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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 Dorset Council Election

Elections were held for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2 year terms, and 6 Councillors, 5 of which for 4 year terms, and 1 casual position for 2 years..

5529 Dorset electors were enrolled for the 2009 elections, comprising 5253 ( $95.01 \%$ ) from the State House of Assembly roll and 276 (4.99\%) from the General Manager's roll.
$70.03 \%$ of Dorset electors returned their ballot papers in comparison with $55.54 \%$ statewide.
Candidates at the 2009 elections

| Mayor |  |  |  | Councillors |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\star$ | JARVIS, Barry | Bridport | * | BESWICK, John | Deviot |
|  | McLENNAN, Roger | Bridport |  | CASHION, Graham | Branxholm |
|  | PARTRIDGE, Peter | Scottsdale |  | CUTHBERTSON, Wayne John | Bridport |
|  |  |  |  | DONALDSON, Kerrie | Telita |
|  |  |  |  | EADIE, Tom | Branxholm |
| Deputy Mayor |  |  | * | McLENNAN, Roger* | Bridport |
|  |  |  | 夫 | MARTIN, Sheryl* | Jetsonville |
|  | ARNOLD, Steven | Bridport | * | PARTRIDGE, Peter William* | Scottsdale |
|  | RANSOM, Thomas | Bridport |  | POWELL, Michael | Springfield |
|  | THORNE, Yvonne R* | Derby |  | PROBERT, Jill | Gladstone |
|  |  |  | $\wedge$ 甫 | STEIN, Leonie | Bridport |
|  | $\star$ denotes elected candidate |  |  | TERRY, Jodie | Gladstone |
|  | * denotes seeking re-election |  | * | THORNE, Yvonne R* | Derby |

## Dorset Councillors following the 2009 elections

## Mayor

term ends 2011
JARVIS, Barry
Deputy Mayor
term ends 2011
THORNE, Yvonne R

9 Councillors
term ends 2013
BESWICK, John
THORNE, Yvonne R
McLENNAN, Roger
MARTIN, Sheryl
PARTRIDGE, Peter William
term ends 2011
ARNOLD, Steven John
RANSOM, Thomas
JARVIS, Barry
STEIN, Leonie

## Dorset Council - 2009 Councillor election

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009
Number to be elected: 6
Returning Officer: Mrs Suzie Rogers

Electors enrolled: 5529
Declarations returned: 3872
Response: 70.03\%

Declarations rejected: 58
Declarations admitted: 3814
Rejection rate: 1.50\%

Ballot paper adjustment: 3
Total ballot papers: 3811

Formal Votes: 3741
Informal ballot papers: 70
Informality rate: 1.84\%

Quota $=535$

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { O} \\ & \stackrel{\circ}{\leftrightarrows} \end{aligned}$ | Beswick | Cashion | Cuthbertson | Donaldson | Eadie | McLennan | Martin | Partridge | Powell | Probert | Stein | Terry | Thorne | Votes Exhausted |  | Total Votes | Remarks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1144.00 | 60.00 | 120.00 | 24.00 | 102.00 | 486.00 | 380.00 | 274.00 | 152.00 | 186.00 | 230.00 | 80.00 | 503.00 |  |  | 3741.00 | Beswick elected 1 |
| 2 | -609.00 | 17.03 | 31.94 | 5.85 | 22.89 | 114.45 | 87.30 | 40.45 | 45.78 | 29.81 | 30.87 | 7.98 | 174.60 |  | 0.05 |  | Beswick's surplus distributed |
|  | 535.00 | 77.03 | 151.94 | 29.85 | 124.89 | 600.45 | 467.30 | 314.45 | 197.78 | 215.81 | 260.87 | 87.98 | 677.60 |  | 0.05 | 3741.00 | Thorne elected 2, McLennan elected 3 |
| 3 |  | 3.47 | 12.60 | 2.17 | 7.39 |  | 58.69 | 16.52 | 7.39 | 21.73 | 9.99 | 2.60 | - 142.60 |  | 0.05 |  | Thorne's surplus distributed |
|  | 535.00 | 80.50 | 164.54 | 32.02 | 132.28 | 600.45 | 525.99 | 330.97 | 205.17 | 237.54 | 270.86 | 90.58 | 535.00 |  | 0.10 | 3741.00 |  |
| 4 |  | 2.43 | 9.43 | 2.13 | 2.13 | - 65.45 | 19.48 | 10.35 | 5.17 | 8.82 | 4.87 | 0.60 |  |  | 0.04 |  | McLennan's surplus distributed |
|  | 535.00 | 82.93 | 173.97 | 34.15 | 134.41 | 535.00 | 545.47 | 341.32 | 210.34 | 246.36 | 275.73 | 91.18 | 535.00 |  | 0.14 | 3741.00 | Martin elected 4 |
| 5 |  | 0.98 | 1.47 | 0.32 | 0.81 |  | - 10.47 | 1.63 | 1.63 | 2.12 | 1.14 | 0.32 |  |  | 0.05 |  | Martin's surplus distributed |
|  | 535.00 | 83.91 | 175.44 | 34.47 | 135.22 | 535.00 | 535.00 | 342.95 | 211.97 | 248.48 | 276.87 | 91.50 | 535.00 |  | 0.19 | 3741.00 |  |
| 6 to 10 |  | 4.60 | 4.52 | - 34.47 | 6.32 |  |  | 1.53 | 3.06 | 6.96 | 3.16 | 4.26 |  |  | 0.06 |  | Donaldson excluded |
|  | 535.00 | 88.51 | 179.96 | 0.00 | 141.54 | 535.00 | 535.00 | 344.48 | 215.03 | 255.44 | 280.03 | 95.76 | 535.00 |  | 0.25 | 3741.00 |  |
| 11 to 15 |  | - 88.51 | 14.69 |  | 11.00 |  |  | 9.19 | 16.26 | 12.46 | 16.18 | 8.66 |  |  | 0.07 |  | Cashion excluded |
|  | 535.00 | 0.00 | 194.65 |  | 152.54 | 535.00 | 535.00 | 353.67 | 231.29 | 267.90 | 296.21 | 104.42 | 535.00 |  | 0.32 | 3741.00 |  |
| 16 to 20 |  |  | 15.15 |  | 11.42 |  |  | 11.96 | 13.75 | 34.55 | 17.55 | - 104.42 |  |  | 0.04 |  | Terry excluded |
|  | 535.00 |  | 209.80 |  | 163.96 | 535.00 | 535.00 | 365.63 | 245.04 | 302.45 | 313.76 | 0.00 | 535.00 |  | 0.36 | 3741.00 |  |
| 21 to 25 |  |  | 36.67 |  | - 163.96 |  |  | 26.85 | 20.24 | 51.79 | 27.22 |  |  | 1.16 | 0.03 |  | Eadie excluded |
|  | 535.00 |  | 246.47 |  | 0.00 | 535.00 | 535.00 | 392.48 | 265.28 | 354.24 | 340.98 |  | 535.00 | 1.16 | 0.39 | 3741.00 |  |
| 26 to 30 |  |  | -246.47 |  |  |  |  | 51.14 | 61.94 | 62.95 | 65.71 |  |  | 4.71 | 0.02 |  | Cuthbertson excluded |
|  | 535.00 |  | 0.00 |  |  | 535.00 | 535.00 | 443.62 | 327.22 | 417.19 | 406.69 |  | 535.00 | 5.87 | 0.41 | 3741.00 |  |
| 31 to 33 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 92.67 | -314.26 | 93.29 | 104.76 |  |  | 23.55 | (0.01) |  | Powell part excluded |
|  | 535.00 |  |  |  |  | 535.00 | 535.00 | 536.29 | 12.96 | 510.48 | 511.45 |  | 535.00 | 29.42 | 0.40 | 3741.00 | Partridge elected 5 |
| 34 to 35 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -12.96 | 4.34 | 5.40 |  |  | 3.24 | (0.02) |  | Powell excluded |
|  | 535.00 |  |  |  |  | 535.00 | 535.00 | 536.29 |  | 514.82 | 516.85 |  | 535.00 | 32.66 | 0.38 | 3741.00 |  |
| 36 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -1.29 |  | 0.77 | 0.25 |  |  | 0.25 | 0.02 |  | Partridge's surplus distributed |
|  | 535.00 |  |  |  |  | 535.00 | 535.00 | 535.00 |  | 515.59 | 517.10 |  | 535.00 | 32.91 | 0.40 | 3741.00 | Stein elected 6 |

2009 Dorset Councillor election - first preferences


## Dorest Council

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009
Returning Officer: Mrs Suzie Rogers

| Mayor |  | Declarations admitted: 3814 |  |  |  | Formal Votes: 3779 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Ballot paper adjustment: 3 |  |  |  | Informal ballot papers: 32 |  |
|  |  | Total ballot papers: 3811 |  |  | Informality rate: 0.84\% |  |  |
|  |  | Candidates |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | JARVIS | McLENNAN | PARTRIDGE | Total Votes | Absolute Majority | Remarks |
| Count 1 | First preferences | 2151 | 1111 | 517 | 3779 | 1890 | S elected |

2009 Dorset Mayor election - first preferences


## Dorest Council

Polling closed at 10am 27 October 2009
Returning Officer: Mrs Suzie Rogers

| Deputy Mayor | Declarations admitted: 3814 |  |  |  | Formal Votes: 3775 <br> Informal ballot papers: 36 <br> Informality rate: 0.94\% |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Ballot paper adjustment: 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total ballot papers: 3811 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Candidates |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ARNOLD | RANSOM | THORNE | Total Votes | Absolute Majority | Remarks |
| Count 1 First preferences | 1121 | 723 | 1931 | 3775 | 1888 | NE Elected |

2009 Dorset Deputy Mayor election - first preferences


