

The next City of Belmont Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday, 21 October 2023. Local Government Elections are held every two years on the third Saturday in October.

There are eight Councillors in the City of Belmont. Elections will be held for the Mayoral position and three of the Councillor positions in October 2023. All positions will be for four-year terms.

Enrolment

Who is entitled to vote?

The roll for this election consists of:

1. Residents Roll

Individuals who live in the City of Belmont district and are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll are automatically enrolled for the local government elections.

2. Owners and Occupiers Roll

Owners of land or nominees of corporate bodies who own or occupy rateable property in the City of Belmont but are not enrolled on the State Electoral Roll for the City of Belmont district, may apply to be on the Owners and Occupiers Roll.

To be eligible to vote the person must be enrolled on the State or Commonwealth Government Electoral Roll where they live, and an occupier is to 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.*

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

People who live in the City (whether they own a property or rent it) are automatically enrolled for the City of Belmont Local Government Elections, if they are enrolled on the State Electoral Roll.

They must have enrolled on the State Electoral Roll by 5pm on Friday, 1 September 2023* to be eligible to vote in the 2023 Local Government Election.

Residents should direct enquiries about the State Electoral Roll to the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) by telephoning 13 63 06.

Non-resident individuals and companies that own or occupy property in the City may enrol up to 5pm on Friday, 1 September 2023* by completing Form 2 - Enrolment Eligibility Claim. Those enrolling must be on the State or Commonwealth Electoral Roll and reside outside the City of Belmont district.

What is the voting entitlement per person or property?

A person may have his or her name on the roll only once for each ward regardless of how many 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.

Enrolment Forms

Enrolment forms may be obtained from the City of Belmont website belmont.wa.gov.au/elections.

Alternatively, forms can be obtained by:

- Emailing a request to belmont@belmont.wa.gov.au
- Phoning (08) 9477 7211

Voting in the Elections

The Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) conducts the election as a postal election. Election packages containing information of the candidates, instructions on how to vote, the ballot paper, and the return envelopes will be posted out to electors approximately three weeks before Election Day.

Is voting compulsory?

No. Voting in local government elections is not compulsory in Western Australia.

Is early or absent voting available?

No. Early or absent voting is not available for postal elections. If you will be away at the time of the election, you will need someone to forward your ballot package to you.

When is the ballot paper to be returned?

Polling closes at 6pm on Saturday, 21 October 2023 and all ballot papers must be received by then to be included in the election. To ensure delivery to the WAEC by that time consider Australia Post delivery times.

Ballot papers can be delivered in person to the Returning Officer on or before close of polling on Election Day – Saturday 21 October 2023 at the City of Belmont Administration Centre, 215 Wright Street, Cloverdale.

What if I haven't received a postal voting package?

Election packages are posted to all electors on the City of Belmont roll. Every person on the roll will be issued a ballot paper by mail and invited to complete the ballot paper and return it by 6pm on Election Day.

A replacement package can be issued if it has been lost or destroyed. A WAEC representative will be available at the City's Administration Centre to assist during the voting period.

Vacancies in the October 2023 Election

As part of current local government reforms, the City has submitted a proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB) for changes to the Ward and Representation for the City of Belmont following a recent review. The proposal is for the district to be divided into four wards with two Councillors per Ward.

There will be a Mayoral vacancy in 2023, and Councillor vacancies will be confirmed following the outcome of the review.

Nominations Open

Thursday 7 September 2023*

Nominations Close

Thursday 14 September 2023* at 4pm

Who can nominate as a candidate?

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

Further Information

The Returning Officer for the 2023 City of Belmont Local Government Elections will be appointed by the WAEC.

Further information can be obtained by:

- visiting the City of Belmont website belmont.wa.gov.au
- visiting the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries dlgsc.wa.gov.au
- telephoning the City's Compliance Administrator on (08) 9477 7211

*Proposed amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* will impact dates and some other requirements. Updates will follow accordingly.