

Election of LGA President: 2026 - 2028

**Tuesday, 13 October 2026
Council**

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:
Carole Johns, Executive
Manager, Office of the CEO

Public

Approving Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Acting Chief
Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Victoria MacKirdy, Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA), has written to the Chief Executive Officer to advise of nominations received for the position of LGA President and request that Council cast its vote.

Council at its meeting on 25 August 2026 approved the nomination of Mayor Leon Stephens of Port Pirie Regional Council, for the position of LGA President based on the two nominations received at that date.

At the close of nominations on 1 September 2026, nominations had been received from four eligible candidates (listed in the order of the ballot draw):

- Mayor Simone Bailey (Mid Murray Council)
- Mayor Moira Jenkins (City of Victor Harbor)
- Mayor Dean Johnson (District Council of Kimba)
- Mayor Leon Stephens (Port Pirie Regional Council).

Council will need to determine its preference vote order for each candidate to complete the ballot paper.

The completed ballot form must be received by the LGA by 5:00pm on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the report.
 2. Resolves to cast its first preference vote for Mayor (insert preferred candidate's name) for the position of LGA President 2026 – 2028.
 3. Determines the preference vote order for the remaining candidates.
 4. Approves for the ballot paper to be marked in accordance with Council's resolution.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation Participating in the election process to appoint the LGA President supports the objective of bold leadership and partnerships to meet challenges and take up new opportunities.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	Participating in the election of LGA President provides an opportunity for Council to contribute to decision making on matters relevant to the Local Government sector.
26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 27/28 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
26/27 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) called for nominations for the position of LGA President to be elected to hold office from the conclusion of the 2026 Annual General Meeting and remaining in office until the conclusion of the 2028 Annual General Meeting.
2. Victoria MacKirdy, Chief Executive Officer of the LGA has advised that nominations have been received for the position of LGA President as follows:
 - 2.1 Mayor Simone Bailey (Mid Murray Council)
 - 2.2 Mayor Moira Jenkins (City of Victor Harbor)
 - 2.3 Mayor Dean Johnson (District Council of Kimba)
 - 2.4 Mayor Leon Stephens (Port Pirie Regional Council).
3. A copy of each of the candidates' profiles can be viewed at [Link 1](#).
4. At its meeting on 25 August 2026, based on the two nominations received at that time, Council resolved:

"That Council

 1. *Approves the nomination of Mayor Leon Stephens for the position of LGA President, subject to the acceptance of the nominee."*
5. In accordance with clause 29 of the LGA Constitution, the casting of the vote by Council must be conducted as follows:
 - 5.1 Each Member Council must determine which candidate it wishes to elect by passing a resolution that:
 - 5.1.1 places the number 1 next to the name of their preferred candidate
 - 5.1.2 places consecutive ascending numbers next to all remaining candidates in order of the Member Council's preference
 - 5.1.3 all four candidates must be assigned a number in the resolution of the ballot to be valid.
6. Following the Council meeting, the Acting Chief Executive Officer must sign a copy of the minutes or an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution is passed (in a manner consistent with section 91(11) of the *Local Government Act 1999*) to be forwarded with the completed ballot paper.
7. The completed ballot paper and accompanying signed copy of the extract from the minutes must be submitted to the LGA by 5:00pm on Tuesday 3 November 2026. The counting of votes will take place on Monday, 9 November 2026, commencing at 2:15pm.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – LGA President Candidate Profiles

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -