

Councillor Couros - QoN - 2026 Local Government Elections Timeline

Tuesday, 14 July 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Mary Couros

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Mary Couros will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Due to the postponement of the 2026 local government elections to April 2027, will the Administration advise:

1. Whether the timeline for enrolment on the Council voters roll, including enrolment for non-resident property owners, businesses and other eligible electors, will be revised to reflect the new election date;
2. When the revised enrolment period is expected to commence and close;
3. How and when eligible electors will be notified of the revised enrolment deadlines; and
4. Whether the City of Adelaide intends to undertake any additional communication or awareness campaign to maximise voter enrolment ahead of the April 2027 election?'

REPLY

1. The *Local Government (Elections) (Periodic Elections) Amendment Act 2026* (the Amendment Act) ([Link 1](#)) was passed by Parliament on Thursday 25 June 2026 and received royal assent on Thursday 2 July 2026.
2. By virtue of the Amendment Act, the date for the periodic election has been changed on the basis that voting at the elections will close at 5 pm on the third to last business day before the second Saturday of April in 2027, being Wednesday 7 April 2027.
3. The Amendment Act also changes subsequent periodic elections on the basis that voting at the elections will close at 5 pm on the third to last business day before the second Saturday of November in 2031, and then such elections will be held at intervals of 4 years on the basis that voting at the subsequent elections will close at 5 pm on the third to last business day before the second Saturday of November in 2035, at 5 pm on the third to last business day before the second Saturday of November in 2039, and so on.
4. Transitional Provisions contained within the Amendment Act provide that the periodic elections that would, but for the Amendment Act, have been held in 2026 will be held in 2027 (the 2027 periodic elections) in accordance with section 5(1) of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (as amended).
5. The effect of the Transitional Provisions is that the relevant dates for enrolment, nomination as a candidate and voting in 2027 will be adjusted to align with the new date for the close of voting.
6. The Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA) has released the official timetable for the 2027 periodic elections, and key dates include:
 - Roll close: Monday 4 January 2027

- Nominations open: Tuesday 26 January 2027
 - Nominations close: Tuesday 9 February 2027
 - Close of voting (Polling Day): 5pm, Wednesday 7 April 2027
 - Scrutiny and count: 9am, Saturday 10 April 2027
7. The caretaker period will commence no later than Tuesday 9 February 2027 and continue until the conclusion of the elections.
 8. The Office of Local Government (OLG) the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) and ECSA have each updated the relevant dates on their websites and will commence disseminating information relating to the 2027 periodic elections dates in due course.
 9. At the City of Adelaide, a fulsome campaign had already commenced seeking enrolments from owners and occupiers of property within the City and North Adelaide.
 10. A significant driver of this campaign is linked to the amendments that commenced on 1 January 2026, relating to bodies corporate, groups and State electors. This has included, amongst other things, a significant mailout as required under Schedule 1, Part 2 of the *City of Adelaide Act 1988* (the CoA Act).
 11. The timing of the marketing and communications plan is based on the latest information received from ECSA. Once finalised, Council Members will receive an update, which will clearly outline who, how and when we will notify electors and prospective nominees.
 12. As provided in the CEO briefing, *Elections 2026: Make it Your Business – Enrol to Vote*, held on 19 May 2026, the City of Adelaide marketing and communications plan for the now cancelled elections included:
 - Dedicated website pages
 - Election Navigator tool
 - Social Media Tiles
 - Vox Pop videos
 - Newsletters
 - Presentations
 - Dedicated Election Team.
 13. The Election Team is presently working with the Marketing and Communications Team to update or amend collateral as necessary including:
 - Website updates completed, including a review of readability and realignment of content.
 - Nomination forms updated to reflect the revised electoral timetable.
 - Email signature blocks updated (completed).
 - Review of existing video content underway to identify required updates to enrolment closing dates.
 - Mandarin-language video being finalised.
 - New informational flyers being developed for distribution to all owners and occupiers of property within the City of Adelaide and North Adelaide.
 - New marketing campaign being finalised, including social media scheduling (CoA and Lord Mayor), release of the vox pop video, flyer and letter mail-outs, and key messaging.
 - Draft correspondence being finalised, including the timing and content of follow-up enrolment reminder letters.
 14. Collectively, these initiatives will form a sustained and significant enrolment and engagement campaign aimed at increasing enrolment nominations and strengthening voter participation in the 2027 periodic elections.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply

To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -