

Candidate Bulletin

### No. 5

### 24/10/2016

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| Melbourne City Council Elections 2016  | **Melbourne Election OfficeAdministration Building**120 Swanston StMelbourne 3000**Tel:** (03) 8619 1702 **Fax:** (03) 9661 9381  |

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| General | All ‘Group A’ returned envelopes (those received by the close of voting at 6.00 pm last Friday) have been extracted and packaged up in preparation for the computer count. Note that Councillor election ballot papers marked above-the-line will not be individually data entered. These ballot papers were sorted to groups and tallied during Saturday’s extraction activity.I have attached a summary of Councillor above-the-line results from ‘Group A’. These figures may change after adjustments from the data entry. ‘Group B’ returned postal envelopes are those received through the post from today (Monday 24 October) through to 12 noon on Friday 28 October. There are particular requirements for admitting these returns, which are prescribed in legislation—including that the declaration must be dated on or before the close of voting and the postmark on the reply-paid envelope, if present, cannot be dated after today. Returns that do not meet these criteria will be rejected as returned too late. The extraction and counting activities for this week are:*Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October (as required)** A team will be checking the mail each day and processing incoming mail according to the criteria discussed above.

*Tuesday 25 October** Data entry of the Leadership Team election ballot papers extracted from envelopes on Saturday. Data entry **will commence at 9.00 am** in Building 3 of the Melbourne Showgrounds.
* Data entry of the Councillor election ballot papers marked below-the-line extracted from envelopes on Saturday. Data entry **will commence at 9.00 am** in Building 3 of the Melbourne Showgrounds.
* Informal ballot papers for both elections extracted from envelopes on Saturday will be manually rechecked by a specialist team and some ballot papers will be returned for data entry. This activity will take place **throughout the day**.

Progressive count reports will be made available to scutineers throughout the data entry therefore is important that your scrutineers understand the timeline for ‘Group A’ and ‘Group B’ counting. Note that the VEC will not be publishing progressive results so speculation about results for both elections has not and will not originate from the VEC.The VEC will not provide progressive reports or data files to candidates. You are represented at the counting activities by your scrutineers, so any requests for progressive reporting must be made by them. Rather than printing reports, VEC staff at the venue will make USB drives available to load any large files.*Friday 28 October** Extraction of admissible ballot paper envelopes for ‘Group B’ will commence from **9.00 am at the election office**. The number of counting officers will be advised later in the week so candidates can allocate scrutineers should they choose. I anticipate this activity will be completed by 5.00 pm, followed by packing up to be ready for data entry the following day.

Saturday 29 October* Data entry of the Leadership Team election ballot papers extracted from envelopes on Friday 28 October. Data entry **will commence at 8.00 am** in Building 3 of the Melbourne Showgrounds.
* Data entry of the Councillor election ballot papers marked below-the-line extracted from envelopes on Friday 28 October. Data entry **will commence at 8.00 am** in Building 3 of the Melbourne Showgrounds.
* Informal ballot papers for both elections extracted from envelopes on Friday 28 October will be manually rechecked by a specialist team and some ballot papers will be returned for data entry. This activity will take place **simultaneously with data entry**.

I anticipate **calculating the results of the computer count for both the Leadership Team and Councillor elections at 5.00 pm**. The calculations will take place at the election office. Candidates are welcome to attend.Following the calculation, results are provisional until the result is formally declared at a ceremony during the week commencing Monday 31 October. The time and date of the formal declaration will be finalised once any requirements for recounts has been determined.Although the extraction and counting activities may only be attended by properly appointed scrutineers, the calculation and declaration events are open to the public.  |
| Issues of Last Week | Nil |
| Reminders | Nil |
| Other  | Nil |

Bill Lang
Returning Officer