

## Councillor Candidate Information 2020

Thank you for your interest in becoming a candidate in the 2020 Local Government Elections for the Golden Plains Shire Council. Being a Councillor and contributing to your community can be an exciting and rewarding experience. Individuals with a passion for growing, supporting and engaging with their community are encouraged to nominate.

### An Introduction to the Senior Management Team

Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan.

Three Directors together with the CEO form the Senior Management Team (SMT) and lead the organisation. SMT are committed to providing dynamic, innovative executive leadership to best place Council for the challenges and opportunities in the years to come.



Eric Braslis was appointed to the position of Golden Plains Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer in December 2017, bringing more than 28 years' local government experience to the role. Prior to leading Golden Plains Shire, Eric was Gannawarra Shire Council's CEO for more than two years.

Investment Attraction & Business Support  
Communications, Engagement & Advocacy  
Councillor Assistance



Philippa O'Sullivan (Pip) was appointed to the position of Director Corporate Services in February 2019. Prior to joining Golden Plains Shire Pip held the positions of Chief Financial Officer at Victorian Fisheries Authority and Manager Finance and Economic Regulation at Barwon Water.

Governance & Risk  
Finance, Rates & Procurement  
People & Culture  
Customer Service  
IT & Digital Transformation, Records



With 30 years Local Government experience, Lisa Letic was appointed to the position of Director Community Services in April 2019. Prior to joining Golden Plains Shire, Lisa was Manager Family, Youth and Children's Services at Hume City Council.

Corporate & Community Planning  
Recreation & youth  
Health & Wellbeing  
Active Ageing & Disability  
Arts & Culture



Phil Josipovic was appointed to the position of Director Infrastructure and Planning in February 2020. Phil has worked in local government for over 20 years, 12 of which have been in senior positions. Prior to joining Golden Plains Shire, Phil was the Director Infrastructure and Development with Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Roads, Works & Waste  
Development & Building  
Strategic & Statutory Planning  
Community Safety  
Environment & Sustainability  
Environmental Health

## What does a Councillor do?

The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community (*Local Government Act 2020 s8(1)*).

An elected Council sets the overall direction for the municipality through long-term planning and decision making. It adopts a strategic view of the future it wishes to achieve for its community and makes plans and policies to achieve this.

Decision Making  
Represents interests of municipal community  
Assists in setting the strategic direction of Council (including Council Plan)  
Planning & Monitoring achievement  
Policy Development  
Representation and Advocacy

## Can I run for Council?

To nominate for election as a Councillor, a person must:

- Be an Australian Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age on the election day
- Be enrolled as a voter in the municipal district in which they are standing

A person may not nominate as a candidate for a council election if they, for example:

- have not completed the prescribed (mandatory) candidate training in the last four years
- are an undischarged bankrupt
- previously failed to take the oath of office during the current Council term
- are a member of Council staff who has not taken leave to stand
- have been convicted of certain criminal or electoral offences in the previous eight years
- have been convicted for failing to lodge an electoral campaign donation return in the current council term
- are banned from being a company director
- are a councillor in another Australian council
- are a member of the parliament of an Australian state or territory or the Commonwealth
- are employed by the parliament of a state or territory or the Commonwealth as a ministerial officer, parliamentary advisor or electorate officer – who has not taken leave to stand
- remain disqualified from holding office from a finding of gross misconduct by VCAT
- were disqualified from holding office after a second finding of serious misconduct by a Councillor Conduct Panel in the last four years.

## How to Nominate:

In order to be a candidate in a council election, a person must:

- complete a nomination form and deliver it to the Election Manager during the nomination period
- sign the declaration on the nomination form in front of the Election Manager
- pay a nomination fee of \$250 (which is refundable if the candidate is elected or gains at least 4% of the first preference votes in the election).

## Election Contact (VEC)

Please note the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is responsible for running Local Government Elections. Candidates should contact the VEC directly (not Council) for any queries in relation to eligibility, nomination, election process or timeline. VEC Contact Details - Phone: 131 832 or Email: [info@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vec.vic.gov.au).

## Timeline

11 Aug	MAV Stand for Council Information Session* 10am (online session)	01 Sept	VLGA Candidate Information Workshop** 4:00pm (online session)
03 Sept	VLGA Candidate Information Workshop** 4:00pm (online session)	17 Sept	Opening of Nominations
22 Sept	Nominations Close 12 Noon Election Period commences	06 Oct	Ballot Packs mailed out
23 Oct	Voting Closes	24 Oct	Election Day Election Period concludes
13 Nov	Declaration of Results (if not before)		

\*Access MAV Session at [Stand for Council Information Session](#)

\*\*Access VLGA Workshop's at [VLGA Candidate Information Workshop](#)

## Council Election Period Policy

Candidates should make themselves familiar with Golden Plains Shire Council's practices during the election period. Please refer to the [Council Election Period Policy](#).

## Mandatory Training for Candidates

The prescribed (mandatory) candidate training will be delivered via an online eLearning module, facilitated by Local Government Victoria. You will not be able to nominate as a candidate unless you have completed this training. Register for Candidate Training here: [Local Government Candidate Training](#)

## Councillor Induction Program

If you are successful in election, you will be required to participate in a full induction program, including:

New Councillors Meeting  
Meet & Greet with other Councillors & Management Team  
Official Swearing in Ceremony  
Election of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Induction Program Commences

Training & Workshops from:  
Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA)  
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)  
Suitably qualified external consultants and lawyers

Induction Training Topics include:  
Shire Demographics  
IT Equipment  
Governance Briefing  
Media & Communications  
Statutory Planning  
Strategic Planning Framework & Community Vision  
Finance, Budget & Property Rating  
G21 & Regional Briefings  
Capital Works Projects  
Shire Tour

The induction program is scheduled to run over approximately 7 full day sessions (6 weekdays and 1 Saturday) between Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November to early December 2020. Councillor attendance at induction sessions is required and additional sessions may be added as necessary.

Candidates will receive a letter from the CEO confirming dates and times where attendance is required throughout the Councillor Induction Program. Councillor induction training must be delivered and completed within 6 months of each Councillor making the oath / declaration of office, as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, sections 32(1) and 32(3), if a Councillor fails to complete the Councillor induction training and make a written declaration before the Chief Executive Officer upon completion, then the Councillor's allowance will be withheld until such time the Councillor completes the training and makes the written declaration.

### Council Meetings, Briefings and Strategic Planning Sessions

As part of the Councillor's role, Councillors commit to attending Councillor Briefings, Council Meetings and Strategic Planning Sessions each month between February and December.

Councillor briefings are held from 9am to 5pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December. Councillors will be required to attend either in person or via Zoom (where arrangements are made).

Council meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in December. Council meetings commence at 6pm and can vary in duration. Councillors will be required to be present, in person by 5pm. Meeting agendas are distributed to Councillors in the week prior to each meeting and require approximately 4-5 hours reading time.

Strategic Planning Sessions are held from 6pm to 8pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The Council Meeting to Elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. The first standard Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. All Councillors are expected to attend and should familiarise themselves with Council's [Governance Rules](#) which outlines meeting procedures.

All council meetings are open to the public with the exception of when the council decides to close the meeting to the public to consider confidential matters.

Watch a video of one of Council's previously livestreamed meetings here.



**Meeting Location:**  
Bannockburn  
Council Chambers  
2 Pope Street,  
Bannockburn

### Council Delegates and Committees

Councillors will be required to represent Council at a number of committees and National, State and Regional or local groups. As a general indication, Councillors should allow 2-3 hours per month for their attendance at these meetings which may be held during the day or evening. Below are some of the committees or groups you could get involved with:

Audit & Risk Committee  
G21 Board of Directors  
Geelong Regional Library Corp.  
Golden Plains Disability Access & Inclusion Committee  
Golden Plains Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee  
Peri-Urban Group of Rural Councils  
Timber Towns Victoria  
Government Appointments

**G21 Pillars:**  
Arts, Culture & Heritage  
Economic Development  
Education & Training  
Environment  
Health & Wellbeing  
Planning & Services  
Sport & Recreation  
Transportation

**MAV Committees & Taskforce**  
MAV Board Appointments  
MAV Defined Benefits Taskforce  
MAV Environment Committee  
MAV Emergency Management Committee  
MAV Federal Roads Blackspot Committee  
MAV Financial Assistance Grants & Rate Capping Taskforce  
MAV Human Services Committee

## Benefits and Entitlements

Councillors will be paid an allowance whilst performing their duty as an elected official. A number of Council owned resources and reimbursements for out of pocket expenses will also be provided. Benefits include:

- Fortnightly payment of Allowances (set by Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal)
- Microsoft Surface Pro Laptop
- Mobile Phone or reimbursement if using own phone
- Internet connection
- Data allowance
- Relevant computer software
- Stationery
- Meals and refreshments where necessary
- Access to meeting rooms in the Golden Plains Civic Centre
- Travel reimbursements
- Vehicle for use by the Mayor

For further information on all benefits and reimbursements please refer to the [Council Expenses & Entitlements Policy](#)

## Professional Development

As a Councillor you will have opportunities to participate in relevant training courses, conferences and seminars to enhance your skills and knowledge, to better perform your role as Councillor.

An amount of \$3,000.00 per Councillor has been allocated in the 20/21 budget for the payment of costs associated with Professional Development.

## Reducing our impact on the Environment

In an effort to reduce Council's impact on the environment, cut energy use and climate change emissions, all Council materials including Council agendas and minutes, resource guides, newsletters and general information will be provided in an electronic format.

## Helpful links and resources

- [Golden Plains Shire Council Website](#)
- [Council Policies](#)
- [Governance Rules](#)
- [Council Meetings](#)
- [Previous livestreams of Council Meetings](#)
- [Know Your Council - Participating as a Candidate](#)
- [VEC – Candidates and Parties](#)
- [Local Government Victoria](#)
- [Victorian Legislation](#)
- [Victorian State Government](#)
- [VLGA Candidate Toolkit](#)
- [LGV Safe Campaign Guidelines](#)

## Still have Questions?

For more information please refer to the websites listed above or contact Council's Governance Team on 03 5220 7111 or [GovernanceAdministration@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:GovernanceAdministration@gplains.vic.gov.au).

Please direct any queries specifically relating to the conduct of the elections, eligibility, process and election timeline etc. to the VEC on 131 832 or [info@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vec.vic.gov.au).