

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Are you enrolled to vote?**

Visit [aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au) to enrol to vote or to check your details are up-to-date. Adding your email address and mobile phone number means you'll also receive timely information by email and SMS so you don't miss the next election in your area.

## **Have you changed address?**

If you've changed address since the last election, you'll need to update your details on the electoral roll to ensure you are voting in the correct council area. Update your details at [aec.gov.au](https://aec.gov.au).

## **What is local government?**

Local government is also known as your local council.

Local government or council areas can be cities, towns, shires, or regions and are responsible for managing public property and a range of local services and activities funded by rates, services fees and grants from state and federal governments.

## **Why do I need to vote in the local government by-election?**

Your mayor and councillors represent you in your community. Voting in the by-election means you're having a say about the decision-makers who will shape the local community where you live.

Council services include cultural and sporting facilities, town planning, local roads, waste management, land and coast care programs, pet registration and more.

## **Why is voting important?**

Governments make decisions about services, laws and protections that impact on every part of our lives. By voting, you are part of this decision-making and making a choice about how your community functions.

If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose your representatives for you. One of the best way to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community, is to vote.

## **How will I know who is my new Councillor?**

The Electoral Commission of Queensland will publish the declared Councillor on its website at [ecq.qld.gov.au/somerset](https://ecq.qld.gov.au/somerset). We'll also post about it on social media—[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

## **Is voting compulsory?**

Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years or older. If you do not vote, you may receive a fine.