



Local government reform - feedback sought: Casual vacancy elections countback method

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5th August 2021

Feedback is sought on the preferred method for determining the winning candidate when a casual vacancy occurs within 12 months of a periodic election.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is planning to draft regulations that will inform the application of the new *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* section 6A (Filling vacancy in certain circumstances). In particular, the regulations will prescribe the countback method that will be used in circumstances where a casual vacancy arises within 12 months of a periodic election. There are two methods being considered – the 'Next Highest' method and the 'Preferred candidate' method. The OLG has sought feedback from the LGA as to the preference of the sector.

The LGA Secretariat has prepared an [Explanatory Paper](#) that describes the two methods being considered to assist councils with the provision of feedback.

Councils are requested to provide feedback on the approach they would prefer by **21 September 2021** to inform the development of an LGA submission to the OLG on behalf of the sector. The LGA acknowledges that the timeframe for responses is not optimal, but is working to ensure sector views are considered as part of the development of regulations within Cabinet timelines. Submissions and questions should be directed to Andrew Lamb, Local Government Reform Partner on [8224 2081](tel:82242081) or andrew.lamb@lga.sa.gov.au.



for more information...

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