



QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND NOTES FROM CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSION

Expenditure caps based on voting population:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-disclosure/electoral-expenditure/caps-on-electoral-expenditure/expenditure-caps-for-local-government-elections>

Resources for candidates on the office of Local Government website:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-https-www-olg-nsw-gov-au-category-council-circulars/24-10-resources-for-candidates-standing-at-the-local-government-elections/>

Key Dates

NB prepolling starts on the 7th September:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/local-government-elections/2024-nsw-local-government-elections#accordion-what-are-the-key-dates>

Is the voting process similar to that of the Senate?

It is similar to the Upper House in NSW as it is a quota system. The Senate is a federal level of government.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/The-voting-system-in-New-South-Wales-State-electi.aspx>

Do we operate under a preferential voting system?

Yes.

“Optional preferential system”

The optional preferential system is described in Schedule 4 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

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How votes are counted in local government elections

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/how-counting-works/how-votes-are-counted-in-a-local-government-election#initialcounts>

Can a candidate stand for both Councillor and Mayor?

Yes.

A person may be a candidate for both mayor and councillor for the same council, but cannot be elected to both positions.

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/political-participants/candidates-and-groups/who-can-be-a-candidate/candidates-in-a-local-government-election#candidateforpopularlyelectedmayor>

What is the role of IPART in respect of increasing developer contributions?

IPART assesses developer contributions proposed by councils that exceed the amounts set by the Minister:

- **"Section 7.11 contributions:** Charged where there is a demonstrated link between the development and the infrastructure to be funded. Councils prepare contributions plans that specify what infrastructure will be provided and approximately how much it will cost. This is used to calculate a contribution rate, usually charged per dwelling or per square metre. Councils that want to charge a contributions rate above the threshold set by the minister (PDF, 290 KB) must submit their plans to IPART for independent review, amend per the minister's advice, and approve the plans. Section 7.11 was previously known as section 94.
- **Section 7.12 levies:** An alternative to s7.11 contributions and charged as a percentage of the estimated cost of the development. The maximum percentage that can be charged in most areas is 1%. A small number of areas charge a higher percentage. Section 7.12 was previously known as section 94A."

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/infrastructure/infrastructure-funding/local-infrastructure-contributions-policy>

Voluntary Planning Agreements may include contributions

https://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in_focus/overview-of-revised-nsw-local-planning-agreements-practice-note/

What input do Councils have in regional strategic plans?

Regional plans were developed in 2017 by the state government. Councils were consulted.

The plans were updated in 2022 and councils were consulted.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/plans-for-your-area/regional-plans>

Signage – concern around addresses on the signage. Whose address is to be presented on electoral signage?

"Printed electoral material must include the name and street address of the person who authorised the material and the name of the printer and the street address of the premises at which it was printed."

The rules do not say it has to be a residential property. It can be a non residential space that is donated or leased for the election period. NB the use of PO boxes is no longer allowed.

A range of materials distributed during the regulated period must also include the above:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/political-participants/electoral-material>