PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
FACT SHEET December 2018

243 (38%) of the 637 Councillors who were originally elected in October 2016 are female. 11 councillors were elected in the City of Greater Geelong in October 2017, including 3 women.

There are 79 local governments and a total of 648 councillor positions in Victoria. At the time of writing, Central Goldfields Shire Council is currently in administration, so their 7 councillors are excluded from this audit.

Additionally, the Victorian State Election in November 2018 saw several councillors elected to state parliament, with countbacks/by-elections scheduled to take place in January 2019. These four vacant positions have also been excluded from this audit.

This gives us a total of 637, with 237 women councillors – a total of 37.2%.

Data history:
– 2000: 12% (9)
– 2004: 22% (18)
– 2008: 28% (22)
– 2009: 18% (14)
– 2010: 16% (13)
– May 2012: 18% (14)
– Dec 2015: 35% (28)

All councils in Victoria now have female councillors

Data history – Councils with no women elected:
– Oct 2001: 5 councils 6%
– Aug 2002: 4 councils 5%
– Apr 2004: 5 councils 6%
– Mar 2005: 7 councils 9%
– Jan 2006: 5 councils 6%
– Jan 2008: 4 councils 5%
– Jun 2008: after by-elections, 2 councils 3%
– Dec 2010: 5 local governments (6%) Dec 2012, all councils have female councillors

Metro/Interface/Rural/Regional comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women Councillors</th>
<th>0 women councillors</th>
<th>1 woman councillor</th>
<th>2+women councillors</th>
<th>40%+ women councillors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan/Interface</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acting on the Victorian Local Government Women’s Charter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>29</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total councils (78)</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excl Central Goldfields which has administrators</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local governments with female mayors elected in 2018/2019: 40% (32 women mayors)

- Baw Baw
- Booroondara
- Brimbank
- Buloke
- Ballarat
- Casey
- Darebin
- East Gippsland
- Gannawarra
- Glenelg
- Greater Bendigo
- Greater Dandenong
- Greater Shepparton
- Hume
- Kingston
- Loddon
- Macedon Ranges
- Manningham
- Melbourne
- Moreland
- Moonee Valley
- Mount Alexander
- Murrindindi
- Nillumbik
- Southern Grampians
- Strathbogie
- Surf Coast
- Swan Hill
- West Wimmera
- Wodonga
- Wyndham
- Yarra City


There is only one female councillor in 13 local governments (17%):

- Banyule
- Bayside
- Colac-Otway
- Hindmarsh
- Mansfield
- Moorabool
- Moyne
- Pyrenees
- Queenscliffe
- Towong
- Wangaratta
- West Wimmera
- Yarra Ranges


NEXT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – OCTOBER 2020

Resources

- A Gender Agenda
- additional inserts

50:50 by 2025 - video

Your community, country and council – Aboriginal women run for election (video)

Women in LG fact sheet

Victorian Local Government Women’s Charter

VLGA’s Local Women Leading Change Facebook page

For more information, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Women’s Engagement and Project Officer Deborah Wu on 9349 7999 or deborah@vlga.org.au.