and signed by ten voters requesting a recount of votes.
- The VEC did not oppose the conduct of a recount and a recount was ordered at the initial hearing of the Tribunal in relation to this matter.
- A recount was conducted at Port Fairy on Tuesday, 31 March 2009 before approximately 20 scrutineers. The recount resulted in a tie between the last two remaining candidates for the seventh position. The *Local Government Act 1989* Sch 3 Cl 11B(25) states that if on the final count or transfer, two candidates have an equal number of votes, the result is to be determined by lot by the Returning Officer. The subsequent draw by lot resulted in the candidate who finished in the eighth position at the original count being elected.
- During the recount, the Returning Officer flagged any ballot paper where one or more scrutineers disagreed with her decision. Five ballot papers were flagged as contentious during the recount.

- Analysis of these ballot papers showed that a change in the decision on any of these ballot papers had the potential to change the result either way.
- The Tribunal heard further submissions following the recount and reviewed the five ballot papers in question at a subsequent hearing conducted on 7 April 2009. The Tribunal stated that it was his view from the evidence presented, that the Returning Officer had conducted the recount in a proper manner. In reviewing the five contentious ballot papers, he ruled that one ballot paper, originally ruled “formal”, to be “informal”, and requested that the ballot paper be removed from the database and the result recalculated.
- The subsequent recount also resulted in a draw. The Tribunal then invited submissions on whether a further draw by lot should take place to determine the result or if the original draw by lot should remain. After hearing submissions, the Tribunal ruled that a further draw by lot should take place.
- The subsequent draw by lot elected the same candidate who was elected at the first recount.
- The successful candidate was declared elected by an order made by the Tribunal on Tuesday, 21 April 2009.

The events that occurred subsequent to the original Moyne Shire Council election declaration raised the question of whether a second draw by lot should be conducted by the Returning Officer where candidates who are tied after a count, remain tied on a second count. The current legislation is silent on this matter. In this situation, the Tribunal ordered that a second draw by lot should be conducted and the result returned the same elected candidate but could also have gone the other way.

The availability of a review of a MET decision by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal may prolong the dispute process for a significant period. The ability to appeal a decision of an electoral tribunal or a court of disputed returns is not available in any other jurisdiction except Tasmania, where there is provision for appeal to the full bench of the Supreme Court at State government elections.

Recommendation 14

Review of MET decisions

The VEC recommends that the Government legislate to remove the availability of a review of a decision by a Municipal Appeals Tribunal by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Recommendation 15**Procedure if recount of votes due to a tie results in a further tie**

The VEC recommends that the Government includes in the legislation a requirement to conduct a second draw by lot in the situation where a tie occurs in the final distribution of a count then occurs again in a recount situation.

Recommendation 16**Method of tie resolution**

The VEC recommends that the Government includes in the legislation clarification regarding the method of tie resolution to be used –manual or computer.

6.37 Election Costs

The VEC provided all councils with a cost estimate for the conduct of their 2008 elections in December 2007.

Councils requested quotations or advertised tenders for election services in the period between February and June 2008. The VEC prepared costing schedules based on the specifications submitted by each council and the estimates were based on major marginal costs only. The VEC also provided a list of variations where parameters such as enrolled voters, voter turnout, uncontested elections, candidates etc. could vary from those that the cost estimate was based on.

Councils are invoiced in three stages for election services. The first invoice was provided in February 2009, the second invoice in June 2009, and the third, to be invoiced in September 2009 will include final variations at the completion of compulsory voting enforcement. The amounts councils were invoiced for elections conducted in 2004, 2005 and for the 2008 elections (including an estimated total of \$125,000 expected for the 3rd invoice in 2008) are shown in the following table.

Table 14: Summary of costs and compulsory voting revenue invoiced to councils 2004 -2008

Year	No. of Elections	Total Cost invoiced to Councils (ex. GST) (\$'000)	Number of councils	Non-voter payments (\$'000)	Total net cost for Councils (\$'000)
2008	79	16,458	70	5,940 ^(a)	10,518
2005	54	8,152	52	2,904	5,248
2004	25	4,242	24	1,227	3,015

(a) – includes total payments up to 12 August 2009

The total marginal costs incurred by the VEC for the conduct of 2008 local government elections was \$18,102,000 (ex.GST), including an estimated amount to conclude compulsory voting.

The marginal costs included all direct labour and associated on-costs, materials, equipment, mail processing, postage, advertising, printing, rent, utilities, insurance, IT equipment, software licences and software maintenance. Final costs will be reported in the report for 2009-10.

Local government elections in Victoria are relatively complex. Councils have a choice of conducting an election as either an attendance election or a postal election, and the electoral provisions of local government legislation include a number of processes that are costly to administer. The VEC does not charge out its core staff to local councils. This is unlike New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia where different models apply. If the VEC was to adopt the NSW hourly charge-out rate for its ongoing staff, the cost of the elections would almost double. The rate endorsed by the NSW Auditor General is \$195 per hour for any permanent staff member.

From time to time the cost of elections to local councils is raised and in determining future local government election arrangements, the Government may wish to consider, in consultation with the sector, the costing regime to apply in Victoria.

The VEC has outlined, previously in this report, the benefits it believes are available to the sector if a single service provider was adopted. The Government may also wish to consider, in consultation with the sector, if adoption of such a model was appropriate. See Recommendation 4 in Section 6.2 of this report.

7 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Municipal voter count by ward

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Alpine	Un-Subdivided	8,945	2,239		19	21		2,279	11,224			11,224
Ararat	Un-Subdivided	8,072	976	5				981	9,053			9,053
Ballarat	Central	19,988	2,071			13	1	2,085	22,073			22,073
	North	21,484	1,284	1		4		1,289	22,773			22,773
	South	21,097	1,678			3		1,681	22,778			22,778
	Total	62,569	5,033	1	0	20	1	5,055	67,624			67,624
Banyule	Bakewell	11,447	909	1		9		919	12,366		1	12,365
	Beale	12,591	517	2		1		520	13,111			13,111
	Griffin	11,866	1,102	8		11		1,121	12,987			12,987
	Grimshaw	12,201	1,037	10		10		1,057	13,258	1		13,259
	Hawdon	12,842	701	8		3		712	13,554			13,554
	Ibbott	12,892	845	13		4		862	13,754			13,754
	Olympia	11,375	1,484	6		9		1,499	12,874			12,874
	Total	85,214	6,595	48	0	47	0	6,690	91,904	1	1	91,904
Bass Coast	Anderson	4,412	1,145	2				1,147	5,559			5,559
	Churchill	1,625	3,586	2		1		3,589	5,214			5,214
	Hovell	3,702	1,561	1		3		1,565	5,267			5,267
	Leadbeater	3,251	2,002	4	7			2,013	5,264			5,264
	McHaffie	1,971	3,400	4		3		3,407	5,378			5,378
	Thompson	2,479	3,458	1				3,459	5,938			5,938
	Townsend	3,044	2,926			1		2,927	5,971			5,971
	Total	20,484	18,078	14	7	8	0	18,107	38,591			38,591

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Baw Baw	Drouin	5,707	698					698	6,405			6,405
	Mount Worth	6,747	580			1		581	7,328			7,328
	North	6,260	1,156			3		1,159	7,419			7,419
	Warragul	9,342	548					548	9,890			9,890
	Total	28,056	2,982	0	0	4	0	2,986	31,042			31,042
Bayside	Central	26,415	2,029	3				2,032	28,447			28,447
	Northern	18,952	1,505	6			1	1,512	20,464			20,464
	Southern	18,934	1,160	5				1,165	20,099			20,099
	Total	64,301	4,694	14	0	0	1	4,709	69,010			69,010
Benalla	Un-Subdivided	10,302	947	2	2	12		963	11,265			11,265
Boroondara	Bellevue	11,001	753					753	11,754			11,754
	Cotham	11,248	854					854	12,102			12,102
	Gardiner	10,612	1,142					1,142	11,754			11,754
	Glenferrie	10,064	2,418		1			2,419	12,483			12,483
	Junction	10,517	1,806					1,806	12,323			12,323
	Lynden	11,191	878					878	12,069			12,069
	Maling	11,232	839	2				841	12,073			12,073
	Maranoa	10,888	870	2				872	11,760			11,760
	Solway	11,432	763					763	12,195			12,195
	Studley	10,545	1,537	1				1,538	12,083			12,083
	Total	108,730	11,860	5	1	0	0	11,866	120,596			120,596
Brimbank	Grasslands	30,867	2,370	2	2			2,374	33,241	1		33,242
	Harvester	28,622	3,377			1		3,378	32,000			32,000
	Horseshoe Bend	21,555	1,470			1		1,471	23,026			23,026
	Taylors	33,643	1,500		2			1,502	35,145			35,145
	Total	114,687	8,717	2	4	2	0	8,725	123,412	1		123,413

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Buloke	Lower Avoca	1,596	282					282	1,878			1,878
	Mallee	1,307	349			1		350	1,657		2	1,655
	Mount Jeffcott	2,189	352			3		355	2,544	2		2,546
	Total	5,092	983	0	0	4	0	987	6,079	2	2	6,079
Campaspe	Echuca	9,024	644	2		2		648	9,672	1		9,673
	Kyabram-Deakin	8,614	226					226	8,840			8,840
	Rochester	2,902	255					255	3,157			3,157
	Waranga	2,520	569					569	3,089			3,089
	Western	2,991	316					316	3,307			3,307
	Total	26,051	2,010	2	0	2	0	2,014	28,065	1	0	28,066
Cardinia	Bunyip	5,816	330	3	1	1		335	6,151			6,151
	Central	16,739	3,461			5	1	3,467	20,206			20,206
	Port	5,285	764		1	9	1	775	6,060			6,060
	Ranges	12,024	773	1				774	12,798			12,798
	Total	39,864	5,328	4	2	15	2	5,351	45,215			45,215
Casey	Balla Balla	11,763	1,169	2				1,171	12,934			12,934
	Edrington	25,568	2,301	2				2,303	27,871			27,871
	Four Oaks	25,910	1,351					1,351	27,261			27,261
	Mayfield	24,298	3,228					3,228	27,526			27,526
	River Gum	25,063	2,519	5				2,524	27,587			27,587
	Springfield	27,742	2,451	2				2,453	30,195			30,195
	Total	140,344	13,019	11	0	0	0	13,030	153,374			153,374
Central Goldfields	Daisy Hill	1,230	306					306	1,536			1,536
	Flynn	1,201	438			3		441	1,642			1,642
	Maryborough	5,775	331			7		340	6,115			6,115
	Tullaroop	1,443	282			1		283	1,726			1,726

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Total	9,649	1,357	0	11	0	2	1,370	11,019			11,019
Colac Otway	Un-Subdivided	15,146	4,071	5		3		4,079	19,225			19,225
Corangamite	Central	5,323	371					371	5,694			5,694
	Coastal	1,458	297					297	1,755			1,755
	North	1,535	384					384	1,919			1,919
	South-Central	1,864	113					113	1,977			1,977
	South-West	1,687	128					128	1,815			1,815
	Total	11,867	1,293	0	0	0	0	1,293	13,160			13,160
Darebin	Cazaly	30,050	3,133	16		9		3,158	33,208			33,208
	La Trobe	28,135	2,854	12		1		2,867	31,002			31,002
	Rucker	30,098	4,370	7		9		4,386	34,484			34,484
	Total	88,283	10,357	35	0	19	0	10,411	98,694			98,694
East Gippsland	Un-Subdivided	30,234	7,347	2		3		7,352	37,586			37,586
Frankston	East	29,551	3,073	3		1		3,077	32,628	1	1	32,628
	North-West	25,536	4,650	8				4,658	30,194			30,194
	South-West	25,206	2,814	5		1		2,820	28,026			28,026
	Total	80,293	10,537	16	0	2	0	10,555	90,848	1	1	90,848
Gannawarra	Avoca	1,095	234					234	1,329			1,329
	Murray	1,148	201					201	1,349			1,349
	Patchell	3,269	282			4		286	3,555			3,555
	Yarran	2,645	135			1		136	2,781			2,781
	Total	8,157	852	0	0	5	0	857	9,014			9,014
Glen Eira	Camden	27,399	2,732			10		2,742	30,141			30,141
	Rosstown	29,004	3,945			12		3,957	32,961			32,961
	Tucker	30,050	2,244			10		2,254	32,304			32,304
	Total	86,453	8,921	0	0	32	0	8,953	95,406			95,406

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Glenside	Un-Subdivided	14,403	2,100		1			2,101	16,504	2		16,506
Golden Plains	Un-Subdivided	11,957	2,606			1		2,607	14,564		116	14,448 (a)
Greater Bendigo	Eaglehawk	8,326	463			1		464	8,790			8,790
	Eppalock	6,387	1,866	2		1		1,869	8,256			8,256
	Epsom	7,918	499			1		500	8,418			8,418
	Flora Hill	7,511	733			2		735	8,246			8,246
	Golden Square	8,203	561	1				562	8,765			8,765
	Kangaroo Flat	7,995	420	1				421	8,416			8,416
	North West Plains	7,442	551	1		1		553	7,995			7,995
	Sandhurst	6,987	621			6		627	7,614			7,614
	Strathfieldsaye	8,137	319	2				321	8,458			8,458
		Total	68,906	6,033	7	0	12	0	6,052	74,958		
Greater Dandenong	Lightwood	22,915	2,163			3		2,166	25,081			25,081
	Paperbark	23,767	2,003			2		2,005	25,772		1	25,771
	Red Gum	18,429	4,219	4	1	11		4,235	22,664			22,664
	Silverleaf	16,998	1,075	2		1		1,078	18,076			18,076
		Total	82,109	9,460	6	1	17	0	9,484	91,593		1
Greater Geelong	Austin	12,886	518	2				520	13,406			13,406
	Beangala	9,759	2,880			1		2,881	12,640			12,640
	Brownbill	11,909	1,037	2		1		1,040	12,949			12,949
	Buckley	12,262	1,452	1				1,453	13,715			13,715
	Cheetham	12,588	665	1				666	13,254			13,254
	Corio	12,842	711	6		1		718	13,560			13,560
	Coryule	7,743	5,331	3				5,334	13,077			13,077
	Cowie	13,058	431	1			1	433	13,491			13,491

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Deakin	12,902	544	9				553	13,455			13,455
	Kardinia	13,269	743	4				747	14,016			14,016
	Kildare	11,807	567	1				568	12,375			12,375
	Windermere	13,715	927	1				928	14,643			14,643
	Total	144,740	15,806	31	0	4	0	15,841	160,581			160,581
Greater Shepparton	Un-Subdivided	39,321	1,871	6				1,877	41,198			41,198
Hepburn	Birch	2,836	1,133			12	1	1,146	3,982	63		4,045
	Cameron	1,455	504	5		3		512	1,967	27		1,994
	Coliban	1,358	529			4		533	1,891			1,891
	Creswick	3,544	463			3		466	4,010	33		4,043
	Holcombe	1,257	682	1		2		685	1,942			1,942
	Total	10,450	3,311	6	0	24	1	3,342	13,792	123		13,915 (b)
Hindmarsh	East	1,473	203					203	1,676			1,676
	North	1,411	259					259	1,670			1,670
	West	1,599	111	1				112	1,711			1,711
	Total	4,483	573	1	0	0	0	574	5,057			5,057
Hobsons Bay	Altona	8,637	774	10				784	9,421			9,421
	Altona Meadows	8,023	576	2				578	8,601			8,601
	Altona North	7,480	1,043	12		2		1,057	8,537			8,537
	Seabrook	8,377	817	3				820	9,197			9,197
	Spotswood	7,582	994	5				999	8,581			8,581
	Williamstown	8,008	832	3			1	836	8,844			8,844
	Williamstown North	8,046	934	3		1		938	8,984			8,984
	Total	56,153	5,970	38	0	3	1	6,012	62,165			62,165
Horsham Rural	Un-Subdivided	13,706	1,272					1,272	14,978			14,978

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Hume	Airport	20,331	1,333	9				1,342	21,673			21,673
	Aitken	34,252	2,547	74				2,621	36,873			36,873
	Jacksons Creek	23,174	1,681	2				1,683	24,857			24,857
	Merri	20,024	2,073	4				2,077	22,101			22,101
	Total	97,781	7,634	89	0	0	0	7,723	105,504			105,504
Indigo	Un-Subdivided	10,936	1,110			3		1,113	12,049			12,049
Kingston	Central	32,652	3,765	8				3,773	36,425	1		36,426
	North	31,744	3,499	5	1	1	1	3,507	35,251			35,251
	South	33,627	3,282	5			1	3,288	36,915			36,915
	Total	98,023	10,546	18	1	1	2	10,568	108,591	1		108,592
Knox	Baird	10,756	1,333	7				1,340	12,096			12,096
	Chandler	10,918	699	11				710	11,628			11,628
	Collier	11,099	613	9				622	11,721			11,721
	Dinsdale	10,466	976	7				983	11,449			11,449
	Dobson	12,022	741	5				746	12,768			12,768
	Friberg	12,314	622	9				631	12,945			12,945
	Scott	12,610	488	4			1	493	13,103			13,103
	Taylor	13,312	459	6				465	13,777			13,777
	Tirhatuan	11,195	589	7				596	11,791			11,791
	Total	104,692	6,520	65	0	0	1	6,586	111,278			111,278
Latrobe	Burnet	5,817	276					276	6,093			6,093
	Dunbar	5,286	351					351	5,637			5,637
	Farley	5,616	437					437	6,053			6,053
	Firmin	5,401	375					375	5,776	2		5,778
	Galbraith	5,361	186					186	5,547			5,547
	Gunyah	5,265	372					372	5,637	2		5,639

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Merton	5,824	239					239	6,063	1		6,064
	Rintoull	5,474	431			2		433	5,907	2		5,909
	Tanjil	5,496	376					376	5,872			5,872
	Total	49,540	3,043	0	0	2	0	3,045	52,585	7		52,592
Loddon	Boort	1,220	210	1		3		214	1,434			1,434
	Kooyoora	2,277	923	1	2	4		930	3,207			3,207
	Terrick	1,317	257		2	1		260	1,577			1,577
	Wedderburn	1,110	513		1			514	1,624			1,624
	Total	5,924	1,903	2	5	8	0	1,918	7,842			7,842
Macedon Ranges	East	9,028	1,145	3				1,148	10,176			10,176
	South	9,664	729	1				730	10,394	2		10,396
	West	9,426	1,238	1				1,239	10,665			10,665
	Total	28,118	3,112	5	0	0	0	3,117	31,235	2		31,237
Manningham	Heide	28,062	1,058	16				1,074	29,136			29,136
	Koonung	26,893	1,505	5				1,510	28,403			28,403
	Mullum Mullum	27,432	900	10				910	28,342			28,342
	Total	82,387	3,463	31	0	0	0	3,494	85,881			85,881
Mansfield	Bonnie Doon	785	1,096					1,096	1,881			1,881
	Mansfield	2,988	679			3		682	3,670	2		3,672
	Tolmie	999	954			1		955	1,954		2	1,952
	Jamieson	666	1,402			1		1,403	2,069			2,069
	Total	5,438	4,131	0	0	5	0	4,136	9,574	2	2	9,574
Maribyrnong	Bluestone	5,774	1,121			1		1,122	6,896			6,896
	Ironbark	5,962	943	1				944	6,906			6,906
	River	5,420	1,408					1,408	6,828		1	6,827
	Saltwater	5,970	1,932	4				1,936	7,906			7,906

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Sheoak	6,703	1,203	3				1,206	7,909			7,909
	Stony Creek	5,604	1,020					1,020	6,624			6,624
	Wattle	6,361	944	1				945	7,306			7,306
	Total	41,794	8,571	9	0	1	0	8,581	50,375		1	50,374
Maroondah	Arrabri	24,212	2,319					2,319	26,531			26,531
	Mullum	23,579	2,551	1		3		2,555	26,134			26,134
	Wyreena	23,828	1,644			2		1,646	25,474			25,474
	Total	71,619	6,514	1	0	5	0	6,520	78,139			78,139
Melbourne	Un-Subdivided	38,970	40,295			5,679	12,913	58,887	97,857	1	3	97,855
Melton	Cambridge	14,355	3,273		7		3	3,283	17,638			17,638
	Coburn	24,956	3,644		5			3,649	28,605			28,605
	Watts	14,421	2,702		3			2,705	17,126			17,126
	Total	53,732	9,619	0	15	0	3	9,637	63,369			63,369
Mildura	Un-Subdivided	33,783	3,123					3,123	36,906			36,906
Mitchell	Central	7,536	839				1	840	8,376			8,376
	North	7,100	1,157					1,157	8,257			8,257
	South	6,598	992				6	998	7,596			7,596
	Total	21,234	2,988	0	0	0	7	2,995	24,229			24,229
Moira	Un-Subdivided	19,702	2,770	1		2	2	2,775	22,477			22,477
Monash	Glen Waverley	19,766	1,151	4				1,155	20,921			20,921
	Mount Waverley	32,360	2,420	8				2,428	34,788			34,788
	Mulgrave	29,404	1,173	9				1,182	30,586			30,586
	Oakleigh	28,676	4,599	1		4		4,604	33,280			33,280
	Total	110,206	9,343	22	0	4	0	9,369	119,575			119,575
Moonee Valley	Central	26,551	2,155	48		22		2,225	28,776			28,776
	South	23,737	3,234	74		47	1	3,356	27,093			27,093

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	West	24,267	1,069	110		16		1,195	25,462	1		25,463
	Total	74,555	6,458	232	0	85	1	6,776	81,331	1		81,332
Moorabool	Bungal	2,537	546	1	4	1		552	3,089			3,089
	East Moorabool	11,241	796		2	10		808	12,049			12,049
	West Moorabool	2,264	429		8	1		438	2,702			2,702
	Woodlands	2,161	735	1	1			737	2,898			2,898
	Total	18,203	2,506	2	15	12	0	2,535	20,738			20,738
Moreland	North-East	32,789	3,415	1				3,416	36,205			36,205
	North-West	34,647	2,814	9				2,823	37,470			37,470
	South	25,999	5,442					5,442	31,441			31,441
	Total	93,435	11,671	10	0	0	0	11,681	105,116			105,116
Mornington Peninsula	Balcombe	12,039	1,496	6		8		1,510	13,549			13,549
	Cerberus	11,534	1,023			1		1,024	12,558			12,558
	Kangerong	7,489	5,343	1		3		5,347	12,836			12,836
	Mornington	12,042	1,450			2		1,452	13,494			13,494
	Mount Eliza	12,480	563			3		566	13,046			13,046
	Nepean	4,516	7,850			5		7,855	12,371			12,371
	Red Hill	8,124	3,884			5		3,889	12,013			12,013
	Rosebud	9,180	4,229			2		4,231	13,411			13,411
	Rye	5,368	6,810			1		6,811	12,179			12,179
	Truemans	6,981	4,843			1		4,844	11,825			11,825
	Watson	11,086	537			1		538	11,624			11,624
	Total	100,839	38,028	7	0	32	0	38,067	138,906			138,906
Mount Alexander	Calder	1,687	327					327	2,014			2,014
	Castlemaine	6,163	476					476	6,639	2		6,641
	Coliban	1,553	513					513	2,066			2,066

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Loddon	1,676	458					458	2,134			2,134
	Tarrengower	1,590	474					474	2,064	2		2,066
	Total	12,669	2,248	0	0	0	0	2,248	14,917	4		14,921
Moynes	Un-Subdivided	11,323	2,161	2				2,163	13,486			13,486
Murrindindi	Cathedral	1,212	785	1		3		789	2,001			2,001
	Cheviot	1,440	400		2			402	1,842			1,842
	Eildon	1,108	792			2		794	1,902			1,902
	King Parrot	1,621	437	1	1	1		440	2,061			2,061
	Kinglake	1,686	400	2	1			403	2,089			2,089
	Koriella	1,265	602	2	2	4		610	1,875			1,875
	Red Gate	1,843	264	1	2			267	2,110			2,110
	Total	10,175	3,680	7	8	10	0	3,705	13,880			13,880
Nillumbik	Blue Lake	6,291	302	2				304	6,595			6,595
	Bunjil	6,137	215					215	6,352			6,352
	Edendale	6,476	248					248	6,724			6,724
	Ellis	5,701	247			2		249	5,950			5,950
	Sugarloaf	6,565	324					324	6,889			6,889
	Swipers Gully	6,296	189					189	6,485			6,485
	Wingrove	6,060	318		1			319	6,379			6,379
	Total	43,526	1,843	2	1	2	0	1,848	45,374			45,374
Northern Grampians	Central	1,176	376			4	1	381	1,557			1,557
	Kara Kara	2,351	705	1	2	5		713	3,064			3,064
	South West	995	573			1		574	1,569			1,569
	Stawell	4,231	305			1		306	4,537			4,537
	Total	8,753	1,959	1	2	11	1	1,974	10,727			10,727
Port Phillip	Albert Park	9,428	1,793	7		1		1,801	11,229			11,229

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Carlisle	9,440	2,844	4				2,848	12,288			12,288
	Catani	7,960	2,756	10				2,766	10,726			10,726
	Emerald Hill	7,242	2,620	4	1	1	1	2,627	9,869			9,869
	Junction	7,171	3,293	7				3,300	10,471			10,471
	Point Ormond	9,341	2,433	6				2,439	11,780			11,780
	Sandridge	8,041	1,762	6		1		1,769	9,810			9,810
	Total	58,623	17,501	44	1	3	1	17,550	76,173			76,173
Pyrenees	Warrenmang	691	738			4		742	1,433			1,433
	Avoca	1,094	295			5		300	1,394			1,394
	Mitchell	865	430			2		432	1,297			1,297
	Beaufort	1,209	282			1		283	1,492			1,492
	Goldsmith	1,033	342			4		346	1,379			1,379
	Total	4,892	2,087	0	0	16	0	2,103	6,995			6,995
Queenscliffe	Un-Subdivided	2,478	1,665			52	1	1,718	4,196			4,196
South Gippsland	Coastal-Promontory	3,716	5,204	2			3	5,209	8,925	15		8,940
	Strzelecki	7,952	1,050	2			1	1,053	9,005			9,005
	Tarwin Valley	8,070	1,050				2	1,052	9,122		15	9,107
	Total	19,738	7,304	4	0	0	6	7,314	27,052	15	15	27,052 (c)
Southern Grampians	Un-Subdivided	12,422	899	3		5		907	13,329			13,329
Stonnington	East	22,962	3,057		3	1	1	3,062	26,024			26,024
	North	20,426	5,167		3		2	5,172	25,598			25,598
	South	19,595	4,782	1	2		2	4,787	24,382			24,382
	Total	62,983	13,006	1	8	1	5	13,021	76,004			76,004
Strathbogie	Goulburn Weir	778	501			11		512	1,290	2		1,292
	Honeysuckle Creek	992	188			5		193	1,185			1,185

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
	Hughes Creek	1,119	245			6		251	1,370			1,370
	Lake Nagambie	1,181	167			10		177	1,358	1	2	1,357
	Mount Wombat	953	357			11		368	1,321			1,321
	Seven Creeks	2,236	179			3		182	2,418			2,418
	Total	7,259	1,637	0	0	46	0	1,683	8,942	3	2	8,943
Surf Coast	Un-Subdivided	16,611	10,467	71	2	236	2	10,778	27,389			27,389
Swan Hill	Central	7,904	336	1				337	8,241			8,241
	Lakes	1,769	304					304	2,073			2,073
	Murray-Mallee	1,925	174					174	2,099			2,099
	Robinvale	2,025	53					53	2,078			2,078
	Total	13,623	867	1	0	0	0	868	14,491			14,491
Towong	Un-Subdivided	4,583	832	1				833	5,416			5,416
Wangaratta	Un-Subdivided	19,989	967	4		19		990	20,979			20,979
Warrnambool	Un-Subdivided	22,154	1,776	1				1,777	23,931			23,931
Wellington	Un-Subdivided	29,003	12,773	3				12,776	41,779			41,779
West Wimmera	Un-Subdivided	3,286	764	1		1		766	4,052			4,052
Whitehorse	Central	20,661	1,397	4				1,401	22,062			22,062
	Elgar	19,964	2,850	4		2	1	2,857	22,821	2		22,823
	Morack	21,071	1,022	4		1		1,027	22,098			22,098
	Riversdale	19,607	1,963	4				1,967	21,574			21,574
	Springfield	21,075	2,007	1		1		2,009	23,084			23,084
	Total	102,378	9,239	17	0	4	1	9,261	111,639	2		111,641
Whittlesea	East	29,375	1,986					1,986	31,361			31,361
	North	28,568	2,943			2		2,945	31,513			31,513
	West	31,231	2,528	4		1		2,533	33,764			33,764
	Total	89,174	7,457	4	2	1	0	7,464	96,638			96,638

Council	Ward	Electoral Commissioners list	N	A	P	O	T	Council List	Certified Total	Additions	Deletions	Revised total
Wodonga	Un-Subdivided	22,890	2,440	1				2,441	25,331			25,331
Wyndham	Chaffey	28,275	2,981	1		1		2,983	31,258			31,258
	Iramoo	24,508	2,581	6		7	1	2,595	27,103			27,103
	Truganina	23,005	5,113			15	1	5,129	28,134			28,134
	Total	75,788	10,675	7	0	23	2	10,707	86,495			86,495
Yarra	Langridge	16,471	3,885		2	1		3,888	20,359			20,359
	Melba	17,980	5,211	3	1	17		5,232	23,212			23,212
	Nicholls	16,025	3,975	3	2	1		3,981	20,006	2		20,008
	Total	50,476	13,071	6	5	19	0	13,101	63,577	2		63,579
Yarra Ranges	Billanook	11,657	374	2				376	12,033			12,033
	Chandler	10,479	390	2				392	10,871			10,871
	Chirnside	11,456	453	5				458	11,914	2		11,916
	Lyster	10,704	449	10				459	11,163			11,163
	Melba	12,118	746	4				750	12,868			12,868
	O'Shannassy	10,758	1,438	4				1,442	12,200			12,200
	Ryrie	11,215	817	2		1		820	12,035		2	12,033
	Streeton	10,851	447	10	2			459	11,310			11,310
	Walling	10,682	533	6				539	11,221			11,221
	Total	99,920	5,647	45	2	1	0	5,695	105,615	2	2	105,615
Yarriambiack	Dunmunkle	1,635	316					316	1,951			1,951
	Hopetoun	1,462	259					259	1,721			1,721
	Warracknabeal	2,449	346					346	2,795			2,795
	Total	5,546	921	0	0	0	0	921	6,467			6,467
State Totals		3,470,194	494,432	981	115	6,549	12,956	515,033	3,985,227	173	146	3,985,254

(a) Council electors -property sold

(b) Council electors omitted (c) State roll coding errors

N – Non-resident owner

A – Resident owner (not on EC list)

P - Occupier ratepayer

O – Corporation (owner)

T – Corporation (occupier)

Appendix 2: Details of Returning Officers and Election Offices

Council	Returning Officer	Election Office address
Alpine Shire Council	Andrew Robertson	Alpine Shire Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright
Ararat Rural City Council	Colin Easton	Council Offices, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat
Ballarat City Council	Ray Martin	17 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat
Banyule City Council	Narelle Parsons	9-13 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
Bass Coast Shire Council	Sheryl Bruce	Bass Coast Civic Centre, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
Baw Baw Shire Council	Geoff Willingham	54 Albert Street, Warragul
Bayside City Council	Bernard Scott	Ground Floor, 239 Bay Street, Brighton
Benalla Rural City Council	Bob Guest	78 Sydney Road, Benalla
Boroondara City Council	Graeme Cobb	Hawthorn Town Hall, Hawthorn Room, 1st Fl/360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn
Borough of Queenscliffe	Debra Tarticchio	50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff
Brimbank City Council	Heather Oke	6/147 Harvester Road, Sunshine
Buloke Shire Council	Heather Barclay	Donald District Office, Buloke Shire, McCulloch Street, Donald
Campaspe Shire Council	David Gambrell	Shop 8, 210-212 Pakenham Street, Echuca
Cardinia Shire Council	Ian Herron	Suite 4, 66-68 Main Street, Pakenham
Casey City Council	David Triplow	Old Shire Offices, 160 Sladen Street, Cranbourne
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Robyn Walker	107 Nolan Street, Maryborough
Colac Otway Shire Council	Elizabeth Reeves	52A Rae Street, Colac
Corangamite Shire Council	Howard Looney	Corangamite Civic Centre, 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown
Darebin City Council	Merv Jones	32 Wurruk Avenue, Preston
East Gippsland Shire Council	John Butler	76 Main Street, Bairnsdale
Frankston City Council	Ian Smyth	66 Playne Street, Frankston
Gannawarra Shire Council	Mardi Messer	Gannawarra Shire Council, Patchell Plaza, 47 Victoria St, Kerang
Glen Eira City Council	Graeme Phipps	1227 Glen Huntly Road, Carnegie
Glenelg Shire Council	Jan Lineker	Glenelg Shire Council Offices, 71 Cliff Street, Portland
Golden Plains Shire Council	Colin Riley	Golden Plains Shire Council Offices, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn
Greater Bendigo City Council	Tony McDowell	Council Offices, 195-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo
Greater Dandenong City Council	Bill Irvine	Unit 6/119-123 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
Greater Geelong City Council	Eon Macaulay	60 Little Malop Street, Geelong
Greater Shepparton City Council	Lindsay Mitchell	55 Welsford Street, Shepparton
Hepburn Shire Council	Jeff Stewart	24A Raglan Street, Daylesford

Council	Returning Officer	Election Office address
Hindmarsh Shire Council	Graeme Sargent	1 Victoria Street, Nhill
Hobsons Bay City Council	Rosslyn Harvy	Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona
Horsham Rural City Council	Kevin Waterhouse	142 Baillie Street, Horsham
Hume City Council	Geoff Plover	36-38 Macedon Street, Sunbury
Indigo Shire Council	Alan Cuman	Chiltern Community Centre, 52 Main Street, Chiltern
Kingston City Council	Brian Cooney	Level 5, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham
Knox City Council	Leonie Taylor	1B/1829 Ferntree Gully Road, Ferntree Gully
Latrobe City Council	Alan Bright	173 Princes Drive, Morwell
Loddon Shire Council	Rick Gale	Shire Offices, Loddon Valley Highway, Serpentine
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Ken Anders	Kyneton Administrative Centre, 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton
Manningham City Council	David Cook	1 Williamsons Road, Doncaster
Mansfield Shire Council	Jo Wise	Council Offices, 33 Highett Street, Mansfield
Maribyrnong City Council	Kevin Kinna	Maribyrnong City Council, Corner Napier and Hyde Streets, Footscray
Maroondah City Council	Greg Irvine	Shop 3/1-5 Civic Place, Ringwood
Melbourne City Council	Bill Lang	Level 6, Council House, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne
Melton Shire Council	Chris Hopkins	7 McKenzie Street, Melton
Mildura Rural City Council	Trevor Leighton	119 Langtree Avenue, Mildura
Mitchell Shire Council	Alison Ridley	Mitchell Shire Council, 113 High St, Broadford
Moira Shire Council	Jim Shanahan	Moira Shire Council Offices, 44 Station Street, Cobram
Monash City Council	Jeff Gazzard	Monash Seminar & Training Centre, 1A Atherton Road, Oakleigh
Moonee Valley City Council	Jeanette Fielding	176-178 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore
Moorabool Shire Council	Doug Lindsay	Bacchus Marsh Community Centre, 213 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh
Moreland City Council	Michelle Templeton	Concert Hall, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	Julie Allan	D3, Mornington Homemaker Centre, 1128-1132 Nepean Highway, Mornington
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Kevin Moon	115 Barker Street, Castlemaine
Moyne Shire Council	Lynda Beekhof	Blackwood Centre, Commercial Road, Koroit
Murrindindi Shire Council	Katherine Ingram	Murrindindi Shire Council Service Centre, Semi Circle, Yea
Nillumbik Shire Council	Olive Nelms	Nillumbik Shire Council Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Andy McCann	Media Centre, Central Park, Main Street, Stawell
Port Phillip City Council	Geoff Myers	Port Melbourne Town Hall, 333 Bay Street, Port Melbourne
Pyrenees Shire Council	Colin Nicholson	Community Hall, 1 Lawrence Street, Beaufort
South Gippsland Shire Council	Bob Jones	Council Chambers, Michael Place, Leongatha

Council	Returning Officer	Election Office address
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Leanne Huf	Martin J. Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton
Stonnington City Council	Tim Brown	Banquet Hall, Malvern Town Hall, Corner Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern
Strathbogie Shire Council	Dianne McMillan	Strathbogie Shire Council, Corner Binney & Bury Streets, Euroa
Surf Coast Shire Council	John Manley	40 Baines Crescent, Torquay
Swan Hill Rural City Council	John Brookshaw	Meeting Room 2, Swan Hill Town Hall, 53-57 McCallum Street, Swan Hill
Towong Shire Council	Harold Cover	Towong Shire Council Offices, 32 Towong Street, Tallangatta
Wangaratta Rural City Council	Elaine Broadway	Council Offices, 62-68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
Warrnambool City Council	Russell Isaac	52-54 Fairy Street, Warrnambool
Wellington Shire Council	Kathy Humphris	Port of Sale Business Centre, Level 1,66 Foster Street, Sale
West Wimmera Shire Council	Fiona Werner	Edenhope Business Centre, 45 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope
Whitehorse City Council	Judy Tickner	Civic Suite, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Whittlesea City Council	Katrina Williams	Waterlily Room Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
Wodonga City Council	Gwen Howard	120 High Street, Wodonga
Wyndham City Council	John Francis	8 Watton Street, Werribee
Yarra City Council	Stephen Shanahan	Fitzroy Town Hall, Reading Room Entrance, 201 Napier Street, Fitzroy
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	Lance Mawer	Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Colin Denman	Yarriambiack Shire Council Offices, 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal

Appendix 3: Details of information sessions for candidates

Municipality	Address for information session	Date	Time
Alpine Shire	Council Chamber, Council Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Ararat Rural City	Council Chambers, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Ballarat City	Trench Room, Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Banyule City	Council Chamber, 3/275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe	13/10/2008	7.00pm
Bass Coast Shire	Bass Coast, Civic Centre, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi	13/10/2008	7.30pm
Bass Coast Shire	Cowes Cultural Centre, Meeting Room 1, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes	14/10/2008	7.30pm
Baw Baw Shire	Council Chambers, Civic Place, Warragul	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Bayside City	Highbett Room, Bayside Corporate Offices, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham	22/10/2008	2.30pm
Bayside City	Highbett Room, Bayside Corporate Offices, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Benalla Rural City	Performing Arts and Convention Centre, Samaria Road, Benalla	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Boroondara City	Council Offices, Boroondara Room, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Borough of Queenscliffe	Town Hall, 50 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff	22/10/2008	6.00pm
Brimbank City	Returning Officer's Office, 6/147 Harvester Road, Sunshine	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Buloke Shire	Birchip District Office, 22 Cumming Avenue, Birchip	15/10/2008	7.00pm
Campaspe Shire	Function Room, 35 Heygarth, Echuca	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Cardinia Shire	Council Chamber, Shire Offices, Henty Way, Pakenham	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Casey City	Council Chambers, Magid Drive, Narre Warren	22/10/2008	2.00pm
Casey City	Council Chambers, Magid Drive, Narre Warren	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Central Goldfields Shire	Council Chambers, Clarendon Street, Maryborough	21/10/2008	7.30pm
Colac Otway Shire	COPACC Building, corner Rae and Gellibrand Streets, Colac	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Corangamite Shire	Killara Centre, 212 Manifold Street, Camperdown	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Darebin City	Darebin Council Chambers, 350 High Street, Preston	22/10/2008	7.00pm
East Gippsland Shire	Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street, Bairnsdale	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Frankston City	Frankston Civic Centre, Acacia Room, corner Young and Davey Streets, Frankston	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Gannawarra Shire	Shire Council, 47 Victoria Street, Kerang	13/10/2008	7.00pm
Glen Eira City	Town Hall, corner Hawthorn and Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Glenelg Shire	Municipal Offices, 71 Cliff Street, Portland	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Golden Plains Shire	Rokewood CFA Station, Ferrars Street, Rokewood	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Greater Bendigo City	Council Offices, Reception Room, 195-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo	21/10/2008	7.00pm

Municipality	Address for information session	Date	Time
Greater Dandenong City	Council Offices, Meeting Rooms 1 and 2, 397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale	15/10/2008	7.00pm
Greater Geelong City	City Hall Conference & Reception Centre, 30/Gheringhap Street, Geelong	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Greater Shepparton City	Council Board Room, 90 Welsford Street, Shepparton	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Hepburn Shire	Senior Citizens Centre, Town Hall, 76 Vincent Street, Daylesford	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Hindmarsh Shire	Jeparit Memorial Hall, 10 Roy Street, Jeparit	21/10/2008	7.30pm
Hobsons Bay City	Council Office, Meeting Room 3, 115 Civic Parade Altona	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Horsham Rural City	Rural City Council, Civic Centre Reception Room, Roberts Avenue, Horsham	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Hume City	Hume Global Learning Centre, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Indigo Shire	Chiltern Senior Citizens Club, Conness Street, Chiltern	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Kingston City	Council Offices, 1230 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Knox City	Knox Civic Centre, Meeting Room, 4 511 Burwood Highway Wantirna South	21/10/2008	7.30pm
Latrobe City	Corporate Headquarters, Nambur Wariga, 141 Commercial Road, Morwell	21/10/2008	6.00pm
Loddon Shire	Shire Council Offices, Loddon Valley Highway, Serpentine	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Macedon Ranges Shire	Woodend Community Centre, corner High and Forest Streets, Woodend	15/10/2008	7.00pm
Manningham City	City of Manningham Offices, Council Chamber, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster	16/10/2008	7.00pm
Manningham City	City of Manningham Offices, Council Chamber, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster	20/10/2008	6.00pm
Mansfield Shire	Shire Council Chambers, 33 Highett Street, Mansfield	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Maribyrnong City	The Church Hall, Hyde Street, Footscray	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Maroondah City	City Offices, Council Chambers, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Melbourne City	Council Meeting Room, Level 2, Town Hall Administration Building, 90-120 Swanston St	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Melbourne City	Council Meeting Room, Level 2, Town Hall Administration Building, 90-120 Swanston St	21/10/2008	12.30pm
Melton Shire	Community Hall, Meeting Room 4, 232 High Street, Melton	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Mildura Rural City	Alfred Deakin Centre, Benetook Room, Deakin Avenue, Mildura	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Mitchell Shire	Shire Council Chambers, 113 High Street, Broadford	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Moira Shire	Cobram Civic Centre, Punt Road, Cobram	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Monash City	Council Chamber, Civic Centre 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Moonee Valley City	Moonee Valley Civic Centre, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Moorabool Shire	Council Offices, 15 Stead Street, Ballan	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Moreland City	Municipal Offices, Council Chamber, 90 Bell Street, Coburg	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Mornington Peninsula Shire	Council Offices, Besgrove Street, Rosebud	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Mount Alexander Shire	Ray Bradfield Rooms, Victory Park, Castlemaine	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Moyne Shire	Blackwood Centre, Commercial Road, Koroit	20/10/2008	7.00pm

Municipality	Address for information session	Date	Time
Murrindindi Shire	Murrindindi Shire Council Service Centre, Semi Circle, Yea	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Nillumbik Shire	Nillumbik Shire Offices, Civic Drive, Greensborough	20/10/2008	7.30pm
Nillumbik Shire	Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham	21/10/2008	1.00pm
Nillumbik Shire	Wattle Glen Primary School Library, Reynolds Road, Wattle Glen	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Northern Grampians Shire	Shire Offices, Napier Street, St Arnaud	21/10/2008	7.30pm
Northern Grampians Shire	Town Hall, Foyer Main, Street, Stawell	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Port Phillip City	Returning Officer's Office, Port Melbourne Town Hall, 333 Bay Street, Port Melbourne	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Pyrenees Shire	Lexton Community Centre, Lexton	20/10/2008	7.00pm
South Gippsland Shire	Memorial Hall, Michael Place, Leongatha	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Southern Grampians Shire	Martin J Hynes Auditorium, 5 Market Place, Hamilton	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Stonnington City	Council Chamber, Stonnington City Centre, 1251 High Street, Malvern	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Strathbogie Shire	Corner Vale and High Streets, Nagambie	20/10/2008	7.30pm
Strathbogie Shire	Euroa Community Conference Centre, corner Binney and Bury Streets, Euroa	21/10/2008	7.30pm
Surf Coast Shire	Lorne Senior Citizens Centre, Otway Street, Lorne	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Surf Coast Shire	Shire Council Chamber, Grossmans Road, Torquay	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Surf Coast Shire	Winchelsea Senior Citizens Centre, Harding Street, Winchelsea	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Swan Hill Rural City	Town Hall, Meeting Room 1 (upstairs), McCallum Street, Swan Hill	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Towong Shire	Shire Chambers, 76 Hanson Street, Corryong	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Towong Shire	Towong Shire Council Office, 32 Towong Street, Tallangatta	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Wangaratta Rural City	Wangaratta Government Centre, Council Chamber, cnr Ovens and Ford Streets, Wangaratta	22/10/2008	6.00pm
Warrnambool City	Warrnambool Civic Centre, Reception Room, Liebig Street, Warrnambool	14/10/2008	7.00pm
Wellington Shire	Wellington Room, Civic Centre, Port of Sale, 70 Foster Street, Sale	20/10/2008	7.00pm
West Wimmera Shire	Edenhope Civic Centre, 49 Elizabeth Street, Edenhope	21/10/2008	7.30pm
West Wimmera Shire	Shire Council Offices, 25 Baker Street, Kaniva	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Whitehorse City	Council Chambers, Civic Suite, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 379 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Whittlesea City	Council Offices, Fountainview Room, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang	20/10/2008	7.00pm
Whittlesea City	Council Offices, Fountainview Room, Ferres Boulevard, South Morang	21/10/2008	10.00am
Wodonga City	Council Chambers, 104-110 Hovell Street, Wodonga	21/10/2008	6.00pm
Wyndham City	Wyndham Leisure and Events Centre, 80-82 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing	21/10/2008	7.00pm
Yarra City	Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 1, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond	22/10/2008	7.00pm
Yarra Ranges Shire	Conference Room, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale	22/10/2008	7.30pm
Yarriambiack Shire	Shire Council Offices, Function Room 34 Lyle Street, Warracknabeal	21/10/2008	7.00pm

Appendix 4: VEC discussion paper: conformity with how-to-vote cards

Under the preferential system operating in Victorian local government elections, voters have to number every square on the ballot paper. In unsubdivided councils and multi-councillor wards, there are often large numbers of candidates on the ballot paper. The nature of the preferential system encourages candidates to negotiate preference arrangements with each other, so that they can benefit from preferences flowing from elected or excluded candidates. To maximise their chances of election, candidates issue directions to voters on how to allocate their preferences. In elections conducted by post, candidates may include their advised indications of preferences, to be printed below the candidate statements included in the ballot packs that the VEC posts to every voter. In attendance elections, candidates and their supporters distribute registered how-to-vote cards to voters outside voting centres.

The VEC can provide information on the degree to which voters conform with candidates' how-to-vote instructions. For elections counted by computer, the VEC holds the preferences for each vote, which can be sorted by candidate and by conformity with how-to-vote instructions. The VEC selected ten elections for study – all for multi-councillor wards (except for the unsubdivided East Gippsland Shire). To ensure a representative sample, the VEC selected attendance and postal elections, from inner suburban, outer suburban and regional areas, and covering a range of socio-economic variables. The elections chosen were as follows:

Council and Ward	Type of election	Geographic position	SEIFA	Percentage speaking a language other than English at home
Ballarat – Central Ward	Postal	Provincial	965	3.4
Casey – Mayfield Ward	Postal	Outer suburban	992	23
East Gippsland	Postal	Rural	932	3
Glen Eira – Camden Ward	Attendance	Middle suburban	1088	29.6
Greater Dandenong – Red Gum Ward	Attendance	Middle/outer suburban	914	59
Macedon Ranges – West Ward	Postal	Peri-urban	1032	4
Maroondah – Wyreena Ward	Postal	Outer suburban	1034	9.4
Moreland – South Ward	Attendance	Inner suburban	997	42
Stonnington – North Ward	Postal	Inner suburban	1130	21.3
Whittlesea – East Ward	Postal	Outer suburban	966	44.8

The following table shows the degree to which voters in the above elections complied with candidates' how-to-vote instructions:

Council	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Ballarat	16,206	6,982	43%
Casey	19,344	8,035	42%
East Gippsland	26,348	11,740	45%
Glen Eira	18,666	7,974	43%
Greater Dandenong	12,398	4,397	35%
Macedon Ranges	8,222	3,811	46%
Maroondah	18,382	10,087	55%
Moreland	18,745	7,945	42%
Stonnington	14,737	7,410	50%
Whittlesea	24,275	11,782	49%
TOTAL	177,323	80,163	45%

Somewhat fewer than half of the voters surveyed followed their first chosen candidates' directions. Those directions clearly had a strong influence on the results of the elections, but over half the voters made up their own minds on the allocation of preferences. How-to-vote conformity ranged from 35% in Greater Dandenong to 55% in Maroondah, with seven elections having a conformity rate in the 40s.

To what extent did factors such as the type of election and the nature of the area affect voters' responses? The following table compares how-to-vote conformity in postal elections with that in attendance elections. Slightly more voters in postal elections followed how-to-vote instructions. The explanation probably relates to the nature of the elections. In postal elections, all voters receive candidates' preference indications, and have plenty of time to peruse them. By contrast, candidates in attendance elections are not necessarily able to distribute their how-to-cards to all voters.

Election type	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Attendance	48,809	20,316	41%
Postal	127,514	59,847	47%

Seven of the elections examined were in the Melbourne metropolitan area, and three were in regional areas. Regional councils tend to have a lower informal voting rate than metropolitan ones, and it might be conjectured that regional voters would also show a greater tendency to follow how-to-vote instructions. However, the table below shows that there was no real difference between metropolitan and rural elections.

Area	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
Metropolitan	126,547	57,630	46%
Regional	50,776	22,533	44%

Councils with high proportions of residents speaking a language other than English (LOTE) tend to have higher informal voting rates than councils with low proportions of LOTE speakers. Does this also apply to how-to-vote conformity? The table below shows that voters in local government areas with few LOTE speakers were slightly more likely to follow how-to-vote directions than voters in areas where LOTE speakers were concentrated. However, the difference is very small, and unlikely to be significant. It can largely be accounted for by the fact that the election in Maroondah (a non-LOTE council) had an unusually high rate of conformity with how-to-vote directions.

LOTE speakers	Total votes	Ballot papers following HTV instructions	Percentage
> 40% of residents	55,418	24,124	44%
< 10% of residents	69,158	32,620	47%

The elections examined mostly had large numbers of candidates. The informal voting rate tends to increase with the number of candidates, and it might be expected that voters' ability to follow how-to-vote instructions would decline as the number of candidates increases. The following table shows the number of number of candidates for each election and the percentage compliance with how-to-vote instructions. When these two variables were compared, the correlation coefficient was .1958 – which means that there was practically no relation between the number of candidates and how-to-vote compliance.

Council	Number of candidates	Percentage of ballot papers following HTV instructions
Ballarat	16	43%
Casey	11	42%
East Gippsland	29	45%
Glen Eira	7	43%
Greater Dandenong	10	35%
Macedon Ranges	11	46%
Maroondah	14	55%
Moreland	12	42%
Stonnington	13	50%
Whittlesea	14	49%

It is also possible to examine how voters for individual candidates behaved. Compliance with candidates' how-to-vote instructions ranged from 2% (for Fiona Terzic in Greater Dandenong) to 64% (for Maureen Naylor in Maroondah). Political parties were active in some of the elections,

and members of parties stood as candidates, but as the *Local Government Act 1989* does not recognise political parties, the VEC has no information to identify party candidates. However, it is possible to identify incumbent councillors, winning candidates and candidates who did not receive their deposit because they obtained less than 4% of the vote. A reasonable hypothesis is that incumbent councillors would have achieved some recognition during their term and that voters would be more likely to follow their how-to-vote instructions. The same could apply to winning candidates, who by definition had popular support. The following table shows how-to-vote conformity by council for different categories of candidate.

Council	Percentage of ballot papers following HTV instructions			
	Incumbent councillors	Winning candidates	Non-deposit candidates	All candidates
Ballarat	45%	43%	42%	43%
Casey	42%	39%	33%	42%
East Gippsland	45%	46%	43%	45%
Glen Eira	46%	43%	27%	43%
Greater Dandenong	40%	39%	10%	35%
Macedon Ranges	44%	48%	54%	46%
Maroondah	62%	59%	44%	55%
Moreland	56%	56%	34%	42%
Stonnington	55%	53%	40%	50%
Whittlesea	54%	54%	37%	49%
TOTAL	50%	48%	39%	45%

The results confirm clear tendencies for voters for incumbent councillors and winning candidates to be more inclined than average to follow how-to-vote instructions, and for voters for minor candidates to be less inclined to follow instructions. These tendencies were particularly strong in the attendance elections, probably because councillors, winning candidates and their helpers were able to hand out how-to-vote cards to voters entering voting centres, while many of the minor candidates did not do so consistently. In contrast, no tendency was apparent in the three regional elections.

In summary, the findings of this study of ballot papers for ten elections are:

- 45% of voters followed how-to-vote instructions;
- voters in postal elections were more likely than those in attendance elections to follow how-to-vote instructions;
- there were no clear differences in behaviour between metropolitan and regional councils, nor between councils with high proportions of LOTE speakers and those with low proportions;
- the number of candidates in an election did not affect compliance with how-to-vote instructions;
- voters for incumbent councillors and winning candidates were more likely to follow how-to-vote instructions, and voters for minor candidates (those who failed to regain their deposit) were less likely to do so. This tendency was stronger in attendance elections, but not apparent in regional elections.

Appendix 5: Sample ballot pack

VOTING IS SECRET

BALLOT PAPER ENVELOPE

IMPORTANT—You must sign and date the declaration.

<p>DECLARATION BY VOTER—Voters unable to sign, refer to notes on the front of this envelope.</p> <p>I am the voter named on this envelope. I have enclosed my completed ballot paper in this envelope. I have not already voted in this Council election.</p> <p>DATE: / /</p> <p>SIGNATURE OF VOTER: _____</p> <p>DATE OF BIRTH: / /</p>	<p>HAVE YOUR DETAILS CHANGED? <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If any address details are incorrect, clearly mark the changes, tick the box and the VEC will send the appropriate forms for you to update your enrolment.</p>
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Voting Instructions

NOTES

- Any voter unable to vote without assistance may authorise a person to sign on their behalf. The authorised person must ensure their name is clearly written beneath their signature along with the words "authorised signatory".
- Data of birth information may be provided to Council to maintain accuracy of Council rolls.

1. Detach and complete your ballot paper.
2. Put your ballot paper in this envelope and seal the envelope.
3. Sign and date the flap on this envelope. An election official will remove the flap before opening the envelope to ensure the secrecy of your vote.
4. Place this envelope in the reply paid envelope, seal and post it straight away.

VOTING IS SECRET

PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPLETED BALLOT PAPER IN THIS ENVELOPE

DO NOT REMOVE THIS FLAP – IT IS REMOVED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS BEFORE OPENING

BALLOT PAPER
(Please detach before completing)

NOTICE: Information in candidate statements is provided by the candidates. We require that a candidate statement should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Returning Officer. Contact details available at www.vec.vic.gov.au.

<p>SMITH, Ross</p> <p>Indication of Preferences</p> <p>[1] SMITH, Ross [2] THORROWGODD, Roger</p> <p>I have been privileged to represent Toward Ward and the Inverloch Community for the past three years. Following local community lobbying, the \$2 million expansion of the Community Centre starts in January. New facilities will include the Library, Visitor Information Centre, Neighbourhood House and meeting rooms. Other projects over \$1m, starting next year, are shared bicycle paths from The Clades to Cliff Street; extending footpaths, particularly from Esplanade to Ramsay Boulevard and upgrading of Bowling and Youth Club car-park. We must also praise the ongoing contributions of Coastal Active younglife which has sensibly improved and transformed our Kingsholic. This is a first-rate community facility that has spent hours of hard work using rate-payer money being spent effectively and backing local initiatives. We don't need rate increases to keep these projects rolling. I want to be returned to Council with your vote, to finish many local projects we have in the pipeline.</p>	<p>THORROWGODD, Roger</p> <p>Indication of Preferences</p> <p>[1] SMITH, Ross [2] THORROWGODD, Roger</p> <p>Hello, I moved to Boroondara after being widowed in 1989, joined my family in Inverloch and Worthing, before returning to Boroondara to care for my father. My working life has included horticulture, farm contracting and the building trade. I feel that local government has a vital role in providing a better local and sustainable response to wider climate and financial issues, and in fostering community based solutions. My life experience is well suited to working with council towards these ends, having dealt with senior and youth issues, served as officer bearer for sporting and community groups, and now being primary care for my grandson. I am used to practical problem solving using available resources, in partnership with others. My issues of concern include a safety and management plan for Anderson Creek, improved transport options, local sufficiency and sustainability, and responding to biological policy from wider government, especially regarding water.</p>
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Victorian Electoral Commission

Elections 2008

BANTULCITY COUNCIL

IF UNCLAIMED, RETURN TO
Locked Bag 7777
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Ballot Paper + +

Boroondara City Council

Lynden Ward

Election of 1 Councillor

+ Number the boxes 1 to 2 +
in the order of your choice.

Number every box to make your vote count
You must not use any number more than once.

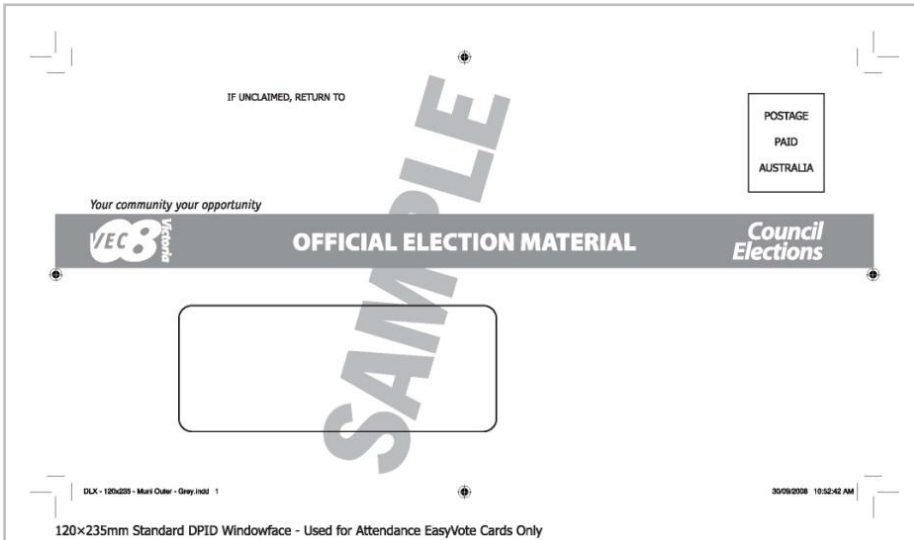
KREIN, Ralph

KREUTZ, Heinz

Victorian Electoral Commission

Ballot Paper - Pre - 2008.ind 1 28/10/2008 2:27:00 PM

Appendix 6: Sample EasyVote card



VOTING IS COMPULSORY FOR ENROLLED RESIDENTS

Voting on election day
When: 8.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday 29 November 2008
Where:
 1 Williamstown Primary School AWA 105 Cecil Street (enter via Electra Street) Williamstown
 2 Williamstown Town Hall AWA 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown

Voting before election day
In person at: 115 Civic Parade, Altona FWA
Open: 9.00am to 5.00pm weekdays
 9.00am to 8.00pm Thursday 27 November
 9.00am to 6.00pm Friday 28 November
Also at: Altona Meadows Community Centre, 28 Tafalgar Square, Altona Meadows AWA; South Kingsville Community Centre, 43 Faxon Street, South Kingsville FWA; E4 Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown
Open: 9.00am to 5.00pm on Wednesday 26 November
 9.00am to 8.00pm on Thursday 27 November
 9.00am to 6.00pm on Friday 28 November
By post: Download an application form from www.vec.vic.gov.au or call 9315 0056. Return it immediately and your ballot paper will be mailed to you. Your completed ballot paper must be received by the Returning Officer by 6.00pm (Victorian time) on election day.

You are enrolled in
WILLIAMSTOWN WARD

FWA = Full wheelchair access
AWA = Assisted wheelchair access

Hobsons Bay CITY COUNCIL

You are enrolled in
WILLIAMSTOWN WARD
for the Hobsons Bay City Council election on Saturday 29 November 2008

This is your *EasyVote* card. It will make voting easy.

TO MAKE VOTING EASIER PLEASE SHOW THIS CARD WHEN YOU VOTE

Saturday 29 November 2008 is election day for Hobsons Bay City Council Williamstown Ward

Who has to vote?
Voting is compulsory for enrolled residents – homeowners AND tenants
 You have been sent this information because you are on the voters roll for the Hobsons Bay City Council Williamstown Ward election.
 It is not compulsory to vote if you:
 • are aged 70 or over; or
 • pay rates to Council but do not live in the City of Hobsons Bay.

This election is being conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Hobsons Bay City Council.

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

YOU CAN VOTE WITHOUT YOUR EASYVOTE CARD BUT IT MAY TAKE LONGER

Need more information?
 Call 9315 0058 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au/HobsonsBayHome.html
 TTY: 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

How do you vote?
 1. Read the directions on your ballot paper.
 2. Number the boxes 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.
 3. Number every box to make sure you do not use any number more than once.

Candidates
 Candidates in ballot paper order:
 FALTEH, Michael
 KENNEDY, Michael
 HOSKING, Michael
 ALTAIR, Angela
 DAABOUL, Michael
 One candidate will be elected to represent Williamstown Ward.
 Candidate contact details are available at www.vec.vic.gov.au/HobsonsBayHome.html

For English speakers:
 • Arabic - Bosniak 9209 0191 Bosnian - Bosniak 9209 0192 Cambodian
 • Chinese - Croatian 9209 0102 Croatian - Hindi 9209 0183 Dalmatian - Dalmatian 9209 0119 Danish
 • German 9209 0111 Greek - Italian 9209 0108 Italian - Japanese 9209 0184 Korean - Macedonian 9209 0105 Macedonian
 • Mandarin - Malay 9209 0185 Persian - Russian 9209 0186 Russian - Serbian 9209 0187 Serbian
 • Slovenian - Somali - Spanish 9209 0109 Spanish - Turkish 9209 0110 Turkish - Vietnamese 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Other languages:
 • Arabic - Bosniak 9209 0191 Bosnian - Bosniak 9209 0192 Cambodian
 • Chinese - Croatian 9209 0102 Croatian - Hindi 9209 0183 Dalmatian - Dalmatian 9209 0119 Danish
 • German 9209 0111 Greek - Italian 9209 0108 Italian - Japanese 9209 0184 Korean - Macedonian 9209 0105 Macedonian
 • Mandarin - Malay 9209 0185 Persian - Russian 9209 0186 Russian - Serbian 9209 0187 Serbian
 • Slovenian - Somali - Spanish 9209 0109 Spanish - Turkish 9209 0110 Turkish - Vietnamese 9209 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Hrvatski (Croatian)
 Ako vam je potrebna pomoć kumača za glasanje na dan izbora u subotu, 29. studenoga ili ranije ili na glasačkom putnom listiću, nazovite 9209 0102.

Pilgino (Filipino)
 Para sa tingnan ang interpretang kumata sa paglalaran sa aron ng eleksyon, Sabado kasapitan ng Nobyembre, o magamit ang paglalaran sa pararaming ng kumata, tumawag sa 9209 0102.

Ελληνικά (Greek)
 Για τη βοήθεια που χρειάζεστε κατά την προετοιμασία των χαρτίτων των εκλογών, το Σάββατο 29 Νοεμβρίου, ή πιο νωρίς, ή για την συμπλήρωση του φακέλου, τηλεφωνήστε στο 9209 0102.

Italiano (Italian)
 Per avere l'aiuto di un interprete per votare nel giorno delle elezioni, sabato 29 novembre, o per votare in anticipo tramite il voto postale, telefonate al numero 9209 0104.

Malay (Malay)
 Untuk mendapatkan bantuan interpretasi dalam menggunakan kertas undi pada hari Rabu 29 November, atau menggunakan surat undi pos, hubungi 9209 0112.

Македонски (Macedonian)
 За помош на говорател на македонски на денот на гласање, сабота 29. новембар, или за гласање преку пошта, позвајте се на телефон 9209 0102.

Vietnamese (Vietnamese)
 Để được sự giúp đỡ của interprete để viết véot ngày bầu cử, Thứ Bảy 29 Tháng 11, hoặc để phiếu, xin hãy gọi số điện thoại bầu cử, đến đây số 9209 0111.
 For interpreter assistance about voting on election day, Saturday 29 November, or early or postal voting, in all other non-English languages telephone 9209 0112.

Hobsons Bay CITY COUNCIL

This election is being conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission on behalf of the Hobsons Bay City Council.

Appendix 7: Sample State-wide advertising

Local council elections
Have you changed address?

All 79 local council elections will be held this November.

If you have recently moved or changed your postal address, you must complete a new enrolment form so that you can vote.

This includes any change to your post office box (P.O. Box), especially if you are emailed to vote in a council election conducted by post.

Postal addresses are important


Ballot packs will be mailed in November to your postal address. If it is different to your residential address.

To check if you provided a postal address when you last enrolled, call 13 18 32 or check your enrolment details online at www.vec.vic.gov.au

13 18 32 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

If you need to complete a new form Enrolment forms are available online at www.vec.vic.gov.au or at any local council, post office, Centrelink, Australian Electoral Commission office, or Coles supermarket. Completed enrolment forms must be received by 4.00pm on Tuesday 3 October.

*This includes elections for Boroondara, Boroondara, Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, etc. Postal and Vote For Councils which will be conducted by attendance voting.



Enrolment reminder (non-statutory)

Local council elections November 2008
Your Community Your Opportunity

Changed address, turned 18 or just not on the roll?

All 79 Victorian local council elections will be held this November.

To vote at your local council election, you need to be correctly enrolled by **4.00pm on Friday 3 October**.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 29 November; and
- you are not on the State electoral roll; or
- you moved to a new residential address at least a month ago and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to postal address.

How do you enrol?

Download a form from www.vec.vic.gov.au, or pick one up at any local council, post office, Centrelink, Australian Electoral Commission office or Coles supermarket and return it by **4.00pm on Friday 3 October**.

You can also apply to enrol with your local council if you pay rates and are a non-Australian citizen, or occupy a property and have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place, or are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the municipality. Contact your local council for more information.

Checking your enrolment

You can check your enrolment details online at www.vec.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Electoral Commission on 13 18 32.

If you have applied to your local council to enrol, you can check your enrolment details during business hours until **Friday 3 October** at locations listed at www.vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes Friday 3 October at 4.00pm

For enquiries in languages other than English call our Interpreting service:
 • **Arabic** 9209 0190 • **Chinese** 9209 0100 • **Bosnian** 9209 0191 • **Bosnian** • **French** 9209 0192 • **Cambodian** • **Chinese (Cantonese)** 9209 0193 • **Croatian** • **Dutch** 9209 0194 • **Dinka** 9209 0195 • **English** 9209 0196 • **Greek** • **Italian** 9209 0197 • **Japanese** 9209 0198 • **Korean** 9209 0199 • **Maori** 9209 0200 • **Macedonian** • **Mandarin Chinese** 9209 0201 • **Malay** 9209 0202 • **Polish** 9209 0203 • **Russian** 9209 0204 • **Serbian** 9209 0205 • **Slovak** 9209 0206 • **Slovene** 9209 0207 • **Spanish** 9209 0208 • **Turkish** 9209 0209 • **Turkmen** 9209 0210 • **Vietnamese** 9209 0211

TTY 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

13 18 32 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Notice of entitlement date (statutory)

Local council elections
Your community Your opportunity

Local council elections are now on

All Victorian local council elections are being held this month.

Depending on where you are enrolled to vote, you should have either received your ballot pack in the mail, or you may be required to vote in person on Saturday 29 November.

Voting by post

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked P for 'postal elections' below from 11 November.

If you have not received your ballot pack, call the election office for your local council during business hours (Monday to Friday).

For your vote to count, your completed ballot paper must be in the hands of the Returning Officer for your local council election by **6.00pm on Friday 28 November**.

Voting in person

Envelope cards were mailed to voters enrolled for councils marked A for 'attendance voting' below from 14 November.

Voting for these councils will take place from 8.00am to 6.00pm on **Saturday 29 November**.

Voting centre locations and information about early and postal voting alternatives are on your Enrolment card and at www.vec.vic.gov.au

Who are you voting for?

You are voting to elect councillors who will represent you on your local council. The councillors you elect will serve until the next local council elections in November 2012.

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

For Melbourne City Council's election of councillors only, you can either number one box above the line on the ballot paper or number all boxes below the line.


Voting is compulsory

Voting at your local council election is compulsory if you were on the voters roll on Friday 3 October 2008.

This includes homeowners and tenants. You may be fined if you do not vote.

You will not be fined for failing to vote if you are aged 70 or over, or do not live in the municipality in which you are entitled to vote.

The latter excludes people on the Melbourne City Council voters roll. If you are on the Melbourne City Council voters roll and are under 70 years of age, you **MUST** vote – even if you do not live in the City of Melbourne.



Questions? Contact your election office:

Alpine Shire Council	P	5721 2235	Hindmarsh Shire Council	P	5381 0783	Port Phillip City Council	A	9645 1303
Ararat Rural City Council	P	5386 1023	Hobsons Bay City Council	A	9315 0058	Pyrenees Shire Council	P	5331 1182
Bairrat City Council	P	5331 1182	Hornsham Rural City Council	P	5381 0783	Queenscliffe City Council	P	5261 4151
Banyule City Council	A	9432 0198	Hume City Council	P	9744 1663	South Gippsland City Council	P	5662 0828
Bass Coast Shire Council	P	5662 0828	Indigo Shire Council	P	02 6056 4753	Southern Grampians Council	P	5571 1186
Baw Baw Shire Council	P	5662 0171	Kingston City Council	P	9583 0805	Strathmore City Council	P	9604 3071
Bayesian City Council	P	9699 0115	Knox City Council	P	9592 2072	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5792 1251
Benalla Rural City Council	P	5782 1251	Latrobe Shire Council	P	53105	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5261 4151
Boroondara City Council	P	9815 9209	Loxton Shire Council	P	1317	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5261 4151
Brimbank City Council	A	9310 1086	Macdonald Ranges Shire Council	P	1029	Traralgon Shire Council	P	02 6056 4753
Bunbury Shire Council	P	5032 0015	Manningham City Council	P	9410 1052	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5721 2235
Campana Shire Council	P	5480 0363	Mansfield Shire Council	P	5762 1251	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5560 5261
Cardinia Shire Council	P	5940 0018	Maribyrnong City Council	P	9689 0438	Traralgon Shire Council	P	5152 1109
Casey City Council	P	5995 0273	Mildura City Council	P	9670 4795	West Wimmera Shire Council	P	5381 0783
Central Goldfields Shire Council	P	5728	Melbourne City Council	P	9639 0046	Whitehorse City Council	P	9872 3298
Colac Otway Shire Council	P	5110	Mildura City Council	P	9746 2093	Whitewater City Council	P	9401 5028
Corangamite Shire Council	P	5021 1183	Mildura City Council	P	5021 1183	Wodonga City Council	P	02 6056 4753
Darlington City Council	P	5784 1023	Mitchell Shire Council	P	5784 1023	Wyndham City Council	P	8742 3803
East Gippsland Shire Council	P	5721 2335	Murray Shire Council	P	5721 2335	Yarra City Council	A	9415 1025
Frankston City Council	P	9563 0118	Nash City Council	P	9563 0118	Yarra Ranges Shire Council	P	9737 6059
Gannawarra Shire Council	P	9372 1180	Shire Valley City Council	P	9372 1180	Yarrawentock Shire Council	P	5381 0783
Glen Eira City Council	P	5053	Moorabool Shire Council	P	5331 1182			
Glenelg Shire Council	P	51189	Morlemont City Council	A	9530 1208			
Golden Plains Shire Council	P	5261 4151	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	P	5973 4350			
Greater Bendigo City Council	P	5442 2137	Mount Alexander Shire Council	P	5470 8228			
Greater Dandenong City Council	A	9701 1431	Moyne Shire Council	P	5560 5261			
Greater Geelong City Council	P	5223 1173	Murindindi Shire Council	P	5784 1023			
Greater Shepparton City Council	P	5621 0262	Nillumbik Shire Council	P	9432 0136			
Hagburn Shire Council	P	5331 1182	Northern Grampians Shire Council	N	5358 1023			

P Postal: Voting material has been sent to you.
A Attendance: Voting is in person at a voting centre.
N No voting: There is no voting in Northern Grampians Shire as the number of candidates in each ward was equal to the number of vacancies.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our Interpreting service:
 • **Arabic** 9209 0190 • **Chinese** 9209 0100 • **Bosnian** 9209 0191 • **Bosnian** • **French** 9209 0192 • **Cambodian** • **Chinese (Cantonese)** 9209 0193 • **Croatian** • **Dutch** 9209 0194 • **Dinka** 9209 0195 • **English** 9209 0196 • **Greek** • **Italian** 9209 0197 • **Japanese** 9209 0198 • **Korean** 9209 0199 • **Maori** 9209 0200 • **Macedonian** • **Mandarin Chinese** 9209 0201 • **Malay** 9209 0202 • **Polish** 9209 0203 • **Russian** 9209 0204 • **Serbian** 9209 0205 • **Slovak** 9209 0206 • **Slovene** 9209 0207 • **Spanish** 9209 0208 • **Turkish** 9209 0209 • **Turkmen** 9209 0210 • **Vietnamese** 9209 0211

TTY 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Notice of election (statutory)

Appendix 8: Sample Council-specific advertising

Hobsons Bay City Council elections
Your community Your opportunity

Are you enrolled to vote?

You must be on the voters roll by **4.00pm on Friday 3 October 2008** to be eligible to vote in November's local council elections.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 29 November 2008; **AND**
- you live in the City of Hobsons Bay, and you are on the State electoral roll for your present address; or
- you own property in the City of Hobsons Bay but don't live in that municipality, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records*; or
- you enrolled through Council for this November's elections.
 - * If you own more than one property in the municipality, you can specify to Council the property for which you wish to claim entitlement by 4.00pm on Friday 3 October.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 29 November; **AND**
- you are not on the State electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present residential address for at least one month and have not updated your enrolment details, including any changes to postal address.

How do you enrol?

Download an enrolment form from www.vec.vic.gov.au, or pick one up at any local council, post office, Centrelink, Australian Electoral Commission office or Coles supermarket, and return it by 4.00pm on Friday 3 October 2008.

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in the City of Hobsons Bay; or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in the City of Hobsons Bay and have no other voting entitlement within that municipality, e.g. you are a shop tenant, and are either named on the Council's rates records to receive the rates notice, or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place; or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the City of Hobsons Bay and have no other voting entitlement within the municipality.

If you meet the above criteria and wish to enrol, contact Council on 9932 1000 for a special enrolment form.

Checking your enrolment

You can check your enrolment details during business hours from Monday 29 September to Friday 3 October at:

- Altona Library, 123 Queen Street, Altona
- Altona Meadows Community Centre, 28 Trafalgar Avenue, Altona Meadows
- Altona Meadows Library, Central Square Shopping Centre, Altona Meadows
- Altona North Post Office, 20 Duke Street, Altona North
- Altona Post Office, 44-48 Pier Street, Altona
- Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona
- Laverton Post Office, 12-14 Aviation Road, Laverton
- Newport Library, 13 Mason Street, Newport
- Newport Post Office, 6 Hall Street, Newport
- Seabrook Community Centre, 15 Trugamina Avenue, Seabrook
- South Kingsville Community Centre, 43 Paxton Street, South Kingsville
- Walker Close Community Centre, Millers Road, Altona North
- Williamstown Library, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown
- Williamstown Post Office, 70 Douglas Parade, Williamstown

You can object to errors in the roll until 4.00pm on Friday 3 October by writing to:

Paul Strickland
 Registrar for Hobsons Bay City Council Voters Rolls
 Victorian Electoral Commission
 Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street
 Melbourne Vic 3000

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • AMFY 9299 0190 Arabic • 0200 0100 Arabic • 0200 0191 Bosnian • 0200 0192 Cambodian • 0200 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
 • 0200 0102 Croatian • 0200 0193 Dari • 0200 0115 Dari • 0200 0103 Greek • 0200 0104 Italian • 0200 0194 Korean
 • 0200 0105 Macedonian • 0200 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • 0200 0107 Persian • 0200 0108 Russian
 • 0200 0107 Serbian • 0200 0108 Somali • 0200 0109 Spanish • 0200 0110 Turkish • 0200 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9299 0112

TTY 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

13 18 32 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Notice of entitlement date (statutory)

Alpine Shire Council elections
Your community Your opportunity

Watch out for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 11 November.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by Wednesday 19 November, call 5721 2335 during business hours.

How to return your ballot paper

Post your completed ballot paper using the reply-paid envelope or hand-deliver it to the Returning Officer at the Alpine Shire Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed online at www.vec.vic.gov.au and in the ballot pack material.

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for residents who were on the voters roll for this election on Friday 3 October 2008.

Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote. This includes homeowners and tenants.

It is not compulsory to vote if you are aged 70 or over, or pay rates to Council but do not live in Alpine Shire.

Your vote must reach the Returning Officer by 6.00pm on Friday 28 November 2008

TTY 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

5721 2335 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly.

Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your preference.

You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

Vote counting

Elections for Alpine Shire Council will be counted using the proportional representation method. For further information, visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

Andrew Robertson
 Returning Officer
 Alpine Shire Offices, Great Alpine Road, Bright

9.00am - 5.00pm weekdays
 9.00am - 8.00pm Thursday 27 November
 9.00am - 6.00pm Friday 28 November

Example only

Notice of postal voting details (statutory)

Hobsons Bay City Council elections
Your community Your opportunity

Election day is Saturday 29 November

Voting

Voting will take place on Saturday 29 November at locations to be advertised next month. Alternatively, you can vote early or apply to vote by post from Wednesday 29 October. Visit www.vec.vic.gov.au or call 9315 0058 from Wednesday 22 October for details.

How to nominate as a candidate

A completed nomination form, together with a \$250 nomination fee, must be lodged in person with the Returning Officer from 9.00am on Thursday 23 October to 12 noon on Tuesday 28 October at:
 Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

To help reduce waiting time while applications are processed, prospective candidates are encouraged to first complete their nomination form online at www.vec.vic.gov.au

Call the Returning Officer from Wednesday 22 October on 9315 0058 to make a nomination appointment.

Candidate information session

When: 7.00pm on Wednesday 22 October 2008
Where: Council Chamber, Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

Candidate Information Kits containing nomination forms and other electoral information are available at the session.

Roslyn Harvey
 Returning Officer
 115 Civic Parade, Altona
 Tel: 9315 0058
 Office opens 9.00am on Wednesday 22 October

Nominations close at 12 noon on Tuesday 28 October 2008

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • AMFY 9299 0190 Arabic • 0200 0100 Arabic • 0200 0191 Bosnian • 0200 0192 Cambodian • 0200 0101 Chinese (Cantonese)
 • 0200 0102 Croatian • 0200 0193 Dari • 0200 0115 Dari • 0200 0103 Greek • 0200 0104 Italian • 0200 0194 Korean
 • 0200 0105 Macedonian • 0200 0106 Chinese (Mandarin) • 0200 0107 Persian • 0200 0108 Russian
 • 0200 0107 Serbian • 0200 0108 Somali • 0200 0109 Spanish • 0200 0110 Turkish • 0200 0111 Vietnamese
 • All other non-English languages 9299 0112

TTY 9299 0570 (text telephone for the speech and hearing impaired)

13 18 32 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Notice of election (statutory)

Hobsons Bay
Your community Your opportunity

Enrolled voters will receive an EasyVote card in the mail. It includes your enrolment details and where to vote. Take the EasyVote card with you when you vote. You can vote without it, but it may take longer.

Where to vote on election day
Voting centres are open from 8.00am to 6.00pm on election day, Saturday 29 November 2008.

Altona Meadows Ward

- Altona Green Primary School, 230 Victoria Street, Altona Meadows AWA
- Altona Meadows Community Centre, 28 Trafalgar Avenue, Altona Meadows AWA
- Altona Meadows Primary School, Altona Avenue, Altona Meadows

Altona North Ward

- Bayside Secondary College - Altona North Campus, 1 McArthur Road, Altona North
- Tower Education Centre of Australia, 29-40 Millers Road, Altona North FWA
- Laverton Secondary College, 91 Bladin Street, Laverton

Altona Ward

- Altona P-8 College, 377 Civic Parade, Altona
- Seabrook Primary School, corner Millers Road and Civic Parade, Altona AWA
- Somers Parade Kinder, 4 Somers Parade, Altona

Seabrook Ward

- Laverton Primary School, Epsom Street, Laverton
- Seabrook Community Centre, 15 Truganina Avenue, Seabrook AWA
- Seabrook Primary School, 85-103 Point Cook Road, Seabrook AWA

Spotswood Ward

- Eastons Park Primary School, 15 Marlon Street (access via Collins Avenue), Altona North
- Newport Lakes Primary School, 40 Elizabeth Street, Newport
- South Kingsville Community Centre, 43 Paxton Street, South Kingsville FWA

Williamstown North Ward

- Bayside Secondary College - Paisley Campus, 41 Bienenheim Road, Newport AWA
- Bayside Secondary College - Williamstown Campus, 35 Kowall Creek Road, Williamstown AWA

Williamstown Ward

- Williamstown Primary School, 105 Cecil Street (enter via Electro Street), Williamstown AWA
- Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown AWA

AWA - Full wheelchair access
AWA - Assisted wheelchair access

Voting closes at 6.00pm on Saturday 29 November 2008

Voting before election day

In person (early voting open now)
9.00am to 5.00pm weekdays, 9.00am to 8.00pm on Thursday 27 November, and 9.00am to 6.00pm on Friday 28 November at:

- E1 Election Office, 115 Civic Drive, Altona FWA

Also 9.00am to 5.00pm on Wednesday 26 November, 9.00am to 8.00pm on Thursday 27 November, and 9.00am to 6.00pm on Friday 28 November at:

- E2 Altona Meadows Community Centre, 28 Trafalgar Square, Altona Meadows AWA
- E3 South Kingsville Community Centre, 43 Paxton Street, South Kingsville FWA
- E4 Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown

By post
Download a postal vote application from www.vec.vic.gov.au/HobsonsBayVoting.html or call 9315 0058 to request an application. To allow time for you to complete and return your ballot paper by mail, please ensure that the Returning Officer receives your postal vote application by Monday 24 November. If it is too late to return it by mail, hand deliver your completed ballot paper to a voting centre listed above.

Candidates
Candidates who have nominated to stand for election are listed online at www.vec.vic.gov.au and on the EasyVote card sent to enrolled voters from Friday 14 November.

Voting is compulsory
Voting is compulsory for residents who were on the voters roll for this election on Friday 3 October 2008. Enrolled residents may be fined if they do not vote - this includes homeowners and tenants. It is not compulsory to vote if you are aged 70 or over, or pay rates to Council but do not live in the City of Hobsons Bay.

How to vote correctly
For your vote to count, you must fill out your ballot paper correctly. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your preference. You must number EVERY box and only use each number once.

Roslyn Harvy
Returning Officer
115 Civic Drive, Altona
Tel: 9315 0058

9315 0058 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Hobsons Bay Council
Declaration of election results

The following councillors were elected at the elections held on Saturday 29 November 2008:

Altona Meadows Ward
GRIGOROVITCH, Luba

Altona North Ward
RAFFOUL, Michael

Altona Ward
BRITTA, Tony

Seabrook Ward
HOGG, John

Spotswood Ward
TEHAN, Bill

Williamstown North Ward
HEMPHILL, Peter

Williamstown Ward
ALTAIR, Angela

Roslyn Harvy
Returning Officer
29 November 2008

The Victorian Electoral Commission conducted these elections on behalf of the Hobsons Bay City Council.

www.vec.vic.gov.au

Notice of results (statutory)

Notice of attendance voting details (statutory)

Appendix 9: Sample uncontested election leaflet

BASS COAST

Bass Coast Shire Council elections November 2008
Anderson Ward

You will not need to vote in Anderson Ward. At close of nominations on Tuesday 28 October, two nominations were received for one vacancy. One candidate has since retired from the election, therefore Gareth Barlow will be elected unopposed.

Sheryl Bruce
Returning Officer

Information: 5662 0828 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

BassCoast_Anderson_U1.indd 1

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Appendix 10: Number of enquiry calls received at Election offices during the election period

Council	6 Oct	13 Oct	20 Oct	27 Oct	3 Nov	10 Nov	17 Nov	24 Nov	1 Dec	8 Dec	Total
Alpine			8	33	15	48	169	148	0		421
Ararat Rural			32	36	35	59	68	200	0		430
Ballarat			51	78	63	259	589	747	0		1787
Banyule			81	273	221	408	1413	1213	129		3738
Bass Coast			14	33	27	117	197	160	0		548
Baw Baw			79	58	29	130	338	302	0		936
Bayside			46	151	70	513	937	1574	0		3291
Benalla Rural			96	123	36	164	360	315	8		1102
Boroondara			27	59	42	617	974	2012	138		3869
Queenscliffe			13	23	7	26	34	54	0		157
Brimbank			197	279	394	518	2068	1741	130		5327
Buloke			20	20	7	31	64	57	0		199
Campaspe			9	41	14	61	228	197	0		550
Cardinia			20	54	21	208	501	637	0		1441
Casey			97	125	92	510	1242	2101	87		4254
Central Goldfields			12	25	14	33	126	54	0		264
Colac Otway			81	174	75	213	320	516	0		1379
Corangamite			15	22	16	29	30	39	0		151
Darebin			74	157	102	604	1250	1138	0		3325
East Gippsland			40	73	32	146	434	403	0		1128
Frankston			42	70	36	418	857	1681	0		3104
Gannawarra			27	30	7	36	72	81	0		253
Glen Eira			43	185	283	612	2539	1349	194		5205
Glenelg *			11	29	24	58	138	150	0		410
Golden Plains			20	35	19	41	203	178	0		496
Greater Bendigo			3	16	25	154	519	394	13		1124
Greater Dandenong			20	30	87	322	1616	725	0		2800
Greater Geelong			92	153	93	490	1337	1325	0		3490
Greater Shepparton			63	144	113	259	694	1120	0		2393
Hepburn			21	34	28	111	255	321	0		770
Hindmarsh			18	41	14	18	33	33	25		182
Hobsons Bay			9	15	18	188	526	2132	0		2888
Horsham Rural			49	110	40	102	122	156	37		616
Hume			19	78	73	503	1075	1076	61	7	2892
Indigo			35	75	12	20	50	55	7		254
Kingston			85	193	129	507	1502	1687	33		4136
Knox			153	182	158	437	1791	0	0		2721
Latrobe			34	49	36	192	423	355	0		1089
Loddon			1	9	11	19	30	14	0		84
Macedon Ranges			40	98	73	185	370	388	63		1217
Manningham			54	101	41	392	1036	1114	91		2829
Mansfield			2	28	37	90	104	123	3		387
Maribyrnong			25	54	43	408	735	922	128		2315
Maroondah			39	110	79	415	807	1095	0		2545
Melton			20	61	24	408	762	538	99		1912
Melbourne	24	32	63	205	182	493	1872	2013	0		4884
Mildura Rural			86	71	39	111	341	260	0		908

Mitchell	27	76	41	180	473	501	5	1303			
Moira	10	33	15	62	203	180	0	503			
Monash	62	120	128	864	1416	1381	167	4138			
Moonee Valley	19	64	47	419	832	1086	0	2467			
Moorabool	12	20	16	64	147	186	0	445			
Moreland	196	258	525	768	1916	124	0	3787			
Mornington Peninsula	69	87	81	527	1272	1285	151	3472			
Mount Alexander	44	106	61	126	278	311	43	969			
Moyne	5	4	4	12	59	154	0	238			
Murrindindi	14	14	17	33	82	69	0	229			
Nilumbik	67	108	69	275	448	508	31	1506			
Northern Grampians	73	57	4	3	2	0	0	139			
Port Phillip	28	40	51	218	1249	668	51	2305			
Pyrenees	16	26	20	82	187	239	0	570			
South Gippsland	32	69	51	212	401	427	0	1192			
Southern Grampians	12	34	31	68	167	183	0	495			
Stonnington	0	38	44	414	940	1041	0	2477			
Strathbogie	2	26	37	90	104	123	3	385			
Surf Coast	115	159	63	204	549	481	0	1571			
Swan Hill Rural	22	48	14	69	139	139	0	431			
Towong	16	32	11	14	45	40	3	161			
Wangaratta Rural	13	27	41	67	197	182	0	527			
Warrnambool	40	58	18	85	246	485	0	932			
Wellington	43	71	29	151	430	472	0	1196			
West Wimmera	13	19	15	37	45	37	9	175			
Whitehorse	66	227	212	1089	1058	151	0	2803			
Whittlesea	45	102	159	591	1269	1288	142	3596			
Wodonga	45	120	30	125	410	340	12	1082			
Wyndham	68	92	67	451	940	939	0	2557			
Yarra	26	54	104	222	2021	1188	67	3682			
Yarra Ranges	62	115	79	393	1026	1133	0	2808			
Yarriambiack	21	29	10	26	62	79	3	230			
Totals	24	32	3369	6376	5130	19624	49764	48313	1933	7	134572

Appendix 11: Details of counting arrangements

Municipality	Vacancies	Electoral structure	Count type	Election Type
Alpine	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Ararat	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Ballarat	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Banyule	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Bass Coast	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Baw Baw	9	1 three-councillor ward, 3 two-councillor wards	Manual PR	Postal
Bayside	7	1 three-councillor ward, 2 two-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Benalla	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Boroondara	10	10 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Brimbank	11	1 two-councillor ward, 3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Buloke	7	1 three-councillor ward, 2 two-councillor wards	Manual PR	Postal
Campaspe	9	2 three-councillor wards, 3 single-councillor wards	Manual PR and Manual PD	Postal
Cardinia	7	2 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward, 1 three-councillor ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Casey	11	1 single-councillor ward, 5 two-councillor wards	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Central Goldfields	7	3 single-councillor wards, 1 four-councillor ward	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Colac Otway	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Corangamite	7	4 single-councillor wards, 1 three-councillor ward	Manual PR and Manual PD	Postal
Darebin	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
East Gippsland	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Frankston	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Gannawarra	7	2 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward, 1 three-councillor ward	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Glen Eira	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Glenelg	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Golden Plains	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Greater Bendigo	9	9 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Greater Dandenong	11	3 three-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward	Computer PR	Attendance
Greater Geelong	12	12 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Greater Shepparton	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Hepburn	7	2 two-councillor wards, 3 single-councillor wards	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Hindmarsh	6	3 two-councillor wards	Manual PR	Postal
Hobsons Bay	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Horsham	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Hume	9	3 two-councillor wards, 1 three councillor ward	Computer PR	Postal
Indigo	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Kingston	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Knox	9	9 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Latrobe	9	9 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Loddon	5	3 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Macedon Ranges	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal

Manningham	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Mansfield	5	3 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Maribyrnong	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Maroondah	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Melbourne	2 + 7	1 Lord Mayor, 1 Deputy Lord Mayor 1 seven-councillor – unsubdivided	Computer PD and Computer PR	Postal
Melton	7	1 three-councillor ward, 2 two-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Mildura	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Mitchell	9	3 three-councillor wards	Manual PR	Postal
Moira	9	Unsubdivided	Manual PR	Postal
Monash	11	1 two-councillor ward, 3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Moonee Valley	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Moorabool	7	3 single-councillor wards, 1 four-councillor ward	Computer PR and Manual PD	Postal
Moreland	11	1 three-councillor ward, 2 four-councillor wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Mornington Peninsula	11	11 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Mount Alexander	7	4 single-councillor wards, 1 three-councillor ward	Manual PD and Manual PR	Postal
Moynes	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Murrindindi	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Nillumbik	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Northern Grampians	7	2 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward, 1 three-councillor ward	Manual PR and Manual PD	Postal
Port Phillip	7	7 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Attendance
Pyrenees	5	5 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Queenscliffe	5	Unsubdivided	Manual PR	Postal
South Gippsland	9	3 three-councillor wards	Manual PR	Postal
Southern Grampians	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Stonnington	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Strathbogie	7	5 single-councillor wards, 1 two-councillor ward	Manual PD & Manual PR	Postal
Surf Coast	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Swan Hill	7	3 single-councillor wards, 1 four-councillor ward	Manual PR and Manual PD	Postal
Towong	5	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wangaratta	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Warrnambool	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wellington	9	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
West Wimmera	5	Unsubdivided	Manual PR	Postal
Whitehorse	10	5 two-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Whittlesea	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Wodonga	7	Unsubdivided	Computer PR	Postal
Wyndham	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Postal
Yarra	9	3 three-councillor wards	Computer PR	Attendance
Yarra Ranges	9	9 single-councillor wards	Manual PD	Postal
Yarriambiack	7	2 two-councillor wards, 1 three-councillor ward	Manual PR	Postal

PD = Preference distribution

PR = Proportional representation

Appendix 12: Dates of declarations of results

Council	Declared	Council	Declared	Council	Declared
Bass Coast Shire	29/11/08	Yarriambiack Shire	30/11/08	Towong Shire	1/12/08
Buloke Shire	29/11/08	Ballarat City	1/12/08	Wangaratta Rural City	1/12/08
Corangamite Shire	29/11/08	Bayside City	1/12/08	Warrnambool City	1/12/08
Gannawarra Shire	29/11/08	Borough of Queenscliffe	1/12/08	Whitehorse City	1/12/08
Hepburn Shire	29/11/08	Campaspe Shire	1/12/08	Whittlesea City	1/12/08
Hindmarsh Shire	29/11/08	Cardinia Shire	1/12/08	Wyndham City	1/12/08
Loddon Shire	29/11/08	Central Goldfields Shire	1/12/08	Melton Shire (Cambridge & Watts Wards)	1/12/08
Mansfield Shire	29/11/08	Colac Otway Shire	1/12/08	Macedon Ranges Shire (East & South Wards)	1/12/08
Mornington Peninsula Shire	29/11/08	Darebin City	1/12/08	Maribyrnong City (all wards except Saltwater Ward)	1/12/08
Murrindindi Shire	29/11/08	East Gippsland Shire	1/12/08	Port Phillip City (all wards except Carlisle Ward)	1/12/08
Strathbogie Shire	29/11/08	Frankston City	1/12/08	Banyule City	2/12/08
Ararat Rural City	30/11/08	Golden Plains Shire	1/12/08	Brimbank City	2/12/08
Baw Baw Shire	30/11/08	Greater Geelong City	1/12/08	Casey City	2/12/08
Benalla Rural City	30/11/08	Hobsons Bay City	1/12/08	Glen Eira City	2/12/08
Boroondara City	30/11/08	Hume City	1/12/08	Greater Dandenong City	2/12/08
Glenelg Shire	30/11/08	Indigo Shire	1/12/08	Maroondah City	2/12/08
Greater Bendigo City	30/11/08	Kingston City	1/12/08	Melbourne City	2/12/08
Horsham Rural City	30/11/08	Knox City	1/12/08	Moonee Valley City	2/12/08
Latrobe City	30/11/08	Manningham City	1/12/08	Moreland City	2/12/08
Moorabool Shire	30/11/08	Mildura Rural City	1/12/08	Yarra City	2/12/08
Nillumbik Shire	30/11/08	Mitchell Shire	1/12/08	Melton Shire (Coulburn Ward) (a)	2/12/08
Pyrenees Shire	30/11/08	Moira Shire	1/12/08	Maribyrnong City (Saltwater Ward) (a)	2/12/08
South Gippsland Shire	30/11/08	Monash City	1/12/08	Port Phillip City (Carlisle Ward) (a)	2/12/08
Surf Coast Shire	30/11/08	Mount Alexander Shire	1/12/08	Alpine Shire (a)	3/12/08
Swan Hill Rural City	30/11/08	Moyne Shire	1/12/08	Greater Shepparton City (a)	3/12/08
Wellington Shire	30/11/08	Northern Grampians Shire	1/12/08	Wodonga City (a)	3/12/08
West Wimmera Shire	30/11/08	Southern Grampians Shire	1/12/08	Macedon Ranges Shire (West Ward) (a)	3/12/08
Yarra Ranges Shire	30/11/08	Stonnington City	1/12/08		

(a) Recount conducted

(b) Check of informal votes carried out

Appendix 13: Election details

Victoria			Number of vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
All Councils (ex City of Melbourne leadership team)			629	1953	74.68	4.99	3,704,056	
All Councils (inc City of Melbourne leadership team)			631	1975	74.36	4.98	3,801,902	
Attendance			81	341	70.03	9.90	797,604	624
Postal (ex City of Melbourne leadership team)			548	1612	75.96	3.75	2,906,452	
Postal (inc City of Melbourne leadership team)			550	1634	75.51	3.77	3,004,299	
Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered	
Alpine Shire Council			7	15	78.47	4.67	11,224	
	unsubdivided	VONARX, Jan						
		ROPER, Peter W.						
		MAUTONE, Nino						
		PEARCE, Daryl						
		STEVEN, Mark						
		KEEBLE, Tony						
		CAIN, Narda						
Ararat Rural City Council			7	12	81.77	3.16	9,053	
	unsubdivided	ALLGOOD, Gwenda						
		McKENZIE, Colin						
		MARIAN, Andrea						
		CUNNINGHAM, John						
		WILSON, Ian						
		WOODS, Murray						
		MARSHALL, Anne						
Ballarat City Council			9	40	79.53	3.84	67,624	
	Central	VERLIN, Judy	3	16	77.02	4.68	22,073	
		HARRIS, Mark						
		FLETCHER, Craig						

Council		Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	North	PHILIPS, John	3	13	81.88	3.57	22,773	
		McINTOSH, Samantha						
		PERRY, Noel William						
	South	HUDSON, Des	3	11	79.62	3.33	22,778	
		TAYLOR, Ben						
		BROMFIELD, Cheryl						
Banyule City Council			7	42	75.11	6.93	91,904	98
	Bakewell	McKENNA, Peter		8	76.59	8.93	12,366	22
	Beale	PHILLIPS, Wayne		3	81.39	4.69	13,111	4
	Griffin	MULHOLLAND, Jenny		6	73.43	5.75	12,987	9
	Grimshaw	PAUL, Jess		9	74.83	7.91	13,258	21
	Hawdon	BRIFFA, Steven		9	79.82	8.34	13,554	21
	Ibbott	MELICAN, Tom		2	73.08	5.93	13,754	3
	Olympia	CARBINES, Anthony		5	66.52	7.11	12,874	18
Bass Coast Shire Council			7	17	76.12	2.13	16,613	
	Anderson	BARLOW, Gareth	1	1			0	
	Churchill	WRIGHT, Philip Christopher	1	1			0	
	Hovell	DUSCHER, John Robert	1	1			0	
	Leadbeater	DOWMAN, Veronica	1	8	76.73	2.87	5,264	
	McHaffie	DALY, Jane Dore	1	3	74.99	1.54	5,378	
	Thompson	PAUL, Peter James	1	1				
	Townsend	SMITH, Ross	1	2	76.59	1.99	5,971	
Baw Baw Shire Council			9	25	81.89	2.01	31,042	
	Drouin	TYSON, Adam	2	5	79.78	1.47	6,405	
		JONES, Tricia						
	Mount Worth	HARRINGTON, Bill	2	3	82.57	1.72	7,328	
		DURRANT, John R.						
	North	McGOWAN, Ruth	2	4	82.49	1.91	7,419	
		BALFOUR, David						
	Warragul	BLACKWOOD, Diane	3	13	82.30	2.64	9,890	
WOLFE, Tony								
		DURNIN, Pauline						
Bayside City Council				33	74.18	4.42	69,010	
	Central	LONG, James	3	13	73.58	5.45	28,447	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	FREDERICO, Felicity						
	SHAW, Louise						
Northern	HAYES, Clifford	2	10	72.46	3.77	20,464	
	DEL PORTO, Alex						
Southern	RUSSELL, Simon	2	10	76.77	3.66	20,099	
	NORRIS, Michael						
Benalla Rural City Council		7	14	81.79	2.92	11,265	
unsubdivided	HILL, Bill						
	CLARIDGE, Pat						
	FIRTH, Donald						
	DUNN, Peter						
	DAVIS, Peter						
	MARTIN, Suzy						
	ALEXANDER, Barbara						
Boroondara City Council		10	32	74.16	2.70	96,040	
Bellevue	MILES, Brad	1	7	78.45	3.44	11,754	
Cotham	BLOOM, David	1	4	76.97	2.86	12,102	
Gardiner	ROSS, Coral	1	2	71.91	3.18	11,754	
Glenferrie	MEGGS, Phil	1	1				
Junction	WEGMAN, Jack	1	3	68.77	2.34	12,323	
Lynden	KREUTZ, Heinz	1	2	75.15	2.30	12,069	
Maling	MENTING, Dick	1	1				
Maranoa	TRAGAS, Nicholas	1	3	78.35	2.36	11,760	
Solway	CHOW, Kevin	1	4	75.90	2.44	12,195	
Studley	HEALEY, Phillip Anthony	1	5	68.07	2.67	12,083	
Brimbank City Council		11	55	77.87	15.17	123,412	103
Grasslands	MARTIN, Marion Lynette	3	21	78.88	21.37	33,241	35
	KISELIS, Maria						
	ATANASOVSKI, Troy						
Harvester	SIU, Tran	3	8	72.67	9.84	32,000	15
	BROOKS, Geraldine						
	DAVID, Sam						
Horseshoe Bend	MILLER, Stuart	2	15	77.95	16.01	23,026	32
	SHAMON, Robert Christopher						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered	
	Taylor's	GIUDICE, Margaret	3	11	81.59	13.31	35,145	21
		BOZINOVSKI, Robert						
		SEITZ, Heidi						
Buloke Shire Council			7	9	84.92	0.77	4,422	
	Lower Avoca	McLEAN, Stuart John	2	3	83.55	0.96	1,878	
		POLLARD, David T.						
	Mallee	MATHER, Reid	2	2				
		WHITE, Ellen						
	Mount Jeffcott	FLETT, Harold H.	3	4	85.93	0.64	2,544	
		TELLEFSON, Leo						
		SHARP, Gail D.						
Campaspe Shire Council			9	16	81.06	1.89	24,758	
	Echuca	O'FARRELL, Judith	3	4	79.65	1.61	9,672	
		WILLIAMS, Peter Baker						
		SIMPSON, Kevin B.						
	Kyabram-Deakin	REPACHOLI, Neil John	3	6	81.89	1.53	8,840	
		HOWELL, Carol Anne						
		PANKHURST, Neil						
	Rochester	OLIVER, Frank	1	3	82.99	2.98	3,157	
	Waranga	RILEY, Marion Elizabeth	1	2	81.16	2.63	3,089	
	Western	TOLL, Gregory Lloyd	1	1			0	
Cardinia Shire Council			7	17	75.54	2.48	45,215	
	Bunyip	PEARSON, Bill	1	2	80.72	2.62	6,151	
	Central	OWEN, Brett	3	9	72.22	2.95	20,206	
		ROSS, Collin						
		BLENKHORN, George						
	Port	HALLIGAN, Stuart	1	3	79.85	1.36	6,060	
	Ranges	LEGGE, Graeme	2	3	76.26	2.26	12,798	
		CHATWIN, Ed						
Casey City Council			11	52	74.84	3.93	153,374	
	Balla Balla	ABLETT, Geoff	1	2	74.93	3.13	12,934	
	Edrington	MULINO, Daniel	2	7	76.01	3.28	27,871	
		CURTIS, Simon Elliott						
	Four Oaks	BALMES, Shar	2	10	77.18	4.18	27,261	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	BAXTER, Karen						
Mayfield	BRADFORD, Kevin	2	11	73.40	4.25	27,526	
	STAPLEDON, Amanda						
River Gum	KELEHER, Lynette	2	7	73.44	3.20	27,587	
	SMITH, Wayne						
Springfield	WREFORD, Lorraine	2	15	74.23	5.03	30,195	
	AZIZ, Sam						
Central Goldfields Shire Council		7	13	81.83	1.70	9,293	
Daisy Hill	MEDDOWS-TAYLOR, Chris	1	2	85.35	1.83	1,536	
Flynn	SMITH, D. John	1	2	77.89	1.25	1,642	
Maryborough	NIXON, Paula Jacqueline	4	8	82.00	1.78	6,115	
	LOVETT, Geoff						
	RINALDI, Barry						
	CONSTABLE, Annie						
Tullaroop	ROBERTSON, Ian	1	1			0	
Colac Otway Shire Council		7	21	83.01	6.10	19,225	
unsubdivided	CROOK, Brian Leslie Paul		21	83.01	6.10	19,225	
	HART, Stephen						
	HART, Stuart						
	SMITH, Chris						
	BUCHANAN, Frank						
	RUSSELL, Lyn						
	HIGGINS, Geoff						
Corangamite Shire Council		7	11	82.94	1.41	7,671	
Central	O'CONNOR, Chris John	3	6	83.32	1.22	5,694	
	GSTREIN, Ruth						
	ABSALOM, Michael						
Coastal	CUMMING, Steve	1	1			0	
North	SMITH, Geoff	1	1			0	
South-Central	WORLAND, Helen	1	2	81.84	1.98	1,977	
South-West	MAKIN, Matt	1	1				
Darebin City Council		9	48	72.76	6.18	98,694	
Cazaly	KATSIS, Nick	3	16	73.57	6.47	33,208	
	MORGAN, Ben						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	FONTANA, Vince						
La Trobe	GRECO, Gaetano	3	23	75.95	8.81	31,002	
	LAURENCE, Tim						
	CHIANG, Stanley						
Rucker	ASMAR, Diana	3	9	69.10	3.29	34,484	
	McCARTHY, Trent						
	TSITAS, Steven						
East Gippsland Shire Council		9	29	77.53	9.58	37,586	
unsubdivided	URIE, Mendy						
	ANDERSON, Trudy						
	ROWE, Jane						
	BUCKLEY, Ben						
	NEAL, Peter William						
	PELZ, Marianne						
	ELLIS, Dick						
	GAMBLE, Bill						
	FRESHWATER, Michael						
Frankston City Council		9	29	71.88	4.02	90,848	
East	ASKER, David	3	8	72.66	3.68	32,628	
	MAYER, Sandra						
	HAMPTON, Colin						
North-West	AITKEN, Glenn	3	11	69.54	4.60	30,194	
	BOLAM, Kris						
	HILL, Brad						
South-West	RICHARDS, Christine	3	10	73.51	3.81	28,026	
	WARDLE, Alistair						
	CUNIAL, Brian						
Gannawarra Shire Council		7	10	82.86	1.48	7,665	
Avoca	GANNON, Neil W.	1	2	82.92	2.54	1,329	
Murray	AERTSSEN, Oscar P.	1	1			0	
Patchell	den HOUTING, Keith	3	4	80.82	1.15	3,555	
	BASILE, Lui						
	FEHRING, Max						
Yarran	GOULDING, Neville	2	3	85.44	1.39	2,781	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	HALL, Glenn						
Glen Eira City Council		9	26	69.22	8.06	95,406	30
	Camden	3	7	66.73	7.19	30,141	8
	LIPSHUTZ, Michael						
	WHITESIDE, Helen						
	Rosstown	3	8	67.96	7.07	32,961	10
	TANG, Steven						
	PILLING, Neil						
	Tucker	3	11	72.83	9.76	32,304	12
	HYAMS, Jamie						
	MAGEE, Jim						
Glenelg Shire Council		7	17	78.83	5.22	16,504	
	unsubdivided						
	WHITE, Geoff						
	WILSON, Gilbert Desmond						
	HALLIDAY, Robert R.						
	NORTHCOTT, John						
	STEPHENS, Karen						
	SAUNDERS, Ken						
	CROSS, Bruce						
Golden Plains Shire Council		7	11	77.26	3.06	14,447	
	unsubdivided						
	McARTHUR, Bill						
	COTSELL, David						
	KNIGHT, Kevin						
	DUPE, Gerald						
	FRANTZ, Geraldine						
	BLAKE, Jenny						
	KIRBY, Helena Angela						
Greater Bendigo City Council		9	40	80.03	1.63	66,193	
	Eaglehawk	1	5	80.17	1.66	8,790	
	Eppalock	1	5	80.39	1.97	8,256	
	Epsom	1	6	81.82	1.51	8,418	
	Flora Hill	1	7	73.83	2.04	8,246	
	Golden Square	1	1			0	
	Kangaroo Flat	1	4	81.29	1.01	8,416	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	North West Plains	GIBBINS, Kevin	1	3	83.64	1.42	7,995
	Sandhurst	READE, James	1	5	74.18	2.21	7,614
	Strathfieldsaye	REYNARD, Keith	1	4	84.42	1.34	8,458
Greater Dandenong City Council			11	40	71.90	10.09	91,593
	Lightwood	CHEA, Youhorn	3	8	74.02	7.55	25,081
		TRUONG, Loi					
		HERRING, Yvonne					
	Paperbark	YESIL, Pinar	3	13	74.92	12.13	25,772
		BLADES, Roz					
		BROWN, Peter					
	Red Gum	MEMETI, Jim	3	10	63.15	10.25	22,664
		LONG, Angela					
		DONOVAN, Paul					
	Silverleaf	KELLY, John	2	9	75.64	10.47	18,076
		SAMPEY, Maria					
Greater Geelong City Council			11	43	75.91	2.35	107,826
	Austin	MITCHELL, John Charles	1	1			0
	Beangala	FARRELL, Jan	1	1			0
	Brownbill	ABLEY, Barbara	1	5	71.21	2.46	12,949
	Buckley	RICHARDS, Andy	1	7	76.78	2.93	13,715
	Cheetham	MACDONALD, Rod	1	1			0
	Corio	FISHER, Kylie	1	6	72.96	2.73	13,560
	Coryule	DOULL, John	1	3	75.25	1.96	13,077
	Cowie	SAUNDERSON, David	1	5	79.80	1.79	13,491
	Deakin	KATOS, Andrew	1	1			0
	Kardinia	HARWOOD, Bruce	1	5	76.21	2.08	14,016
	Kildare	KONTELJ, Stretch	1	3	77.33	2.03	12,375
	Windermere	GRANGER, Cameron	1	5	77.49	2.81	14,643
Greater Shepparton City Council			7	19	82.45	6.98	41,198
	unsubdivided	DOBSON, Geoffrey Dennis					
		RYAN, Kevin Gunna					
		HOULIHAN, Jenny					
		MUTO, Milvan					
		HAZELMAN, Chris					

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	POLAN, Michael						
	CRAWFORD, Cherie						
Hepburn Shire Council		7	14	78.49	1.33	9,959	
Birch	BARRELL, Jonathan Geoffrey	2	3	74.26	1.56	3,982	
	MAY, Rod						
Cameron	HAYES, Tim	1	3	80.27	1.20	1,967	
Coliban	KLEIN, Sebastian	1	1			0	
Creswick	BOOTH, Janine Mary	2	6	81.82	1.19	4,010	
	HENDERSON, Don						
Holcombe	McCLENAGHAN, Bill	1	1			0	
Hindmarsh Shire Council		6	7	84.98	1.86	1,711	
East	LOVETT, Wayne	2	2			0	
	UNGER, Clifford						
North	GAWITH, Michael	2	2			0	
	LOWE, Ronald Edwin						
West	GERSCH, Rob	2	3	84.98	1.86	1,711	
	COLBERT, David						
Hobsons Bay City Council		7	37	73.11	7.57	62,165	84
Altona Meadows	GRIGOROVITCH, Luba	1	3	79.21	5.56	8,601	8
Altona North	RAFFOUL, Michael	1	9	68.75	12.13	8,537	25
Altona	BRIFFA, Tony	1	4	72.10	5.37	9,421	10
Seabrook	HOGG, John	1	4	76.39	7.24	9,197	9
Spotswood	TEHAN, Bill	1	5	70.27	7.84	8,581	8
Williamstown North	HEMPHILL, Peter	1	7	72.40	9.19	8,984	16
Williamstown	ALTAIR, Angela	1	5	72.50	6.29	8,844	7
Horsham Rural City Council		7	13	84.94	3.47	14,978	
unsubdivided	BIRD, Gary James						
	GROSS, Bernard						
	RYAN, Michael						
	RADFORD, Mark A.						
	GRIMBLE, David						
	MULLER, Lindy						
	STEWART, Mandi						

Council		Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
Hume City Council			9	46	76.58	3.43	105,504	
	Airport	PORTER, Geoff	2	15	77.65	4.90	21,673	
		PATSIKATHEODOROU, Helen						
	Aitken	SPENCE, Ros	3	12	76.49	3.28	36,873	
		JESSOP, Drew						
		ATMACA, Adem						
	Jacksons Creek	OGILVIE, Jack	2	6	78.74	1.95	24,857	
		POTTER, Ann						
	Merri	YIGIT, Burhan	2	13	73.26	3.97	22,101	
		DOUGALL, Vic						
Indigo Shire Council			7	16	80.90	6.22	12,049	
	unsubdivided	GRAHAM, Peter						
		CROUCHER, Peter						
		MURDOCH, Barb						
		GAFFNEY, Bernard						
		GOLDSWORTHY, Larry						
		POCKLEY, Alison						
		ISSELL, Vic						
Kingston City Council			9	53	74.62	6.47	108,591	
	Central	BROWNLEES, Ron	3	21	73.55	7.21	36,425	
		WEST, Rosemary						
		DUNDAS, Lewis						
	North	STAIKOS, Steve	3	19	76.32	7.28	35,251	
		ATHANASOPOULOS, Arthur						
		PEULICH, Paul						
	South	BAUER, Donna Jane	3	13	74.06	4.96	36,915	
		RONKE, John Morgan						
		SHEWAN, Trevor						
Knox City Council			9	31	76.37	6.37	99,487	57
	Baird	COLE, Peter	1	3	70.32	5.24	12,096	5
	Chandler	MORTIMORE, John	1	2	74.21	6.28	11,628	7
	Collier	COSSARI, Joe	1	5	77.16	8.07	11,721	7
	Dinsdale	GILL, Adam	1	3	73.77	5.68	11,449	5
	Dobson	McMILLAN, Sue	1	4	76.26	8.18	12,768	7

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered	
	Friberg	WALTER, Andrew	1	6	79.51	7.31	12,945	15
	Scott	COOPER, David	1	4	76.01	5.72	13,103	6
	Taylor	PEARCE, Darren	1	3	82.46	4.64	13,777	5
	Tirhatuan	VAN de VREEDE, Mick	1	1			0	
Latrobe City Council			9	34	77.86	2.10	46,809	
	Burnet	O'CALLAGHAN, Kellie	1	4	80.73	2.03	6,093	
	Dunbar	FITZGERALD, Rohan	1	6	75.64	2.37	5,637	
	Farley	PRICE, Lisa	1	5	74.72	1.97	6,053	
	Firmin	WHITE, Darrell	1	1			0	
	Galbraith	KAM, Sandy	1	3	80.31	1.73	5,547	
	Gunyah	VERMEULEN, Ed	1	4	80.10	2.68	5,637	
	Merton	GIBSON, Sharon	1	5	78.77	1.68	6,063	
	Rintoull	MIDDLEMISS, Graeme	1	3	75.83	2.12	5,907	
	Tanjil	LOUGHEED, Bruce	1	3	76.87	2.28	5,872	
Loddon Shire Council			5	8	80.73	0.85	3,207	
	Boort	BEATTIE, Neil	1	1			0	
	Kooyoora	CURNOW, Geoff	2	5	80.73	0.85	3,207	
		BROWNBILL, Allen						
	Terrick	BROOKE, Christine	1	1			0	
	Wedderburn	HOLT, Gavan	1	1			0	
Macedon Ranges Shire Council			9	36	79.06	3.56	31,235	
	East	MORABITO, Joe	3	11	78.79	3.14	10,176	
		DONOVAN, Joan						
		McLAUGHLIN, Henry						
	South	LETCHFORD, John	3	14	78.38	3.93	10,394	
		GUTHRIE, Rob						
		RELPH, Helen Ann						
	West	JUKES, Roger	3	11	79.98	3.61	10,665	
		MANNING, Neil						
		BENSON, Henryka						
Manningham City Council			9	40	79.19	4.94	85,881	
	Heide	GOUGH, Geoff	3	10	79.61	3.49	29,136	
		LA VELLA, Grace						
		MAYNE, Stephen						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Koonung	PICK, Charles	3	18	79.12	6.69	28,403
		REID, Ivan					
		CHUAH, Fred					
	Mullum Mullum	DOWNIE, Meg	3	12	78.84	4.70	28,342
		ELLIS, David					
		MACMILLAN, Graeme					
Mansfield Shire Council			5	8	77.26	1.35	5,739
	Bonnie Doon	INGPEN, Tom	1	1		0	
	Jamieson	WHYTE, Jeff	1	2	72.45	1.87	2,069
	Mansfield	BELLE, Dean	2	4	79.97	1.09	3,670
		JEFFCOAT, Sandie					
	Tolmie	ATTFLEY, Margaret Colville	1	1		0	
Maribyrnong City Council			7	38	66.89	2.51	50,375
	Bluestone	CUMMING, Catherine	1	4	64.50	2.18	6,896
	Ironbark	CARTER, Sarah	1	4	69.65	1.87	6,906
	River	LYNCH, Dina	1	5	68.56	2.35	6,828
	Saltwater	CUMMING, John	1	11	61.95	4.37	7,906
	Sheoak	ZAKHAROV, Martin	1	6	69.11	1.99	7,909
	Stony Creek	SANLI, Sel	1	3	66.03	2.01	6,624
	Wattle	CLARKE, Michael	1	5	68.70	2.73	7,306
Maroondah City Council			9	36	75.87	4.71	78,139
	Arrabri	MACDONALD, Paul	3	11	75.74	4.62	26,531
		THOMAS, Natalie Jane					
		GURR, Peter					
	Mullum	MAKIN, Alex	3	11	75.71	4.25	26,134
		FRASER, Ann					
		LAMONT, Nora					
	Wyreena	WILLMOTT, Les	3	14	76.18	5.27	25,474
		MACDONALD, Michael					
		STEANE, Rob					
Melbourne City Council			7				
	Councillors	JETTER, Carl	7	32	62.26	2.64	97,846
		OKE, Cathy					
		LOUEY, Kevin					

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	CLARKE, Peter						
	ONG, Ken						
	SHANAHAN, Brian						
	KANIS, Jennifer						
	Leadership Team						
	(Lord Mayor)	2	22	62.14	4.67	97,846	
	(Deputy Lord Mayor)						
Melton Shire Council		7	34	72.57	5.17	63,369	
	Cambridge	2	7	71.72	2.66	17,638	
	MAJDLIK, Kathy						
	Coburn	3	22	72.25	8.23	28,605	
	TURNER, Bob						
	BORG, Broden						
	Watts	2	5	73.97	2.69	17,126	
	MAMMARELLA, Justin						
	CUGLIARI, Renata						
Mildura Rural City Council		9	17	80.79	5.00	36,906	
	unsubdivided						
	THORBURN, Max						
	ARNOLD, John						
	KNIGHT, Vernon Andrew						
	MILNE, Glenn						
	HILTON-WOOD, Fiona						
	CAVALLO, Nick						
	ECKEL, Mark						
	NICHOLS, Susan						
	HARRIS, Judi						
Mitchell Shire Council		9	24	77.48	2.53	24,229	
	Central	3	6	79.10	2.37	8,376	
	STEWART, Kelley						
	LEE, Ross						
	CALLAGHAN, Desmond Anthony						
	North	3	8	74.52	2.00	8,257	
	MELBOURNE, Bill						
	PARKER, Robert						
	COPPEL, Graeme						
	South	3	10	78.91	3.24	7,596	
	MULRONEY, Kevin						
	MARSTAELLER, Sue						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	TOBIAS, Trevor						
Moira Shire Council		9	13	79.73	4.11	22,477	
unsubdivided	Mc KENZIE, David		13				
	KEENAN, Brian						
	COX, Edward J.						
	JONES, Garry						
	MONK, Alex						
	McCURDY, Tim						
	McCALLUM, Jessie						
	HEATHER, Judy						
	ROBINSON, Peter						
Monash City Council		11	43	78.84	3.70	119,575	
Glen Waverley	LAKE, Geoff	2	7	81.53	2.33	20,921	
	MALE, Greg						
Mount Waverley	BANERJI, Joy	3	12	79.04	4.08	34,788	
	MORRISSEY, Tom						
	LO, Jieh-Yung						
Mulgrave	KLISARIS, Paul	3	11	80.50	3.45	30,586	
	BAINES, Charlotte						
	DRIEBERG, Micaela						
Oakleigh	DIMOPOULOS, Stephen	3	13	75.41	4.47	33,280	
	PERRI, Stefanie						
	McGILL, Denise						
Moonee Valley City Council		9	19	73.62	2.95	81,330	
Central	GIULIANO, Paul	3	8	74.52	3.17	28,776	
	CHANTRY, Jan						
	SHARPE, Narelle						
South	CUSACK, Jim	3	5	68.72	2.88	27,092	
	ISER, Rose						
	RANKIN, James						
West	SIPEK, John	3	6	77.81	2.78	25,462	
	CORNISH, Shirley						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	KENOS, Ange						
Moorabool Shire Council		7	11	76.52	2.86	15,138	
Bungal	FLACK, Philip Edward	1	3	75.98	3.28	3,089	
East Moorabool	HENDRY, Russell	4	6	76.66	2.75	12,049	
	TUDBALL, Michael G.						
	COMRIE, Allan						
	GRIFFIN, Pat						
West Moorabool	SULLIVAN, Tom	1	1			0	
Woodlands	TOOHEY, Pat	1	1			0	
Moreland City Council		11	50	68.41	15.34	105,116	70
North-East	ARCHER, Toby	4	20	71.04	17.44	36,205	30
	TETI, Michael						
	KARIOFYLLIDIS, Stella						
	HELOU, Anthony						
North-West	MATTHEWS-WARD, Kathleen	4	18	71.95	15.92	37,470	26
	KAVANAGH, John						
	YILDIZ, Oscar						
	ERDOGAN, Enver						
South	CONNELLAN, Josephine	3	12	61.16	11.73	31,441	14
	TAPINOS, Lambros						
	PRYOR, Alice						
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council			28	74.18	2.63	63,558	
Balcombe	SHAW, Anne Lesley	1	1			0	
Cerberus	SMITH, Reade	1	5	72.26	2.88	12,558	
Kangerong	PITTOCK, Graham	1	3	71.66	1.78	12,836	
Mornington	COLOMB, Bev	1	4	73.86	1.63	13,494	
Mount Eliza	EUSTACE, Leigh	1	8	77.62	3.19	13,046	
Nepean	RODGERS, Tim	1	1			0	
Red Hill	MARTIN, Frank	1	1			0	
Rosebud	GIBB, David	1	1			0	
Rye	GOODREM, Bill	1	1			0	
Truemans	BEVERIDGE, Susan	1	1			0	
Watson	BOWDEN, Lynn	1	2	75.53	3.78	11,624	
Mount Alexander Shire Council		7	22	80.36	1.95	14,917	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Calder	ACKLOM, Peter Brook	1	5	80.83	1.84	2,014
	Castlemaine	SCHIER, Philip	3	9	81.31	1.69	6,639
		TAYLOR, Robin					
		CROSS, Tracey					
	Coliban	HENDERSON, Christine	1	2	77.15	2.76	2,066
	Loddon	REDDEN, Michael George	1	3	80.97	2.20	2,134
	Tarrengower	CROPLEY, Janet	1	3	79.46	1.89	2,064
Moyne Shire Council			7	16	82.62	4.41	13,486
	unsubdivided	DOUKAS, Jim					
		PARKER, Jill					
		PURCELL, James					
		GALE, Ken					
		HARRIS, Bernie					
		RYAN, Colin					
		ROLLINSON, Geoff					
Murrindindi Shire Council				13	78.53	2.49	8,075
	Cathedral	BELLINGHAM, Kevin L.	1	3	79.61	1.88	2,001
	Cheviot	ABBOTT SMITH, Sally	1	1			0
	Eildon	HEALY, Chris	1	1			0
	King Parrot	GUNTER, Lyn	1	1			0
	Kinglake	BEALES, Peter	1	3	75.25	2.74	2,089
	Koriella	WALSH, John	1	2	78.99	3.17	1,875
	Red Gate	FLOWERS, Robert	1	2	80.33	2.24	2,110
Nillumbik Shire Council			7	57	80.88	2.48	45,374
	Blue Lake	CLARKSON, Belinda	1	10	81.58	2.38	6,595
	Bunjil	BROCK, Lewis	1	8	80.70	1.85	6,352
	Edendale	YOUNG, Michael	1	3	80.65	2.25	6,724
	Ellis	BENDTSEN, Bo	1	9	79.83	2.74	5,950
	Sugarloaf	KING, Ken	1	6	78.86	2.04	6,889
	Swipers Gully	CHAPPLE, Chris	1	12	81.56	3.40	6,485
	Wingrove	COLEMAN, Helen	1	9	83.04	2.72	6,379
Northern Grampians Shire Council			7	7	0.00	0.00	0
	Central	ERWIN, Kevin	1	1			0

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Kara Kara	HEWITT, Raymond George	2	2		0	
		PATTON, Dorothy M.				0	
	South West	CLEMENTSON, Ross	1	1		0	
	Stawell	COOPER, Andrea	3	3		0	
		MARROW, Barry John				0	
		RICE, Terrence Wayne				0	
Port Phillip City Council			7	38	51.29	6.63	64,944
	Albert Park	KLEPNER, Judith	1	1		0	
	Carlisle	POWNING, Rachel	1	8	49.92	9.39	12,288
	Catani	THOMANN, Serge	1	5	46.69	3.57	10,726
	Emerald Hill	O'CONNOR, Frank	1	5	52.75	6.76	9,869
	Junction	MIDDLETON, John	1	8	43.60	8.11	10,471
	Point Ormond	TOUZEAU, Jane	1	4	54.13	5.08	11,780
	Sandridge	BOLITHO, Janet	1	7	61.36	6.76	9,810
Pyrenees Shire Council			5	8	80.21	2.00	4,124
	Avoca	QUINN, John	1	2	84.29	1.87	1,394
	Beaufort	O'CONNOR, Michael	1	1		0	
	Goldsmith	No nominations	1	0			
	Mitchell	CLARK, David	1	2	80.72	2.58	1,297
	Warrenmang	VANCE, Robert James	1	3	75.79	1.57	1,433
Queenscliffe Borough Council			5	9	78.12	1.34	4,196
	unsubdivided	DAVIES, Lloyd		9			
		MERRIMAN, Bob					
		MITCHELL, David					
		BURGESS, John					
		BUTLER, Hélène					
South Gippsland Shire Council			9	16	79.70	1.88	27,052
	Coastal-Promontory	KENNEDY, Kieran	3	4	75.70	2.06	8,925
		DAVIES, Mohya					
		HARDING, Jeanette					
	Strzelecki	RAABE, Warren	3	7	80.94	2.10	9,005
		NEWTON, Bob					
		DEANE, Jennie					

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Tarwin Valley	LEWIS, David	3	5	82.38	1.52	9,122
		JACKSON, Mimmie					
		FAWCETT, James D.					
Southern Grampians Shire Council		7	12	85.68	2.85	13,329	
	unsubdivided	RENTSCH, Marcus					
		PENNY, Bob					
		ROBERTSON, Don					
		COLLITON, Bruach Fenton					
		CALVANO, Albert					
		RAINSFORD, Katrina					
		BATTISTA, Paul					
Stonnington City Council		9	36	65.10	5.05	76,004	
	East	HINDLE, Judy	3	12	72.46	4.78	26,024
		HANNAN, Greg					
		O'SHEA, Anne					
	North	NICHOLLS, Angus	3	13	61.11	5.79	25,598
		ATHANASOPOULOS, Tas					
		CHANDLER, John					
	South	SEHR, Melina	3	11	61.42	4.61	24,382
		ULLIN, Claude					
		SMITH, Tim					
Strathbogie Shire Council		7	15	82.66	1.53	7,572	
	Goulburn Weir	WOODHOUSE, Peter	1	2	77.75	1.89	1,290
	Honeysuckle Creek	MYERS, Howard G.	1	3	84.47	1.70	1,185
	Hughes Creek	STEERS, Robin Norman	1	1			0
	Lake Nagambie	SWAN, Debra	1	2	79.68	1.57	1,358
	Mount Wombat	MURRAY, Neil	1	2	82.51	1.83	1,321
	Seven Creeks	FURLANETTO, Colleen	2	5	86.15	1.10	2,418
		WILLIAMS, G. Mick					
Surf Coast Shire Council		9	15	74.54	4.76	27,389	
	unsubdivided	WEBSTER, Dean					
		COKER, Libby					
		MEARS, Libby					
		McKITERICK, Brian					

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	SCHROETER, Lindsay A.						
	NORTHEAST, Simon						
	HODGE, Rose						
	TUTT, Jim						
	REMENYI, Joe						
Swan Hill Rural City Council		7	14	79.22	2.45	12,418	
Central	CRUICKSHANK, Greg	4	9	81.19	2.29	8,241	
	CROFT, Bill						
	JENNINGS, Yvonne						
	QUAYLE, David						
Lakes	McPHEE, Les	1	1			0	
Murray-Mallee	NORTON, Gary W.	1	2	79.47	2.82	2,099	
Robinvale	KATIS, John Nicholas	1	2	71.13	2.77	2,078	
Towong Shire Council		5	15	81.63	4.23	5,416	
unsubdivided	FRASER, Mary						
	WORTMANN, David J.						
	JOYCE, Peter Anthony						
	GADD, Debi						
	COYSH, Phillip						
Wangaratta Rural City Council		7	13	81.32	3.82	20,979	
unsubdivided	McINERNEY, Lisa						
	PAINO, Roberto						
	PARISOTTO, Rozi						
	O'NEILL, Lauren						
	GRIFFITHS, Anthony David						
	WEBB, Ronald William						
	McPHIE, Doug						
Warrnambool City Council		7	18	82.60	5.48	23,931	
unsubdivided	ASKEW, Rob						
	HULIN, Peter J.						
	LOWE, Jennifer						
	NEOH, Michael						
	ERMACORA, Jacinta						
	HARRIS, John						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	FAWCETT, Andrew Stuart						
Wellington Shire Council		9	12	70.74	3.79	41,779	
	unsubdivided						
	HOLE, Malcolm Gerard						
	McCUBBIN, Darren						
	ROSSETTI, Scott						
	O'BRIEN, Leo Patrick						
	AMOS, Jeff						
	COOK, Gregg						
	CLEARY, Peter						
	HILDEBRANT, Jane						
	RIPPER, Beth						
West Wimmera Shire Council		5	11	80.23	2.15	4,052	
	unsubdivided						
	WAIT, Warren						
	MEYER, Bruce H.						
	HAWKINS, Ron						
	RAYNER, Darren Edward						
	van BREUGEL, Eveline						
Whitehorse City Council		10	33	77.43	3.05	111,639	
	Central						
	MUNROE, Andrew	2	8	78.51	3.59	22,062	
	PEMBERTON, Bill						
	Elgar						
	CHONG, Robert	2	6	75.38	2.73	22,821	
	HARRIS, Helen R.						
	Morack						
	LANE, Mark	2	6	80.51	2.93	22,098	
	CARR, Raylene						
	Riversdale						
	ELLIS, Sharon	2	7	75.05	3.10	21,574	
	KOUTRAS, John						
	Springfield						
	DAW, Philip	2	6	77.72	2.93	23,084	
	STENNETT, Ben						
Whittlesea City Council		9	32	79.46	3.51	96,638	
	East						
	LALIOS, Mary	3	14	80.94	4.37	31,361	
	KELLY, Norm						
	ALESSI, Sam						
	North						
	GRIFFIN, Rex	3	8	78.11	2.57	31,513	
	FRY, John						

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	McLEOD, Pam						
West	PAVLIDIS, Kris	3	10	79.34	3.55	33,764	
	MERLINO, Frank						
	KOZMEVSKI, Stevan						
Wodonga City Council		7	20	76.68	7.37	25,331	
unsubdivided	MAHOOD, Lisa						
	WANGMAN, Rodney						
	SPEEDIE, Anna						
	BYATT, Mark						
	FERGUSON, Chris						
	COLLINS, Angela Cyrilla						
	FOULSTON, Edward						
Wyndham City Council		9	22	73.89	2.91	86,495	
Chaffey	BOURKE, Shane	3	8	74.62	3.18	31,258	
	ROSE, Mark						
	BRITTAN, Marie						
Iramoo	MANSON, Cynthia	3	6	75.38	2.61	27,103	
	MARCUS, Heather						
	MENEGAZZO, John						
Truganina	McALINEY, Kim	3	8	71.66	2.89	28,134	
	FAIRCLOUGH, Bob						
	GOODFELLOW, Glenn						
Yarra City Council		9	22	54.88	6.94	63,577	54
Langridge	JOLLY, Stephen	3	7	56.47	6.35	20,359	26
	STONE, Amanda						
	BARBOUR, Geoff						
Melba	FUNDER, Josh	3	9	54.29	8.2	23,212	17
	CLARKE, Alison						
	SMEDLEY, Dale						
Nicholls	GAYLARD, Sam	3	6	53.95	6.11	20,006	10
	GARRETT, Jane						
	FRISTACKY, Jackie M.						
Yarra Ranges Shire Council		9	41	77.46	2.78	94,394	
Billanook	HEENAN, Tim	1	9	80.52	3.20	12,033	

Council	Elected	Vacancies	Number of candidates	% Voter Turnout	% Informality rate	Number of electors	How-to-vote cards registered
	Chandler	WARREN, Graham	1	2	77.61	2.84	10,871
	Chirnside	HIGGINS, Richard	1	5	82.97	2.37	11,914
	Lyster	DUNN, Samantha	1	5	74.19	3.14	11,163
	Melba	AVERY, Terry	1	4	79.26	2.10	12,868
	O'Shannassy	TEMPLER, Chris	1	5	72.49	2.37	12,200
	Ryrie	McRAE, Jeanette	1	6	76.83	4.25	12,035
	Streeton	CLIFF, Noel	1	4	75.43	2.04	11,310
	Walling	COX, Len	1	1			0
Yarriambiack Shire Council			7	12	82.33	0.92	6,467
	Dunmunkle	KINGSTON, Ray	2	4	83.70	0.73	1,951
		KEMFERT, John					
	Hopetoun	McLEAN, Andrew	2	3	78.68	1.03	1,721
		BALLENTINE, Helen Anne					
	Warracknabeal	LOVEL, Geoffrey William	3	5	83.61	0.98	2,795
		ZANKER, Kylie Louise					
		WISE, Jean					

Appendix 14: Snapshot of results 2004, 2005 and 2008 elections

2008	Number of		Number of candidates	Average # /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections			2004	Number of		% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections		change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
	vacancies	wards					#	Votes	vacancies		candidates	Votes			Votes			
All Councils (ex City of Melb leadership team)	629	275	1,953	8.53	74.68	4.99	3,704,057	138,015	2,766,310		633	2,047	73.89	4.60	3,568,633	2,636,760	0.80	0.38
All Councils (inc City of Melb leadership team)	631	275	1,975	8.55	74.36	4.98	3,801,903	140,856	2,827,113		635	2,089	73.59	4.68	3,644,497	2,682,101	0.77	0.30

Attendance	81	47	341	37.89	70.03	9.90	797,604	55,280	558,557		79	328	67.59	9.84	730,728	493,890	2.44	0.05
Postal (ex City of Melb leadership team)	548	228	1,612	7.33	75.96	3.75	2,906,453	82,735	2,207,753		554	1,719	75.51	3.50	2,837,905	2,142,870	0.45	0.25
Postal (inc City of Melb leadership team)	550	228	1,634	7.36	75.51	3.77	3,004,299	85,576	2,268,556		556	1,761	75.10	3.61	2,913,769	2,188,211	0.41	0.16

Year	Melbourne City Council	Number of		Number of candidates	average # /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections			Year	Number of		% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections		change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
	leadership team	vacancies	wards					#	Votes	vacancies		candidates	Votes			Votes	Votes		
2008	leadership team	2	0	22	22.00	62.14	4.67	97,846	2,841	60,803	2004	2	42	65.10	8.20	75864	45341	-2.96	-3.53
2008	councillors	7	0	32	32.00	62.26	2.64	97,846	1,608	60,923	2004	7	65	65.51	4.23	75864	49699	-3.25	-1.59

Year	Attendance Metropolitan	Number of		Number of candidates	average # /election	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections			Year	Number of		% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections		change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes
	City Council	vacancies	wards					#	Votes	vacancies		candidates	Votes			Votes	Votes		
2008	Banyule City Council	7	7	42	6.00	75.11	6.93	91,904	4,786	69,033	2005	7	39	72.74	6.84	90,223	65,632	2.37	0.09
2008	Brimbank City Council	11	4	55	13.75	77.87	15.17	123,412	14,582	96,095	2005	11	50	79.96	16.17	116,393	93,066	-2.09	-1.00
2008	Glen Eira City Council*	9	3	26	8.67	69.22	8.06	95,406	5,325	66,039	2005*	9	61	70.83	8.97	95,178	67,414	-1.61	-0.91
2008	Greater Dandenong City Council	11	4	40	10.00	71.90	10.09	91,593	6,643	65,859	2005	11	47	70.39	7.83	73,393	51,664	1.51	2.26
2008	Hobsons Bay City Council*	7	7	37	5.29	73.11	7.57	62,165	3,439	45,447	2005*	7	31	75.43	2.16	63,408	47,828	-2.32	5.41
2008	Knox City Council	9	9	31	3.44	76.37	6.37	99,487	4,843	75,974	2005	9	44	76.26	6.83	107,541	82,010	0.11	-0.46
2008	Moreland City Council	11	3	50	16.67	68.41	15.34	105,116	11,032	71,910	2004	11	30	64.04	13.90	106,270	68,058	4.37	1.44
2008	Port Phillip City Council	7	7	38	5.43	51.29	6.63	64,944	2,208	33,309	2004	7	23	45.35	5.39	68,285	30,964	5.94	1.24
2008	Yarra City Council	9	3	22	7.33	54.88	6.94	63,577	2,422	34,891	2004	9	27	52.59	7.94	61,407	32,292	2.29	-1.00

Year	Postal Metropolitan	Number of		Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections			Year	Number of		% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections		change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes	
	City Council	vacancies	wards				#	Votes	vacancies		candidates	Votes			Votes	Votes			
2008	Bayside City Council	7	3	33	11.00	74.18	4.42	69,010	2,264	51,191	2005	9	35	74.53	2.56	52,089	38,824	-0.35	1.86
2008	Boroondara City Council	10	10	32	3.20	74.16	2.70	96,040	1,922	71,228	2004	10	45	73.71	2.82	110,711	81,600	0.45	-0.12
2008	Casey City Council	11	6	52	8.67	74.84	3.93	153,374	4,513	114,792	2005	11	44	74.32	3.65	137,859	102,460	0.52	0.28
2008	Darebin City Council	9	3	48	16.00	72.76	6.18	98,694	4,438	71,805	2004	9	70	73.03	3.41	99,170	72,425	-0.27	2.77
2008	Frankston City Council	9	3	29	9.67	71.88	4.02	90,848	2,624	65,305	2005	9	31	70.65	4.84	85,816	60,627	1.23	-0.82
2008	Hume City Council	9	4	46	11.50	76.58	3.43	105,504	2,774	80,795	2004	9	40	74.81	3.79	99,119	74,152	1.77	-0.36
2008	Kingston City Council	9	3	53	17.67	74.62	6.47	108,591	5,245	81,031	2005	7	50	74.32	3.28	105,498	78,406	0.30	3.19
2008	Manningham City Council	9	3	40	13.33	79.19	4.94	85,881	3,362	68,013	2005	8	24	78.49	3.11	85,549	67,148	0.70	1.83
2008	Maribyrnong City Council*	7	7	38	5.43	66.89	2.51	50,375	845	33,696	2005*	7	40	65.84	8.01	48,420	31,881	1.05	-5.50
2008	Maroondah City Council	9	3	36	12.00	75.87	4.71	78,139	2,791	59,285	2005	7	31	75.33	3.12	65,359	49,232	0.54	1.59
2008	Monash City Council	11	4	43	10.75	78.84	3.70	119,575	3,492	94,271	2005	11	45	77.92	4.42	119,466	93,093	0.92	-0.72
2008	Moonee Valley City Council*	9	3	19	6.33	73.62	2.95	81,330	1,766	59,874	2005*	7	28	65.18	8.30	58,796	38,323	8.44	-5.35
2008	Nillumbik Shire Council	7	7	57	8.14	80.88	2.48	45,374	910	36,698	2004	9	114	81.43	3.59	44,291	36,064	-0.55	-1.11
2008	Stonnington City Council	9	3	36	12.00	65.10	5.05	76,004	2,498	49,475	2004	9	31	65.31	4.77	77,467	50,594	-0.21	0.28
2008	Whitehorse City Council	10	5	33	6.60	77.43	3.05	111,639	2,639	86,445	2005	10	42	76.09	3.36	111,722	85,005	1.34	-0.31
2008	Whittlesea City Council	9	3	32	10.67	79.46	3.51	96,638	2,694	76,789	2005	9	22	78.63	2.99	88,266	69,405	0.83	0.52
2008	Wyndham City Council	9	3	22	7.33	73.89	2.91	86,495	1,857	63,915	2005	9	24	72.93	3.48	75,362	54,964	0.96	-0.57

*= Election method changed from previous

**= In Goldsmith Ward, no nominations were received, so there was no election for Goldsmith Ward. There will be a by-election to fill the vacancy in March 2009. ☐

N/A = Uncontested election

For reporting consistency purposes, figures for voter turnout include all ballot papers admitted to the count, and do not include envelopes rejected without being opened. Accordingly, they do not reflect total participation.

Postal Regional and Outer Metropolitan	Number		Number of candidates	% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections			Year	Number		% voter turnout	% informal votes	Voters in contested elections		change in % voter turnout	change in % informal votes	
	of vacancies	Number of wards				# Votes	of candidates	of candidates		of candidates	of candidates			of candidates	of candidates			
2008 Alpine Shire Council	7	0	15	15.00	78.47	4.67	11,224	411	8,808	2005	7	14	76.33	4.27	11,409	8,708	2.14	0.40
2008 Ararat Rural City Council	7	0	12	12.00	81.77	3.16	9,053	234	7,403	2004	7	10	82.86	2.80	9,111	7,549	-1.09	0.36
2008 Ballarat City Council	9	3	40	13.33	79.53	3.84	67,624	2,065	53,783	2004	9	36	78.35	1.87	68,599	53,744	1.18	1.97
2008 Bass Coast Shire Council	7	7	17	2.43	76.12	2.13	16,613	269	12,645	2005	7	29	73.46	2.45	37,181	27,312	2.66	-0.32
2008 Baw Baw Shire Council	9	4	25	6.25	81.89	2.01	31,042	511	25,420	2005	9	21	79.45	2.43	20,013	15,900	2.44	-0.42
2008 Benalla Rural City Council	7	0	14	14.00	81.79	2.92	11,265	269	9,214	2005	7	15	81.13	2.24	6,221	5,047	0.66	0.68
2008 Borough of Queenscliffe	5	0	9	9.00	78.12	1.34	4,196	44	3,278	2004	7	7	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
2008 Buloke Shire Council	7	3	9	3.00	84.92	0.77	4,422	29	3,755	2005	9	13	82.53	0.87	6,395	5,278	2.39	-0.10
2008 Campaspe Shire Council	9	5	16	3.20	81.06	1.89	24,758	379	20,070	2005	7	15	80.73	2.23	23,998	19,374	0.33	-0.34
2008 Cardinia Shire Council	7	4	17	4.25	75.54	2.48	45,215	848	34,156	2005	7	23	75.06	2.83	39,538	29,676	0.48	-0.35
2008 Central Goldfields Shire Council	7	4	13	3.25	81.83	1.70	9,293	129	7,604	2005	7	8	79.28	3.27	1,583	1,255	2.55	-1.57
2008 Colac Otway Shire Council	7	0	21	21.00	83.01	6.10	19,225	974	15,958	2004	7	13	81.40	1.26	20,024	16,300	1.61	4.84
2008 Corangamite Shire Council	7	5	11	2.20	82.94	1.41	7,671	90	6,362	2004	7	11	79.64	1.61	4,140	3,297	3.30	-0.20
2008 East Gippsland Shire Council	9	0	29	29.00	77.53	9.58	37,586	2,791	29,139	2005	8	18	78.56	3.34	36,788	28,902	-1.03	6.24
2008 Gannawarra Shire Council	7	4	10	2.50	82.86	1.48	7,665	94	6,351	2005	7	8	79.50	1.93	1,239	985	3.36	-0.45
2008 Glenelg Shire Council	7	0	17	17.00	78.83	5.22	16,504	679	13,010	2005	9	16	77.05	2.17	10,124	7,801	1.78	3.05
2008 Golden Plains Shire Council	7	0	11	11.00	77.26	3.06	14,448	342	11,162	2004	9	12	78.41	2.20	4,645	3,642	-1.15	0.86
2008 Greater Bendigo City Council	9	9	40	4.44	80.03	1.63	66,193	861	52,976	2004	9	25	77.90	1.74	42,574	33,167	2.13	-0.11
2008 Greater Geelong City Council	12	12	43	3.58	75.91	2.35	107,826	1,927	81,849	2004	12	72	79.34	2.65	160,844	127,613	-3.43	-0.30
2008 Greater Shepparton City Council	7	0	19	19.00	82.45	6.98	41,198	2,372	33,967	2004	7	18	83.43	6.43	40,271	33,599	-0.98	0.55
2008 Hepburn Shire Council	7	5	14	2.80	78.49	1.33	9,959	104	7,817	2005	5	19	76.20	1.99	13,759	10,485	2.29	-0.66
2008 Hindmarsh Shire Council	6	3	7	2.33	84.98	1.86	1,711	27	1,454	2005	6	10	84.80	0.84	5,197	4,407	0.18	1.02
2008 Horsham Rural City Council	7	0	13	13.00	84.94	3.47	14,978	442	12,722	2005	7	9	83.18	2.69	14,594	12,139	1.76	0.78
2008 Indigo Shire Council	7	0	16	16.00	80.90	6.22	12,049	606	9,748	2005	7	7	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
2008 Latrobe City Council	9	9	34	3.78	77.86	2.10	46,809	766	36,445	2005	9	18	77.17	3.23	28,325	21,859	0.69	-1.13
2008 Loddon Shire Council	5	4	8	2.00	80.73	0.85	3,207	22	2,589	2005	5	7	77.59	1.56	4,882	3,788	3.14	-0.71
2008 Macedon Ranges Shire Council	9	3	36	12.00	79.06	3.56	31,235	880	24,695	2005	9	23	76.79	3.31	29,954	23,003	2.27	0.25
2008 Mansfield Shire Council	5	4	8	2.00	77.26	1.35	5,739	60	4,434	2005	5	13	78.51	2.14	9,328	7,323	-1.25	-0.79
2008 Melton Shire Council	7	3	34	11.33	72.57	5.17	63,369	2,378	45,986	2004	7	58	71.18	3.61	49,586	35,296	1.39	1.56
2008 Mildura Rural City Council	9	0	17	17.00	80.79	5.00	36,906	1,491	29,817	2004	9	15	79.39	4.59	35,579	28,246	1.40	0.41
2008 Mitchell Shire Council	9	3	24	8.00	77.48	2.53	24,229	474	18,772	2005	9	17	75.88	2.41	23,037	17,481	1.60	0.12
2008 Moira Shire Council	9	0	13	13.00	79.73	4.11	22,477	736	17,920	2005	9	16	81.08	1.71	21,901	17,758	-1.35	2.40
2008 Moorabool Shire Council	7	4	11	2.75	76.52	2.86	15,138	331	11,584	2004	7	15	79.06	3.66	11,142	8,809	-2.54	-0.80
2008 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	11	11	28	2.55	74.18	2.63	63,558	1,242	47,145	2005	11	32	70.95	2.62	122,246	86,733	3.23	0.01
2008 Mount Alexander Shire Council	7	5	22	4.40	80.36	1.95	14,917	234	11,988	2005	7	28	81.18	3.01	14,798	12,013	-0.82	-1.06
2008 Moyne Shire Council	7	0	16	16.00	82.62	4.41	13,486	491	11,142	2004	10	14	84.21	1.09	7,944	6,690	-1.59	3.32
2008 Murrindindi Shire Council	7	7	13	1.86	78.53	2.49	8,075	158	6,341	2005	6	10	75.66	3.11	9,220	6,976	2.87	-0.62
2008 Northern Grampians Shire Council	7	4	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	2005	9	14	78.63	2.88	7,161	5,631	NA	NA
2008 Pyrenees Shire Council**	5	5	8	1.60	80.21	2.00	4,124	66	3,308	2004	5	12	80.30	1.71	7,117	5,715	-0.09	0.29
2008 South Gippsland Shire Council	9	3	16	5.33	79.70	1.88	27,052	406	21,560	2005	9	19	79.09	2.26	26,171	20,699	0.61	-0.38
2008 Southern Grampians Shire Council	7	0	12	12.00	85.68	2.85	13,329	325	11,420	2004	7	14	87.34	3.92	13,076	11,421	-1.66	-1.07
2008 Strathbogie Shire Council	7	6	15	2.50	82.66	1.53	7,572	96	6,259	2005	7	10	84.73	1.84	4,872	4,128	-2.07	-0.31
2008 Surf Coast Shire Council	9	0	15	15.00	74.54	4.76	27,389	971	20,415	2004	9	20	74.03	6.19	24,737	18,312	0.51	-1.43
2008 Swan Hill Rural City Council	7	4	14	3.50	79.22	2.45	12,418	241	9,837	2005	7	12	78.94	1.80	8,641	6,821	0.28	0.65
2008 Towong Shire Council	5	0	15	15.00	81.63	4.23	5,416	187	4,421	2005	5	8	81.31	1.88	5,435	4,419	0.32	2.35
2008 Wangaratta Rural City Council	7	0	13	13.00	81.32	3.82	20,979	652	17,061	2005	7	17	82.62	5.56	20,496	16,933	-1.30	-1.74
2008 Warrnambool City Council	7	0	18	18.00	82.60	5.48	23,931	1,084	19,767	2004	7	13	83.29	4.43	22,155	18,452	-0.69	1.05
2008 Wellington Shire Council	9	0	12	12.00	70.74	3.79	41,779	1,120	29,553	2005	9	14	69.92	4.69	41,386	28,937	0.82	-0.90
2008 West Wimmera Shire Council	5	0	11	11.00	80.23	2.15	4,052	70	3,251	2005	5	5	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
2008 Wodonga City Council	7	0	20	20.00	76.68	7.37	25,331	1,431	19,424	2005	7	15	79.46	5.48	24,477	19,449	-2.78	1.89
2008 Yarra Ranges Shire Council	9	9	41	4.56	77.46	2.78	94,394	2,035	73,113	2005	9	37	75.29	3.31	90,950	68,474	2.17	-0.53
2008 Yarriambiack Shire Council	7	3	12	4.00	82.33	0.92	6,467	49	5,324	2005	7	9	83.71	1.64	2,848	2,384	-1.38	-0.72

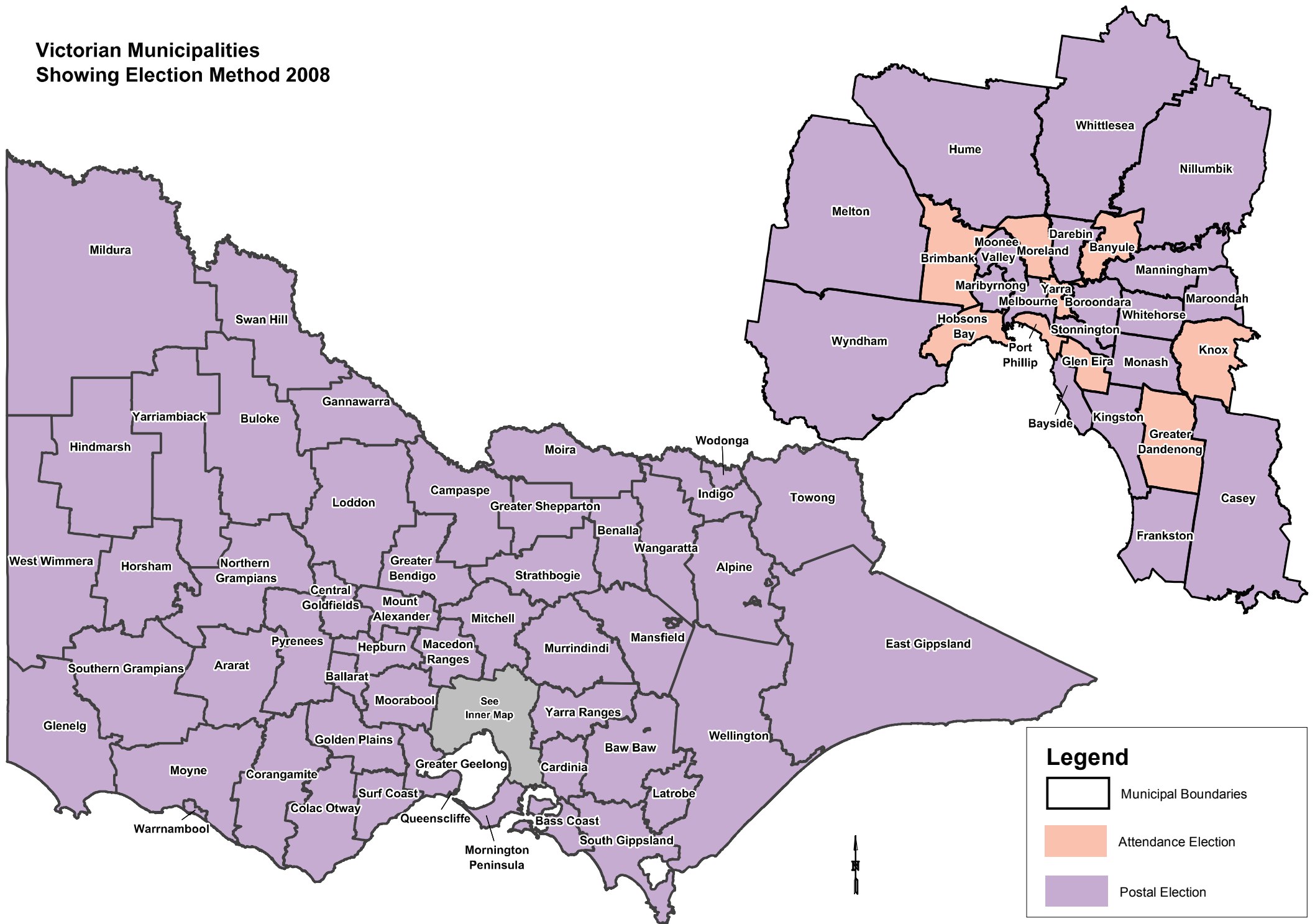
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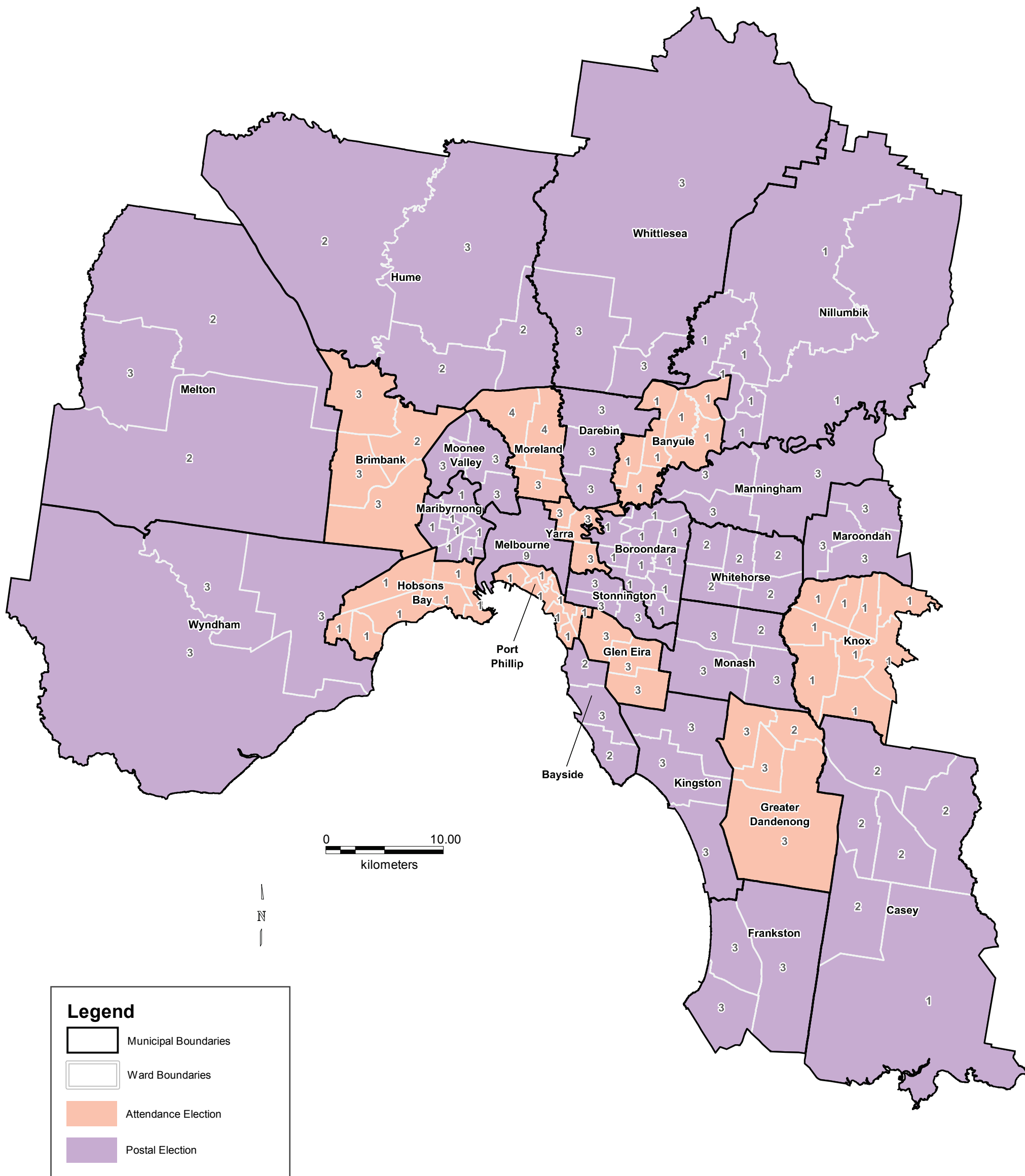
Victorian Municipalities

Showing Election Method 2008



Inner Victorian Municipalities

Showing ward boundaries, number of councillors and election method 2008.



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