



Voluntary Code of Conduct for candidates in City of Vincent elections

Application

Elected Members are bound by the Local Government (Rules of Conduct) Regulations 2007 and the City's Code of Conduct.

This Voluntary Code of Conduct for candidates is applicable only to those persons nominating for election to the Council of the City of Vincent (not to Elected Members).

Each candidate (not being an Elected Member) is encouraged to abide by the Voluntary Code of Conduct if they intend to become a candidate in the election.

Legislative Obligations

Candidates in local government elections need to be aware of the legal framework in which the elections are conducted and the obligations that the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations) place upon candidates.

Candidates should make themselves familiar with the following legislative provisions:

- Sections 2.7, 2.8 and 2.10 of the Act which outline the role of the Council, the role of the Mayor and the role of Elected Members;
- Division 5 of Part 2 of the Act which outlines the qualifications for holding office on the Council;
- Divisions 9, 10 and 11 of Part 4 of the Act dealing with the electoral process, the validity of elections and electoral offences; and
- Parts 5 and 5A of the Regulations relating to nominations and the disclosure of gifts.

Ethical and Behavioural Principles

Candidates shall conduct their campaigns so as to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the democratic election process, and promote integrity in the local government electoral system. Candidate's conduct should be fair and reasonable. This requires that a candidate will:

1. Act honestly in making representations about the candidate's own claims for election, and their intention to represent the district.
2. Act honestly in making representations about the claims of other candidates for election.

3. Not make public statements about another candidate's personal affairs.
4. Avoid making frivolous or vexatious complaints to the Chief Executive Officer, the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner or (once appointed by the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner) the Returning Officer, against any other candidate during a campaign.
5. Avoid conduct which is contrary to any law particularly but not limited to:
 - Criminal Code offences;
 - *Local Government Act 1995* offences; and
 - Council's Local Laws.
6. Conduct themselves in a manner to ensure they are not compromising a free and fair election process.
7. Avoid conflicts of interest arising from advocating election policies or proposals which would specifically deliver a private material personal interest to the candidate or an associate.
8. Abide by the election gift disclosure requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
9. Avoid placing themselves under any financial or other obligations that might influence them in discharging their duties and responsibilities if elected as an Elected Member.
10. Avoid influencing or affecting another person's election choices by giving, or promising, or offering a gift or benefit of any kind to anyone else.