1. Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open. All information required by Candidates including the Candidate Handbook are available on the NSWEC website [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) – ‘Planning to be a Candidate’ link on the homepage.

Nominations close at **12.00 noon on Wednesday 10 August 2016**. All nominations forms are to be lodged by this deadline.

The NSWEC Candidate Helpdesk is now operational Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm.

Candidate enquiries should be directed to the Candidate Helpdesk on **1300 088 942** or email to: nominations@elections.nsw.gov.au

Contact details of those Councils receiving nominations at the regional Councils’ premises outside of the Returning Officer's office are on the website [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)

2. Nominated Candidates

The list of candidates whose nominations have been received and accepted can be found by clicking on the ‘Nominated Candidates’ link which appears in the bottom left hand corner of the [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) website.

It should be noted that as nominations are received in the Returning Officer's office, the Returning Officer is required to enter the candidate's details, along with other information provided on the nomination form, into the NSW Electoral Commission’s (NSWEC) Election Management Application (EMA). This process checks the enrolment status of the candidate and nominators.

Staff at the NSWEC will then undertake a second check of these entries before the candidate’s details are accepted and published on the website.

3. Ballot Paper Draw

The draw to determine the order of candidates and/or groups on the ballot paper will be held at each Returning Officer's office at 4.00pm, Wednesday 10 August 2016.

Candidates, registered political parties, media, council staff and members of the public are welcome to witness the ballot paper draw.

Following the conduct of the ballot paper draw, the order of the candidates/groups appearing on the website will be re-ordered to reflect the ballot paper draw.

4. Postal Vote Applications Open

Electors are now able to apply for a postal vote either online, over the phone or download a postal vote application form from [www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info) under the ‘Early Voting Options’ link.

Applications for a postal vote must be received by the NSWEC Electoral Commission no later than 5.00pm on Monday 5 September 2016.

Registered General Postal Voters do not need to apply as their postal vote packs will be sent directly to the elector.

Electors on the non-residential roll may apply for a postal vote after 5 August 2016.

Any enquiries can be made by contacting the NSWEC Helpdesk 1300 135 736.
5. Pre-Poll and Polling Places

Detailed information on all pre-poll and polling places including venue name, venue address and accessibility, listed by Council can be found on our election event website www.votensw.info via the menu option ‘Early Voting Options’ – ‘Find a pre-poll venue’ and ‘Find a polling place’.

Hours of operation for each pre-poll venue is also available as the operation hours are not all the same.

6. Working at elections

There are some Council areas where there appears to be low numbers in those applying to work at the Local Government Election. The areas are Balranald, Bogan, Brewarrinna, Byron, Carrathool, Coffs Harbour, Lachlan, Liverpool Plains, Lockhart, Tenterfield and Wollondilly.

If members of the public are interested in working at elections, please advise them to go to www.votensw.info/work_at_these_elections to register their interest.

7. New NSW Electoral Commissioner Appointed

The new NSW Electoral Commissioner, Mr John Schmidt will commence on Monday 8 August 2016.

John Schmidt is a former chief executive of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), the federal agency responsible for fighting money laundering and terrorism financing.

I will lead the NSWEC’s conduct of the Local Council Elections whilst the new Commissioner transitions into his role.

Linda Franklin
A/ Electoral Commissioner