



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**

EVERY vote counts!

BEING A CANDIDATE IN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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** Friday 9 October 2015
- **Close of Electoral Roll** 5pm Tuesday 13 October 2015
- **Close of Nominations** 12 noon Thursday 15 October 2015
- **Postal Vote Mail Out** Friday 16 October 2015
- **Early Voting (Pre-Poll)** 8am Friday 16 October 2015
- **Polling Day** 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

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.**

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
- 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 **NOT** be accepted
- Check that nomination has been received if sent electronically

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

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

Voting services

- Early voting
 - in person, before polling day (previous criteria no longer applies)
 - Available from Friday 16 October to Friday 30 October 2015
- Postal voting
 - on line applications. by mail
- Mobile polling
 - care and correctional facilities, hospitals, remote areas
- Ordinary polling
 - 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

Advertising polling places and polling facilities

- All voting places will be advertised
 - Newspapers – full details
 - Electronic media – broad messages
 - Mail-outs – 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

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

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

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

$$\text{quota} = \frac{\text{total number of **formal votes** + 1}{\text{the number of vacancies + 1}}$$

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

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

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 1st preference shown on each ballot paper

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

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 – www.ntec.nt.gov.au
- 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

Further candidate information? See:

- Candidate Pack and Handbook
- Election bulletins
 - sent regularly to candidates/those interested who provide email addresses
- NTEC offices
- NTEC website www.ntec.nt.gov.au

NTEC contact details

- Election Manager Sue Whyte
- Director of Operations Peter Burgess
- NTEC Office Level 3, TCG Building - Darwin

- Call Centre **1800 MYVOTE**
1800 698 683
- Email ntec@nt.gov.au
- Website www.ntec.nt.gov.au