

South Australia

## Local Government (Elections) Regulations 2010

under the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

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### Part 1—Preliminary

#### 1—Short title

These regulations may be cited as the *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 2010*.

#### 3—Interpretation

- (1) In these regulations—  
*Act* means the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.
- (2) In these regulations, a reference to a form of a particular number is a reference to the form of that number set out in Schedule 1.

## Part 2—Elections and polls

### 3A—Filling vacancy in certain circumstances

- (1) For the purposes of section 6A(2)(a) of the Act—
  - (a) the returning officer must contact each candidate who was not elected in the most recent election for the relevant office or the designated supplementary election referred to in section 6(2)(c)(ii)(B) of the Act (as the case requires) to request that the candidate make a declaration under paragraph (b); and
  - (b) a candidate may, within the relevant period and in a form determined by the returning officer, make a declaration that they are still willing and eligible to be elected to the relevant office (an *eligible candidate*); and
  - (c) if, after the relevant period—
    - (i) there is 1 eligible candidate—that candidate will be determined to fill the vacancy; or
    - (ii) there is more than 1 eligible candidate—the returning officer must determine which of the eligible candidates will fill the vacancy or vacancies by recounting the votes in accordance with—
      - (A) if there is 1 vacancy—section 48(1a) of the Act as modified by subregulation (2); or
      - (B) if there is more than 1 vacancy—section 48(1) of the Act as modified by subregulation (2).
- (2) For the purposes of a recount under subregulation (1), section 48 of the Act is modified as follows:
  - (a) a vote indicated on a ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate in whose office the vacancy occurred will be counted to the eligible candidate next in order of the voter's preference;
  - (b) in addition, a vote indicated on a ballot paper opposite the name of a candidate who is not an eligible candidate will be counted to the eligible candidate next in order of the voter's preference;
  - (c) after the returning officer gives effect to paragraphs (a) and (b), the numbers indicating subsequent preferences on the relevant ballot papers will be taken to have been altered accordingly;
  - (d) a reference in section 48 to a candidate will be taken to be a reference to an eligible candidate.
- (3) To avoid doubt, a recount under subregulation (1) does not affect the election of any other member according to the votes actually cast at the election.
- (4) A declaration under section 6A(2)(c)(i) of the Act will be taken to be a provisional declaration and a candidate (not being a successful candidate) may request a recount on the basis of this declaration in the manner contemplated by section 49 of the Act and the returning officer may then take such action that may be appropriate in the manner contemplated by section 50 of the Act.

- (5) For the purposes of section 6A(2)(c)(ii) of the Act, the returning officer must determine the next successful candidate in such manner as the returning officer sees fit.
- (6) To avoid doubt, for the purposes of this regulation, a reference to an eligible candidate in relation to a recount does not include a reference to a candidate who is, immediately before the commencement of the recount, an elected member of the council.
- (7) In this regulation—  
*relevant period* means the period determined by the returning officer.

#### **4—Declaration of eligibility**

For the purposes of section 8(2)(b) of the Act, the prescribed form for a declaration of eligibility is set out as Form 1.

#### **5—Manner in which nominations are made**

- (1) For the purposes of section 19(1) of the Act, a form nominating a person as a candidate for election to an office of a council (being a form determined by the Electoral Commissioner) must be delivered to the returning officer before the close of nominations.
- (2) For the purposes of section 19(2)(b) of the Act, the following requirements are prescribed with respect to a profile:
  - (a) the profile must be in typed or printed form;
  - (b) the profile must not, subject to subregulation (2a), exceed 1 000 characters;
  - (c) the profile must be accurate and must not—
    - (i) be misleading; or
    - (ii) contain offensive or obscene material; or
    - (iii) refer to another person who has nominated as a candidate for election to the council (whether at the same election or any other election to be held on the same day) without the written consent of that person; or
    - (iv) comment on decisions or actions that have been made or taken by the council or on the decisions or actions of past or present members of the council;
  - (d) the profile must contain contact details of the candidate being—
    - (i) an address (not being a post office box); or
    - (ii) an email address; or
    - (iii) a telephone number;
  - (e) the profile must contain a statement as to whether the candidate lives in the area or ward of the council in which the candidate is nominating for election;
  - (f) the profile must contain the following information:

- (i) whether the candidate is, at the time of their nomination, or was, at any time in the 12 months preceding their nomination, a member of a registered political party (within the meaning of the *Electoral Act 1985*);
  - (ii) if the candidate is or was a member of a registered political party in accordance with subparagraph (i)—
    - (A) the name of the party; and
    - (B) when the candidate ceased to be a member of the party (if relevant).
- (2a) The contact details, statement and information provided under subregulation (2)(d), (e) and (f) (respectively) are excluded from the 1 000 character limit imposed by subregulation (2)(b) and the operation of subregulation (3).
- (3) Subject to subregulation (2a), if—
  - (a) a profile submitted with a nomination form exceeds 1 000 characters; and
  - (b) the candidate has not reduced the size of the profile to 1 000 characters or less by the close of nominations,the returning officer will exclude from the profile all characters appearing after the 1 000th character.
- (4) The profile must (in accordance with section 19(2)(c) of the Act) be accompanied by a statement declaring that the candidate is responsible for the content of the profile and such statement must be signed and dated by the candidate.
- (5) The returning officer is not responsible for checking the accuracy of any information included in a profile and the returning officer bears no liability with respect to the publication of a profile under the Act and these regulations.
- (6) A written consent required under subregulation (2)(c)(iii) must be lodged with the profile.
- (7) Nothing in subregulation (2)(c) prevents a profile including declarations of public policy or promises of public action.
- (8) For the purposes of section 19(3) of the Act, the following requirements are prescribed with respect to a photograph provided with a profile:
  - (a) unless otherwise approved by the returning officer, the photograph must be the same size as an Australian passport photograph;
  - (b) the photograph must only (or predominantly) show the head and shoulders of the candidate;
  - (c) the photograph must have been taken within the preceding period of 12 months;
  - (d) the photograph must, in a manner determined by the Electoral Commissioner, be endorsed by the candidate to the effect that the photograph is a photograph of the candidate that has been taken within the preceding 12 months.

## 6—Ballot papers for elections

Pursuant to section 29(5) of the Act, a ballot paper for an election—

- (a) must be in a form determined by the Electoral Commissioner; and
- (b) must—
  - (i) identify the council, and the election to which it relates; and
  - (ii) include directions to voters as to how to record a valid vote.

## 7—Ballot papers for polls

- (1) Pursuant to section 33(3) of the Act, a ballot paper for a poll must contain—
  - (a) a statement of the proposition being submitted to electors at the poll; and
  - (b) 2 squares—
    - (i) 1 clearly indicated as the square to be marked by a person who is in favour of the proposition being submitted to electors at the poll; and
    - (ii) 1 clearly indicated as the square to be marked by a person who is against the proposition being submitted to electors at the poll.
- (2) The statement under subregulation (1)(a) will be determined by the relevant council after consultation with the returning officer.

## 8—Notice of use of postal voting

- (1) For the purposes of section 38 of the Act, information to the following effect is prescribed:
  - (a) that the specified election or poll will be conducted entirely by means of postal voting and that no polling booth will be open for voting on polling day;
  - (b) that voting papers will be issued by post to every natural person, body corporate and group who or which has his, her or its name on the voters roll to be used for the purposes of the election or poll or, at the discretion of the returning officer, by personal delivery to potential voters at certain locations;
  - (c) that the voting papers being issued by post should be delivered to natural persons, bodies corporate and groups on the voters roll not later than a date specified by the returning officer<sup>1</sup>;
  - (d) that a person who does not receive voting papers but who believes that he or she is entitled to exercise a vote at the election or poll may take specified steps to apply for voting papers.
- (2) A notice under section 38 of the Act may include other information which may, in the opinion of the returning officer, assist prospective voters to understand the postal voting system and processes under the Act and to participate in the election or poll.

**Note—**

- 1 This date must be consistent with section 39(1) of the Act.

## 9—Issue of postal voting papers

- (1) Pursuant to section 39(3) of the Act, envelopes used under section 39(1) for ballot papers sent by post must have an extension to a flap on the back of the envelope that bears the name and address of—
  - (a) the natural person to whom the voting papers are issued; or
  - (b) in the case of papers issued to a body corporate or group—the designated person for the body corporate or group.
- (2) For the purposes of section 39(6) of the Act, an explanatory notice will be prepared by the returning officer and must outline the steps which a voter must follow in order to comply with the requirements of section 40 of the Act.

## 10—Collation of certain information

For the purposes of section 51(1a) of the Act, a return must show, in relation to the relevant election—

- (a) the number of ballot papers printed for the election; and
- (b) the number of ballot papers issued on the basis of names on the voters roll; and
- (c) the number of ballot papers issued on the basis of names declared to have been omitted in error from the voters roll; and
- (d) the number of ballot papers replaced due to the re-issue of voting papers; and
- (e) the number of declaration envelopes accepted at the count; and
- (f) the number of declaration envelopes rejected at the count; and
- (g) the number of declaration envelopes returned because they have not been able to be effectively delivered; and
- (h) the number of ballot papers removed from envelopes accepted at the count; and
- (i) the number of ballot papers included in the count; and
- (j) the number of ballot papers rejected as informal.

## 10A—Filling vacancy if successful candidate dies

- (1) For the purposes of section 55A(2)(a) of the Act—
  - (a) the returning officer must contact each candidate who was not elected in the most recent election for the relevant office to request that the candidate make a declaration under paragraph (b); and
  - (b) a candidate may, within the relevant period and in a form determined by the returning officer, make a declaration that they are still willing and eligible to be elected to the relevant office (an *eligible candidate*); and
  - (c) if, after the relevant period—
    - (i) there is 1 eligible candidate—that candidate will be determined to fill the vacancy; or

- (ii) there is more than 1 eligible candidate—the returning officer must determine which of the eligible candidates will fill the vacancy by recounting the votes in accordance with section 48(1a) of the Act as modified by subregulation (2).
- (2) For the purposes of a recount under subregulation (1), section 48 of the Act is modified as follows:
  - (a) a vote indicated on a ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate in whose office the vacancy occurred will be counted to the eligible candidate next in order of the voter's preference;
  - (b) in addition, a vote indicated on a ballot paper opposite the name of a candidate who is not an eligible candidate will be counted to the eligible candidate next in order of the voter's preference;
  - (c) after the returning officer gives effect to paragraphs (a) and (b), the numbers indicating subsequent preferences on the relevant ballot papers will be taken to have been altered accordingly;
  - (d) a reference in section 48 to a candidate will be taken to be a reference to an eligible candidate.
- (3) To avoid doubt, a recount under subregulation (1) does not affect the election of any other member according to the votes actually cast at the election.
- (4) A declaration under section 55A(2)(c)(i) of the Act will be taken to be a provisional declaration and a candidate (not being a successful candidate) may request a recount on the basis of this declaration in the manner contemplated by section 49 of the Act and the returning officer may then take such action that may be appropriate in the manner contemplated by section 50 of the Act.
- (5) For the purposes of section 55A(2)(c)(ii) of the Act, the returning officer must determine the next successful candidate in such manner as the returning officer sees fit.
- (6) To avoid doubt, for the purposes of this regulation, a reference to an eligible candidate in relation to a recount does not include a reference to a candidate who is, immediately before the commencement of the recount, an elected member of the council.
- (7) In this regulation—  
*relevant period* means the period determined by the returning officer.

## **11—Bribery**

For the purposes of section 57(3) of the Act, the prescribed value is \$20.

## **11A—Large gifts returns**

- (1) For the purposes of section 81A(1)(b) of the Act, the amount of \$2 500 is prescribed.

- (2) For the purposes of section 81A(1) of the Act, a large gifts return must be furnished by a candidate—
- (a) in relation to a disclosure period applying to a candidate for a supplementary election—within 5 days after the receipt of each gift or gifts the total amount or value of which is more than the prescribed amount during the period commencing on the close of nominations for the election and ending 5 days after the end of the disclosure period; or
  - (b) in relation to a disclosure period applying to a candidate for a periodic election—
    - (i) in the year in which the election is to be held—within 5 days after the receipt of each gift or gifts the total amount or value of which is more than the prescribed amount during the period commencing on—
      - (A) 1 January in that year; or
      - (B) if the disclosure period applying to the candidate commences after 1 January, the day on which the disclosure period commences,and ending 5 days after the end of the disclosure period; and
    - (ii) in each year in which the disclosure period applies to the candidate for the election (including the year in which the election is to be held)—within 60 days after 30 June.
- (3) For the purposes of section 87(2)(a) of the Act, the period of 5 days is prescribed.

## 12—Conduct of council during election period

- (1) For the purposes of section 91A of the Act, the following kinds of decisions are excluded from the definition of *designated decision*:
- (a) a decision of a kind referred to in paragraph (c) of the definition if the decision—
    - (i) relates to the carrying out of works in response to an emergency or disaster within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*, or under section 298 of the *Local Government Act 1999*; or
    - (ii) is an expenditure or other decision required to be taken under an agreement by which funding is provided to the council by the Commonwealth or State Government or otherwise for the council to be eligible for funding from the Commonwealth or State Government; or
    - (iii) relates to the employment of a particular council employee (other than the chief executive officer); or
    - (iv) is made in the conduct of negotiations relating to the employment of council employees generally, or a class of council employees, if provision has been made for funds relating to such negotiations in the budget of the council for the relevant financial year and the negotiations commenced prior to the election period; or

- (v) relates to a Community Wastewater Management Systems scheme that has, prior to the election period, been approved by the council;
  - (b) a decision of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition if the decision is for the suspension of a chief executive officer for serious and wilful misconduct.
- (2) In this regulation—  
*election period* has the same meaning as in section 91A of the Act.

## **Schedule 1—Prescribed forms**

### **Form 1—Declaration of eligibility**

Name of declarant:

Address:

Office:

Council:

Area/ward:

I declare that I would, if an election were held for the office set out above, be eligible to stand as a candidate for election to the office.

Signature:

Date:

## Legislative history

### Notes

- Please note—References in the legislation to other legislation or instruments or to titles of bodies or offices are not automatically updated as part of the program for the revision and publication of legislation and therefore may be obsolete.
- Earlier versions of these regulations (historical versions) are listed at the end of the legislative history.
- For further information relating to the Act and subordinate legislation made under the Act see the Index of South Australian Statutes or [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au).

### Legislation revoked by principal regulations

The *Local Government (Elections) Regulations 2010* revoked the following:

*Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1999*

### Principal regulations and variations

New entries appear in bold.

Year	No	Reference	Commencement
2010	194	<i>Gazette 26.8.2010 p4469</i>	27.8.2010: r 2
2021	138	<i>Gazette 16.9.2021 p3557</i>	10.11.2021: r 2
<b>2022</b>	<b>54</b>	<b><i>Gazette 7.7.2022 p2140</i></b>	<b>7.7.2022: r 2</b>

### Provisions varied

New entries appear in bold.

Entries that relate to provisions that have been deleted appear in italics.

Provision	How varied	Commencement
Pt 1		
<i>r 2</i>	<i>omitted under Legislation Revision and Publication Act 2002</i>	<i>10.11.2021</i>
Pt 2		
<b>r 3A</b>	<b>inserted by 54/2022 r 3</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
r 5		
r 5(2)	varied by 138/2021 r 4	10.11.2021
	<b>amended by 54/2022 r 4(1)</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
<b>r 5(2a)</b>	<b>inserted by 54/2022 r 4(2)</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
<b>r 5(3)</b>	<b>substituted by 54/2022 r 4(3)</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
<b>r 5(8)</b>	<b>amended by 54/2022 r 4(4)</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
<b>r 10A</b>	<b>inserted by 54/2022 r 5</b>	<b>7.7.2022</b>
r 11	substituted by 138/2021 r 5	10.11.2021
r 11A	inserted by 138/2021 r 5	10.11.2021

Sch 1	varied by 138/2021 r 6	10.11.2021
Sch 2	<i>omitted under Legislation Revision and Publication Act 2002</i>	<i>10.11.2021</i>

## Historical versions

10.11.2021