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## Local Government Elections in Tasmania

Every two years elections are held in all 29 municipal areas for the positions of mayor and deputy mayor and half the councillor positions. Where required, by-elections are held concurrently for vacancies that have occurred since the last elections. In 2009, 27 elections were held in September/October, with the Break O'Day and Glamorgan Spring Bay elections being postponed while an investigation into a proposed voluntary merger between them took place. These elections were then held in November/December.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) supervises the conduct of elections in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993. Elections by postal ballot have been held in 1994, 1996, 1999 (deferred from 1998), 2000, 2002, 2005 (deferred from 2004), 2007 and 2009 with the next elections due in October 2011.

Since 2000, mayors and deputy mayors have been elected directly by the electors in all municipal areas. Previously, in most councils, mayors and deputy mayors were elected by the councillors at the first meeting of a new council.
Candidate information booklets and complete election results for the state are available from the TEC and are posted on the TEC website www.tec.tas.gov.au.

## 2009 Election timetable

Notice of election published
Electoral rolls closed
Nomination period
Nominations closed
Nominations announced \& draw for ballot paper positions
Ballot material delivered to electors
Polling period
Close of poll

Saturday 12 September
6 pm Thursday 17 September
14 September-12 noon on 28 September
12 noon Monday 28 September

12 noon Tuesday 29 September
13-16 October
13-27 October
10 am Tuesday 27 October

## Casual vacancies

Casual vacancies are filled by recount where possible, unless the vacancy occurs within 6 months of a forthcoming election. Only unelected candidates from the relevant election may contest a recount. A candidate elected at a recount serves until the next council election. If a recount is not possible, a by-election is held-with the candidate elected to serve for the remainder of the term of office of the original councillor.

## Elector polls

A council may hold an elector poll on any issue it determines. It may also be required to hold an elector poll following petitions from electors in accordance with Part 6 of the Act. A council is not bound by the result of an elector poll.

## Electoral system

Voting in Tasmanian local government elections is not compulsory.
Elections for councillor positions are conducted using a system modelled on the Hare-Clark method of proportional representation used in Tasmanian House of Assembly elections.
Mayoral and deputy mayoral elections use a preferential system similar to that used for Tasmanian Legislative Council and federal House of Representatives elections.

## Report on the 2009 Brighton Council Election

Elections were held for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2 year terms, and 5 Councillors for 4 year terms.

9837 Brighton electors were enrolled for the 2009 elections, comprising 9767 ( $99.29 \%$ ) from the State House of Assembly roll and 70 ( $0.71 \%$ ) from the General Manager's roll.
$53.18 \%$ of Brighton electors returned their ballot papers in comparison with $55.54 \%$ statewide.

Candidates at the 2009 elections

| Mayor | Councillors |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| * FOSTER, Tony* | Pontville | * | FOSTER, Tony* | Pontville |
| OWEN, Philip John | Old Beach | * | GARLICK, Wayne* | Bridgewater |
|  |  | * | GRAY, Leigh* | Brighton |
|  |  |  | JOSEPH, Roger L | Old Beach |
| Deputy Mayor |  | * | OWEN, Philip John* | Old Beach |
| JEFFRIES, Moya | Brighton |  | READ, Kelly | Bridgewater |
| * TAYLOR, Geoff ${ }^{*}$ | Brighton | * | WILLIAMS, Sonya* | Gagebrook |

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## Brighton Councillors following the 2009 elections

Mayor
term ends 2011
FOSTER, Tony
Deputy Mayor
term ends 2011
TAYLOR, Geoff

## 9 Councillors

term ends 2013 term ends 2011
FOSTER, Tony TAYLOR, Geoff
OWEN, Philip John
GRAY, Leigh
GARLICK, Wayne
WILLIAMS, Sonya

CURRAN, Barbara
GEARD, Peter
JEFFRIES, Moya

## Brighton Council - 2009 Councillor election

| Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009 |  |  | Electors enrolled: 9837 |  | Declarations rejected: 48 |  |  | Ballot paper adjustment: 10 |  |  | Formal Votes: 5047 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number to be elected: 5 |  |  | Declarations returned: 5231 |  | Declarations admitted: 5183 |  |  | Total ballot papers: 5173 |  |  | Informal ballot papers: 126 |
| Returning Officer: Ms Maree Ward |  |  | Response: 53.18\% |  | Rejection rate: 0.92\% |  |  |  |  |  | Informality rate: 2.44\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Quota $=842$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { O} \\ & \stackrel{\circ}{=} \end{aligned}$ | Foster | Garlick | Gray | Joseph | Owen | Read | Williams | Votes <br> Exhausted | Loss (Gain) by Fraction | Total Votes | Remarks |
| 1 | 2073.00 | 375.00 | 440.00 | 155.00 | 1233.00 | 339.00 | 432.00 |  |  | 5047.00 | Foster elected 1, Owen elected 2 |
| 2 | -1231.00 | 313.53 | 395.48 | 125.89 |  | 149.64 | 246.43 |  | 0.03 |  | Foster's surplus distributed |
|  | 842.00 | 688.53 | 835.48 | 280.89 | 1233.00 | 488.64 | 678.43 |  | 0.03 | 5047.00 |  |
| 3 |  | 102.74 | 92.27 | 43.76 | -391.00 | 65.64 | 86.57 |  | 0.02 |  | Owen's surplus distributed |
|  | 842.00 | 791.27 | 927.75 | 324.65 | 842.00 | 554.28 | 765.00 |  | 0.05 | 5047.00 | Gray elected 3 |
| 4 |  | 31.53 | - 85.75 | 17.38 |  | 21.51 | 15.32 |  | 0.01 |  | Gray's surplus distributed |
|  | 842.00 | 822.80 | 842.00 | 342.03 | 842.00 | 575.79 | 780.32 |  | 0.06 | 5047.00 |  |
| 5 |  | 59.00 |  | - 155.00 |  | 59.00 | 37.00 |  | 0.00 |  | Joseph part excluded |
|  | 842.00 | 881.80 | 842.00 | 187.03 | 842.00 | 634.79 | 817.32 |  | 0.06 | 5047.00 | Garlick elected 4 |
| 6 |  |  |  | - 125.89 |  | 64.13 | 59.97 | 1.78 | 0.01 |  | Joseph excluded |
|  | 842.00 | 881.80 | 842.00 | 61.14 | 842.00 | 698.92 | 877.29 | 1.78 | 0.07 | 5047.00 | Williams elected 5 |

2009 Brighton Councillor election - first preferences


## Brighton Council

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009
Returning Officer: Ms Maree Ward

| Mayor |  | Declarations admitted: 5183 |  |  | Formal Votes: 5052 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Ballot paper adjustment: 10 |  |  | Informal ballot papers: 121 |  |
|  |  | Total ballot papers: 5173 |  |  | Informality rate: 2.34\% |  |
|  |  | Cand |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | FOSTER | OWEN | Total Votes | Absolute Majority | Remarks |
| Count 1 | First Preferences | 3040 | 2012 | 5052 | 2527 | ER elected |

2009 Brighton Mayor election - first preferences


## Brighton Council

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009
Returning Officer: Ms Maree Ward

| Deputy Mayor | Declarations admitted: 5183 |  |  | Formal Votes: 5051 <br> Informal ballot papers: 122 <br> Informality rate: 2.36\% |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Ballot paper adjustment: 10 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total ballot papers: 5173 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Candidates |  |  |  |  |
|  | JEFFRIES | TAYLOR | Total Votes | Absolute Majority | Remarks |
| Count 1 First Preferences | 2338 | 2713 | 5051 | 2526 | OR elected |

2009 Brighton Deputy Mayor election - first preferences



[^0]:    * denotes elected candidate
    * denotes seeking re-election

