

Put your
hand up

2024
COUNCIL
ELECTIONS



Welcome

The City of Greater Bendigo acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet, the Dja Dja Wurrung, and pays its respects to leaders and elders past, present and future



Local Government in Greater Bendigo

- Highly regarded Local Government in Victoria
- Critical leadership role in the community – both Council and senior staff
- Strong working relationships with all levels and sides of government
- Delivers 68 valued services to the community
- Critical contribution to the liveability of our community



Why nominate for Council?

- Being a Councillor is a privilege
- Make a significant contribution to shaping the future of Greater Bendigo
- Take an active leadership role in your community
- Ensure we have a Council that reflects the community – different backgrounds, experiences and skills



What makes an effective Councillor?

- Need to lead, govern and make decisions for the benefit of all residents and ratepayers
- Have a broad range of interests and be able to consider the diverse needs of the community
- Ability to consider the bigger picture and understand you are part of a team
- Inherit a legacy and leave a legacy



Councillors and staff

- Elect nine Councillors in October to form the Council. Councillors then vote on a Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- Council has one employee, the CEO
- All other staff are the responsibility of the CEO – approximately 1,000 people
- Council's Budget has an annual turnover of around \$230M



Major strategic work currently underway

- Managed Growth Strategy – our plan to guide our growth over the next 30 years as we prepare for a population of 200,000 people
- Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
- Township planning – Elmore, Goornong, Maiden Gully, Huntly
- Post-War Heritage Study
- Big Hill Landscape Assessment
- Bendigo City Centre Plan
- Greater Creative Bendigo



Current projects

- Planning to deliver once-in-a-generation projects
 - Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment
 - Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
 - Regional Sports Infrastructure Projects
- Municipal Baths
- Kennington Reservoir Major Maintenance Project
- Marong Community Hub and Kindergarten
- Strathfieldsaye Community Hub
- City centre activation
- Heathcote Civic Precinct



Advocacy

- Securing \$15M in Federal funding for the Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment
- Flood recovery and community resilience
- Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
- Attracting more flights to new destinations from Bendigo Airport
- State and Federal government delivery of social and affordable housing
- Key intersection upgrades – Howard St, Epsom and Calder Hwy, Maiden Gully



Other levels of government deliver...

- Hospitals
- Public transport
- Public housing
- Education
- Major road/highway upgrades
- Mental health services
- State and national parks
- Police and the justice system
- Immigration
- Telecommunication and internet





Key dates

- September 19 – Nominations open
- September 24 – Nominations close, Ballot draw
- October 8-10 – Mail out ballot packs
- October 14 – Last meeting of the current Council term
- October 25 – Voting closes
- November 15 – All election results to be declared



Support for Councillors

There is a range of support available to help make serving as a Councillor easier:

- Reimbursement for childcare
- Vehicle access to attend community events
- Financial support for training
- Reimbursement for travel expenses
- Laptops and mobile phones
- Support for people with a disability



If you're successful

- Council induction – intensive process (ideally a few days a week) to meet the organisation, understand Local Government and policies etc.
- Budget preparations
- Council Plan
- Developing the Code of Conduct
- Elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor - November
- First full Council meeting - early December



Questions?

