WHAT DOES A COUNCILLOR DO?
Councillors find out what local people want and represent their views.

Working with other councillors, they make decisions on what the council will do to meet these needs and how money should be spent in the best interests of the community as a whole.

WHAT QUALITIES DO I NEED TO HAVE TO BE A SUCCESSFUL COUNCILLOR?
Being ethical, open and honest are key characteristics of successful councillors. In addition, you’ll need:

» to be keen to learn
» communication skills to talk to people in your community and consider different views
» time management and organisational skills
» problem solving skills
» teamwork skills.

It’s important to talk to your family and friends about whether you can realistically fit being a councillor into your life, along with any other work and personal priorities. You’ll need the time to read council business papers, attend meetings and represent the council at some events.

To get a feel for what a councillor does, you might like to go to a council meeting, talk to a current or past councillor or people in your community about local issues.
HOW DO I STAND FOR ELECTION?

To be eligible to stand for election you must:
» be at least 18 years old and an Australian citizen
» live or own property in the council’s area
» be on the electoral roll for the council’s area
» not be disqualified from standing for office, for example, if you have committed certain offences.

A proposal nominating you as a candidate needs to be submitted by either:
» at least two eligible people enrolled for the same ward or area you are being nominated for, or
» a registered officer of a registered political party.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

If you’re elected, you’ll receive support to understand your role and be successful. Both your council and the NSW Government will provide some training for you. Councils meet some expenses and provide other tools to help councillors carry out their role. Expenses can include training, conferences, travel, telephone and care for dependants such as children. Other tools can include computers and other office equipment to use on council business. Councils can also provide support to help councillors who have a disability or other special needs.

Councillors also receive an annual fee from the council based on a fee range set each year by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The fee is counted as income for tax purposes.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can find more detailed information in “Stand for your community” and on the websites below.

**Your local council**
See NSW Local Government Directory on the OLG website (see below)

**Office of Local Government**
Email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.olg.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (02) 4428 4100

**Local Government NSW**
Email: lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au
Website: www.lgnsw.org.au
Phone: (02) 9242 4000

**New South Wales Electoral Commission**
Email: enquiries@elections.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.votensw.info
Phone: (02) 9290 5999

**Australian Local Government Women’s Association NSW Branch**
Website: www.algwa.org.au