2017 Local Government Elections

Factsheet 025 – June 2017

What is the timing of the Local Government Elections

The next Shire of Westonia Local Government Elections will be held on **Saturday, 21 October 2017**. Local Government Elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October.

There are six councillors in the Shire of Westonia and they are elected every two years to serve a term of four years. In October 2017 the Shire of Westonia will hold elections for three Councillor positions.

Candidates in the 2017 October Election

Which of the current Elected Member's terms expire in 2017?

The terms of Councillors Louis Geier, John Jefferys and Bill Huxtable expire in 2017 and they are eligible for re-election.
There will also be an Extraordinary Election for Doug Hermon who is standing down, this term will be a (2) two year term.

When do nominations for candidates open?

Thursday, 7 September 2017

When do nominations for candidates close?

Thursday, 14 September 2017 at 4.00pm

Who can be a candidate?

Anyone who is on the Shire of Westonia Electoral Roll as a resident, non-resident owner or occupier of rateable property within the Shire of Westonia (and is not disqualified) can be a candidate. Nominees of a body corporate cannot stand for election to Council. Further details on who is qualified to be a candidate is outline in sections 2.19-2.24 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Enrolment

Who is entitled to vote?

The roll for this election consists of:

1. Individuals who live in the Shire of Westonia district and who are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll (the Resident's Roll)
2. Non-resident owners or occupiers of rateable property in the Shire of Westonia district (the Shire's Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll)

What is the Resident's Roll?

Those residents who live in the Shire of Westonia district that are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll are automatically enrolled on the Resident's Roll for local government elections.

What is the Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll?

Owners of land or nominees of corporate bodies who own or occupy rateable property in the Shire of Westonia, but are not enrolled on the State Electoral Roll for the Shire of Westonia district, may apply to be on the Non-Resident Owners and Occupiers Roll, providing they are on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for a residential addressed outside the district.

What is a Non-Resident Owner?

A non-resident owner is a person who owns rateable land within the Shire of Westonia district but is not a resident. To be eligible to be on the roll, a non-resident owner must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll for the area where they live.

What is a Non-Resident Occupier?

A non-resident occupier is a person, living outside the Shire of Westonia district where the election is being held, who leases or occupies rateable property with the Shire.

To be eligible to vote the person must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll where they live, and have a right of continuous occupation under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument of the property within the district where they seek to vote. The right of continuous occupation must extend for a period of at least three months at the time the person claims enrolment

Are people who do not live in the Shire of Westonia able to vote?

Yes. Electors of a local government consist of eligible non-resident property owners and occupiers and residents of the district. Local government provides services to both people and property and the rates levied are paid not only by residents but also non-resident business owners and other people who own or occupy property. Where people personally own or occupy property, but are not residents of the district, they are able to enrol to vote.

When is the last day I can enrol to vote in these Elections?

People who live in the Shire (whether they own a property or rent it) are automatically enrolled for the Shire of Westonia Local Government Elections if they are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll. They must be enrolled on the State Electoral Roll by **5.00pm on Friday, 1 September 2017** to be eligible to vote in the 2017 Shire of Westonia Local Government Elections.

Residents should direct enquiries about the State Electoral Roll to the Western Australian Electoral Commission on **13 63 06**.

Individuals and companies that own or occupy property in the Shire may enrol, (or nominees may be enrolled on behalf of companies) up to 5.00pm on Friday, 1 September 2017 in order to be eligible to vote in the 2017 Shire of Westonia Local Government Elections. Those enrolling must be on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll and reside outside of the Shire of Westonia district.

What is the voting entitlement per person or property?

A person may have his or her name on the roll only once regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied. A company may have a maximum of two people on the roll as nominees of that company regardless of the number of properties owned or occupied.

"Occupation" means having a right under a lease, tenancy agreement or other legal instrument, to be in continuous occupation of a definable piece or rateable property for at least the next three months after the date of application.

Enrolment Forms

Enrolment forms may be obtained from the Shire of Westonia website (see "Elections" under the "Council" heading) Alternatively, forms can be obtained by:

- Emailing a request to admin@westonia.wa.gov.au; or
- Phoning **9046 7063**

The Election

Who conducts the elections?

The Electoral Commissioner is responsible for conducting all local government postal elections in Western Australia and can also conduct voting in person elections on request under the *Local Government Act 1995*. By making the Electoral Commissioner responsible for these elections, the local governments concerned ensure that elections are conducted independently and with impartiality.

Is voting compulsory?

No, voting is not compulsory in local government elections in Western Australia.

Voting times on election day

The following polling places will be open from 8.00am to 6.00pm on Saturday 21th October 2017.
Polling place: Westonia Shire Administration Office, 41 Wolfram Street Westonia.

Voting times before election day

- **Early voting** places are open until 4.00pm, Friday 20th October 2017 and you can get a ballot paper immediately by going to Westonia Shire Administration Office, 41 Wolfram Street Westonia.
- **Absent votes** can be cast at any local government office in Western Australia during office hours from now until Tuesday 17th October 2017.
- **Postal vote** application forms are available now, until Tuesday 17th October 2017 from the address below. You should apply as soon as possible so that the voting papers can be processed and your vote returned to us before 6.00pm on election day.

Need help to vote?
Electoral staff or a person you trust (who is not one of the candidates or a scrutineer) can help you if you are incapacitated and not able to vote on your own.

Vote counting
Members of the public and candidates are welcome to attend the counting of the votes after 6.00pm on Saturday 21th October 2017 at Westonia Shire Administration Office, 41 Wolfram Street Westonia.

Enquiries to;

The WAEC Returning Officer for the 2017 Shire of Westonia Local Government Elections will be advised on the Shire's website closer to the opening date of nominations.
In the meantime, further information can be obtained by visiting either the Shire of Westonia website or the Department of Local Government and Communities website (www.dlgc.wa.gov.au).

Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Westonia.
Visit 41 Wolfram Street, Westonia WA 6423
Phone 9046 7063or email ceo@westonia.wa.gov.au

All Shire information is available in alternative formats upon request