

Melbourne City Council Election**Key dates: Ballots posted to registered voters – 6-8 October; voting closes – 23 October**

Melbourne City Council's place in our world

Meg De Young

Melbourne City Council is the local government body responsible for the municipality of Melbourne. The Council consists of a Lord Mayor, a Deputy Lord Mayor and nine Councillors.

The Chief Executive Officer liaises with the offices of the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillors, City of Melbourne executives, Victorian Government and community and corporate stakeholders to see that objectives are being met. The City of Melbourne municipality covers 14 suburbs, including the CBD. The municipality is around 37 km² and shares its borders with seven other councils.

The council delivers the four-year Council Plan, which sets out what the Council will achieve during its four-year term to further the community vision and the Future Melbourne 2026 Plan, together with the Annual Plan and Budget, which describes the Council's key objectives and activities for each 12-month period.

In the lead up to Victorian State and Federal elections, the Council will put forward to political parties a wide variety of questions which prioritise areas that are affecting the City of Melbourne. These responses are sought before elections and those received are posted online for the community to review and consider how political parties propose to tackle priority issues for Melbourne.

Local councils handle community needs, such as waste collection, public recreation facilities, town planning, local roads, building regulations and public health.

The News and the Centre have assembled this 4-page feature to provide voters with information that may help them in the Melbourne City Council election being held during October. This information is particularly important this year, when COVID-19 restrictions make traditional electioneering, such as public meetings, impossible.

MCC provides pre-school, youth support and senior citizens facilities and programs, library services and meeting rooms for local groups. It also has a strong role in advocacy with other levels of government and authorities that provide infrastructure and services, such as schools, hospitals and public transport.

North Melbourne resident and former City councillor, Lorna Hannan OAM, points out that the City of Melbourne is both a local government and the government of a capital city. "That makes it different from all other local governments. Its voting system is also different to other local governments. In Melbourne, councillors are elected across the whole of the municipality, rather than the 'wards' or geographic divisions common in other councils."

Lorna believes the Council's policies should directly benefit the residents. "City residents should expect that the city they live in is kept healthy, clean and well organised. Residents should have certain rights in matters directly affecting their health and environment. It is important that councillors offer plans to monitor this aspect of city life through the Urban Forest Strategy which promotes various measures to 'green' the city environment."

Centre Board member, Margaret Wood OAM, was a

three-term President/Mayor at Melton City Council. "The state makes certain directions, such as capping the percentage increase for rates, Margaret said.

"The Council determines its budget according to what it sees as the community needs. Councillors are elected every four years and the majority of councils are divided into wards with proportional representation."

Margaret talked about local governments' responsibilities. "Council is responsible for providing a wide variety of services and infrastructure such as local roads, and bridges footpaths and cycleways, street lighting, waste collection, food safety administering the *Food Act 1984*, recreation facilities and citizenship ceremonies.

"Among the many important activities, the Council is responsible for is Emergency Management and Planning. Council needs to identify risks in the municipality and devise treatment and mitigation plans."

When asked are there any misconceptions with what residents think local government can or can't do, Margaret responded:

"People think that council can make decisions about planning schemes which are really drawn up by State Government but council administers the red tape.

"Also, Council is not responsible for main roads, only local roads."

Some people believe Councils should stick to 'roads, rates and rubbish', but as Margaret asked: "If it did what would you be prepared to give up?"

Anthony Denehey

In line with the Victorian Electoral Commission's COVID Safety Strategy, a postal vote is the ONLY way to vote in the 2020 Melbourne City Council Elections. The voting period begins on 6 October and you must post your completed ballot before 6pm, 23 October.

Do I have to vote in a council election?

In Victoria, voting in council elections is compulsory for all residents on the Australian or Victorian Electoral Roll. You may face a fine of \$83 if you fail to vote. If you are over 70 years of age voting is not compulsory.

The council elections you vote in relates directly to the council you reside in.

Ratepayers, such as owner/occupiers within the City Of Melbourne and corporations who operate in affiliation with these owner/occupiers, are placed on the Chief Executive Officer's List and are also eligible to vote alongside residents on the Victorian Electoral Commission List.

In case of joint ownership, ratepayers and corporations are able to nominate a maximum of two representatives per commercial venture. However, as no individual voter is permitted to vote twice in the same election, eligibility

How to make your vote count

based on residency is prioritised over commercial eligibility.

Remember, it is compulsory for ALL registered voters within Melbourne City Council, including those on the Melbourne Chief Executive Officer's List, to vote in the Melbourne City Council Election.

How do I vote?

The Victorian Electoral Commission will mail out ballot packs for eligible voters between 6 and 8 October. Contents of the pack include: Two Ballot Papers (one Blue, one Pink), an envelope for the Ballot, information about the nominated candidates and a reply-paid envelope for postage of your completed ballot. If it is not in the mail by 6pm, 23 October, your vote will not be counted.

In the City of Melbourne, two elections are run side by side – The Leadership Team Ballot (Pink Form) to elect the Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Councillor Ballot (Blue Form) to elect nine Councillors.

The (Pink) Leadership Team Ballot requires numbering your preferred Leadership Team as No. 1, subsequently filling in all remaining boxes in order of preference until every box is filled.

The (Blue) Councillor Ballot follows a preferential voting system. Voters either fill in one box above the line, or every box below the line. Not both! If you want complete control of your preference votes, you will need to vote below the line. Starting with no. 1, list the candidates in order of preference until every box is filled.

If you choose to fill above the line in the (Blue) Councillor Ballot, you are choosing to vote for a 'group ticket' and your preferences will be pre-chosen by your preferred candidate. These groups are pre-registered and made available on the VEC website, where you can see where your preference votes might land when choosing to vote above the line.

Have your say

To make your vote count, take some time to research the candidates, then follow carefully the instructions on the ballot.

For more information, look at the Victorian Electoral Commission website: www.vec.vic.gov.au

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All candidates for Melbourne City Council and for the Leadership Team (Mayor and Deputy Mayor) were approached by the News to provide information about the candidate's postcode, party affiliation and "up to three leading issues or problems facing residents of North and West Melbourne and what actions you will propose that Council take to address them" (with a 150-word limit). These pages contain information that was provided by our press deadline, in the ballot order drawn by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Labor For Melbourne

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Philip Reed – resident in: 3002; political party membership: Labor
Wesa Chau – 3004; Labor

Council Candidates:

Davydd Griffiths – resident in: 3031; political party membership: Labor
Mary Delahunty – 3185; Labor
Hamdi Ali – 3053; Labor

Official party affiliation: Labor

Issues: Ensuring local shopping strips like Errol, Victoria and Spencer streets are supported to rebuild post the COVID-19 lockdown, as well as to provide jobs for locals, especially younger people in the hospitality sector.

The Labor for Melbourne policy document at www.melbournelabor.com.au/policy details a wide range of initiatives that a Labor-led council would implement to renew jobs in our community, and enable better access to training programs for locals seeking work.

The City of Melbourne's housing strategy expired in 2018. This needs to be overhauled and updated. A Labor-led council would use planning controls to ensure an appropriate supply of affordable rentals and services in the inner city including aged care properties and facilities that meet the needs of our culturally diverse community.

A Labor-led council would also nurture and grow Melbourne's vital arts scene to ensure that our city retains its creative heart post-COVID-19.

More information: jarrodwayneallen@gmail.com; www.melbournelabor.com.au

Back to Business

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Jennifer Yang
Sandra Gee

Council Candidates:

Elizabeth Mary Doidge
Charles Pick
Moti Visa
Bedri Sainovski

Issues: Answers not provided

More information: contact@back-to-business.com.au

Team Arron Wood

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Arron Richard Wood – resident in: 3031; political party membership: None
Lisa Teh – 3068; None

Council Candidates:

Jason Chang – resident in: 3079; political party membership: None
Peter Clarke – 3095; Liberal
Beverley Frances Pinder – 3182; None
Abdirahman I. Ali – 3051; None
Beverley Honig – 3161; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Arron is a long-time Kensington resident and business owner in North and West Melbourne; Abdi Ali is a resident of the North Melbourne Public Housing Towers. All candidates own businesses in the city. We will:

- Renew the North Melbourne Community Centre so it better caters for residents, supporting the implementation of education and employment programs for residents in public housing.
- Deliver new open space like the already delivered Hawke and Adderley Park; we want more open space in North and West Melbourne, including delivery of Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan.
- Protect residential amenity, Arron secured the sound wall for railway place residents when faced with impact of the regional rail link.
- Respect for residents rights against inappropriate over-development.
- Better support for small business in shopping strips such as Errol, Victoria and Spencer streets and we'll guard against rat running generated by the Westgate Tunnel, which Arron opposed.

More information: contact@teamarronwood.com.au; www.teamarronwood.com.au/

Your Melbourne Team Get It Done

Council Candidates:

Mary K. Poulakis – resident in: 3058; political party membership: None
Fiona Sweetman – 3004; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: The residents of North and West Melbourne and residents throughout the municipality make up the fabric of their city and contribute to the overall liveability and ongoing prosperity in those precincts.

Balance of representation and a trusted voice and access to elected representatives at Council will allow the issues of transport and traffic use, open and safe public spaces and a real plan with the right infrastructure and facilities for a growing community for future generations to be addressed with relevance and real consultation. The key to success or implementation through all of this is consultation and the ability to have balanced conversations with stakeholders, be that residential or business.

More information: rozshaw20@gmail.com; thevalueofourism@gmail.com

Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment/Corruption

Council Candidates:

Richard Belcher – resident in: 3003; political party membership: Sustainable Australia Party
Bettina Terry – 3141; Sustainable Australia Party

Official party affiliation: Sustainable Australia Party

Issues: Three key issues:

Protect our environment – reform planning laws to protect green space
Stop overdevelopment – return real planning power to local communities through proper engagement

Stop corruption – put the needs of local communities before property developers and major political parties.

More information: www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/victoria_local_2020

Team Hakim – Local Independent

Council Candidates:

Jamal Hakim – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
Safaa Hakim – 3008; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Safety: When we immigrated to Australia, it was important to us that we found a community where we felt safe, and we know this experience is shared by many in this part of Melbourne. We're passionate about ensuring this side of our CBD is a thriving community that is physically, emotionally, culturally and environmentally safe for everyone, and we want to broaden the city's definition of safety so that all plans and developments address this in a comprehensive way.

Congestion: The new stations being put in will be great for our neighbourhoods, but we need to ensure that our suburbs don't just become thoroughfares or overrun by developments. We plan to advocate for this neighbourhood to protect its cultural identity and ensure the community continues to have access to the lifestyle factors which are the reasons for living here.

More information: campaign@teamhakim.co; www.teamhakim.co

Team Sally Capp

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Sally Capp – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
Nicholas Reece – 3068; Labor

Council Candidates:

Kevin Louey – resident in: 3181; political party membership: None
Roshena Campbell – 3065; Liberal
Mark David McMillan – 3011; None
Tania Davidge – 3184; None
James Young – 3145; None
Tina Kuek – 3006; Labor

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: North and West Melbourne are among the fastest-growing parts of our city, and the City of Melbourne needs to ensure that facilities and services keep pace with community growth and needs. That's why Sally Capp's team will deliver on three leading issues for these communities. If elected, Sally Capp and her team will generate more jobs for all, including pathways to employment for people from diverse cultural backgrounds, international students and rough sleepers. Sally and her team will deliver more community infrastructure, including progressing the Kensington Community Centre redevelopment and ensuring the Arden urban renewal precinct in North Melbourne has new community facilities and open spaces to cater for the uplift in residents and workers. Sally's team is also committed to providing more green and open spaces, like the Greenline, which will provide new public spaces and better cycling and walking connections into the city.

More information: info@teamcapp.com; sallycapp.com

Animal Justice Party

Council Candidates:

Rabin Bangaar – resident in: 3051; political party membership: not provided
Rod Whitfield – resident in: 3053; political party membership: not provided

Official party affiliation: Animal Justice Party

Issues: Low income/high unemployment: Melbourne is blessed to be so multicultural. Additional funds to provide upskilling and training of people is critical for those that may have difficulty finding decent work or have low paid jobs because of language barriers. Housing affordability: Housing prices in the area are constantly skyrocketing as are rates. Not only should we be incentivising any development to be environmentally friendly and sustainably built, we need to ensure that houses are made affordable for those who need it most.

Limited parklands/green space: A significant lack of green space or wildlife corridors are present. Funding for community gardens to foster community connections, dog parks, and to provide more trees and safe areas for local wildlife is an important step in our reconciling with how we interact with the natural world.

More information: info@ajpvic.org.au; www.ajpvic.org.au

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Artemis Pattichi – Independent Local Voice

Council Candidates:

- Artemis Pattichi – resident in: 3006; political party membership: None
- Adriana Mendieta Nino – resident in: not provided; political party membership: not provided

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Three leading issues I'd address for North and West Melburnians:

- Planning
- Sustainability – Transport and Green Spaces
- Sense of Community.

As an independent resident with community and sustainability work experience, I've seen how improving these areas can make our urban neighbourhoods more inclusive, liveable, with better access to jobs and opportunities. Actions:

- Improve council's planning consultation with communities and residents associations.
- Evaluate developments' long-term impact on your neighbourhood's livability and workability.
- Plan and invest in community spaces, responding to the distinct character and needs of each neighbourhood.
- Increase activated green spaces so you can interact with nature, improving mental and physical health.
- Improve West Melbourne's walkability while maintaining its historic character, e.g. green walking spaces, pedestrian and cycling paths, Spencer St green tram line.

I aim to support North and West Melbourne's dynamic character and communities, improve livability, inclusivity and diversity, sustainability, connectivity and vitality for your much-loved suburbs.

More information: ap4council@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/ArtemisPattichi4Council/

Liberal Democrats

Council Candidates:

- Paul Silverberg – resident in: 3006; political party membership: Liberal Democrats
- Faith Newman – resident in: 3006; political party membership: Liberal Democrats

Official party affiliation: Liberal Democrats

Issues: Liberate Melbourne – Freedom & Prosperity. The challenges facing Melbourne are greater than at any other point in recent memory – so the 2020 election is unlike any other. The unjustifiably harsh lockdown of the city has caused immense damage to its economy, its people and our reputation. This election gives you a chance to right these wrongs, by electing people who will re-open Melbourne and restore its reputation as a most liveable city once again. North and West Melbourne have specific issues that need to be addressed that our team has identified:

1. Landlords are being heavily affected by the dip in the rental market with two-thirds of residents being renters. We will work with renters and landlord associations to help them carry the burden through instruments such as voting 'no' on rate increases / rate deferrals, especially as the state struggles to reopen the economy.
2. On-street parking is incredibly expensive for residents; we will work with stakeholders to increase affordability

More information: paulsilverberg@yahoo.com.au; contact@LDP.org.au

Residents First

Council Candidates:

- Janette Corcoran – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None
- Mary Masters – 3003; None
- Samantha Tran – 3006; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: The major issue is that we don't have true representation on council, resulting in unmet needs. We've been overlooked by a council aligned to political parties, property developers or big business. Council focuses on Melbourne city, but we need attention on our suburbs: we need safer streets, more community services, and support for neighbourhoods and business across the municipality. Council must rebuild local communities in order to rebuild our economy: make our streets, our neighbourhood shopping strips and our city safe and welcoming for residents, visitors, and for workers to return to their offices. We need community-led consultation and funds for initiatives to help communities re-emerge from isolation. This starts with residential representation on council to ensure the needs of all residents are considered in council decisions. Mary Masters is a long-time resident of West Melbourne. Vote 1 Residents First to make residential living a council priority.

More information: contactus@residentsfirst.com.au; residentsfirst.com.au

Melbourne – We All Matter

Council Candidates:

- Sainab Sheikh – resident in: 3031; political party membership: None
- Fatuma Ali – 3031; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Local businesses and small business operators in North-West Melbourne precinct have been ignored by council to date with all their efforts focused on big ticket major projects. Well "we all matter" and some actions we will take are:

1. Provision of new programs that provide you with new skills to have the training required for the jobs of the future.
2. Provision of affordable childcare to give you the best opportunity especially to single parents to get into the workforce.
3. Cutting red tape to an absolute minimum so that small business can use their creativity to maximise their opportunities and we will help them achieve their goals, rather than put hurdles in the way. We particularly want to activate streets such as Errol Street, Victoria Street and Macaulay Road especially when we come out of COVID-19 restrictions so we can generate business and fill empty shops.

More information: page@ghp.biz

Innovate Melbourne – Startup the City

Council Candidates:

- Andrew Rowse – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None
- John Daniell – 3006; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: As a resident of North Melbourne and member of the startup eco system, I see the Arden Development as an exceptional opportunity that can springboard the local community from the impacts of COVID-19, through supporting startups and SMEs. The designation of an 'Innovation Precinct' is a momentous opportunity for the community, but benefits will only be felt if the execution and links to Melbourne's growing startup and venture capital eco system are maintained. It is this endeavour, in achieving the success of the proposed innovation, economic and social precinct, that we must not abandon and I believe North Melbourne residents deserve to have confidence in the intent and execution of proposed plans. We cannot afford to have misaligned developments that do not serve the community, nor promote opportunity. This is our chance to ensure over the next 4 years, we safeguard opportunity and a prosperous future for our neighbourhood.

More information: innovatemelbourne@gmail.com

Morgan-Watts Team

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Gary Morgan – resident in: 3002; political party membership: None
- Mary-Lou Howie – 3003; None

Council Candidates:

- Jackie Watts – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Labor
- Michael Kennedy – 3000; Liberal
- Haya Aldaghlis – 3051; None
- Dashi Zhang – 3008; Liberal

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: The community of North and West Melbourne faces yet another election with one of the world's worst gerrymanders in place. It is deliberately designed to reduce the voting power of residents and small business people like us. The flaws in the system are extensive and cannot be covered in this 150-word article. The current system serves the big end of town and results in poor representation at Council. This gerrymander has resulted in many poor decisions, Queen Victoria Market degeneration, the debacle over the safe injecting room, the weak financial position of the Council, the inappropriate development/unsustainable construction and the failure to consider the need for vital infrastructure in a growing city like open space, child care/education facilities and people-friendly public areas/streets. Post-pandemic, Council must re-assess existing strategies and policies to deal with the new normal. This election should deliver Councillors who can achieve successful results, not more failures.

More information: jackiewatts.com.au/morgan-watts-melbourne-2020-team/

Bring Back Melbourne

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Nick Russian – resident in: not provided; political party membership: None
- Michael Burge – 3124; Liberal

Council Candidates:

- Phillip Le Liu – resident in: 3000; political party membership: Liberal
- Serena Lu Jiang – 3006; Liberal
- Lauren Sherson – 3206; Liberal
- Darin Schade – 3002; Liberal

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Feasibility study of linking Docklands and Fisherman Bend, North and West Melbourne together through roads and other connections. No rate increase for the next 4 years. No penalties for late payment and an extra 30% discount for those who pay on time. A new 'Your Rates, Your Choice' program where residents can have the option of choosing where 50% of your rates can be invested and used.

A digital 'Thank you Voucher' of \$300 credit for residents that can only be spent with participating small business within the City and a free mental health care package for all residents curated by council based on needs.

Every resident will have an option of a 'Get to know your city' lesson funded by council to learn about the history of Melbourne.

More information: philip@businessresidentsstudents.melbourne; businessresidentsstudents.melbourne

The Greens

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

- Apsara Sabaratnam – resident in: 3000; political party membership: The Greens
- Roxane Ingleton – resident in: 3051; political party membership: The Greens

Council Candidates:

- Rohan Leppert – resident in: 3031; political party membership: The Greens
- Olivia Ball – 3053; The Greens
- Emily Corcoran – 3053; The Greens
- David Jeffery – 3031; The Greens
- Nakita Thomson – 3006; The Greens
- Charlotte George – 3002; The Greens

Official party affiliation: The Greens

Issues: Our full plan for North and West Melbourne is at www.melbournecitygreens.com. North and West Melbourne are growing quickly, but not equitably. We will focus on the housing crisis by building public, social and emergency housing, especially in 'Arden', and changing the planning rules to require more affordable homes to be built. We want young people, essential workers and families to be able to afford to live and prosper in our inner suburbs. We will fight for renters' and public housing tenants' rights. We will tackle climate change by accelerating sustainable building design in the planning system, while conserving our precious built heritage, and delivering new parks including on Queensberry and Sutton streets. We will support our local economies through a recession by changing

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our rating system, to allow for much lower rates on cafes, restaurants and places people gather, while doubling them on gambling premises and providing relief for residents.

More information: rohan.leppert@vic.greens.org.au; melbournecitygreens.com/election-2020/

Victorian Socialists

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Kath Larkin – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Victorian Socialists
Daniel Nair Dadich – 3031; Victorian Socialists

Council Candidates:

Christopher di Pasquale – resident in: 3053; political party membership: Victorian Socialists
Jesse Lambourn – 3000; Victorian Socialists

Official party affiliation: Victorian Socialists

Issues: 1. Council is run for business interests. Businesses get two votes in the elections, while hundreds of thousands of workers are marginalised. The Lord Mayor is the former head of the property council and takes home more than \$200,000. We will campaign to abolish the business vote and only take a worker's wage – giving the rest to community campaigns.

2. We are in a housing crisis. Public Housing is being left to rot or sold off, and the rental market is unaffordable. We will fight for rent controls, improved and expanded public housing – by 30,000 housing units in three years – and a voice for public housing residents on Council.

3. Privatisation has destroyed our communities, and been revealed as a killer during this pandemic. We will stand up against the reckless pursuit of profit, and campaign to reverse the privatisation of aged care and other services.

More information: kath.larkin@victoriansocialists.org.au; www.victoriansocialists.org.au/melbourne-city

It Will Be Okay Melbourne

Council Candidates:

Joseph Burke – resident in: 3078; political party membership: None
Michael Mach – 3006; None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: The leading issues facing residents of North and West Melbourne relate to lockdown.

Facemasks and the lockdown: The imposition of mandatory facemasks is insulting and intimidating to residents, whether or not they are effective. Local residents shouldn't be fined just because they left their facemask at home.

Public transport and the lockdown: We recognise that a lot of people in this area are reliant on public transport, and that they don't drive because historically the public transport has been really good. But, the post-COVID-19 world changes this. This will mean that council should have outreach service delivery so that residents don't have to travel to town hall to get things done.

Happiness and the lockdown: It's terrible what we have all been through, but it's important to remember that it's just temporary. Happiness will return. It will be okay Melbourne.

More information: councillor@machassociates.com.au; council@jbcrimlaw.com.au

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Scott Robson – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: I stand as a purely independent common-sense Melbournian. I am not limited by a single issue, political party, or ideology. Importantly, I believe people are intelligent and capable of taking personal responsibility for their own decisions about the risks and opportunities they take. I will encourage prosperity and life-quality, and protect against fear and control. Supporting the vulnerable and enabling the capable. Born in Melbourne, graduated Masters of Business Administration, AIB, and Bachelor Science, Monash University. My guiding principles are: 1. Question everything. 2. Choose common sense over regulation. 3. Council projects should be aesthetic and practical. 4. Think like a scientist rather than have faith in 'science'. 5. People belong to groups; groups are not people. 6. We are all connected. 7. It all happens with a smile. Together, let's make Melbourne the world's most liveable city again.

More information: Robson.scott888@yahoo.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Luke Downing – resident in: 3051; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues:

1. The extraordinary collapse of public amenity in North and West Melbourne over the past several years is extraordinary. I have never seen anything like it in my life. We know how to conduct ourselves in our community – public amenities must be increased. It will only benefit us all.

2. The encroachment of high density residential developments in what has always been a highly residential, but open, well spaced and natural environment.

3. The treatment of traders at Queen Victoria Market is an absolute travesty. This abomination of a transformation that has emerged from City of Melbourne over the past five years has no understanding of the significance, and economic stability, that the Market and its traders provide not merely to North and West Melbourne residents, but to people throughout northern Melbourne. There's a good reason we enjoy and frequent the Market – it's part of our fabric. And it is not expensive – a valuable asset to our food security and general community wellbeing.

More information: luke.s.downing@gmail.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Philip Jonathan Bateman – resident in: 3002; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: I seek your vote and see this role as my civic duty to support our city. I am particularly interested in multicultural engagement, renewable energy investments, pursuing circular economy principles and redesigning our inputs to eliminate waste, activating municipal spaces to improve social interaction, whilst improving access to all kinds of health care. Having worked with small to medium business my whole life, I am keen to see them again thrive, whilst driving for greater tax compliance from multinational organisations. Rekindling our theatre, music and events are a top priority, though I have no wish to endanger anyone for a COVID-19 resurgence through rapid reopening. I see drug usage as a social, not criminal issue, and I do not encourage alcohol consumption or gambling. I believe the way to direct our society together, is by making choices based on merit and not ideology. Find me at linkedin.com/in/philipbateman

More information: pbcityofmel@gmail.com

Ungrouped

Council Candidate: Andrew Ward – resident in: 3008; political party membership: None

Official party affiliation: None

Issues: Public Housing decline – I was upset to see the treatment of the tower residents during the COVID-19 postcode lockdowns. Public housing has been in decline over the past 10 years, disturbingly when the need has been increasing. In 2009 there were 65,064 dwellings available; in 2019 that number shrunk to 64,428, a decline of 636 dwellings or about 1%. I will push council to reverse this trend and provide a roadmap to meet the current demands and improve amenity. Small Business support – provide access to rates relief, an extension to the current grant program, and a City funded App-based Voucher system called 'City Cash' to support all industries. Increase funding for community health and wellbeing. Improve and invest in facilities, services and social spaces for Melbourne's youth and seniors. I would like to see another 'Venny' facility with attached skate park to be built in North Melbourne.

More information: adward70@gmail.com

Team Zorin

Lord Mayor/Deputy Mayor Candidates:

Wayne Tseng – resident in: 3000; political party membership: None
Gricol Yang – 3000; None

Official party affiliation: No

Issues: Team Zorin brings inspirations and innovations to Melbourne recovery. We advocate 'fit for purpose' policies and don't drive on the Left or Right ideology. You will find policies that address the needs of all Melbournians at Zorin.com.au. Team Zorin will invite all Melbournians to participate in the governing of the city through the introduction of a digital democracy platform. Melbournians through their phones can post issues, report failures, submit solutions, hold virtual committees, rate the performance of your councillors and vote on council decisions (no direct vote yet). Melbourne is so precious to be a test lab for half-baked policies. We cannot have another failure. Melbournians know Melbourne best. Team Zorin will begin the process of planning and governing the city as a collective. Vote for Us Vote for Yourself. Are you ready to begin?

More information: zorin.com.au

What is the role of a Councillor?

Cr Cathy Oke, Melbourne City Council 2008-2020

This is the first Council election since 2004 that I will not be contesting as a candidate, so I appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the important role of Councillors within our municipality. It was community institutions, like the *North & West Melbourne News* (and my parents Kay and Rob), that instilled my respect for this level of government, the tier closest to the people. I grew up with bundles of the *News* in the hallway of our house. It was through the articles in this paper, and the people who volunteered to distribute it to the neighbourhood, that I learned the importance of politicians engaging in local issues like saving local swimming pools or protecting Royal Park. It was in watching those local campaigns as a teenager that I had a glimpse of the important but often difficult decisions that Councillors need to make, to balance the needs of the whole community – within limited resources and often with limited control.

Councillors are elected by ratepayers, and in the City of Melbourne this includes residents, businesses and those who pay rates but don't live here. Unlike other municipalities, Councillors aren't assigned to Wards and don't have to live here – rather we take an Oath of Office, committing to carry out the role to the best of our ability for the whole municipality – East Melbourne to Kensington, Southbank to Carlton, and the Melbourne CBD. In a normal non-COVID-19 day, more than one million people travel to The City of Melbourne for work or to visit. So the City of Melbourne Act also requires taking all residents, businesses and visitors into consideration.

A week in the life of a Councillor includes one formal evening meeting of Council or Future Melbourne Committee (three Tuesdays a month), a day of briefings and multiple other committees or meetings with constituents in the evenings and much of the weekend. But, with the long hours, you get to meet some amazing people doing amazing things, and contribute to policies for better communities.

Being born and bred in North Melbourne, and having lived in Carlton and now Kensington, provided me a perspective of the local issues, voices, and opportunities from people just as passionate about our neighbourhoods as me; although it has of course not always been easy to navigate opposing concerns among friends and neighbours! Despite this tension, I strongly believe that being a local is a key attribute of a good Councillor, because a key Councillor role is to provide links between the community and Council; something best undertaken by those with lived experience. It is important in this level of government, closest to the community, that you understand how Council decisions affect those who live and work here on a daily basis.