



Prospective Candidate Information

Council Elections 2024



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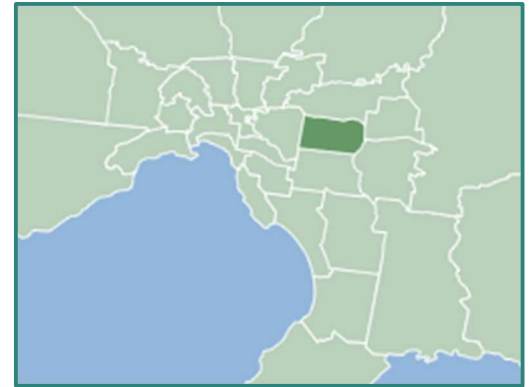
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About Whitehorse¹

The City of Whitehorse covers approximately 64 square kilometres and is located in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, between 12 and 22 kilometres east of the Melbourne CBD.

The 2023/2024 budget includes:

- \$174 million in operational funding to provide services to the community
- A \$50 capital works program for improvements to buildings, plant and equipment, and facilities



Community Vision

- Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs
- We are active citizens who value our natural environment, history and diversity
- We embrace sustainability and innovation
- We are dynamic. We learn, grow and thrive

Population

The Whitehorse municipality has an estimated population of 172,466 residents living in 71,520 private dwellings, with an average household size of 2.53 people.



62% of dwellings are separate houses, 28% are medium density, with the remaining 10% being high density or other types of housing.

66% of households are purchasing or fully own their home, 26.1% rent privately, with 2.2% being social housing.

Households within Whitehorse

- 33.1% couples with children
- 24.4% one-person households
- 23.8% couples without children
- 9.7% one-parent families
- 4.6% group households
- 2.5% other, not classified households
- 1.4% other families
- 0.6% visitor-only households

¹ All statistics from Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates as at 30 June 2022.

Service age groups

The median age in Whitehorse is 39. The population is ageing, with approx. 24% of the population aged 60 and over.

Service age groups divide the population into age categories reflecting typical life stages that indicate the level of demand for services required by the community at different stages of life.



Service Age Group	Whitehorse %	Greater Melbourne %
Babies and preschoolers (0 to 4)	4.6	5.9
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	7.8	8.7
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	7.0	6.9
Tertiary and independent (18 to 24)	9.9	8.9
Young workforce (25 to 34)	14.0	16.0
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	20.5	21.5
Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	12.4	11.9
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	10.1	9.5
Seniors (70 to 84)	10.5	8.6
Elderly (85 and over)	3.2	2.0
Total	100	100

Council services

Whitehorse City Council provides more than 100 high quality services and facilities across a range of areas, including:

- Sustainability
- Arts & Culture
- Waste & Recycling
- Planning & Building
- Health and Family
- Libraries
- Town Planning
- Recycling & Waste
- Sports Fields, Parks & Gardens
- Maternal & Child Health
- Traffic & Community Laws
- Community Development
- Business & Economic Development
- Maintenance of Footpaths, Drains & Roads
- Leisure facilities
- Environmental & Public Health
- Engineering (Planning of Roads, Drains & Streetlights)

Cultural diversity

41.5% of people in the City of Whitehorse were born overseas, compared with the Greater Melbourne average of 35.7%.

The most common languages spoken at home (other than English) are Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Hindi, Sinhalese and Italian.

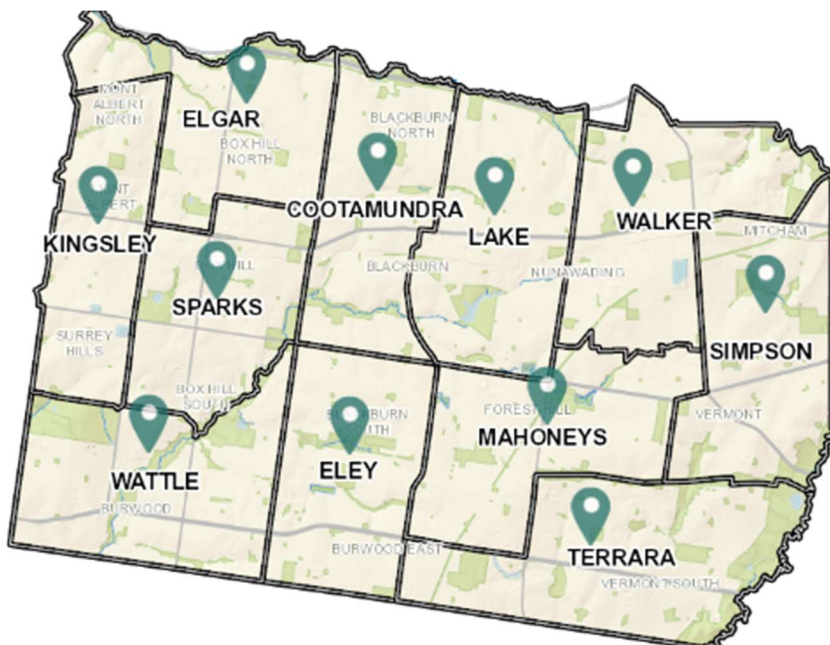


Birthplace – Overseas born (top 10 countries)	Whitehorse %	Greater Melbourne %
China	13.0	3.4
India	3.9	4.9
Malaysia	3.3	1.2
United Kingdom	2.6	3.3
Hong Kong	1.6	0.5
Vietnam	1.6	1.8
Sri Lanka	1.5	1.3
New Zealand	1.0	1.7
Greece	0.9	0.9
Philippines	0.8	1.2

Ward Structure

The Whitehorse municipality is comprised of 11 wards, with one Councillor elected to represent each ward. Ward maps are available to view interactively or download at [Whitehorse Maps](#).

As a Councillor you will work with other elected members of Council to make important decisions about the well-being of the entire community.



Electors by ward²

Cootamundra	10,253
Eley	10,280
Elgar	10,171
Kingsley	10,355
Lake	10,137
Mahoneys	10,974
Simpson	10,422
Sparks	9,744
Terrara	10,107
Walker	10,928
Wattle	9,269
Total	112,640

² As at the close of the electoral roll in August 2020.

Being a Councillor

Responsibilities

As a Councillor you will make important decisions on behalf of the community and will be responsible for:

- Providing good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of the community
- Providing open, responsive and accountable governance and financial management
- Ensuring the municipality is engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making for the future growth and development of the community
- Ensuring an appropriate balance between economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations, and implementing policies and programs that positively impact the community
- Ensuring the transparency of Council decisions, action and information
- Developing and maintaining community infrastructure such as roads, drains, footpaths, building, recreation facilities and parks and gardens

What to expect

Meetings and briefings

Council meetings are held fortnightly, on Monday nights, with Councillor briefings held on alternative Mondays.

No Council meetings or briefings are held on public holidays or over the late December to early January holiday period.



There are also multiple representative bodies and advisory committees in which Councillors may elect to serve, and these will also hold regular meetings, usually monthly or quarterly.

Councillors are expected to make themselves familiar with the content of all meeting and briefing documentation prior to attendance, which can be a considerable time commitment.

You are also elected to represent the community members in your ward and may be approached by them regarding matters of public concern. The part-time role of a Councillor is often undertaken while juggling family and paid work responsibilities. It is up to each individual Councillor to determine how much time is spent on Council matters.

Training and support

Comprehensive induction of all Councillors is undertaken at the beginning of each term, with refresher and other training opportunities offered throughout the entire Council term.

Councillors are provided all necessary equipment to undertake their new roles. This includes a laptop and mobile phone.

Allowances and reimbursements are available for expenses incurred in the course of your duties.

Allowances

Whitehorse Council is considered a category 3 Council and the top of the range allowances as at 18 December 2023 are:

- Mayor \$130,390
- Deputy Mayor \$ 65,195
- Councillors \$ 39,390

Election 2024



Council elections are managed by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) and will be held on Saturday 26 October 2024. Councillors will be elected for a four-year term.

The Minister for Local Government has set postal voting as the method of voting for Whitehorse City Council. The VEC will distribute ballot papers to voters via mail between Monday 7 October and Thursday 10 October.



Becoming a candidate

Am I eligible?

To be a candidate for the Council election, you must:

- Be an Australian citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be enrolled on the Whitehorse voters' roll by 4pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024
- Have completed the mandatory [Local Government Candidate Training](#)
- Not be disqualified from being a Councillor

You **cannot** be a candidate if any of the following apply:

- You are an undischarged bankrupt
- You have property that is subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy
- You are a member of Whitehorse City Council staff (you can take leave from this role in order to nominate)
- You have been convicted of any of the criminal offences referred to in section 34(2) of the *Local Government Act Act 2020*
- You are a Councillor with another Council, including interstate Councils
- You are member of an Australian Parliament, including the Federal Parliament or a Member of Parliament in any state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia
- You are employed by a Federal or State Member of Parliament as a Ministerial Officer, a Parliamentary Adviser or an Electorate Officer (you can take leave from these roles in order to nominate)
- You are otherwise incapable of becoming or continuing to be a Councillor

How do I register as a candidate?

A person is not a candidate until they officially nominate and their nomination is validated by the VEC, and therefore should not refer to themselves as a candidate until that time.

1. Confirm your eligibility and complete the mandatory [Local Government Candidate Training](#)
2. Complete the VEC nomination form and pay the prescribed fee of \$250
3. Lodge the completed form and fee in person at the VEC between Monday 9 September and midday Tuesday 17 September 2024

REGISTER FOR
**CANDIDATE
TRAINING**
HERE ▶▶



Contact the VEC for exceptions and further advice regarding eligibility.

Campaigning

Preparing to run

There are a number of things you can do to help inform your campaign and prepare yourself for the exciting and varied role of Councillor:

- Attend or view [Council meetings](#)
- Read the [Whitehorse City Council Governance Rules](#), which include the Election Period Policy
- Read the Whitehorse City [Council Plan](#) and [Annual Report](#)
- Familiarise yourself with Part 8 of the [Local Government Act 2020](#)
- Speak to current or former Councillors
- Attend Council information sessions before the elections – information regarding these sessions will be posted on Council's website as it becomes available
- Identify issues that interest you and talk to like-minded people in your community
- Note all relevant dates, including when nominations open and close

Campaign activities



You can campaign at any time, even before the official start of the election period. Each candidate must decide which initiatives and strategies they will use to gain voter support. When campaigning, please be aware of the following:

- All [electoral campaign material must be properly authorised](#) so it is clear who is accountable for it
 - All non-electoral laws still apply, e.g., defamation laws
 - You must not distribute material that is likely to mislead voters into voting incorrectly
- Rules apply regarding the disclosure of campaign donations
 - Restrictions apply regarding the types of material that can legally be published and authorised, refer to Part 8, Division 9 of the [Local Government Act 2020](#)



Candidates may be approached by residents seeking them to act as an intermediary with Council regarding service requests or complaints. Council will only deal directly with the affected party and will not liaise with candidates in resolving these matters. Candidates should refer residents to Council at on 9262 6333 or at customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au.

Campaign donation returns

All candidates (elected or not) must make an election campaign donation return to the Chief Executive Officer within 40 days after election day, whether or not any campaign donations were received.

You will be provided with the requisite donation return form prior to election day and will be sent a reminder to submit your return following the election. Returns will be submitted to the Local Government Inspectorate and published on Council's website.

Campaign donation returns must:

- Declare any gift valued at \$500 or over (monetary, in-kind, or services)
- Declare all gifts/donations from the same person or body where they have made more than one donation and the combined value of all donations you have received from that person or body equals or exceeds \$500
- Contain the full name and address of each donor

Should you not receive any donations or gifts equal to or exceeding the \$500 threshold, you must complete the return stating 'no disclosable gifts.'

Submitting a return is a legal requirement and your responsibility as a candidate. Failure to submit, or providing false or misleading information on a return, can result in prosecution and fines of more than \$11,090 (as of 1 July 2022).

[Further information regarding campaign donation returns can be found here.](#)

Useful websites and further information

Victorian Electoral Commission - <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/>

Local Government Inspectorate - <https://www.lgi.vic.gov.au/>

Victorian Local Governance Association - <https://www.vlga.org.au/>

Know Your Council - <https://www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council>

If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor, please contact the Governance Team on (03) 9262 6333, or email elections@whitehorse.vic.gov.au.