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Local Government Elections in Tasmania

Every second (even) year elections are held in all 29 councils 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.

The Tasmanian Electoral Office (TEO) 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 and 2002, with the next elections due in October 2004.

Since 2000 mayors and deputy mayors are elected directly by the electors in each municipal area.

Candidate information booklets and complete election results for the state are available from the TEO and are posted on the TEO website www.electoral.tas.gov.au.

2002 Election timetable					
Notice of election published	Saturday 14 September				
Electoral rolls closed	6 pm Thursday 19 September				
Nomination period	23 September— 12 noon on 2 October				
Nominations closed	12 noon Wednesday 2 October				
Nominations announced &					
draw for ballot paper positions	12 noon Thursday 3 October				
Ballot material delivered to electors	15–18 October				
Polling period	15–29 October				
Close of poll	10 am Tuesday 29 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.

Bruce Taylor CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER June 2003

Report on the 2002 Central Highlands Council Election

Elections were held for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2 year terms, 4 Councillors for 4 year terms, and one by-election for a Councillor for a 2 year term

2 518 Central Highlands electors were enrolled for the 2002 elections, comprising 1 653 (65.65%) from the State House of Assembly roll and 865 (34.35%) from the General Manager's roll.

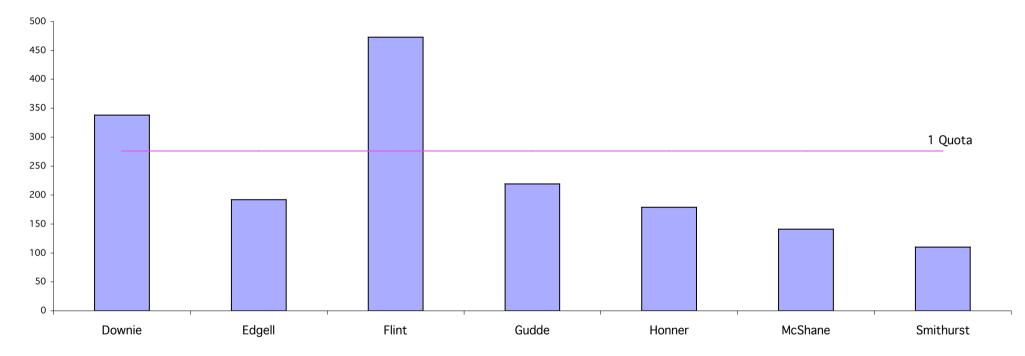
67.08% of Central Highlands electors returned their ballot papers in comparison with 57.48% statewide.

Candidates at the 2002 elections

	Mayor		Councillors				
	★ FLINT, Deirdre	Hollow Tree		DOWNIE, Andrew	Gretna		
			*	EDGELL, Henry	Bothwell		
			*	FLINT, Deirdre*	Hollow Tree		
	Des 1 Marson		*	GUDDE, David	Hamilton		
	Deputy Mayor		*	HONNER, Julie	Miena		
*	BOWDEN, Richard*	Bothwell		McSHANE, Peter*	Bothwell		
				SMITHURST, Terry	Ellendale		
	★ denotes elected car* denotes seeking re-						

Central Highlands Councillors following the 2002 elections

Mayor	9 Councillors			
term ends 2004	term ends 2006	term ends 2004		
FLINT Deidre	FLINT Deidre	BOWDEN Richard		
Deputy Mayor	DOWNIE Andrew	SHOOBRIDGE John Rupert		
term ends 2004	GUDDE David	MONKS Janet		
	HONNER Julie	TOMLIN Nigel		
BOWDEN Richard		EDGELL Henry		



Central Highlands Councillor 2002 First Preferences

Central I	Central Highlands Council Electors enrolled: 2518		De	Declarations rejected: 20			Ballot paper adjustment: 4		Formal Votes: 1652				
Polling closed at 10am 29 Octber 2002			D	Declarations returned: 1689			Declarations admitted: 1669			Total ballot papers: 1665		Informal ballot papers: 13	
Number to be elected: 5		Re	Response: 67.08%		Re	Rejection rate: 1.18%					Informality rate: 0.78%		
Returning Officer: Mr Graham Hyde													
											Quota= 276		
	_				Candidates								
		Downie	Edgell	Flint	Gudde	Honner	McShane	Smithurst	Exhausted	Loss (Gain) by fraction	Total Votes	Remarks	
Count 1	Total	338.00	192.00	473.00	219.00	179.00	141.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	1652	2 Flint elected 1, Downie elected 2	
Count 2	Votes transferred		30.82	-197.00	39.56	53.31	47.06	26.23	0.00	0.02		Flint's surplus distributed	
Count 3	Progress totals	338.00	222.82	276.00	258.56	232.31	188.06	136.23	0.00	0.02	1652	2	
	Votes transferred	-62.00	13.57		14.85	8.80	17.42	7.33	0.00	0.03		Downie's surplus distributed	
Count 4	Progress totals	276.00	236.39	276.00	273.41	241.11	205.48	143.56	0.00	0.05	1652	2 Smithhurst excluded	
	Votes transferred		11.00		55.00	25.00	19.00	-110.00	0.00	0.00		Smithhurst's votes distributed	
Count 5	Progress totals	276.00	247.39	276.00	328.41	266.11	224.48	33.56	0.00	0.05	1652	g Gudde elected 3, Smithhurst partially excluded	
	Votes transferred		2.91			10.82	12.49	-26.23	0.00	0.01		Smithhurst's votes distributed	
Count 6	Progress totals	276.00	250.30	276.00	328.41	276.93	236.97	7.33	0.00	0.06	1652	P Honner elected 4, Smithhurst partially excluded	
	Votes transferred		2.75				4.58	-7.33	0.00	0.00		Smithhurst's votes distributed	
Count 7	Progress totals	276.00	253.05	276.00	328.41	276.93	241.55	0.00	0.00	0.06	1652	2 Smithhurst fully excluded	
	Votes transferred		21.91		-52.41		30.49		0.00	0.01		Gudde's surplus distributed	
Count 8	Progress totals	276.00	274.96	276.00	276.00	276.93	272.04		0.00	0.07	1652	2	
	Votes transferred		0.25			-0.93	0.64		0.03	0.01		Honner's surplus distributed	
Count 9	Progress totals	276.00	275.21	276.00	276.00	276.00	272.68		0.03	0.08	1652	McShane excluded, Edgell elected 5	

Mayor— Deirdre Flint Elected unopposed

Deputy Mayor— Richard Bowden Elected unopposed