

Candidate statement and photograph requirements

Local government elections 2026

Candidate statements and photographs are included in the candidate statements booklet sent to electors with their postal ballot pack. They give candidates an opportunity to provide brief information to assist electors in making an informed choice.

Candidate statements and photographs are optional. They are not required for a valid nomination.

Candidate statements and photographs must be submitted using the online form before the end of the nomination period, at **12 noon on Monday 21 September 2026**. There is no opportunity to provide late statements or photographs due to strict publication timelines.



The match code

Nominations and candidate statements are separate processes. To help us match each nomination form with the correct candidate statement, you will be asked to create your own 'match code'. This can be anything you like – just a short, simple combination of letters and/or numbers that you enter on both your paper nomination form and your online candidate statements form.



Paper
nomination
form

Same
match code
on both
forms



Online candidate
statements form

Candidate statements

Only one statement may be submitted for each candidate, including where a candidate is contesting more than one office (that is, councillor and deputy mayor, or councillor and mayor).

The heading above your statement will include your name as it appears on the ballot paper and the office or offices you are contesting. Candidates will be listed in alphabetical order.

You are responsible for the content and accuracy of your statement. Before submitting, make sure it is complete, compliant with all the requirements, and carefully proofread. We strongly recommend using basic word processing software to check spelling before submitting your text via the online form.

The TEC does not verify factual claims or provide legal advice about candidate statement content. The inclusion of a statement does not mean that we endorse its content.

Candidate statement requirements

Compliance requirements

Your statement must:

- not refer to another candidate by name unless you provide that candidate's written consent
- not refer to the office of Justice of the Peace
- not refer to the offering, promising or giving of gifts, donations or prizes
- not include swear words, offensive or vulgar language
- not include material that could reasonably be construed as inciting hatred against a person or group
- be written in English.

A statement that meets these requirements is an acceptable statement for the purposes of publication.

If your statement does not meet these requirements and is received **before 12 noon on Thursday 17 September 2026**, the TEC will contact you by email and provide an opportunity to submit a replacement. We will not make changes to your statement for you.

Due to strict production timelines, statements received after this time must meet all requirements when submitted. If they do not, they will not be published.



Statements cannot be submitted **after 12 noon on Monday 21 September 2026**, the online form will be deactivated at this time.

Where a statement is not published, the candidate's name and the office/s they are contesting will be published and the space allocated for the statement will be left blank.

See 'Review and resubmission process' for full details.

Formatting requirements

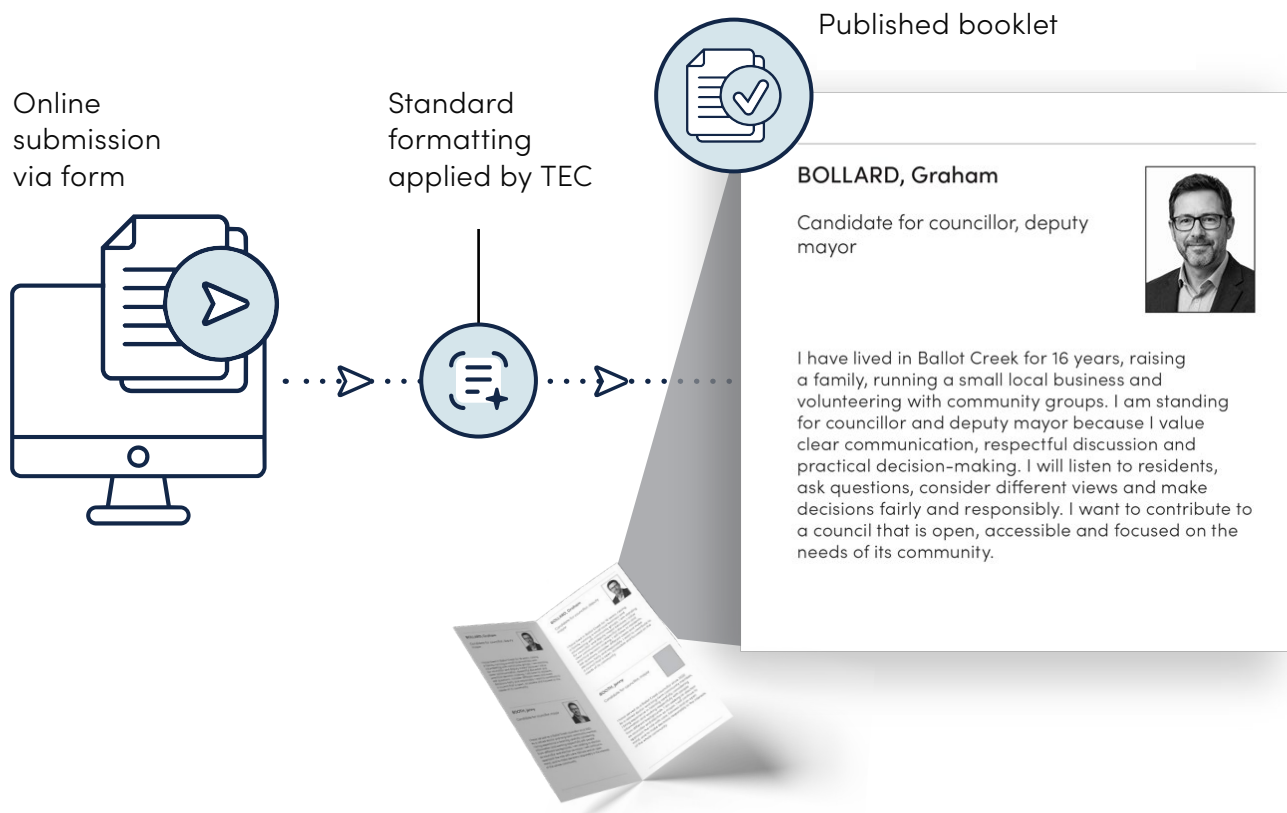
Each candidate statement will be allocated an equal amount of space in the published booklet, regardless of length.

Statements must be submitted as plain text and be no longer than 600 characters including spaces and punctuation. This will be enforced by the online form.

To ensure all statements can be reproduced consistently in the candidate statements booklet, the TEC will apply the following standard formatting without consulting candidates:

- paragraph breaks will be removed so statements appear as one continuous paragraph
- emojis and pictorial symbols will be removed
- dot points, numbered lists and other list formatting will be converted to continuous text, using commas or semi-colons where appropriate.

The TEC will apply these changes to formatting only. We will not otherwise correct, rewrite, redact or remove any part of a candidate statement without consulting the candidate. This means **we will not correct or change words, spelling, grammar, punctuation or capitalisation**; nor will you have an opportunity to do this after submission.



Examples of formatting applied by the TEC

1. Paragraph breaks



Submitted text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and work in local community services. I want practical decisions, clear communication and well-maintained public spaces.

If elected, I will listen respectfully, support responsible spending and work for a council that is accessible to everyone.



Published text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and work in local community services. I want practical decisions, clear communication and well-maintained public spaces. If elected, I will listen respectfully, support responsible spending and work for a council that is accessible to everyone.

Formatting applied: Paragraph breaks will be removed so statements appear as one continuous paragraph.

2. Emojis and pictorial symbols



Submitted text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and care deeply about our local community. I will listen 🌱, act fairly and work hard for safe streets, welcoming parks and practical services. My priorities are clear communication, responsible spending and a council that treats every resident with respect. ✅



Published text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and care deeply about our local community. I will listen, act fairly and work hard for safe streets, welcoming parks and practical services. My priorities are clear communication, responsible spending and a council that treats every resident with respect.

Formatting applied: Emojis and pictorial symbols will be removed.

3. List formatting converted using commas



Submitted text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and will work with residents, local businesses and community groups to make practical decisions for our area. My priorities are:

- safer local streets
- well-maintained parks
- clear, respectful communication
- responsible rates.



Published text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and will work with residents, local businesses and community groups to make practical decisions for our area. My priorities are safer local streets, well-maintained parks, clear, respectful communication, and responsible rates.

Formatting applied: Dot points, numbered lists and other list formatting will be converted to continuous text, using commas where appropriate.

4. List formatting converted using semi-colons



Submitted text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and want a council that is clear, responsive and focused on community needs. If elected, I will:

1. publish regular updates about council decisions
2. listen to residents, businesses and community groups
3. support practical services, including roads, parks and waste collection
4. make decisions openly and respectfully.



Published text

I have lived in Riverside for 18 years and want a council that is clear, responsive and focused on community needs. If elected, I will publish regular updates about council decisions; listen to residents, businesses and community groups; support practical services, including roads, parks and waste collection; and make decisions openly and respectfully.

Formatting applied: Dot points, numbered lists and other list formatting will be converted to continuous text, using semi-colons where appropriate.

Candidate photographs

You may submit one photograph of yourself to be published with your candidate statement.

A photograph is optional. If you do not submit an acceptable photograph, a grey box of equivalent dimensions to a published photograph will be included in the candidate statements booklet.

BOLLARD, Graham
Candidate for councillor, deputy mayor



I have lived in Ballot Creek for 16 years, raising a family, running a small local business and volunteering with community groups. I am standing for councillor and deputy mayor because I value clear communication, respectful discussion and practical decision-making. I will listen to residents, ask questions, consider different views and make decisions fairly and responsibly. I want to contribute to a council that is open, accessible and focused on the needs of its community.

BOOTH, Jenny
Candidate for councillor, mayor



I have served as a Ballot Creek councillor since 2022. As a retired doctor and long-term community member, I bring experience in listening carefully, considering information and working respectfully with people from different backgrounds. I am seeking re-election as councillor and election as mayor. I will continue to approach the role with care, fairness and an open mind, and to make decisions responsibly in the interests of the whole community.

Photograph requirements

Your photograph must:

- ✔ be recent, having been taken within the last 12 months
- ✔ be a clear head-and-shoulders photograph of you
- ✔ show only you
- ✔ have a plain, neutral or light-coloured background
- ✔ be supplied as a high-resolution JPG or PNG file suitable for print reproduction
- ✔ not include text, logos, borders, graphics or other design elements
- ✔ not use filters, digital effects or digital zoom
- ✔ be clear, well-lit and in focus.

You may smile and you may wear clear glasses if you wish.

Photographs may be supplied in colour or black and white.

In this document, an acceptable photograph means a photograph that meets these requirements. A photograph that does not meet these requirements may not be published.

How photographs will be published

The TEC will convert all accepted photographs to greyscale and apply standard sizing and cropping so they can be reproduced consistently.

We will remove the background from all photographs but we will not otherwise retouch, enhance or alter a photograph.

You are responsible for ensuring that your photograph is suitable for reproduction.

Acceptable photo example

This photo meets the requirements. The TEC will remove the background and crop the image for publication.

Your submitted photo



- Recent (within the last 12 months)
- Clear head-and-shoulders image
- Shows only you
- Plain, neutral or light coloured background
- No text, logos, borders or graphics
- No filters, or digital effects or digital zoom
- Clear, well-lit and in focus

How it will appear in the booklet



The TEC will:

- remove the background
- convert the photo to greyscale
- apply standard sizing and cropping

Unacceptable photo examples

These photos do not meet the requirements and may not be accepted.

1. Shows more than just you



The photo should only show you.

2. Poor lighting and sunglasses



The image is lit poorly and the candidate is wearing sunglasses.

3. Low resolution



The image is low resolution and not suitable for print.

Review and resubmission process

1. The TEC will assess candidate statements and photographs against the stated requirements.
2. Where we determine that a submitted item does not meet the requirements for an acceptable statement or photograph, we will notify the candidate by email **within 1 working day** of receiving the item.
3. We will use only the email address specified by the candidate on the submission form for this purpose. We will not use another email address, telephone number or other contact method.
4. The notification will identify the relevant requirement or requirements that have not been met and provide instructions to resubmit.
5. Candidates have **1 working day** from the time we send the email to provide an acceptable replacement. For example, if we send an email at 11am on a Thursday, the candidate will have until 11am on the next working day, Friday, to resubmit.
6. A replacement statement must be submitted as a complete revised statement. We will not make individual amendments to previously submitted text on a candidate's behalf.
7. We will provide one opportunity to submit a replacement. A replacement statement or photograph must meet all applicable requirements. Further opportunities to revise or resubmit are not available due to strict production timelines.
8. If a candidate does not provide an acceptable replacement by the stated deadline, the relevant statement or photograph will not be published. This will not affect the validity of the candidate's nomination.

Important timing information



Submit your statement and photograph before the close of nominations. This gives the TEC time to review your material and, if required, gives you time to provide a replacement that meets the requirements.

The process of review and replacement takes two working days. That means material received after **12 noon on Thursday 17 September 2026** must meet all requirements when submitted.

Material received after this time and before the close of nominations will be reviewed and published if it meets the requirements. If it doesn't, it will not be published, and the TEC will notify the candidate of this outcome.

Candidates are responsible for monitoring the email address they specify during the nomination period and responding promptly to any TEC email about their submitted material.

Strict production times mean that the TEC does not have scope to vary or negotiate these timelines, regardless of individual circumstances.

Candidate statement and photograph checklist

Before you submit

- ☐ I understand that candidate statements and photographs are optional and that nomination is a separate process.
- ☐ I have created a match code and entered the same code on my paper nomination form and online candidate statement form.
- ☐ I have provided an email address that I will monitor during the nomination period.
- ☐ My candidate statement is in English and is no more than 600 characters including spaces and punctuation.
- ☐ I understand that paragraph breaks, dot points, numbered lists, emojis or pictorial symbols will be removed by the TEC without consultation.
- ☐ I have checked that my statement does not include prohibited content, including references to another candidate without written consent, the office of Justice of the Peace, gifts, donations or prizes, swear words, offensive or vulgar language, or material that could reasonably be construed as inciting hatred.
- ☐ I have checked my statement carefully for accuracy, spelling and grammar. I understand that the TEC will not correct or rewrite it, and that I will not have an opportunity to make corrections of this type after I submit.
- ☐ My photograph is a recent, clear head-and-shoulders image of me only, with a plain, neutral or light-coloured background.
- ☐ My photograph is a high-resolution JPG or PNG file and does not include text, logos, borders, graphics, filters, digital effects or digital zoom.
- ☐ I will submit my material before the close of nominations, which is at **12 noon on Monday 21 September 2026**.
- ☐ I understand that any material submitted after **12 noon on Thursday 17 September 2026** must meet the requirements when received. If not, my statement or photograph may not be published as there will be no opportunity (due to tight production timelines) to submit a replacement.



Contact us - Phone 1800 801 701 | Email regulation@tec.tas.gov.au