

2020 Local government elections

Melton City Council

Election Report





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(Victorian Electoral Commission)
April 2021

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Electoral Commission pays respect to Victoria's traditional owners and their elders past and present who have been custodians of this country for many thousands of years. Their living culture and their role in the life of Victoria is acknowledged by the VEC.

Letter of Transmittal

19 April 2021

Mr Kelvin Tori
Chief Executive Officer
Melton City Council
PO Box 21
MELTON VIC 3337

Dear Mr Tori

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Gatley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a long, sweeping tail.

Warwick Gatley AM
Electoral Commissioner

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Introduction

The Victorian local government general elections are held every four years as defined by the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* (**LG Act**). In 2020, general elections were held for 76 of the 79 Victorian councils¹ with Saturday 24 October marking election day. In accordance with section 263(1) of the LG Act, the Victorian Electoral Commission (**VEC**) is the statutory election service provider for the conduct of local government elections in Victoria.

This report provides information on the 2020 Melton City Council general election including details of the end-to-end service delivery of electoral activities throughout the election timeline. This report also provides details of post-election items including compulsory voting enforcement.

About the Victorian Electoral Commission

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

Warwick Gately AM is the appointed Electoral Commissioner and Liz Williams is the appointed Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner report to the Victorian Parliament in relation to the VEC's operations and activities.

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

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

¹ The South Gippsland Shire Council was placed into administration in mid-2019. The Council's general election has been postponed until October 2021. Casey City Council and Whittlesea City Council were placed into

administration in early 2020. The Councils' general elections have been postponed until October 2024.

Key changes

Changes in legislation

The new LG Act received royal assent on 24 March 2020 and introduced a number of changes, some requiring immediate implementation and others to be implemented progressively. Those requiring immediate implementation had a significant impact on the 2020 local government election program.

Following the LG Act completing its passage through Parliament, the VEC implemented the necessary changes to the 2020 local government election program in response to the reforms as they applied to the elections.

The key changes from the LG Act are as follows:

Local government electoral structures	<p>The default electoral structure for all local councils is single-councillor wards, although some regional and rural local councils may be unsubdivided or divided into wards with equal numbers of councillors in each ward.</p> <p>The VEC is no longer responsible for conducting electoral representation reviews of all local councils in Victoria.</p> <p>An independent Local Government Electoral Representation Advisory Panel will review council electoral structures. The panel includes the Electoral Commissioner and other members appointed by the Minister for Local Government.</p>
Voting system	<p>The voting system (attendance or postal) is set by the Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>All local council elections are conducted according to the same voting system.</p>
Enrolment and voters' rolls	<p>Non-resident property owners need to apply to be enrolled (this change will be implemented in stages leading up to the 2024 local government elections).</p> <p>Amendments to the voters' roll are completed by the VEC only (excluding Melbourne City Council).</p>
Candidate qualifications	<p>It is compulsory for local government candidates to complete mandatory training prior to nominating for local government elections.</p>
Nominations/candidate statements	<p>When nominating, candidates are required to declare they have completed the mandatory Local Government Candidate Training.</p> <p>The maximum number of words for a candidate statement was increased to 300 (350 for the Melbourne City Council Leadership Team and Councillor Groups).</p>
Election staff	<p>The term 'Election Manager' replaced 'Returning Officer' making the term consistent with the <i>Electoral Act 2002</i>.</p>
Extraordinary vacancies	<p>The VEC will fix the timeline for local council by-elections (previously fixed by the Minister).</p> <p>Changes to the countback process which now draws on a broader pool of ballot papers to determine the successful candidate at a countback.</p>
Compulsory voting	<p>From the 2024 local government general elections onwards, it will be compulsory for everyone enrolled on a voters' roll to vote.</p>

The LG Act made other changes to the local government electoral landscape, including:

- operational and technical provisions for electoral matters are now prescribed in the Regulations rather than being contained in the LG Act.
- disputed election results are now heard by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**VCAT**).

On 8 May 2020, the Minister determined² all of the 2020 general elections would be held by postal voting. As such, the VEC adjusted preparations in response to the Minister's determination.

In addition, new Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 (**the Regulations**) came into operation on 13 July 2020.

Response to public health crisis: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the coronavirus (**COVID-19**) global pandemic, a State of Emergency was declared in Victoria on 16 March 2020. While the VEC was well advanced in planning for the elections, some uncertainty arose due to speculation that the elections could be rescheduled.

Following the Local Government Minister's confirmation on 15 May 2020 that the 2020 local government elections would proceed, the VEC's operating model was adjusted to deliver a compliant election while meeting health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations to voters, election staff, councils, candidates and all other stakeholders.

On Wednesday 1 September 2020, the Governor in Council made amendments to the regulations to allow certain provisions to be varied in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the amendments allowed the VEC to determine an appropriate method for eligible candidates to lodge their nomination form and pay their nomination fee electronically; and to allow the Election Manager to determine the maximum number of scrutineers that may be present for any activity at any one time. The amended regulations commenced the day after

they were made and remain in place until 26 April 2021.

On 29 September 2020, the Governor in Council made further changes to the Regulations to provide greater clarity of mitigation options for any disruptions to the voting timeline, including delays across the postal network that could threaten the integrity of the elections. The changes allowed the Electoral Commissioner to alter the last day of voting and/or the extended postal vote receipt deadline if necessary, to maintain and protect election integrity.

The VEC developed a COVIDSafe Election Plan³ in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services which complemented the VEC's Service Plan. The COVIDSafe Election Plan outlined the VEC's actions and strategies to deliver safe and compliant local government elections.

The plan considered all electoral operations and activities and included changes such as (but not limited to):

- acquiring larger election office spaces to accommodate social distancing practices
- moving operations from face-to-face to online (when legislation permitted), for example:
 - the VEC's briefing meetings with individual councils
 - the candidate information sessions
- modifying the timeline for ballot paper extraction and counting activities
- modifying scrutineer practices.

The VEC acknowledges the collaboration and contributions of council officers in navigating the changes required to the program due to COVID-19.

² The Minister published this decision in the Government Gazette on 18 May 2020

³ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

Election dates

The key timelines that applied to the 2020 local government elections were as follows.

Deadline fixed by the VEC for council primary enrolment data	Monday 13 July 2020
Close of roll	4 pm Friday 28 August 2020
Opening of the election office to the public	Wednesday 16 September 2020
Certification of the voters' roll and opening of nominations	Thursday 17 September 2020
Close of nominations	12 noon Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Ballot draw	From 1 pm on Tuesday 22 September 2020
*Deadline for lodging candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	12 noon Wednesday 23 September 2020
*General mail out of ballot packs to voters	Tuesday 6 October to Thursday 8 October 2020
*Close of voting	6 pm Friday 23 October 2020
Day prescribed as Election Day	Saturday 24 October 2020
*Close of extended postal vote receipt period	12 noon Friday 30 October 2020
Declaration of election results	No later than Friday 13 November 2020

*Dates with asterisks relate to contested elections only.

About Melton City Council

Melton City Council is comprised of nine councillors elected from multi-councillor wards.

The structure was last reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* through an electoral representation review in 2015.

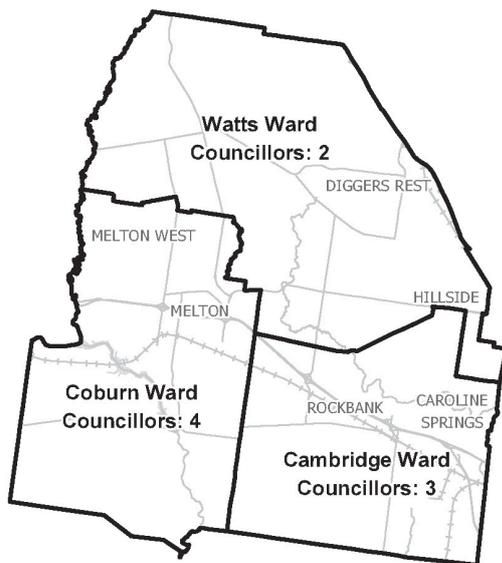


Figure 1: The electoral structure of Melton City Council at the general election held on 24 October 2020.

Voters' roll

The VEC prepared the voters' roll for the election under section 8(2)(c) of the Electoral Act and in accordance with section 249 of the LG Act. The close of roll for the election was 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020. Pursuant to section 249(4) of the LG Act, the VEC certified the voters' roll on Thursday 17 September 2020.

At certification, the voters' roll for the 2020 Melton City Council general election included 104,010 enrolled voters.

Composition of the voters' roll

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

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

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

Amendments to the voters' roll

In accordance with section 250 of the LG Act, the VEC is able to amend any error or omission in the preparation, printing or copying of the voters' roll, or correct any misnomer or inaccurate description of any person, place or thing on the voters' roll. Following the passage of the LG Act, amendments to the voters' roll are to be certified by the VEC. All voters added to the roll were issued with a ballot pack. Where a voter was deleted from the roll after the mail-out of ballot material, the VEC had systems in place to ensure that returned ballot papers from the deleted voters could be identified and excluded from the extraction and count. Where roll amendments were required, the total number of voters on the roll was updated.

Following the close of roll, the VEC made six amendments to the voters' roll, three additions and three deletions.

Advertising and communication campaign

State-wide advertising

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

Statutory advertising

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

For the 2020 statutory notices, Melton City Council nominated the following newspapers for the statutory notices to appear in:

- Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly
- Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly

In 2020, the VEC established a new policy position for statutory advertising in alignment with the updated definition of 'publish' in the LG Act. The policy position included the following:

- all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published on the VEC website, and
- where available, all statutory and non-statutory election advertising would be published in local newspapers and/or other selected newspapers identified following consultation with the council.

Refer to **Appendix 2** for further information in relation to the statutory advertising.

VEC website

The VEC provided council specific information regarding the election on its website under the '2020 local council election' page. The VEC website went live for the local government elections in early August 2020. Whilst some council specific data remained static during the election, the website was regularly updated with content relevant to the election and at each key milestone such as close of roll, nominations, voting and results.

Media liaison

An online media webinar was held on Friday 21 August 2020. The webinar could be downloaded or accessed at a later time for those who were unable to participate live. The media briefing summarised the planning and timeline for the 2020 local government elections, and also provided a specific update in relation to the availability of election results in light of COVID-19.

Media outlets were provided with a media information booklet that outlined the election timeline and key messages, and provided the VEC's head office media contacts. The VEC's communication team supported each Election Manager as the primary media spokesperson in relation to each election.

The VEC's media liaison program principally featured staged media releases aimed to highlight key milestones during the election timeline, and capitalise on existing general news coverage. More information on the VEC's media release schedule is available at **Appendix 3**.

Social media campaign

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

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

VEC VoterAlert advisories

Electors on the State enrolment register are able to sign up to the VEC's free SMS or email alert service VoterAlert, to receive reminder messages pertinent to elections that affect them. They can subscribe to receive SMS messages only, email only, or both SMS and email.

During the general election, the VEC used its VoterAlert service to send the following direct messages to those State-enrolled voters on the roll for the election.

The messages were rolled out in the following schedule:

Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020 – 79,176 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email reminding voters to enrol or update their details by the close of roll.

Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020 – 81,757 VoterAlert messages were sent by SMS and email advising that the VEC had commenced posting ballot packs.

In mid-October, the VEC commenced sending its final VoterAlert – a reminder to post ballot packs by the voting deadline. Whilst approximately 900,000 of the 1.8 million voters scheduled to receive an alert were contacted it was identified that an unanticipated high volume of calls was received by both the VEC and councils as a result of the alert. Therefore, the VEC suspended the

VoterAlert messages scheduled for the remaining 900,000 voters.

More information on the VEC's VoterAlert advisories is available at **Appendix 4**.

Voter engagement

The VEC delivered an extensive voter engagement program. The program sessions were implemented throughout Victoria and were specific to local demographics. Please refer to **Appendix 5** to view the full list of initiatives for the 2020 local government elections. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the VEC's programs traditionally offered through face-to-face education and engagement were redesigned to comply with health, safety, social distancing and hygiene obligations.

Blind and low vision services

Braille and large print ballot material was available to blind and low vision voters who had registered for these products by 5 pm on Tuesday 15 September 2020.

The VEC received and processed one request for large print ballot material for Melton City Council.

The Election Manager did not receive any requests for braille ballot material for the election.

Interpreting services

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

Telephone enquiry service

A local telephone enquiry service was provided at the election office from Wednesday 16 September 2020 until the close of voting, for enquiries regarding the election.

The local telephone enquiry service was supplemented by an overflow call centre at the VEC's head office. The overflow call centre received calls made directly to the VEC's head office line (131 VEC, 131 832 or +61 3 8620 1100 for callers outside of Australia) and diverted calls from the election office when the election office

lines were at capacity. Additionally, email enquiries were received and processed through info@vec.vic.gov.au.

The types of calls that are typical during an election relate to:

- voting entitlements and compulsory voting obligations
- enrolment questions
- ballot pack had not been received
- ballot material was spoilt or destroyed, so replacement ballot material was required
- a voter advising that they were overseas or interstate
- queries regarding the content of the ballot pack.

A breakdown of the daily number of calls received by the telephone enquiry service and the overflow call centre in respect to the election is available at **Appendix 6**.

Election Manager

The VEC maintains a pool of trained senior election officials located across the state to fill election management roles for State and local government elections. Election-specific training is provided to senior election officials prior to each election management appointment.

The size of the election management team appointed for the conduct of an election is based on the size of the council. As required under the LG Act an Election Manager is appointed to conduct the election and is supported by one or more Assistant Election Managers for larger councils, or a senior election official for smaller councils.

In accordance with section 3 of the LG Act, the Electoral Commissioner appointed Peter Long as the Election Manager for the 2020 Melton City Council general election.

The appointed Assistant Election Managers were Priscilla Mayne and John Massey.

Election office

The Election Manager was responsible for the establishment and management of the election office located at Heathdale Christian College, Block B, 102-112 Centenary Avenue, Melton. The election office premises were provided by the VEC.

In accordance with the VEC's COVIDSafe election plan, the election office was open to the public by appointment only. The election office was available for appointments from Wednesday 16 September until Friday 23 October 2020 between 9 am and 5 pm. Opening hours were extended on Thursday 22 October (9 am to 8 pm) and Friday 23 October (9 am to 6 pm) to allow for final enquiries and the hand-delivery of ballots prior to the close of voting. Enquiries regarding the election were also managed by phone.

Candidates

Nominations for the election opened at 9 am on Thursday 17 September and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020. Candidates were required to lodge their nomination forms in person at the election office. A \$250 nomination fee applied.

On Wednesday 9 September 2020, the Electoral Commissioner published a determination⁴ establishing a framework for prospective candidates who were prevented from attending the election office due to health directions regarding COVID-19 under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. The determination outlined provisions for electronic lodgement of the nomination form and nomination fee for affected candidates.

Candidate information

The VEC developed a suite of resources that were accessible to prospective candidates prior to the nomination period. From early September, candidates were able to access the VEC's information about the process of nominating and becoming a candidate for the election. The VEC's online *Candidate Helper*, accessible via the VEC website, went live on Thursday 3 September 2020. The *Candidate Helper* enabled candidates

to pre-complete their nomination form and other forms online before lodging them with the Election Manager.

For the 2020 elections, the VEC's candidate information session was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website. The session was complemented by three state-wide interactive seminars consisting of a panel from the VEC's leadership and executive teams.

Nominations

At the close of nominations, 41 candidates had nominated for election to council.

The following is a breakdown of candidate nominations per ward:

- Cambridge Ward - 14 nominations
- Coburn Ward - 16 nominations
- Watts Ward - 11 nominations

Ballot draws to determine the order in which the names would appear on the ballot paper were held at the election office following the close of nominations using the VEC's computerised ballot draw application.

See **Appendix 7** for the list of candidates in ballot draw order.

Candidate statements and photos

In accordance with Regulation 39 of the Regulations, candidates were able to lodge a 300 word statement and submit a recent photograph for inclusion in the ballot packs sent to voters. The deadline for the submission of candidate statements and photographs was 12 noon on Wednesday 23 September 2020.

See **Appendix 7.1** for a breakdown of submitted statements and photos, and **7.2** for the sample website version product.

⁴ VEC 2020 Determination No.1 - Nominations from candidates impacted by COVID-19 Public Health Directions in respect to local government elections -

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/determinations>

Candidate questionnaires

In accordance with Regulation 43 of the Regulations, candidates were able to complete and lodge their answers to a set of prescribed questions in addition to a statement and photograph. The Election Manager accepted questionnaire submissions lodged by 40 of the 41 candidates at the election.

The completed questionnaires were accessible to voters on the VEC website or by contacting the election office.

Voting

Redirection of ballot packs

The Regulations provide that a voter may – no later than the day the roll is certified (or a later date if specified by the Election Manager under Regulation 22(2)(f) of the Regulations) – make a request in writing to the Election Manager to have their postal ballot envelope redirected to another address. For the 2020 elections voters had until Thursday 17 September to submit requests for redirection.

The Election Manager received 16 requests for redirection of ballot packs for the election.

Early votes

A voter may request an early postal ballot envelope (early vote) prior to the general mail out of ballot packs. The Election Manager processes the request and issues the early vote if the request is assessed as reasonable. Requests for early votes could be processed from Wednesday 23 September 2020, the day after nominations closed, until the commencement of the general mail out of ballot packs on Tuesday 6 October 2020. Due to the timing of early votes, some early voters may not have had access to the candidate statements, photographs or questionnaires.

Due to the impact that COVID-19 restrictions had on election services for the 2020 elections, requests for early votes were managed by appointment.

The Election Manager issued three early votes for the election.

Mail-out of ballot packs

The VEC mailed 104,009 ballot packs between Tuesday 6 October and Thursday 8 October 2020.

See **Appendix 8** for a breakdown of the packs mailed out on each day during the general mail-out, noting that ballot packs were not mailed to any voters that had passed away between the close of the roll and generation of the mail-out file.

This included 16 ballot packs that were redirected to alternative addresses for voters that had applied to redirect their ballot pack by Thursday 17 September 2020.

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

The VEC liaised closely with Australia Post during the mail out period to confirm that ballot packs had been delivered to voters. The VEC received confirmation that all ballot packs had been delivered to delivery addresses by Wednesday 14 October 2020.

During the voting period, 1,396 ballot packs were returned to the election office by Australia Post as return-to-sender mail. Most of this mail was due to the addressee not residing at the address.

Election office counter services

In order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of voters and VEC personnel in the COVID-19 environment, the VEC did not provide an over-the-counter replacement or unenrolled vote service at election offices in the Metropolitan Melbourne region (including Mitchell Shire Council) for the elections. Similar restrictions were initially imposed on election offices in Regional Victoria and were relaxed in the final weeks of voting. Voters were advised to request replacement or unenrolled ballot material by phone, which was sent to them by post.

Unenrolled votes

Unenrolled votes are issued to people whose name cannot be found on the voters' roll but who claim they are entitled to vote at the election. The unenrolled ballot pack includes a declaration that is signed by the applicant and assessed by the Election Manager prior to either admitting or disallowing the vote.

The Election Manager issued eight unenrolled votes and following relevant checks, none were admitted to the count.

Replacement ballot packs

Following the general mail-out of ballot packs, a voter who claimed that their ballot pack had not been received, or had been lost, spoilt or destroyed, could apply to the Election Manager for a replacement ballot pack. Requests for replacement ballot packs within metropolitan councils were processed and fulfilled at the election office then lodged at the local postal facility. In order to assist in the mail turnaround time for regional councils, the VEC established a centralised postal vote issuing service at head office. Replacement vote requests were processed at the election office and fulfilled and lodged with Australia Post from the VEC in Melbourne.

The Election Manager issued 1,484 replacement ballot packs across all wards during the voting period. Please refer to **Schedule 1** for further information on replacement ballot packs issued.

Return of ballot paper envelopes

Voters were provided with a priority reply-paid envelope for the return of their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper. The return mail was delivered to the election office from local postal facilities or mail distribution centres. Voters who chose to hand-deliver their vote to the election office were able to do so by placing their ballot paper envelope containing their completed ballot paper into ballot boxes located at the election office. The ballot boxes allowed voters to drop off their ballot envelopes without interaction with staff, therefore remaining compliant with a COVIDSafe election⁵.

As ballot paper envelopes were returned, they were progressively checked by the election

management team to ensure they had been signed by the voter. Additionally, processes were in place to ensure that only one returned ballot from any one voter could proceed to the extraction and count.

The Election Manager received a total of 69,926 returned ballot paper envelopes across all wards by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

The Regulations provide that the Election Manager can accept returned ballot paper envelopes up until 12 noon on the Friday following the close of voting, if satisfied that the ballot paper envelope was completed by the voter prior to the close of voting. The Election Manager accepted 17,020 ballot paper envelopes across all wards during the extended postal vote receipt period.

The total returned ballot paper envelopes for Melton City Council was 86,946.

The Election Manager set aside 2,323 returned ballot paper envelopes that were not admitted to the extraction and counting process due to the voter not having signed the declaration envelope or, in the case of unenrolled declaration votes, an entitlement was not found for the person, or the declaration envelope was not returned with the vote.

Refer to **Schedule 1** for the total certified record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes across all wards.

Results

Extraction

A total of 84,623 ballot paper envelopes were admitted to the extraction process.

The extraction of ballot papers occurred at the election office commencing on Saturday 24 October. The extraction of all admitted ballot paper envelopes was completed on Monday 2 November, following the close of the extended postal vote receipt period.

The extraction process involved separating the declaration flaps containing voters' details from

⁵ 'VEC COVIDSafe election plan' - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans>

each admitted ballot paper envelope, and then extracting the ballot papers from the envelopes. This two-stage process maintains anonymity and ensures the number of envelopes is tracked for ongoing reconciliation.

Any returned ballot paper envelopes found not to contain a ballot paper, or that contained more than one ballot paper, were required to be rejected and could not be counted. There were 158 returned ballot paper envelopes rejected during the extraction activity.

Following the extraction of ballot papers from the ballot paper envelopes, a total of 84,465 ballot papers proceeded to the count.

Computer count

Following the extraction of ballot papers admitted to the count for all wards, preferences on ballot papers were data entered into the VEC's computer counting application at Melbourne Showgrounds, 03 Expo Hall, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale. The application distributes preferences using the proportional representation method once data entry of ballot paper preferences is complete. The computer count information session explaining the process was recorded and available for online streaming from the VEC website from Monday 19 October 2020. Results were calculated at the election office on Thursday 5 November.

The provisional results were published to the VEC website as they became available. Results were updated as finalised⁶ once declarations had taken place.

For a breakdown of the first preference results by ward, refer to **Appendix 9**.

Recounts

At any time before a candidate is declared as elected, a recount may be initiated by the Election Manager or requested in writing by a candidate stating the reasons for their request. Such requests are assessed by the Election Manager supported by the VEC and either accepted or declined.

The Election Manager did not receive any requests for a recount following the count for Melton City Council.

Declaration of results

The declaration of results was scheduled later than at previous elections, due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on extraction and counting timelines. As per the Service Plan, the latest date for all results declarations to have been completed was Friday 13 November 2020.

The results of the 2020 Melton City Council general election were declared at 12 pm on Thursday 5 November 2020 at the Election Office, Heathdale Christian College, Block B, 102-112 Centenary Avenue, Melton.

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

Election statistics

Participation

Participation is measured by the number of marks on the roll as a percentage of the total enrolment and can vary from turnout. The overall participation rate in the Melton City Council election was 83.39%, which is lower than the State average of 84.12% (excluding Melbourne City Council) and higher than the 73.54% rate at the 2016 Melton City Council general election.

Analysis of voter participation for the different enrolment categories shows that participation is higher for voters who are enrolled on the EC's List (85.34%) compared to voters enrolled on the CEO's List (52.02%).

Refer to **Appendix 10** for further information on participation, including a breakdown by enrolment category.

Turnout

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

⁶ A preference distribution report can be found at [2020 council election results | Victorian Electoral Commission \(vec.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.2020council.election.results.vic.gov.au/).

The overall voter turnout for the 2020 Melton City Council general election was 81.21%. This is compared to the State average turnout of 81.47% (excluding Melbourne City Council). The voter turnout at the 2016 general election for council was 72.15%.

Informality

The overall informal voting rate recorded at the 2020 Melton City Council general election was 6.71%, compared with the State average of 4.76%. An informality rate of 6.83% was recorded at the Melton City Council general election held in October 2016.

Complaints

Type of complaints

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

1. The conduct of participants in the election.

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

2. The administration of the election.

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

The majority of complaints at the 2020 local government elections related to category one, often where the complainant alleged inappropriate or illegal action by another person or group associated with the election.

Complaints process

The VEC operates a streamlined complaints process during elections, developed in consultation with local councils and enforcement agencies. The process requires complaints to be lodged in writing, and they are then processed through the VEC's head office. For the 2020 local government elections, customers were able to provide feedback and complaints through an online submission form on the VEC's website.

Each complaint is evaluated, and an appropriate course of action is determined. Complaints alleging a breach of the LG Act, for example, are forwarded to the Local Government Inspectorate (LGI). Complaints relating to local laws are referred to council. Complaints about the VEC's

services or the behaviour or actions of VEC staff and election officials are the responsibility of the VEC. In these cases, the VEC investigates the matter and determines the most appropriate response. The VEC committed to responding to each complaint within five working days, however due to the unanticipated high volume of complaints received this extended in some instances.

Complaints received

The VEC received 39 written complaints relating to the election for Melton City Council. Please see **Appendix 11** for a description of complaints received by the VEC.

Post-election activities

Storage of election material

All records from the election will be kept by the VEC safely and secretly in accordance with Regulation 79 of the Regulations.

Refund of nomination fees

Nomination fees were refunded to eligible candidates on Thursday 10 December 2020. Eligible candidates included elected candidates or those who received at least 4% of the first preference vote. Any forfeited nomination fees were remitted to Council on 10 December 2020.

Courts and tribunals

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

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

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

Non-voter follow up

In accordance with section 267 of the LG Act, the VEC has commenced its compulsory voting enforcement program. Any person who was required to vote at the election and failed to vote will be issued with an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. Apparent non-voters have 28 days in which to respond.

People who do not respond to that notice, or do not provide a satisfactory response to the notice, may be issued with an Infringement Notice that will incur a penalty. Further follow-up by way of a Penalty Reminder Notice may also take place – this stage includes the original penalty and a Penalty Reminder Notice fee. Penalties collected on behalf of council will be reimbursed at the end of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages.

Additionally, during the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages, non-voters may request for their matter to proceed directly to the Magistrates' Court.

Any such requests will be actioned at the conclusion of the Infringement and Penalty Reminder Notice stages. The VEC will lodge the file of any remaining non-voters with Fines Victoria at the conclusion of the Penalty Reminder Notice stage.

Evaluating the VEC's services

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

Feedback from councils

The VEC invited feedback from councils on its services in December 2020 and acknowledges the receipt of feedback provided by Melton City Council. Additional feedback can be provided to the Program Manager for Local Government elections by emailing LGProgram2020@vec.vic.gov.au.

Internal debriefing program

After every electoral event, the VEC conducts an internal debriefing program which includes input from all areas across the VEC's workforce. Internal debriefing following the local government elections commenced in December 2020. In due course, the VEC will publish a consolidated report on its performance and key statistics from the elections. This report will be tabled in Parliament and available on the VEC website.

Schedule 1: Record of ballot papers and declaration envelopes

Melton City Council Cambridge Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	37,750
Election Manager	6
Total	37,756

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	33,138
Early and replacement votes	504
Unenrolled declaration votes	0
Spoilt	0
Sub total	33,642
Unused	4,114
Total	37,756

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	27,582
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	263
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	651
Declarations returned to sender	356
Sub total	28,852
Declarations not returned	4,790
Total	33,642

Melton City Council Coburn Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	51,750
Election Manager	6
Total	51,756

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	46,359
Early and replacement votes	720
Unenrolled declaration votes	4
Spoilt	0
Sub total	47,083
Unused	4,673
Total	51,756

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	35,218
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	360
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	1,132
Declarations returned to sender	778
Sub total	37,488
Declarations not returned	9,595
Total	47,083

Melton City Council Watts Ward election

BALLOT PAPERS PRINTED

Victorian Electoral Commission	27,750
Election Manager	6
Total	27,756

BALLOT PAPERS ISSUED

General mail out	24,512
Early and replacement votes	263
Unenrolled declaration votes	4
Spoilt	0
Sub total	24,779

Unused	2,977
Total	27,756

DECLARATIONS RETURNED

General mail out admitted to the extraction	21,025
Early and replacement votes admitted to the extraction	175
Unenrolled declaration votes admitted to the extraction	0
Returned declarations unable to admit to extraction	540
Declarations returned to sender	262
Sub total	22,002

Declarations not returned	2,777
Total	24,779

Schedule 2: Certification statement

In accordance with Regulation 77, I certify that Schedule 1 of this report on the conduct of the 2020 Melton City Council local government election is a true and correct account of the number of ballot papers issued, returned and not used in this election and declarations not returned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MM Gately'.

Warwick Gately AM
Electoral Commissioner

Appendix 1: Breakdown of the voters' roll

Melton City Council

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	97,947
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	6,063
Total	104,010

Cambridge Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	31,468
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	1,670
Cambridge Ward election total	33,138

Coburn Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	42,968
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	3,392
Coburn Ward election total	46,360

Watts Ward election

Voters enrolled through an entitlement under section 241 of the LG Act	23,511
Voters enrolled through entitlements under sections 242 – 245 of the LG Act	1,001
Watts Ward election total	24,512

Appendix 2: Statutory advertising

Melton City Council election schedule of public notices

Close of roll notice (see Appendix 2.1 for example)

VEC Website	8 August 2020
Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly	11 August 2020
Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly	11 August 2020

Notice of election (see Appendix 2.2 for example)

VEC Website	31 August 2020
Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly	1 September 2020
Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly	1 September 2020

Voting details notice (see Appendix 2.3 for example)

VEC Website	28 September 2020
Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly	29 September 2020
Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly	29 September 2020

Reminder notice (see Appendix 2.4 for example)

VEC Website	12 October 2020
Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly	13 October 2020
Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly	13 October 2020

Notice of result (see Appendix 2.5 for example)

VEC Website	23 November 2020
Brimbank & Northwest Star Weekly	24 November 2020
Melton and Moorabool Star Weekly	24 November 2020

Appendix 2.1: Close of roll notice for Melton City Council

Melton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



You must be enrolled to vote

A general election will be held for Melton City Council in October 2020. To be able to vote in the election, you must be enrolled by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**. Two categories of voters can be enrolled to vote in the Melton City Council election: State-enrolled voters and Council-enrolled voters.

State-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

You are automatically enrolled for this election if:

- you will be 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melton **AND**
- you are on the State electoral roll for your current address.

You need to enrol if:

- you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- you live in the City of Melton and you are not on the State electoral roll **OR**
- you have lived at your current residential address within the City of Melton for at least a month and have not yet updated your enrolment details, including any changes to your postal address.

How do I enrol?

You can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au

You can also download an enrolment form from the website. All enrolment applications must be received by the Victorian Electoral Commission by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check my State enrolment?

You can check your enrolment details online at vec.vic.gov.au at any time, or call 1300 805 478.

Council-enrolled voters

Am I enrolled to vote?

To be a Council-enrolled voter, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over on Saturday 24 October 2020 **AND**
- not a State-enrolled voter within the City of Melton.

You are automatically enrolled for this election if you were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the most recent election for your local area. This includes any by-elections held since the last general election.

If your circumstances have changed since the most recent election and you are no longer a non-resident owner of that property, you will not be automatically enrolled for this election. Depending on your circumstances, you may still be eligible to apply to be enrolled as a Council-enrolled voter.

Who else can enrol & vote?

You may also apply to enrol if:

- you have purchased a rateable property in the City of Melton since the last election or by-election and you are not automatically enrolled **OR**
- you are not an Australian citizen and you live in, and pay rates for, a property within the City of Melton **OR**
- you pay rates on a property you occupy in the City of Melton, for example you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the Council for the tenancy, and you have no other voting entitlement within the City of Melton **OR**
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to Melton City Council and you have no other voting entitlement within the City of Melton.

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

If you meet any of the mentioned criteria and wish to enrol, contact Melton City Council on (03) 9747 7200 for a council enrolment form. Council enrolment forms must be received by the Council by the close of roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

How can I check if I am Council-enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details by contacting the Council on (03) 9747 7200.

Thinking about standing for election?

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate for Melton City Council, you must:

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

For further information, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes
4 pm Friday 28 August

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • 普通话 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • گۆنۆی 9209 0193 Dari
 • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
 • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
 • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n ừ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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Appendix 2.2: Notice of election for Melton City Council

Melton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Vote by post this October

Voting

Ballot packs will be mailed to voters enrolled in the Melton City Council election from Tuesday 6 October 2020. Return your completed ballot material by mail ASAP or hand-deliver it to the Election Manager by the close of voting at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

If you will be away

If you will be away when ballot packs are mailed, or your address has changed since Friday 28 August 2020, you can request for your ballot pack to be redirected by writing to:

Election Manager
Melton City Council election
c/- Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively, you can email your request to:
redirections@vec.vic.gov.au

Please include the address for redirection. Each voter requesting redirection must sign their request. Requests for redirection must be received by **Thursday 17 September 2020**.

Large print and braille ballot papers

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision—please register by **Tuesday 15 September 2020**. To register, call (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

Request an early postal vote

To apply for an early postal vote, contact the Election Manager from **Wednesday 23 September 2020** on (03) 8619 1445 and make an application. You must provide a valid reason.

How to nominate as a candidate

Candidate requirements have recently changed. To nominate as a candidate, you must:

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

To nominate, complete the nomination form and lodge it with the Election Manager together with the \$250 nomination fee. Nomination forms can be lodged by appointment during business hours from **Thursday 17 September 2020 until 12 noon on Tuesday 22 September 2020** at:

Heathdale Christian College, Block B
102–112 Centenary Avenue, Melton

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for more information and to pre-complete your nomination form using the online Candidate Helper. The online Candidate Helper will be available from **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

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

Call the Election Manager from **Wednesday 16 September 2020** on (03) 8619 1445 to make a nomination appointment.



Online candidate information session

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the VEC's recorded candidate information session can be streamed online from **Thursday 3 September 2020** complemented by state-wide interactive candidate seminars based on the information video. To watch the information session or find out how to join an online interactive seminar, visit vec.vic.gov.au

Nominations close
12 noon Tuesday 22 September

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• 阿拉伯語 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari
• Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
• Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n ừ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic





Appendix 2.3: Voting details notice for Melton City Council

Melton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Tuesday 6 October 2020**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call (03) 8619 1445 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. 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 choice. You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

Heathdale Christian College, Block B
102–112 Centenary Avenue, Melton

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at 4 pm on **Friday 28 August 2020**.

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

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area OR
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | (03) 8619 1445

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
• 阿拉伯語 9209 0190 Amharic • عربي 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • داري 9209 0193 Dari
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• 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • فارسی 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
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Appendix 2.4: Reminder notice for Melton City Council

Melton City Council postal election

Your council, your vote



Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from Tuesday 6 October 2020.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Friday 16 October 2020**, please call (03) 8619 1445 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. 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 choice. You must number **EVERY BOX** and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

Heathdale Christian College, Block B
102-112 Centenary Avenue, Melton

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at **4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020**.

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

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area **OR**
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

vec.vic.gov.au | (03) 8619 1445

@electionsvic   

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
 • 中文 9209 0190 Amharic • العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • Босански 9209 0191 Bosnian • 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • دري 9209 0193 Dari
 • Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • ខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer • 한국어 9209 0194 Korean • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
 • 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin • العربية 9209 0195 Persian • Русский 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish
 • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish • Việt-n 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

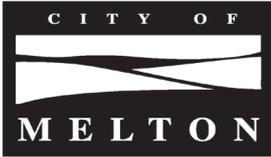
Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Appendix 2.5: Notice of results for Melton City Council

Melton City Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to the Melton City Council at the general election held in October 2020:

<p>Cambridge Ward</p> <p>MAJDLIK, Kathy (1st elected)</p> <p>ABBOUSHI, Steve (2nd elected)</p> <p>KESIC, Goran (3rd elected)</p> <p>Coburn Ward</p> <p>TURNER, Bob (1st elected)</p> <p>VANDENBERG, Ashleigh (2nd elected)</p> <p>RAMSEY, Sophie (3rd elected)</p> <p>SHANNON, Julie (4th elected)</p>	<p>Watts Ward</p> <p>CARLI, Lara (1st elected)</p> <p>DEEMING, Moira (2nd elected)</p>
--	---

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Peter Long
Election Manager
 Thursday 5 November 2020

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

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Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



Appendix 3: Schedule of media releases and advisories

Melton City Council Council-specific media releases and advisories

Enrol now for the Melton City Council election	7 August 2020
Call for candidates for the upcoming Melton City Council election	24 August 2020
Candidates announced for the Melton City Council election	23 September 2020
Ballot packs mailed this week for Melton City Council election	5 October 2020
Voting closes soon for the Melton City Council election	12 October 2020
New councillors for Melton City Council	5 November 2020

Statewide media releases and advisories

Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming council elections	7 August 2020
October local council elections to proceed under COVIDSafe election plan	19 August 2020
Last chance to enrol for Victorian council elections	21 August 2020
Enrolment closes tomorrow for October's council elections	26 August 2020
Nominations open soon for Victorian local council elections	31 August 2020
Council election information one click away on VEC website	4 September 2020
Accessing candidate information for the 2020 Victorian local council elections	14 September 2020
Victorian voters encouraged to sign up for free election reminders	16 September 2020
Nominations are in for the October council elections	23 September 2020
Authority granted for postal vote contingency	30 September 2020
Voting underway for Victoria's local council elections	5 October 2020
Mobile numbers not from VEC	12 October 2020
Local council elections voting deadline looms	19 October 2020
Strong voter response to local council elections	20 October 2020
Results timeline for Victorian local council elections (media advisory, not for publication)	21 October 2020
Final day of voting shows high voter turnout for council elections	23 October 2020
VEC won't risk public health for quick results in record turnout	28 October 2020
A win for democracy in a challenging year	13 November 2020
Didn't vote in the election? Please explain.	8 February 2021

Appendix 4: VoterAlert advisories

Appendix 4.1: SMS alerts

4.1.1 close of roll – sent from Wednesday 19 August to Wednesday 26 August 2020



Council elections will be held by post in October. Make sure you are correctly enrolled by 4pm 28 Aug. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/tohMhA5l>

4.1.2 mail out of ballot pack Friday 9 October to Friday 13 October 2020



VEC has posted a ballot pack to your enrolled address. Voting in council elections is compulsory. More info or unsubscribe at: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/ufDvSR07>

4.1.3 reminder close of voting - Monday 19 October 2020



Council elections: voting closes 6pm Friday. Post your vote or return it to your election office ASAP. More info or unsubscribe: <https://voteralert.vec.vic.gov.au/s/usSUBkIM>

Appendix 4.2: Email alerts

4.2.1 Close of roll email

VoterAlert  Victorian Electoral Commission

2020 Local council elections

Hello,

Local council elections will be held in Victoria by post this October. It is important that you are correctly enrolled so you receive a ballot pack at your correct address.

Enrolment closes at 4 pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

If you haven't changed your postal address, residential address or name, there is no need to do anything.

Are your details up to date?

You can check your details online on the VEC's Check My Enrolment portal. Complete all fields, making sure you:

- enter your first and middle names in the 'Given names' field
- start to enter your suburb and pick it from the list suggested
- start to enter your street name only and pick it from the list suggested.

[CHECK MY ENROLMENT](#)

Do you need to update your details?

[CHANGE MY DETAILS](#)

Are you eligible to vote in another council?

In a council election, there are two types of enrolment: State enrolment and council enrolment.

You are receiving this message because you are State-enrolled.

But if you own property or pay rates in another council, you may be enrolled or eligible to enrol directly with that council.

Find out more: [Enrolling for council elections](#)

Do I have to vote at these elections?

Voting is compulsory for State-enrolled voters. Don't risk a fine!

If you are on the roll for Melbourne City Council, it is also compulsory for council enrolled voters to vote.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

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

4.2.2 Ballot Pack mailout email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).

VoterAlert



2020 local council elections

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in Council Name

Voting in this election will be by post. We posted you a ballot pack between Tuesday 8 and Thursday 8 October 2020.

Please follow the instructions in your ballot pack to cast your vote and mail it back to us as soon as possible. Voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October 2020, but local mail clearance times may be earlier than the cut-off. We recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you don't get a ballot pack by Friday 16 October, call your local Election Office to request a replacement. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Are you away from your enrolled address?

If you are away from your enrolled address call your local Election Office to request a replacement ballot pack. You can find [Election Office contact details](#) on our website.

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION](#)

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

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

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



[VEC website](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Logout](#)

4.2.3 Last week to vote email

Please do not reply to this email. Replies go to an unmonitored inbox. For any queries, [contact us](#).



2020 local council elections

Disregard this email if you have already voted.

Hello

You are enrolled to vote in the 2020 local council elections in Council Name Council.

Voting closes 6 pm this Friday 23 October.

How to vote

As soon as possible, make sure you:

mail your completed ballot paper in the reply-paid envelope provided

OR

drop your completed ballot paper off at [your local Election Office](#).

Please note: voting closes at 6 pm on Friday 23 October. However, local mail clearance times vary and we recommend you return your completed vote as soon as possible.

Didn't get a ballot pack?

If you haven't received a ballot pack, [check our website to understand your options](#).

Do I have to vote?

Voting is compulsory for everyone on the State and Melbourne City Council voters' rolls. Don't risk a fine!

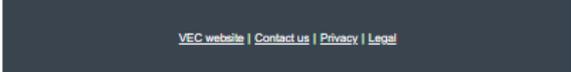
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION



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

This message was sent to you by the Victorian Electoral Commission because your contact details are listed on the Victorian electoral roll.

UNSUBSCRIBE

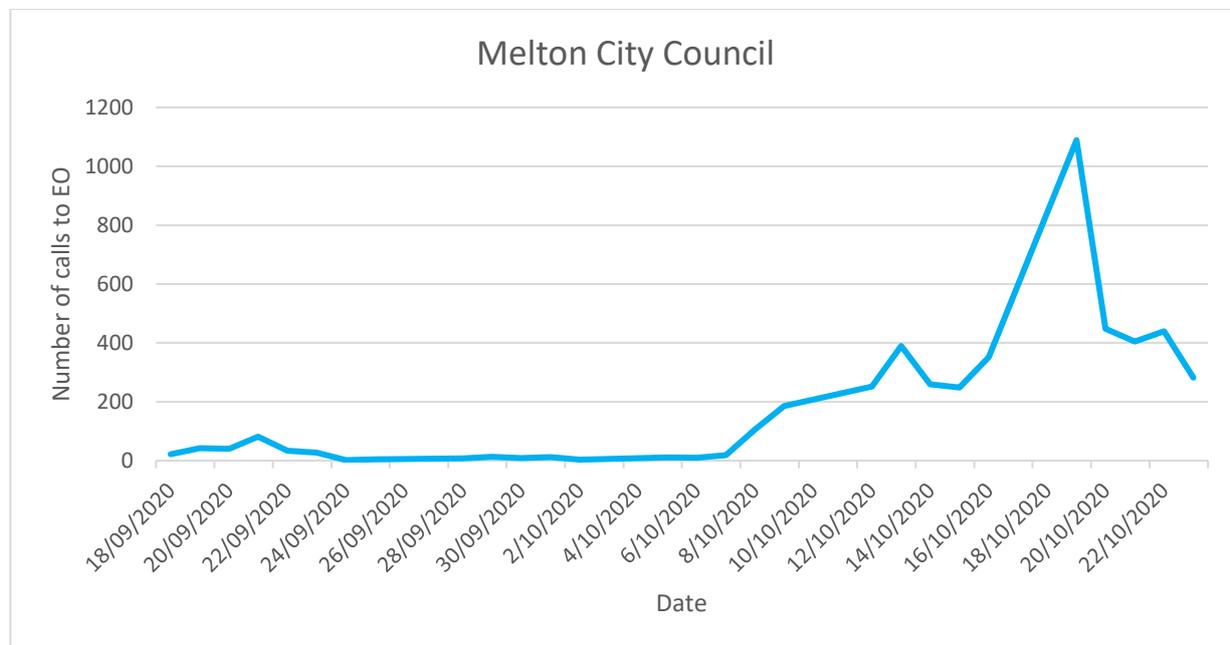


Appendix 5: Voter engagement program and initiatives

Program	Program Details
Be Heard Democracy Ambassador program	This program normally provides face-to-face electoral education sessions and was adapted to an online delivery model, providing peer-led electoral education to residents in specialist disability services and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. A total of 47 sessions were provided to people with disabilities and a total of 80 sessions were provided to CALD communities through councils and community organisations hosting online sessions.
Myth busting campaign.	This offline campaign addressed myths around enrolling and voting for those experiencing homelessness or with unstable housing. Four myths were dispelled and displayed on billboards and street posters, in metropolitan Melbourne areas with high populations of people experiencing homelessness. During the enrolment period, no-fixed-address enrolment forms were distributed with 4,500 meals to those suffering financial hardship, through a sponsorship with StreetSmart. This partnership included social media and Electronic Direct Mail distribution to StreetSmart's database of homeless services and community partners. A 1800 freecall number was also established to support those with financial hardship to provide support for enrolling and voting. This phone number was advertised on posters distributed through homelessness agencies, drug and alcohol services and services providing COVID-19 testing in hotels.
CALD in-language social media videos.	This project produced a series of three videos in 10-12 different languages which provided electoral information on how to enrol, how to vote by post, and how to respond to an Apparent Failure to Vote Notice. These were widely distributed and shared through the VEC's social media platforms and community networks.
Aboriginal short videos.	This project produced five videos in collaboration with Reconciliation Victoria. Two videos featured Aboriginal Elders and other leading Aboriginal community members discussing the value and ways to engage with local council elections. A further three videos, using culturally relevant animation, explained what services councils are responsible for, how to vote and the role of a councillor. These were shared through Aboriginal community channels and organisations.
DemGraphics young people co-designed social media project.	This project involved conducting research to identify barriers to enrolling and voting with a diverse group of young people. This information was then used to pilot a social media campaign in selected councils to encourage engagement in the elections for those aged 18-29.
Easy English tutor guide and worksheets.	These were produced for people with low English proficiency and designed as a co-read product where a person supports the learner through the worksheets. The tutor guide and worksheets were based on the VEC's Easy English guides for local council elections and were available for download from the VEC's website in PDF and Word formats.

Appendix 6: Daily telephone enquiries

The following graph shows the number of telephone calls recorded by the election office telephone enquiry service including those received by the VEC's overflow call centre and tagged as relating to Melton City Council during the 2020 local government elections.



Appendix 7: Final list of candidates in ballot paper order

Melton City Council election

The candidates, in ballot paper order, were as follows:

Cambridge Ward election

MANN, Sukhpreet Singh

KUMAR, Shalini Ashika

SINGH, Kunwarpal

ABBOUSHI, Steve

CAMILLERI, Ujjala

SMITH, Annie

VERMA, Gary

SINGH, Gurjant

KESIC, Goran

PERERA, Mano

PASUPULATE, Ajay Kumar

HAQUE, Golam

APAP, Charlie

MAJDLIK, Kathy

Coburn Ward election

SHANNON, Julie

TURNER, Bob

RAMSEY, Sophie

VANDENBERG, Ashleigh

DE SANTIS, Melissa

MAJDLIK, Andrew

PERERA, Jason Spencer

KLAIR, Rajinder

BRAR, Surinder Singh

KESIC, Una

JUSTICE, Lance

KHANAL, Kubir Lal

HARDY, Kenneth

SHARMA, Vivek

FOX, Jo

DE SANTIS, Nib

Watts Ward election

DEEMING, Moira

CARLI, Lara

MARAVIC, Aleksandar

VALLONE, Simon

ROMEO, John

ALURKAR, Deepti

TRIFUNOVSKI, Sonya

HERNANDEZ, Cecilia Rachel

FARRUGIA, Justine

PRYGIEL, Henry

ROWE, Wesley Alan

Appendix 7.1: Candidate statements and photographs

Melton City Council election

Cambridge Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.1 for candidate statement leaflet)

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
14	14	14

Coburn Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.2 for candidate statement leaflet)

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
16	16	16

Watts Ward election (see Appendix 7.2.3 for candidate statement leaflet)

Total number of candidates at close of nominations	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate statement	Number of candidates that lodged a candidate photograph
11	11	11

Appendix 7.2: Candidate statement leaflets

Appendix 7.2.1: Candidate statement leaflet for Cambridge Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
Complete and return as soon as possible.
 See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Election Manager on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.**
 Local mail clearance times may vary. Ballot material must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Late votes cannot be included in the count. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:
 Heathdale Christian College, Block B
 102 - 112 Centenary Avenue
 Melton

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
 Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
 You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.
 Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au

You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020



Cambridge Ward

THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.
Voting is compulsory for residents.
 For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 8619 1445 during business hours.

VEC Victorian Electoral Commission
Printed on 100% Australian made recycled stock

NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.



MANN, Sukhpreet Singh

Dear fellow residents, I am Sukhpreet Mann, I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue supporting our local community. I have been a part of this beautiful diverse community and enjoying every moment of it. I have been involved and been helping as an active member of few non-profitable multicultural groups and organisations. I would like to contribute more, and the community want me to come forward and represent them. Today I would like to take an opportunity to represent our local community in the upcoming council elections from the Cambridge ward, Melton Council. So far year 2020 has been very tough and it is challenging our limits of adaptability. These are challenging times and we are all together in this. Going forward, our focus should be towards safety and the wellbeing of our community. Being a part of the fastest growing multicultural society and as a family man I'm well aware of our day-to-day concerns, and given your support I certainly believe that together we can. I am willing to see each of you in person but this is not possible as per the present guidelines from the Victorian Chief Health Officer. However, with all this technology at hand I am just a call away. Your feedback is very valuable and this will lead us towards the development of a vision that will cater our needs, opinions and desires. Please feel free to get in touch with me with your suggestions and concerns via phone, social media or simply in person as the law allows. Given the opportunity, I will advocate your concerns and put forward options and possible solutions. I promise I will not let you down. Yours Truly, Sukhpreet Mann
 Phone: 0422093820 Email: sukhpreetmannsp@gmail.com

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KUMAR, Shalini Ashika

Shalini Kumar is the Director for Australian Integrated Care Services Pty Ltd, Founder of Australian Integrated Fijian Association of Victoria and Events Lead for Ashayin Entertainment Pty Ltd. She has lived in Melbourne for 25 years and pursued her professional career with the local municipalities in Hume City Council, City of Melbourne and the Australian Government working for Supreme Court of Victoria, Department of Social Services, Department of Planning and Community Development, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Justice and Public Advocate for the past 15 years. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards acknowledged for her perseverance towards the community. This includes Winner of Access and Inclusion Leader of the Year 2019 awarded by City of Melton and was also nominated in the Intercultural Engagement Leader of the Year 2019. She also received recognition from Supreme Court of Victoria in 2013 and has served as Community Ambassador with various cultural organisations. As the Founder of AIFAV, she feels honoured that her Association has been recognised by the Governor of Victoria, Prime Channel 7 awards, City of Melton, DHHS and Carers Victoria. As a mother of a child who suffers from Cerebral Palsy, an entrepreneur in a disability sector, an instigator of a NFP Aged Care and disability Association and a professional career primarily in the disability sector; Shalini understands the frustration and struggles of individual with disability and the day-to-day adversities to surmount, hence, she would like to continue her advocacy for them as a Councillor. Even prior to the Bushfire crisis and COVID19 pandemic, Shalini has been supporting members of the community by hosting mental health webinars, physical therapy sessions, distributing essentials to the vulnerable community, supporting local businesses, providing caregiving and financial support to international students/seniors. Please follow her work on www.aifav.com.au and www.aics.org.au.

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SINGH, Kunwarpal

Entrepreneur, Husband, Father and Non-Profit contributor. I am Kunwarpal Singh and I am running for Council elections for Cambridge ward in 2020 because I fear for the future of our country. The first step that I could do was establish a business which would hire people in the Western Suburbs. As a passion I setup a successful business employing number of employees. As an entrepreneur I realised we could create strong economy throughout the country with strong businesses and hard-working Australian Employees. I wanted to be the change to see the change happen around me in the community and give families a reason to live happily in the western suburbs. I had an epiphany that I needed to be in direct contact with the people that were in need. I started volunteering with local nonprofit groups and organisation in the Western Suburbs to touch peoples heart. This is when I realised how important it is to give and the happiness, I received in giving and sharing with our wider family of Australians living in the Western Suburbs. Despite the success I saw with my painting services and construction businesses I really wanted to be part of the lives of people that were around me. I started actively working for organisation Australian Sikh Support and The Royal Group. With Covid-19 a crisis is underway we have to work together to stop it or we risk losing the heart of our country (Victoria). The stakes have never been higher. Once I understood the magnitude of this problem and that even our most forward-thinking politicians were not going to take the steps necessary to stem the tide, I had no choice but to act. That's why I'm running for council elections 2020. I urge you to join me. No one else is going to build a better world for us. We are going to have to do it ourselves Together. Thank you.

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ABBOUSHI, Steve

It has been a pleasure to serve our community in my capacity as Councillor and Deputy Mayor in our city. For those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I am a local resident, my wife Mariasol is a cancer nurse at our local hospital and together we have two young boys Rafael (8) and Orlando (4) who attend local schools. As a Councillor, with a young family, I have worked hard to ensure our families are not overlooked when it comes to the provision of council services. The last 4 years I achieved several positive outcomes for our community including, a 0% rate increase in this financial year, brought forward \$1m in funding to purchase land in Fraser Rise for a state of the art Aquatic & Leisure Centre, the introduction of Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) reducing the production of harmful greenhouse gases and relieving pressure on landfill space, annual youth forum - empowering representation of our young residents in our city and phasing out of poisonous weed-killer around community areas such as parks, playgrounds and community centres. You can view a full list of my achievements by visiting stickwithsteve.com.au. I continue to be frustrated with the anti-social behaviour and incidents of crime around our community. Excuses are no longer good enough. It is time to take a solutions-based approach rather than pointing the finger. That is why I recently introduced a motion to bring together key community groups and services including Victoria Police, local developers, community leaders and Council staff to improve community safety. For me to continue this work, I need your support. This election Vote 1 to re-elect Steve Abboushi, Vote 2 Gary Verma and number every other box. Support me so I can continue to support you. This election choose to #StickWithSteve.

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CAMILLERI, Ujjala

During this difficult time, issues that are of utmost importance to myself and the Community are as follows: 1. Strengthening economic development - assistance for our current businesses; more local jobs. 2. Enhanced pride in living in the City of Melton - safety first for the community; work hard to ensure the security of residents, advocate for more street lights, pedestrian-safety barriers, and security pull ID tag. My commitment is also to campaign for the Melton Hwy duplication; new road developments to ease traffic congestion and more public transport. 3. Rate freeze for the next four years - I will advocate freezing council rate for residents, higher rebates on rates for pensioners, and reducing tip costs. 4. Improving health and well-being - addressing mental health challenges and domestic violence awareness; overcoming social isolation of elderly and culturally diverse; increase disability services. 5. Lifelong learning and education enhancement - skills development to increase opportunities; institutes for further education in the City of Melton; increase facilities for our children. 6. Clean, green, and carbon-neutral Council - Sustainable living to reduce financial and environmental stresses; more green spaces. My background is Indian Bengali and my husband is of Maltese background, married for 22 years and with our two children, we celebrate interculturalism and display respect for all. Since moving to the City of Melton in 2002, I have been immersed in the community from business ownership to volunteering. I recognise the importance of inclusion and social cohesion that are crucial for thriving communities such as ours. My depth of experience as a business owner, property consultant, and community leader are underpinned by my education - degrees in Accounting, Finance Broking, Financial Planning, and Project Management. I will utilise my education, experience, knowledge, and skills to address the diverse issues facing our community with critical thinking and problem-solving. Please vote 1.

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SMITH, Annie

Annie Smith is here to listen and work with community to build on Melton Council as a place full of opportunities which used the skills and knowledge of diverse community members. Annie is all about having a strong local community with a focus on socio-economic growth held together by strong values of honesty, integrity, respect and inclusion. One persons well being is as important as the whole of communities well being because Annie believes everyone is important, with Annie your voice matters. As a local resident of Caroline Springs of Melton City Council, Annie has a Degree in Public Administration and currently studying a Diploma in Leadership and Management. Annie is currently working in disability employment services to better the lives of people with disabilities and achieve positive outcomes. Annie is most passionate about having her local community grow to accommodate the diversity of its community members. Support and strengthen local businesses to rebuild with sustainable local jobs, Annie will use her skills in working with local business to improve outcomes for community members. Advocate for council to rebuild after Covid 19 an inclusive and healthy community with community development approach by working together with community members to create a connected and empowered community. Support the cause of building Infrastructure and services that community can access with maternal health, disability, child, youth and family facilities to get the support they need. Work to create safer local roads, parks, bike paths, to assist in physical and mental health of the residents and a strong community. Ensure the economic development is accountable and sustainable which is paramount to create a better local community for the next generation. A Vote for Annie is helping to create a vision of environmentally safe, economically progressive and socially diverse, inclusive community.

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VERMA, Gary

Our community needs a local community voice who will listen and act on fresh ideas. I am committed to keeping rates low and advocate in reforming how rates are calculated to stop unfair increases. If elected I will strongly advocate to simplify the process of obtaining a building and planning permit, while ensuring development is in line with sustainability; improve car parking, more public transport within local area ; advocate and stand for 24/7 Police station at Caroline springs and more police patrols and I will set up taskforce for community safety ; recommend double hard rubbish collection; improve aged care and disability services; I will stand against any tip expansion and dumping of toxic soil with in our municipality and will fight for communitys interests with in council and with state government. I will stand more local business and local jobs and for more relief to families impacted by COVID. I will push for funding of recreational and sporting facilities. I will ensure that local parks are maintained to a high standard. I will always put residents first. I am involved in many social projects tackling homelessness, food for needy programs and helping victims of family violence through various local charity organizations as a Volunteer. I have been part of Melton city councils intercultural advisory committee, VMCs regional advisory committee and president of Melton Interfaith network where I have raised many local social issues and promoted social cohesion and harmony. I am passionate about our local community so lets make Melton City a better place to live, work, do business and raise a family. Your trust in me will ensure we have strong, proactive and responsive leadership. New vision, new direction for better Melton City. Vote 1 Gary Verma and vote 2 Steve Abboushi and mark all other boxes.

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SINGH, Gurdant

Gday, My name is Gurdant Singh and I am contesting for the position of Councillor from Cambridge Ward for the Melton City Council elections to be held on 24th of October 2020. Its been an honour to represent my candidacy as an independent candidate from Cambridge ward. I have been living in Melton for last 4 years and have seen the community and infrastructure grow at a very fast pace. I was running my family business before moving to Australia and excel here as a self employed with small business. I see Australia as a beautiful bouquet where all different flowers are bunched together. Its been privilege to be a part of this diverse and vibrant community where people from various cultures, backgrounds, ethnic groups, religions which make Melton so vibrant and attracts all young settlers to make Melton their home. I firmly believe this diversity is our strength and needs to be preserved for future. If given an opportunity, I will work as a bridge between local community and Council and will raise the issues which matters to every one of us. Current scenario we need to focus on assisting the families, individuals and small local businesses who have been hit hard by Covid19. I would also like to work on providing better sport clubs to cater very fast growing community as the number of clubs we have, they are struggling to survive everyone. Take more care of Parks & Reserves to keep them clean and landscaped. While we achieve these goals, it is very important to insure that our growth and development is sustainable. Last but not the least, please follow the guidelines issued by health department. Stay safe and maintain social distancing. Thanks for you support.

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KESIC, Goran

Goran Kestic has been living in Caroline Springs for 20 years and is married with a grown-up daughter and son. He currently works for Western Health and is a hardworking, passionate, enthusiastic person who cares for his community and its residents' health, safety, and wellbeing. Goran has worked for the United Nations UN, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE, with various projects in Europe. Goran holds a bachelors degree in Strategic Studies and International Relations, and a masters degree in International Relations from the Deakin University. Goran presently serves as a Councillor for Cambridge Ward. If re-elected, Goran will advocate for the construction of a new Aquatic Center, an equitable early year's Education Program, Primary/Secondary & Specialist Schools, a local tertiary learning environment, an efficient and frequent public rail (with additional car parking), and bus system. Goran would also advocate for the prevention of family violence - support and facilities, critical infrastructure and vital sport and recreational facilities, extra support to local small businesses post-Covid-19, job creation and local economic development, a 24-hour police station, more protected bicycle lanes, and local movie theatre. In addition, he would advocate for gas connection for Rockbank Township, efficient road network, and freight infrastructure with upgrades to the Western Highway and Melton Keilor Road, duplication of Westwood Drive, and more pedestrian crossings. He would also support permanent closure/relocation of Ravenhall Tip or the introduction of rubbish incinerators (with a smell and pollutants catching filters) recycle of heavy metals, carbon residue used for roads, or bricks - production of usable gas and electricity in the process. Vote 1 Goran Kestic, Vote 2 Kathy Majalik, Vote 3 Golam Haque, and fill in the rest as you please.

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PERERA, Mano

My family and I made Caroline Springs our home in the year 2000. My two children attend local schools. I am a local mathematics school teacher, educating secondary children for the past 19 years. I also run an Education Institute helping primary and secondary schools reach their goals. Since moving to Caroline Springs, I have been heavily involved in the community. I have sat on several committees including the Caroline Springs Steering Development Executive, which played a vital role in the planning of the fantastic parks, waterways and recreation paths we have. Helping those in need has always been a passion and in 2004 I assisted in the Tsunami recovery by helping to rebuild houses for those left homeless in Sri Lanka. The COVID pandemic lockdowns have made life very difficult. Local businesses and schools closed, and we have been confined to our homes. As we rebuild, we need strong leadership from our Council. I commit to work hard for you every day and fight for - no toxic soil! Keeping rates to a minimum; getting our fair share invested in our community; Melton Highway duplication; Western Highway duplication; 24-hour Caroline Springs Police Station; local jobs first and support for local business; upgrades to our recreational parks, reserves, roads and footpaths; reduction in fees for the Melton tip; better education/ training for our youth; increased Police patrols and security cameras in essential places for our safety; more placements and funding for our local kindergartens; better community mental health support services; increased support for vulnerable residents; increase to the pensioner rebate on rates; beautification of our community, support for multicultural communities. I love our community and am proud to be a member of this vibrant multicultural community for the past 20 years. Please vote 1 for Mano Perera <https://www.facebook.com/manoperera4cambridge>

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PASUPULATE, Ajay Kumar

My name is Ajay Kumar Pasupulate and I have lived in Taylors Hill with my wife for more than a decade, where I operate a local business. As a family man with two lovely young children, I understand the challenges local families face. I am also acutely aware of the many problems faced by small business people in the community, particularly in-light of the difficulties this year has thrown up. I Graduated in Project Management from Victoria University Melbourne. Founder member of Australian multicultural association incorporation. Nominee for Melton Citizen of the Year 2018. I was an advisory board member for Culturally and Linguistic Diverse in Melton from 2016 to 2018. Former IT consultant for Services Australia, Vine and other Commonwealth departments. Organiser of women empowerment programs, community radio program, International student services, Indian arts academy and other cultural events. Melton City Council can become the most liveable municipality in Victoria. We can and should connect people to the Council with its outstanding civic facilities. We can build upon our vibrant community by opening opportunities for education, good transport links, support local businesses, improve parks, and provide better medical facilities. Make Melton a safe place to live, work and play and support a healthy and safe environment. Please Vote 1 Ajay Kumar Pasupulate and direct your preferences to Steve Abboushi.

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HAQUE, Golam

First and foremost, Melton City is a council for the people. The elected members, as a high priority, need to ensure all the people in our community are feeling included, cared for and respected. Our Council should continue to prosper while ensuring a sustainable future for the next generation. Our elected members have achieved some outstanding milestones, and it is my passion to contribute to the Councils future development. The key priorities that I am 100% committed to delivering include; better core services, amenities and infrastructure. I would like a greater emphasis on high-quality planning and design of infrastructure to ensure the high standard of our councils character, charm, history and liveability. We need to ensure we are constantly and cohesively monitoring planning regulations and our councillors commitment to representing our community and all its members. Golam Haque is running for Melton City Council (Cambridge Ward) to ensure we have councillors who not only have the credentials to lead but are also rich in culture and diversity. Golam wants to bring residents and small business back into the heart of the councils decision making, by prioritizing community development over everything else. He will cut out the red tape for retailers and business owners by abolishing unnecessary council licenses, put a freeze on rates until 2022, and immediately commence a council-wide expenditure review. He is passionate about creating a city of diversity, equality and prosperity. He has the experience and energy to get our great city back on track and will always prioritize the community first. I request you to Vote 1 Golam Haque; Vote 2 Goran Kesic and fill all the other boxes. Please feel free to contact Golam Haque on 0403 446 668, vote@golamhaque.com.au or www.golamhaque.com.au

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APAP, Charlie

My name is Charlie Apap . I have been living in Caroline Springs for the last 10 years, I have 16 years experience in local government. In those 16years I have served the people of Brimbank and Keilor areas as a Councillor and a Mayor. In 1975 I was elected as a Councillor in the city of Sunshine where I served the people for 2 years. In1980 I was nominated for the election in Keilor and I was elected as Mayor In 1997 I nominated again for the Brimbank Council election and I was elected. In the year 2000 I was the Mayor of Brimbank . I served the people for 6 years. Now in 2020 I nominate for Melton Council election. Since I've been living in Caroline Springs for the last 10 years I've always noticed many things that the council didn't take any attention to. For example, the lake was neglected and the pump that makes the water circulate stopped working for a long time. I myself would contact the council but nothing was ever done. I have made a committee of 5 people and I became a chairman and after that I contacted the council and I asked the council to fix all the problems in the lake and I succeeded with the help of the community .There're more things that need to be done and I'm ready to win the next election to serve the people of the City Of Melton as I did in the past. I am positive with your help, the people of this lovely city together we can fix the things that have been neglected. I will also give my word as an honest ex Mayor that I promise to the people I will deliver my term in the City Council Of Melton,

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MAJDLIK, Kathy

As your current local Councillor for twelve years, I strongly opposed toxic soil being dumped in our backyard and campaigned to stop it from happening in our community. Under my experienced leadership as your local Councillor I have achieved much. Delivering hundreds of millions of dollars to being invested back into our community through important infrastructure and services, to help build the healthy and vibrant community that we all love. Through my initiatives a local Aquatic Centre is being built in the very near future, Westwood Drive completed, major roads/intersections are being upgraded to help alleviate local traffic, people with a disability and the aged have more services and much more. I've been living in the local community for over twenty-five years and as a mum raising a daughter with a severe disability, I understand the struggling hardships that families face, especially those who have lost their jobs and businesses during this time. My vision is to recover, rebuild and restore our local community. I'll support and advocate for more local jobs and help our local businesses get back on their feet. Assist our families and our children by advocating for more childcare services, maternal and health care, youth programs, more primary and secondary schools and continue supporting local sports groups. I'll continue focusing on safety and health in our community, advocate for more police, disability and aged care programs. Having completed a Diploma in Local Government, two Masters; Business Administration and Entrepreneurial Innovation, what our community needs now more than ever is strong, consistent, experienced leadership during this global pandemic and recover and restore our community again. If you want a strong, trusted and experienced Councillor for our community than please Vote 1. Majdlik, Kathy, vote 2. Kesic, Goran. Number all other boxes to validate your vote. Thank you.

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Appendix 7.2.2: Candidate statement leaflet for Coburn Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
Complete and return as soon as possible.
 See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

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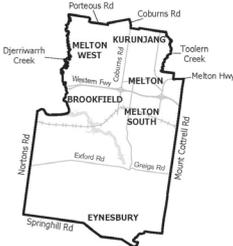
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
 Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
 You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.
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You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020



Coburn Ward
THIS IS A POSTAL ELECTION ONLY.
Voting is compulsory for residents.

For further information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 8619 1445 during business hours.



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<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>SHANNON, Julie</p> </div> <p>Your needs are important, and your voice should be heard. I will work hard so that together, we can live in a stronger and safer Melton. I am local. I live, work, volunteer, exercise and shop in your ward, this is the town that I love and the community I already serve in many ways. I am a listener. As a long time leader in not for profit and faith based organisations I have learned the value of listening, working with others and putting plans into action. I am a worker. As an owner/manager in the small business sector, I know what is required to run a successful enterprise, valuing both employees and customers. People are our community's greatest asset, and the people of Melton are my priority. I am a leader. I have a good understanding of our society's issues, am competent at resolving conflicts and have worked alongside amazing people from many backgrounds and cultures. I am a do-er. I will keep both State and Federal Government accountable in delivering for Melton. I will not stand for corruption, manipulation or personal agendas. I believe development and sustainability goals can be aligned and not at the expense of each other. I am a solver. What you pay to your local council needs to directly support the Melton community, through fair distribution of funds and a transparent and accountable decision-making process. I am a fresh face, running for local council with Liberal Party values. I am not afraid to challenge the status quo, and I will represent our community with wisdom and experience. Lets get it done! Please vote : 1 - Julie Shannon, 2 - Una Kestic, 3 - Sophie Ramsey and number all other boxes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>TURNER, Bob</p> </div> <p>Melton has been my home for 30 years. My wife Val and I enjoy interacting in our local community through groups that we are involved with. I am a founding member and volunteer at The GAP on Graham Inc Youth Centre & Boxing Gym, 979fm Community Radio since 1996. I have also been a proud member of the Lions Club of Melton since 2006. We are fortunate to have 6 lovely Grandchildren. I love living in Melton and want to see it prosper for all our families. This has driven me to seek re-election. I have been a Coburn Ward Councillor for 12 years and I am extremely proud and honoured to have had the opportunity to lead the council as Mayor of our great City in 2013-2014 and 2017-2019. I have enjoyed the last 12 years working with the community to improve our City. Some recent achievements include: completion of Abey Road, Melton Bowling Club extension of the East Bowling Green, construction of the Melton Botanic Trail, Melton Town Centre Streetscape renewal, Kurunjang Community Hub, Macpherson Park Redevelopment, Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre. Coming 2020/2. Construction of Cobblebank Indoor Stadium, Eynesbury Recreation Reserve construction. Traffic signals Brooklyn Road and Station Road. I have strongly advocated to other levels of government to fund essential services and upgrades for our growing community. My vision for a future Melton includes: 24 hr Melton Public Hospital. Upgrade of the Western Highway including an interchange at Bulmans / Clarkes Road. Increased Police resources. Improved transport connections Rail & Bus with more frequent services. Access to improved Education (Tafe), training and employment opportunities. I am proud of what we have achieved over the past 12 years. There is a lot more to do and I would be honoured to continue to represent you. Vote 1 Turner, Bob</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p><small>NOTICE: The contents of candidate statements are provided by the candidates. Any enquiries about candidate statements should be directed to the relevant candidate. Candidate statements are not verified or endorsed by the Election Manager.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RAMSEY, Sophie</p> </div> <p>Melton's greatest asset is its community. As a Mother, your councillor since 2001 a resident of over 30 years and having been involved in many local community organisations, I understand the concerns families have. More importantly, I understand the benefits of quality council services. If elected, I will continue to be your strong voice in council through hard work, communication and honesty. I am passionate about Melton and will maintain strong partnerships between council, business and the community to promote further growth. As your elected councillor, I put forward the initiative for no rate increases for 20/21 and for those experiencing hardship, I proposed a \$200 rate relief waiver. This is in addition to an increase to the pensioner rebate. I voted Yes for all of the above. I voted No, for the contaminated soil from the Westgate tunnel project, and I moved the motion which created the advocacy against this. Whilst Mayor and throughout this term, my initiative for the 6-court basketball stadium together with Eynesbury Recreation Reserve, Eynesbury Station, Early Learning Centre and MacPherson Park upgrades are currently underway. Melton Central Community Hub, Kurunjang Community hub, the upgrade to Hannah Watts Park, the re-development of Town Centre Square, Abbey Road, Bridge Road bridges together with sealing of Minns Road have all been delivered. Through advocacy the 24-hour public hospital has been announced and vital upgrades to the Western Highway are needed now, Melton deserves better. I will continue to be a strong voice against all forms of violence. I will continue to advocate for vital health and family services for our children, elderly, disabled and disadvantaged, help to create local jobs and encourage sustainable businesses. Delivering for our Community. Putting our families and communities first, no hidden agendas, just a better Melton. www.SophieRamsey.com www.facebook.com/MeltonMatters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
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VANDEMBERG, Ashleigh

As a registered nurse on the frontline during this pandemic and a loving mother of two young children, I understand the added pressures we face in our day to day lives. I am aware of the importance for the need of a 24-hour public hospital, one that will grant us the public health we are in need of. As a woman, I understand the importance of specialised women's health services. If elected, I will strive to ensure that maternal child health services will be of the utmost importance within the council. I commit to work hard for you and your family every day and fight for the following. Increased job creation for those within Melton and unwavering support for our local business. No toxic soil. Keeping rates capped at CPI, ensuring we receive more invested back into our Melton community, Western Highway / Melton Highway duplication, Bulmans Road on and off ramps, The removal of congested rail level crossings that have not been scheduled to be removed by the State Government, Increased police services, Re-establishment of a TAFE facility, Increased kindergarten funding and placements, Reduction in tip fees, Beautification and upgrades to our sporting facilities, parks, reserves, roads and footpaths, Increase the pensioner rebate on rates, I believe in the people of Melton and, I believe that we are entitled to a healthy, safe and strong community. As I fight every day for my patients, I will fight for you, for a better Melton.

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DE SANTIS, Melissa

I am a local community development worker and university graduate. I care about our community and want to see it thrive and flourish. I understand the pressures and needs of a growing community. As a long standing resident of Melton I will undertake to achieve the following aims. To ensure that rates remain frozen. I will continue the fight for a new hospital. To re-establish tertiary education and TAFE access. Support the construction of new high ball / basketball sports stadium. Advocate for an expansion of the western freeway to Deer Park. Support the increase of police in Melton. Increase frequency of Public transport services in rail and local bus routes. I support the ongoing development of Melton's new regional park (Melton South). A revitalization of the business / commercial centre. To reactivate social community entertainment programs within the town centre. Reenergising Melton High Street business precinct. I will continue to support programs which support our youth and families. I hope to represent you on council because I am committed to achieving the above aims.

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MAJDLIK, Andrew

As a resident of City of Melton for the past 25 years, I consider myself as a fellow resident and neighbour. Growing up and educated, like most, in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne. I have worked hard, also establishing my own business, employed staff and know the struggles that Business Owners and staff alike experience, on a day to day basis. With my experience and passion, I will fight for the entire community. Vote 1 for Majdlik, Andrew, and I will fight for the construction and opening of Melton Hospital, Tertiary Education, Local TAFE, Strong Partnerships between council and business, upgrade of Melton Railway station and electrification of the Melton line, expansion of Woodgrove Shopping Centre, increase pensioner rebates, upgrade/duplication of the Melton Highway, upgrade of Western Highway and conversion to a Freeway for the benefit of all Melton residents, upgrade of streets throughout Melton, ensure high level of vital health and family services are available for our children, elderly, disabled & disadvantaged. You can count on me to be your voice in our community. To ensure you don't miss out Vote 1 for Majdlik, Andrew

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PERERA, Jason Spencer

As a local resident I am eager to take on the challenges of a new councillor and deliver results that the people of Melton expect from their council. My areas of professional expertise include finance, economics and I have a deep knowledge of laws affecting our community. I am a strong advocate of human rights and will continue to protect civil liberties of Australian people. I believe giving back to the community I live in is one of the greatest contributions I can make. If I am elected, I will work in the best interest of families and elderly living in Melton. My priorities will be to support our local residents by fighting to reduce council rates, improving hard rubbish collection facilities and increasing support for people who are at risk of being homeless. I plan to improve Melton library facilities to support our younger generations' educational needs. It's now important more than ever for Melton residents to have a public hospital that they can rely on. I will investigate into factors causing delays in building a hospital for Melton and work towards providing healthcare access to our most vulnerable community. Covid-19 and strict restrictions have resulted in millions of people being unemployed and they are expected to depend on limited income. In addition to taking steps to reduce council rates to ease their financial hardship, I will cooperate with the state government to boost Melton's economy. As a duty to our local residents, I will look into the council's spending and prevent any unwarranted expenses and practices within the council. I commit to represent our community, be a voice for the voiceless, make decisions that will keep our community well maintained. I look forward to being a part of Melton City Council. I ask for your vote. Thank you.

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KLAIR, Rajinder

I have been the resident of west for the last 13 years. I have done Bachelor in Electronics and Communications and did Masters degree in Information Systems from University of Ballarat and currently working in telecommunication sector. I am spending much of my time to help others. I have been attached to charities and welfare associations since long time. I am a tireless worker and passionate to help those are in need and can be contacted anytime. My passion to spend my life for others has forced me to work at the bigger platform of my Melton City Council. I am advocating for creation of more jobs and mandatory hiring local people. I am strongly campaigning for better and timely medical facilities for the residents and patients. I shall continue to raise my voice for the establishment of world class university and more colleges for secondary education in Melton so that residents may get better education in the area. I am for more police resources and safety cameras for the safety of the public. As far as the heritage of Melton is concerned, I will raise this matter at the council to formulate a permanent and strong heritage committee. I am for well developed network of roads and rail. I am in favor of further reduction in rates due to the loss of employment in pandemic time. I am advocating to generate new resources of income for the council. I will work to promote multicultural values for all in Melton. I will advocate to keep toxic soil away from Melton from west gate tunnel. I will advocate to provide better sports facilities and more trees to be planted for good health and wellbeing. If am given the chance, I shall not leave any stone unturned to satisfy you.

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BRAR, Surinder Singh

I am Surinder Singh BRAR resident of Brookfield. I am working in construction industry and I have completed my studies in business management. I am running for a seat in Melton city council on the Coburn ward. I want our community to remain quiet, family oriented and crime free place. I have not been active in politics before but I am committed for protecting the environment and lifestyle that attract people to be part of this community. If elected I will strongly advocate to cut council rates up to 11% that will be on my top priority. I will ensure safety and security for all residents by installing more CCTV cameras in public places and more street lights. I will ensure more frequent cleaning and maintenance of all public places and residential streets. I will bid with state government for more public transport services around our existing and newly developed residential areas and push for extra lanes in western freeway. Embrace more infrastructures around Melton city centre which will create more high level jobs. I will work on engaging community into educational programs on Australian culture and values and support programs that are important to address issues like family violence. Everyone who expects to live in Melton for any length of time should consider the results of this election carefully. If you share my views, help me to support Melton and please give me your vote.

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KESIC, Una

As a long-standing member of the community who has lived in the West most of her life, growing up in Caroline Springs, and more recently settling in Melton, Una has witnessed the many stages of change the community has undergone. Having lived within the community for more than twenty years, growing up playing in council parks, riding bikes on council roads, utilizing council recreational facilities and public transport, and looking forward to rising her own family within the same community, Una believes that she has a deep understanding of the ever-changing needs and demands her community requires. As the City of Melton grows, Una believes its residents, facilities and infrastructure should grow too, to accommodate the various needs of the residents. Una firmly believes that environments in which we grow, learn and play affect our overall health and happiness. If elected, Una plans to advocate for the building of Melton hospital, bringing in a TAFE provider and adding more schools, childcare centers, and toddler-friendly parks. The duplication of Ballarat and Keilor-Melton roads, more parking access for the local residents, upgrading and adding new sporting facilities, creating new jobs, and attracting new business into the township. Additionally, Una wishes to increase safety and security within the community and keep rising council rates at bay. Una has formal education in Public Health, with a Bachelors degree in Health Science. She is strong, outspoken, and ready to listen. If elected, Una believes that she would be the perfect voice for her community due to her passion and drive to improve the quality of living for all residents. Vote 1 Una Kesic, Vote 2 Julie Shannon, Vote 3 Sophie Ramsey, and fill in the rest as you please.

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JUSTICE, Lance

A vote for me is not a wasted vote, it is a vote for common sense. I have lived and worked in Melton for over 20 years. I have seen Melton grow from a sleepy hollow to a thriving city, and have witnessed its continual growth. My job in council will be to make sure the hospital is built as promised by government, and to make sure that your rates are not wasted. I will endeavour to keep council rates low, make sure that the rubbish is collected, ensure that local roads are kept maintained, and seal gravel roads. I have raised my family in Melton and have community values. I am the president of our local Melton & District Pony Club. I am a leader amongst my industry, and have been for over 30 years having chaired committees, and holding leadership and mentoring roles within Harness Racing Victoria. I am President of the Australian Trainers & Drivers Association, and President of the Victorian Trainers & Drivers Association, which places me in a position of dealing with different types of people from varying backgrounds, assisting and making decisions for my industry. I feel that my experience in dealing with government on all levels will help me in negotiations for our council. I have always been a strong advocating voice for the under privileged and disadvantaged. I want to keep our council strong and independent, without party politics. For too long, Melton has been forgotten. Please vote 1 Lance Justice, 2 Sophie Ramsey, 3 Bob Turner, 4 Kubir Lal Khanal, and number each box to make sure your vote is counted.

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KHANAL, Kubir Lal

My name is Kubir Lal Khanal I was a former refugee from Bhutan, I have been living in Australia since 2010. I am married and I have three children. As a resident living and running a small business within the city of Melton. Our kids are going to the local school, my family is proud to call Melton home. As a community-minded person, serving the wider community through my involvement in the Lions Club of Melton. I have served in different local and multicultural communities including my role as president, vice-president, and intercultural advisory committee. Being active in the local community, I have a deep understanding of community issues through my involvement with broader networks from different faith groups and diverse multicultural organisations. I have engaged to help the people of the wider communities where I organised and managed activities, events to bring social cohesion and harmony. My goal is to work together in common, interact with the communities listening to the issues and advocate on policy matters. I have a strong focus on arts, events, health and safety, upgraded aquatic leisure centre, fast-track infrastructure project to create more jobs, safe sporting clubs and secure children parks free from rubbish dumping, more pedestrian crossing to keep our residents safe from road crossing, provide relief for families and stimulate our local economy by capping rates, housing affordability and homeless or at risk of homelessness issues. I am passionate about commitment to community development and ensuring our most vulnerable and isolated voice will be heard to ensure no one gets behind.

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HARDY, Kenneth

Dear Residents, I asked you to support me in the previous Council election in the Coburn Ward and in return I would use my influence to bring to Melton, a public private Hospital, University TAFE Campus, Brooklyn, Clarkes and Bulmans Roads expansion with on off ramps to Melton Freeway, accelerated employment growth in local jobs, McPherson Park, Reserve Road and Eynesbury Sporting Complex upgrades. To date, the Andrews State Labor Government, Melton City Council, Developers and Unions working singularly or in partnership to transform Melton with these infrastructure projects and investment, in preparation to be shovel ready over the next four years. I need your help to continue this work and bring to Melton economic growth and local jobs. As a Councillor for Coburn Ward, I championed these projects and now its time for Melton to have the best of health, education, roads and employment growth through construction and post construction local jobs that will see economic uplift to the Melton economy coming out of Covid19. Vote 1, Ken Hardy Coburn Ward.

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SHARMA, Vivek

How would you compare Melton with other Councils? I have known Melton for 13+ years and calling it home for 6+ years, time good enough to appreciate the beautiful landscapes we have and notice areas of improvement. I believe Melton needs a massive facelift whether it is High street, Melton Station, or botanical gardens. Why High street does not have any footpaths or beautiful trees and lighting? Status-quo needs to be challenged and fresh new ideas will make Melton more desirable location. House is the biggest asset for most of us and my priority is to add value to build equity for fellow residents. Being an accountant, and father of a toddler, I understand the importance of building equity for future. I also have been interest in arts and sports. I have been an ambassador for AFL and Melbourne theatres. I am currently involved in local sports club and would encourage more sports and cultural events in Melton. Smaller developments around Melton are not well connected due to lack of connecting roads let alone cycle trails. Just like ring-road I propose a Melton ring-walkway connecting Brookfield, Weir views, Cobblebank creeks around Melton revealing breath-taking views of Melton reservoir. Cobblebank lacks a sound barrier to the railway line. Brookfield is only connected by Coburns rd with rest of Melton and do not have any other exit point. Weir Views residents have been denied connectivity with major activity centres for 8+ years and have other unresolved body co-operate matters. Our parks are not sanitized hourly to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I am aware of all these issues and will be a strong advocate to find working solutions for these. I need your support to be your advocate in council. Please Vote 1 for me.

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FOX, Jo

Build Melton Hospital now! Our community needs a world class hospital - state of the art medical facilities from day one. When you, your children or parents need urgent medical attention in the middle of the night, we can't end up with a second-class hospital that will not serve us. Our rapidly growing community deserves nothing less. Council needs to work with the State Government to build a centre for medical excellence with a full accident and emergency department with a helipad, rehabilitation services, hydro-therapy pools and public x-rays. We can't be short changed - we need a strong voice on Council to make our needs and position clear. Safety and security are also important especially in our own homes. That's been my experience with my mum and dad and is topmost with many people. I'll fight for Council to provide affordable repairs, clearing fire risks, tripping hazards and general urgent maintenance. Whether it's in our homes or in the community, we need to improve and increase services and accessibility for all in the community and help people stay home, if that's what they want. We need new ways to attract and then support small business to help create local jobs, especially after coronavirus. For example our shopping strips need to be revitalized and beautified with open air cafes and restaurants, more seating, safety lighting and smooth new footpaths so we can catch up with friends. I love living in Melton. It's my home and like many of you, I enjoy the parks and open spaces. I'm committed to upgrading parks with more seats, playgrounds for the children, better lightning and smoother footpaths. Now's not time just to keep up with services and facilities but to be in front of the growth! For a strong voice vote for me.

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DE SANTIS, Nib

I seek to represent residents of Coburn Ward at the forthcoming Melton Council Election. As a trained Community Development worker I believe I have the skills, qualifications and experience to get Melton moving again. When elected I will pursue the followings aims/objectives: I will work to keep rates capped for 4 years. In Transport, I will seek to have the Western Highway, between Melton and Deer Park expanded. Push to have our failing rail and bus services improved with expanded and more frequent services. Push to fast track work on the Melton Rail Station and car park areas. In Sport & Recreation, pressure state government to re-establish delayed works on our new Regional Park (Melton South). Work to have Council open up and develop the Melton Reservoir (Weir) for public access. In community Health I will work to get Melton's long overdue New Hospital back on track and push state and federal government to improve and expand current Health services; especially for our senior residents. In Employment & Business work for a Council Jobs creation plan is a high priority as is the revitalisation of the High Street Business precinct and the need to increase community/Arts programs in the town centre (Old Court House) Amphitheatre. In education there is an urgent need to resurrect Melton's Victoria University/ TAFE Campus. As your representative on Councillor I will be readily available and will not hesitate to seek advice from residents about any issue of concern. Please vote 1 De Santis, Nib

Appendix 7.2.3: Candidate statement leaflet for Watts Ward election

Don't Risk a Fine
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020

Your ballot paper is attached to this leaflet.
 Complete and return as soon as possible.
 See the ballot paper envelope for voting instructions.

VOTING IN THIS ELECTION IS BY POST ONLY

Your completed ballot material must be posted or in the hands of the Election Manager on or before **6.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2020.**
 Local mail clearance times may vary. Ballot material must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Late votes cannot be included in the count. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your envelope during business hours to:
 Heathdale Christian College, Block B
 102 - 112 Centenary Avenue
 Melton

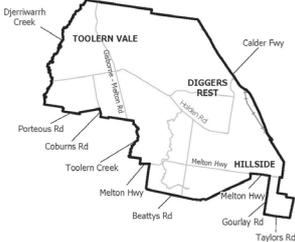
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES
 Completed candidate questionnaires are available at vec.vic.gov.au or alternatively from the Election Manager.

COMPULSORY VOTING PROVISIONS APPLY
 You have received this ballot pack because you are enrolled for this election. Voting is compulsory if you were on the Victorian State electoral roll for this council on Friday 28 August 2020.
 Further information on voting entitlements can be found at vec.vic.gov.au

You may receive an Apparent Failure To Vote Notice if you complete and return your ballot material after the close of voting.



2020 Council Election
VOTING CLOSSES 6.00 PM
Friday 23 October 2020



Watts Ward

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DEEMING, Moira

I am a 37 year old high-school teacher, I have been married to my best friend, Andrew, for 15 years, and we have four children together. My husband and I saved up to live the Australian dream and bought a house and land package in beautiful Taylors Hill 10 years ago. We never looked back. What are my values? I stand for traditional liberal and family values, like equality before the law. Resources should be spent wisely, and only ever allocated based on need, not on identity markers like religion, race or sexuality. What are my policies? Councillors: I will lead by example and vote against any increase in councillor salaries for my entire term. Rates: Council rates are too high & we are not getting value for money. I will vote against rate rises for my entire term. Rubbish: I will vote to double the rubbish voucher system for residents & stand up to the State Government to stop the mismanagement of Ravenhall tip. Toxic substances should never be disposed of near residential areas! Business: fewer & cheaper permits, less paperwork and less red tape. I will help get Melton back in business! Family: Focus on the whole community. I will never support rates being used to promote radical policies like banning Australia Day, Drag Queen Story Times for toddlers or letting biological males who identify as female, use female toilets and changerooms. Safety: Our suburbs have been neglected. I will vote to allocate more spending on security cameras, public lighting and also demand more police from State government. Parks & pathways: major injection of funds to repair & upgrade our playgrounds and paths! Roads: Fix potholes, double Calder Park Drive & Taylors Road. Vote 1 Moira Deeming, Vote 2 Justine Farrugia and number all other boxes.

1

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CARL, Lara

Dear Neighbour, I hope you and your families are safe and keeping well in these unprecedented and difficult times. There's no doubt that the financial and emotional impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic sadly continues to be felt by many in our community. Under my leadership as Mayor and your current Watts Ward Councillor, I have responded to this pandemic in no small way. I have delivered a number of important infrastructure projects and services. My focus in this years council budget has been to further reduce the financial burden on our ratepayers whilst maintaining a significant capital works program to boost our local economy, in doing so creating local jobs and opportunities. I strongly believe the most important part of my role as your Councillor, is to ensure council hears and acts on your concerns and achieves real beneficial outcomes. You deserve nothing less. By now you should have received my campaign material showing what I have delivered to our community. It is now critical that you decide on who you can trust to best represent your needs on Melton City Council for the next four years. I am seeking re-election in order to continue and ensure that the bulk of your rates dollars are spent responsibly to make our area the most liveable and safest place in the City of Melton. We live in a great area, and with your strong support we have achieved much in our community but there is still more to be done. This is why I humbly ask you to Vote 1 Lara Carl, delivering for our community. If you would like more details on my campaign, please visit me at facebook.com/cr.laracarl instagram.com/crlaracarl or email me direct at laracarlforwattsward@outlook.com

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MARAVIC, Aleksandar

I'm running for local council to aid the progression of our local area and improve in a practical and efficient manner. I have a strong belief in fairness and want to ensure that all local members of our community are accounted for, and have their voice heard. Acting on urgent matters at hand are important to me, and so is acting on the future of our local area. I will do my best to build our communities vision as a whole and fight for improving our local area as seen fit by our members.

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VALLONE, Simon

I am a lifelong passionate Western suburbs resident with experience in health, economics as well as emergency management. I commenced my career as a labourer, which later led me to enter the health sector as a disability carer within Melton. My role within the health sector, is where I have found my passion for helping others. With all that has arisen as a result of the pandemic, I know that Local government is best suited to serving and supporting locals however, community members within Melton rarely get the support they need. If elected I commit to advocating for the reduction of rates including greater pensioner discounts, business support to get our local economy going as well as assisting local traders back on their feet. We know Melton Council is a growing municipality, with the help of the community I will ensure continuous flow of infrastructure which will serve our community for years to come. Priorities which I consider to be of the utmost importance to ensure the safety of Melton members, is the duplication of Melton Highway, public transport and the sealing of dirt roads. Your children deserve the chance to play at sporting clubs which are adequately funded and I will strive to ensure an increase to sponsorships, so your children are not missing out. I am a father of two young children, I understand that our Council must look towards implementing the necessary strategies and resources which will continue to further support our youth. I recognise the need for child funded services and will advocate for council to provide more money for childcare and kinder facilities. I will ensure the continued liveliness and wellbeing of our community and with that, I will see to it that all the members of Melton, will be provided with a fair go.

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ROMEO, John

I have been a resident of Diggers Rest all of my life and I see what the needs are, of those within our community. I am a professional chef and manage my own restaurant, that comes with an immense amount of responsibility. Being responsive to the needs of customers, is the forefront of any business. I know that the needs of those within the Watts ward, must be met with the same commitment. The co-operation and commitment that a team must possess, is pivotal to the growth of any business. That is why I would see to it, that all residents in need are heard within the Watts ward, as the people are the only ones who's objections and suggestions matter, to turn Melton into the most vibrant city it can be. Our community has continued to grow, however, if we do not have the correct services and infrastructure, we cannot ensure that the safety and wellbeing of our community will prosper. I commit to provide the following for the people of Watts Ward. Capping of rates at CPI, continued lobbying for the duplication of Melton Hwy, strategic commercial development to increase job opportunities for our locals, programs to further support our youth, additional off lead park for pet dogs within watts ward, further beautification of our parks and gardens. To begin with, I will strive to enact the above as well as engaging residents to listen and respond to their concerns. I hope I can rely on your support by voting 1 for John Romeo and 2 for Lara Carli, please ensure you number the rest of the boxes so your vote counts. A council which has me on board, ensures that there will be a council placing your needs at the forefront, together we can make this change.

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ALURKAR, Deepti

As a local resident, many of you may know me as a small business owner, local community advocate through my engagement with residents and local businesses. As a mother of two school aged girls, safety and well-being of our community matters most to me. I have listened to local residents and understand, what we need, to build a better community. As your Councillor, I will fight to establish a Covid-19 economic recovery plan in order to boost local employment and help struggling businesses. As a small business owner, myself I will continue to promote and support local business and develop initiatives that will increase growth and sustainability. I will fight to improve our local parks, landscape, plant more trees and beautify our area. I will fight for more police and security cameras for our suburbs. I will promote community inclusiveness by fighting to fund services for disadvantaged families and our ageing population, including in home support and social activities. I will fight to deliver more services for our youth and invest in prevention programs on drug abuse, bullying and advocate for a shelter for victims of family violence. As a community advocate for the past six years, I have raised funds for Beyond Blue, The Cancer Council and organised supplies for victims of the bushfires. Recently, I provided assistance and meals to local families in need during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a former board member of Melton City Council's Intercultural Board, I will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our area. A vote for me is a vote for accountability and transparency. I will fight for a fair distribution of funds to our ward and ensure that our local community are always put first. Vote 1 Deepti Alurkar.

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TRIFUNOVSKI, Sonya

I Sonya Trifunovski am your candidate standing for Watts ward. I have lived in the ward for over 11 years with my husband and two children who have grown up in the area to become two mature boys. I would like to add to our community by promoting my strong beliefs in family, values and integrity. My community work within the City of Melton has extended to developing groups needed by our communities through self-support groups in mental health support. My lived experiences and professional background, extending to more than 15 years, in Social Welfare has enabled me to gain a better understand and have the capacity to advocate strong supporting ethics. I have worked in many diverse roles in the Social Welfare and Counselling fields in particular engaging with communities and individuals of varied backgrounds. With COVID19 being a major disruption to our normal ways I would like to focus on identifying activities and programs that would support the family and youth services, ensuring delivery of these within the City of Melton. Additionally, and just as importantly strategies that can return our crucial local businesses to a post COVID19 normality. The health of our community and businesses are essential in seeing the City of Melton develop and flourish especially with new estates and communities being established within our ward.

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HERNANDEZ, Cecilia Rachel

My family and I have lived in Taylors Hill for 18 years. During these years I have lobbied for the safety and wellbeing of our community. My husband and I were part of the original Taylors Hill Safety Committee, where we successfully advocated for various safety issues within Watts Ward. I have more than 20 years of experience in community services and community development. I have extended knowledge and skills through many years of working in local government. I have spent the last 7 years in volunteer community work as the President of the leading Spanish speaking welfare organisation in Victoria. I know the challenges our community face, and if elected I will commit to bring integrity, resilience and a passion for community services, for a better Melton. I strongly believe in the power of communities working together for a common purpose, and its for that reason I am putting my hand up to run for Melton City Council Elections. 2020 has without a doubt been a challenging and different year for everyone. Our lives, families and communities have been forced into a new way of life. No one knows exactly what lies ahead, but we can be sure that the next few years will be hard work and will be years in which our resilience will be tested more than ever before. This is why, I will lobby for grants to support local businesses through post-covid recovery. I will promote and empower diversity within our community. I will work hard to strengthen the communications between community leaders and council to address the needs of our community. I will strongly advocate for your interests and for what really matters most to you. Please Vote 1 Cecilia Hernandez and Vote 2 Lara Carli. Please ensure you number every box.

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FARRUGIA, Justine

Vote for change. Rate relief for families and local businesses. I represent a better balance in council ensuring better outcomes for residents. Our community deserve everything right here, Melton hospital, public pool and safer roads. Creating new jobs, for locals. We need safer roads with less bottle necks, especially around Taylors Rd, Calder Park Drive, Hume Drive, Melton Hwy, Plumpton Rd, Holden Rd and Leakes Rd. Duplications done properly from the start, and future proofing our road network and growth. Fast tracking all crucial infrastructure and community facilities. Upgrades to our local parks and playgrounds, with equipment and sensory play for the youngest members of our community. We need more facilities and activities for teenagers. Well lit, secure places for exercising to ensure our residents feel safe, with more pedestrian crossings on main roads. Our seniors also deserve more council funded programs and support. If elected as a councillor, I will listen and be advocating on behalf of the community for a 24/7 police station, fast tracking our public pool, infrastructure projects, ensuring local jobs and no dumping of toxic soil in our community. With a new fresh approach, we can get it done. Vote for change, make it count. Vote 1. Farrugia 2. Deeming and please fill in all the boxes.

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PRYGIEL, Henry

As a resident of Diggers Rest for almost 30 years, I have witnessed significant change. In recent times change has accelerated and turned into chaos. Extensive excavation, road closures without notification or consultation, dust and debris across the landscape with mud and rocks dropped on roads causing traffic hazards. However with the appropriate management, these obstacles can be overcome and facilitate a vibrant multicultural community that will flourish where there is plenty of public space for recreation and exercise. Good roads, facilities and infrastructure that make it a safe and comfortable place to live, with a sense of pride and community. Our new development must bring all the essential services to support families with transport and connectivity with rest of the municipality. Often outlying communities within the City of Melton are overlooked and this must not continue. Another area of neglect is the non-urban areas often acquired by speculators and left to fall into disrepair demonstrated by activities such as rubbish dumping. A review of land use is needed to allow lifestyle properties to flourish within the Green Wedge promoting better use and management of existing land. What is required is a holistic approach, integrating urban development and its public space and waterways with the utilization of the Green Wedge to provide a range of lifestyle choices within the municipality. Essentially, what is required is greater oversight of developers and contractor activities, better traffic management solutions, council services to maintain pace with population growth and development of useable public space with better planning and more appropriate land use that integrates high density urban development and rural living.

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ROWE, Wesley Alan

My goals in the role of Councillor to the City of Melton will be to improve liveability through vibrant beatification, arts, events and public spaces in the municipality, with a strong focus on inclusivity and accessibility. We have an opportunity at present to not just recover from our current situation, but to rebuild communities as well as create new ones that are resilient and adaptable. We will build lives, families, careers, and the city. I will create a Melton that everyone will find attractive and aspirational, which will ultimately foster diversity. Diversity of housing, tenure, cultures, transport, there is a place for all in my vision. I will improve education opportunities and make public space adaptable for all that wish to use it. I will encourage development that supports the community and improves liveability. I will protect the environment and support the growth of ecology. I will create friendly places that people want to be. Places where you can exchange knowledge, goods, services and smiles. We will bring people back together. We will celebrate our cultural heritage and firmly shape our future heritage. I'm a people person, I love the arts, peri-urban cultures and I'm keen to get my hands dirty to make a positive difference. I've spanned three decades being part of this municipality, this community, and having spent many of my developmental years here, I'm sincerely passionate about making a better world for us.

Appendix 8: Daily breakdown of the general mail-out

Melton City Council election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
35,363	35,363	33,283	104,009

Cambridge Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
11,267	11,267	10,604	33,138

Coburn Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
15,762	15,762	14,835	46,359

Watts Ward election

6 October 2020	7 October 2020	8 October 2020	Total
8,334	8,334	7,844	24,512

Appendix 9: Result information

Melton City Council election

Cambridge Ward Count summary

Enrolment:	33,138
Formal votes:	25,835
Informal votes:	1,956 (7.04% of the total votes)
Voter turnout:	27,791 (83.86% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
MANN, Sukhpreet Singh	971	3.76%
KUMAR, Shalini Ashika	577	2.23%
SINGH, Kunwarpal	631	2.44%
ABBOUSHI, Steve	6,151	23.81%
CAMILLERI, Ujjala	1,295	5.01%
SMITH, Annie	1,306	5.06%
VERMA, Gary	918	3.55%
SINGH, Gurjant	289	1.12%
KESIC, Goran	3,325	12.87%
PERERA, Mano	712	2.76%
PASUPULATE, Ajay Kumar	307	1.19%
HAQUE, Golam	466	1.80%
APAP, Charlie	1,662	6.43%
MAJDLIK, Kathy	7,225	27.97%

Successful candidates

MAJDLIK, Kathy (1st elected candidate)

ABBOUSHI, Steve (2nd elected candidate)

KESIC, Goran (3rd elected candidate)

Coburn Ward Count summary

Enrolment: 46,360

Formal votes: 32,714

Informal votes: 2,802 (7.89% of the total votes)

Voter turnout: 35,516 (76.61% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
SHANNON, Julie	3,606	11.02%
TURNER, Bob	7,052	21.56%
RAMSEY, Sophie	4,754	14.53%
VANDENBERG, Ashleigh	6,785	20.74%
DE SANTIS, Melissa	571	1.75%
MAJDLIK, Andrew	436	1.33%
PERERA, Jason Spencer	572	1.75%
KLAIR, Rajinder	429	1.31%
BRAR, Surinder Singh	783	2.39%
KESIC, Una	1,227	3.75%
JUSTICE, Lance	1,826	5.58%
KHANAL, Kubir Lal	315	0.96%
HARDY, Kenneth	1,791	5.47%
SHARMA, Vivek	534	1.63%
FOX, Jo	1,547	4.73%
DE SANTIS, Nib	486	1.49%

Successful candidates

TURNER, Bob (1st elected candidate)

VANDENBERG, Ashleigh (2nd elected candidate)

RAMSEY, Sophie (3rd elected candidate)

SHANNON, Julie (4th elected candidate)

Watts Ward Count summary

Enrolment: 24,512

Formal votes: 20,249

Informal votes: 909 (4.30% of the total votes)

Voter turnout: 21,158 (86.32% of the total enrolment)

Candidates (in ballot paper order)	First preference votes	Percentage
DEEMING, Moira	4,351	21.49%
CARLI, Lara	5,231	25.83%
MARAVIC, Aleksandar	553	2.73%
VALLONE, Simon	761	3.76%
ROMEO, John	975	4.82%
ALURKAR, Deepti	1,844	9.11%
TRIFUNOVSKI, Sonya	924	4.56%
HERNANDEZ, Cecilia Rachel	944	4.66%
FARRUGIA, Justine	3,188	15.74%
PRYGIEL, Henry	711	3.51%
ROWE, Wesley Alan	767	3.79%

Successful candidates

CARLI, Lara (1st elected candidate)

DEEMING, Moira (2nd elected candidate)

Appendix 10: Election participation statistics

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

Melton City Council election			
Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Melton City Council general election	Comparator for 2016 Melton City Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	85.34%	76.82%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	84.98%	76.70%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	88.98%	78.17%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	52.02%	50.20%	60.96%
Council total	83.39%	73.54%	84.12%

Cambridge Ward election			
Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Melton City Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)	
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	87.42%	86.27%	
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	87.30%	85.48%	
aged 70 years and over on election day	89.00%	90.14%	
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	56.10%	60.96%	
Ward total	85.84%	84.12%	

Coburn Ward election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Melton City Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	81.52%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	80.75%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	87.89%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	46.43%	60.96%
Ward total	78.96%	84.12%

Watts Ward election

Enrolment category	Participation as a percentage of voters enrolled in each category for 2020 Melton City Council general election	Statewide postal election comparator for 2020 LG elections (excl. Melbourne City Council)
Voters enrolled through section 241 of the LG Act	89.52%	86.27%
aged 18 to 69 years old on election day	89.33%	85.48%
aged 70 years and over on election day	91.61%	90.14%
Voters enrolled through sections 243 - 245 of the LG Act	64.14%	60.96%
Ward total	88.48%	84.12%

Appendix 11: Complaints

Written complaints received by the VEC

Date	Nature of the complaint	Action taken by the VEC
26 August 2020	General Question - Enrolment (Incorrect or not updated enrolment details)	Action taken and responded
2 September 2020	Complex Complaint - Candidates and Parties	Action taken and responded
2 September 2020	General Question - VEC Administration	Action taken and responded
7 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Early Campaigning)	Response provided
20 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Authorisation)	Referred to LGI
20 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Authorisation)	Referred to LGI
22 September 2020	Complex Complaint - Candidates and Parties (Entitlements)	Esacled for investigation and action
23 September 2020	Complex Complaint - Candidates and Parties (Conduct of Candidate or Party)	Action taken and responded
24 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Candidates)	Investigated. No response provided as anonymous submission
25 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Action taken and responded
27 September 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties	Response provided
29 September 2020	Complex Complaint - Candidates and Parties (Entitlements)	Esacled for investigation and action
4 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Response provided
5 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Referred to LGI
9 October 2020	Sensitive / Complex Complaint	Response provided
11 October 2020	Complex Complaint - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Response provided
11 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (COVID-19)	Response provided
12 October 2020	Clarification of Process, Procedure or Legislation - Advertising or Election Material (Authorisation)	Action taken and responded

12 October 2020	Complex Complaint - Advertising or Election Material	Investigated. No response provided as anonymous submission
12 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Action taken and responded
12 October 2020	Criticism - VEC Administration (Wait Times)	Investigated, phone contact made
14 October 2020	Criticism - VEC Administration (VEC Procedures)	Action taken and responded
14 October 2020	Suggestion - VEC Administration (Website)	Improvement recommendation made
14 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Referred to LGI
15 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Referred to LGI
16 October 2020	General Question - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
16 October 2020	General Question - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
16 October 2020	Complex Complaint - Advertising or Election Material (Authorisation)	Investigated. No response provided as anonymous submission
16 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Advertising or Election Material (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Referred to LGI
19 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
20 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
20 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
20 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Ballot Papers)	Action taken and responded
21 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Conduct of Candidate or Party)	Response provided
22 October 2020	Complex Complaint - Advertising or Election Material (Conduct of Candidate or Party)	Response provided
24 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Postal Vote Never Received)	Action taken and responded
24 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Response provided
26 October 2020	Allegation of potential breach of the law - External Agency as Regulator - Candidates and Parties (Misleading or Deceptive Information)	Action taken and responded
26 October 2020	Simple Complaint - Voting (Postal Vote Never Received)	Response provided

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