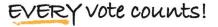


### **BEING A CANDIDATE IN COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

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# **Topics for Discussion**

- Election timetable
- Nomination requirements
- Polling services
  - Early (pre-poll), postal, mobile, election day
- Campaign material
- Counting and results
- NTEC advertising and publicity



### **Election Timetable**

- Notice inviting nominations
- •
- Close of Electoral Roll
- Close of Nominations
- Postal Vote Mail Out
- Early Voting (Pre-Poll)
- Polling Day

Friday 9 October 2015

5pm Tuesday 13 October 2015

12 noon Thursday 15 October 2015

Friday 16 October 2015

8am Friday 16 October 2015

Saturday 31 October 2015

- Final Count/s, determination of quota/distribution of preferences
  12 noon Friday 6 November 2015
- Declaration of Poll

10am Monday 9 November 2015

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# **Nomination - Eligibility**

#### Legislation stipulates -

- Candidate eligibility
  - 18 years or older
  - Australian citizen
  - On the electoral roll for this election (as at close of roll) for the council area.

EVERY Vote counts!

### **Grounds for disqualification**

- Holding a judicial position (except a JP)
- An un-discharged bankrupt
- Has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (which has not expired) of 12 months or more

EVERY Vote counts!

- An employee of council
- Owing council rates or a council surcharge
- Of unsound mind

### **Nomination requirements**

- Form to be completed correctly, signed by not less than 3 nominators and the nominee
- Nominators to be on the roll for the council for which nominee is standing
- Photograph of the nominee head & shoulders taken within the previous 6 months
- Nominations can be lodged but not accepted until after roll close on Tuesday 13 October 2015
- Names on ballot paper can be truncated no nicknames

### **Nomination deadline**

- Deadline for lodging nominations with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission - 12 noon SHARP Thursday 15 October 2015
- Nominations must be lodged with the NTEC by the deadline
- Do **NOT** leave until last minute
- Late nominations will **<u>NOT</u>** be accepted
- Check that nomination has been received if sent electronically

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## Declaration of Nominations/Draw for Position on Ballot Paper

- Public declaration of nominations 1.00pm Thursday 15 October 2015
- Immediately following the declaration there will be a public draw for position of candidate names on the ballot paper if the election is contested

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### **Candidate Nomination Pack - contents**

- Candidate handbook
- Nomination form
- Appointment forms/briefing notes for scrutineers
- Applications for postal votes and postal vote envelopes
- Enrolment forms and envelopes
- LGANT So you want to be on Council
- Candidate packs available from NTEC offices and councils
- All forms in pack available from NTEC website

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

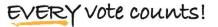
### **Voting services**

• Early voting

- Postal voting
- Mobile polling
- Ordinary polling

- in person, before polling day (previous criteria no longer applies)
  - Available from Friday 16 October to Friday 30 October 2015
- on line applications. by mail
- care and correctional facilities, hospitals, remote areas
- every polling place
- polling day Saturday 31 October 2015
  8am-6pm
- Assistance to voters

#### **Voting is Compulsory**



# **Mobile Polling Services**

Mobile polling services can only be finalised and advertised after the close of nominations

Details to be available soon after 16 October 2015 and will be advertised:

- in the press
- electronic media
- on the NTEC website www.ntec.nt.gov.au
- on posters around various communities

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

### Advertising polling places and polling facilities

- All voting places will be advertised •
  - Newspapers

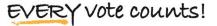
  - Mail-outs

- full details
- Electronic media broad messages
  - urban areas

- NTEC website
- www.ntec.nt.gov.au
- Signage outside polling places
- Special promotions eg community stalls

# **Financial Disclosure/Roll information**

- No requirement to disclose sources of campaign funding, donations, gifts received
- Candidates are not entitled to receive or purchase copies of roll information



# **Campaign materials**

See the LG Act and Electoral Regulations

- Campaign material material intended to promote the electoral prospect of a candidate or group of candidates:
  - an electoral advertisement
  - a printed document such as a handbill, pamphlet, how-to-vote card
  - a message containing electoral matter that is sent by telephone or broadcast by electronic means
  - published material containing electoral matter

#### **Campaign materials** *cont'd*

- Electoral matter any matter, printed or in electronic form, that is intended/likely to affect voting at an election
- Campaign material, printed and in electronic format, must have:
  - the name and address of the person authorising the advertisement AND
  - if a printed document, the name and address of the printer printed at the end
- Where the material is two-sided, the authorisation and printer details must be on both sides

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#### **Campaign materials** cont'd

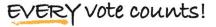
- A person must not publish or distribute any campaign material that:
- is likely to:
  - mislead
  - deceive
  - improperly interfere with an elector casting a vote
- contains an untrue or incorrect statement

### Campaign materials cont'd

- Signage to comply with council/government agency/ building complex requirements
- Canvassing for votes at a polling centre to be 10 metres or more from the entrance
- How-to-vote (HTV) cards
  - different colour to ballot paper ordinary ballot papers (green) & Dec/Postal ballot papers (white)
  - advise voters to mark all voting squares
- NTEC cannot campaign for you OR provide advice on campaigning

### Offences

- For electoral offences see Candidate Handbook (pg. 15)
- Radio & Television Advertising
  - covered by *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*
- Witnessing election material
  - candidates are NOT to witness election material



### **Scrutineers**

- Candidates may appoint representatives to observe polling and the scrutiny
  - one per polling place during polling
  - no more than one per table during the count
- Scrutineers must be authorised in writing by the candidate
- Authorisation to be lodged with the OIC of polling place/counting centre

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### Scrutineers (cont'd)

- Scrutineers **MAY**:
  - observe proceedings, leave at any point
- Scrutineers **CANNOT** within the polling place:
  - touch ballot papers
  - influence a voter
  - disclose knowledge of an elector's vote
  - wear badges, campaign T-shirts etc
  - leave how-to-vote material

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

## LG voting and vote counting

- Voting
  - voter must mark a preference for each candidate on the ballot paper - 1, 2, 3, 4 etc
- Vote counting Proportional Representation (PR)
  - to be elected, a candidate must obtain a quota or proportion of the formal votes

quota = <u>total number of **formal votes**</u> + 1 the number of vacancies +1

$$\frac{1000}{1+1} + 1 = \frac{1001}{2} = 501 \text{ votes}$$

eg

### LG voting and vote counting cont'd

- Information on counting system available in nomination packs and on NTEC website Education /Information Sheets
- Direct any further enquiries on voting system to NTEC

EVERY Vote counts!

# **Counts – Polling Night at 6pm**

#### Count centres

- Ordinary votes lodged by electors voting in their local area counted at polling places
- Early and postal votes counted at NTEC offices

#### **Ballot papers**

- Informal ballot papers are set aside
- Formal ballot papers are sorted and counted according to the 1<sup>st</sup> preference shown on each ballot paper

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

### **Counts after polling night**

- The week after polling day
  - All counts will be rechecked
  - Postal votes can be received up until 12 noon Friday 6 November 2015
- Count figures will be posted progressively on NTEC website www.ntec.nt.gov.au



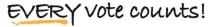
#### **Concluding the election**

- Quota can only be determined, and preferences distributed, after all postal votes are received (12 noon Friday 6 November 2015) and the final number of formal votes is known
- Recount anytime before the declaration of the poll, the returning officer or a candidate may request, in writing, a recount
- Results of count will be posted on NTEC website www.ntec.nt.gov.au

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

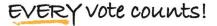
# **Declaration of the poll**

- NTEC Office, Level 3TCG Centre, Darwin
  - Tentatively planned for 10am Monday 9 November 2015



# **NTEC Advertising and Publicity**

- Newspapers NT News
- Electronic media TV and radio
- Mail-out to electors –personally addressed mail
- Banners and roadside signage
- NTEC website <u>www.ntec.nt.gov.au</u>
- Council website link to NTEC
- Word of mouth
- Media releases
- Enrolment stalls and posters



# Reminders

- Roll closes 5pm Tuesday 13 October 2015
- Nominations lodge with NTEC ASAP
  - deadline 12 noon SHARP Thursday 15 November 2015
- Voting early, by post, mobile teams and polling day
  - Polling day Saturday 31 October 2015
- Final results immediately following distribution of preferences.

See your candidate pack for more details

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

# **Further candidate information? See:**

- Candidate Pack and Handbook
- Election bulletins
  - sent regularly to candidates/those interested who provide email addresses

EVERY Vote counts!

- NTEC offices
- NTEC website **www.ntec.nt.gov.au**

### **NTEC contact details**

- Election Manager
- Director of Operations
- NTEC Office

Sue Whyte

- Peter Burgess
  - Level 3, TCG Building Darwin

- Call Centre
- Email
- Website

**1800 MYVOTE** 

1800 698 683

ntec@nt.gov.au

www.ntec.nt.gov.au

Any Questions?