



When will the NSW Local Government Elections be?

Description

Council elections were supposed to happen in NSW in September 2020.

Then COVID [put them off](#) to September 2021.

Recently, the Minister [delayed them](#) a second time to December 4th, 2021.

Now there's a rumour going round that they will be delayed to next year.

This should concern all of us.

Accountability to the voting public is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Worse, there may be restrictions in place that make it almost impossible for candidates to put forward their views and policies for your scrutiny.

A [recent bulletin to Councillors and candidates](#) from the NSW Electoral Commission included the following statement:

Participants should be aware of new arrangements that have been made for posters and electoral material distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic, contained in recent changes to the Local Government election legislation.

To comply with public health orders at the time of the elections, or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, the Electoral Commissioner may direct that **no** posters are to be displayed and that **no** electoral material is to be handed out to voters for the December 4 elections at:

- a polling place or a pre-polling venue, or
- premises occupied, used by, or under the control of the NSW Electoral Commission, other NSW government agencies or a council within 100 metres of a polling place or a pre-polling venue.

Premises include buildings of any description, other structures and land (such as the street).

Given the evolving Delta strain outbreak, candidates and parties should be prepared that directions limiting posters and how-to-votes may be made by the Electoral Commissioner across NSW.

This will heavily distort the vote as worthy ideas or candidates are unable to reach you for your consideration.

I have found that a diversity of ideas and skills makes our Council better, and I believe this is what the community wants and deserves.

The answer: Sit up. Tune in. Ask questions.

In 1864, Abraham Lincoln held an election in the middle of a civil war.

In 1944, Roosevelt did the same during WW2.

Australia held two wartime elections in 1940 and 1943.

In the UK, there were 141 by-elections held during WW2.

If they could hold elections in emergencies like that, so can we.

Demand your right to vote.

Category

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Tags

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Date Created

August 2021

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