



1 MARCH 2019

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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 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. This saw no net change in the number of women councillors, however there is still one by-election to take place on 30 March 2019.

There have also been a number of resignations, with three additional by-elections taking place at the end of March. Of these, one position has been declared with no other nominations, increasing the number of women councillors by one.

As such, this fact sheet will be updated in April 2019.

Councillor positions currently filled: 637

Women councillors: 241 (37.8%)

Data history: **24/8/2000:** 157 councillors, 26.6%; **30/4/01:** 160 councillors, 26.9%, **2/10/01:** 165 councillors, 27.6%, **16/06/02:** 164 crs of 601 27.3%; **14/08/02:** 166 councillors, 27.7%; **10/10/2003:** 177 councillors of 621, 28.5%, **2/4/2004:** 178 councillors, 29%; **8/3/2005:** 181 councillors of 620, 29%; **9/1/2006:** 191 of 635, 30%; **30/6/2008:** 197 of 635, (31%); **30/08/09:** 188 of 631, (29.8%); **15/12/2010:** 183 councillors (29.5%), **31/10/2012:** 215 councillors (34%)

Note: Red highlights immediate post-election results. Councillors numbers alter occasionally between elections.

Local governments with more than 40% of women councillors – 44% (35 actual)

- Ararat 42% (3/7)
- Boroondara 50% (5/10)
- Brimbank 64% (7/11)
- Campaspe 44% (4/9)
- Corangamite 71% (5/7)
- Darebin 66%(6/9)
- Gannawarra 42% (3/7)
- Glen Eira 44% (4/9)
- Glenelg 42% (3/7)
- Greater Bendigo 55% (5/9)
- Greater Shepparton 44% (4/9)
- Hobsons Bay 57% (4/7)
- Hume 45%(5/11)
- Indigo 57% (4/7)
- Kingston 44% (4/9)
- Loddon 40% (2/5)
- Macedon Ranges 55% (5/9)
- Manningham 55% (5/9)
- Maribyrnong 71% (5/7)
- Maroondah 44% (4/9)
- Melbourne 45% (5/11)
- Melton 55% (5/9)
- Moonee Valley 55% (5/9)
- Moreland 45% (5/11)
- Mornington Peninsula 45% (5/11)
- Murrindindi 71% (5/7)
- South Gippsland 44% (5/9)
- Southern Grampians 43% (3/7)
- Stonnington 55% (5/9)
- Strathbogie 43% (3/7)
- Surf Coast 55% (5/9)
- Whitehorse 50% (5/10)
- Wodonga 43% (3/7)
- Yarra City 55% (5/9)
- Yarriambiack 57% (4/7)

Data history: **2000:** 12% (9); **2004:** 22%(18); **2008:** 28% (22); **2009:** 18% (14); **2010** 16% (13); **May2012** 18% (14); **Dec 2015** 35% (28)



All councils in Victoria now have female councillors

Data history – Councils with no women elected: **Oct2001**:5 councils 6%, **Aug2002**:4 councils 5%; **Apr2004**:5 councils, 6%; **Mar05**:7 councils 9%; **Jan2006**:5 councils 6%; **Jan2008**:4 councils 5%; **Jun2008**:after by-elections, 2 councils 3%; **Dec2010**:5 local governments (6%) **Dec 2012**, all councils have female councillors.

Metro/Interface/Rural/Regional comparisons

Women Councillors	0 women councillors	1 woman councillor	2+women councillors	40%+ women councillors
Metropolitan/Interface	0	3	27	18
Rural	0	9	29	13
Regional	0	1	11	5
Total councils (78)	0	13	67	36

Excluding Central Goldfields which has administrators

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

Data history: Aug2000:(15)19%; Oct2001: (18) 23%, **Aug2002**: (22) 28%, **Oct2003**⊗(29) 37%; **Apr2004**: (24) 30%; **Dec2005**: (24) 30%; **Jan2006**: (29) 37%, **Jan2007**: (20) 25%; **Jun2008**: (19) 24%, **Jan2009**: (20) 25%, **Dec2009**: (16) 20% **Dec2010**: (18) 23%; **Dec2011** 23% (18); **Dec 2012** 38% (30); **December 2013** 25% (20); **Dec 2014** 38% (30); **Dec 2015** 34% (27)

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

Data history: **Aug2000**: 24 councils, 30.7%, **Oct2001**:21 councils, 27%, **Aug2002**: 23 councils 29%, **Oct2003**: 19 councils 24%; **Apr2004**: 17 councils 21.5%; **Jan2006**: 10 councils 13%; **Jun07**: 11 councils 14%; **Jan2008**: 10 councils 13%; **Jun2008** after by-elections: 9 councils 11%; **Dec2010**: 14 councils 18%. **Dec2012**: 10 councils 13%.

NEXT COUNCIL ELECTIONS – OCTOBER 2020

Resources

www.vlga.org.au/womens-policy

[50:50 by 2025 - video](#)

[Your community, country and council – Aboriginal women run for election \(video\)](#)

[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.