



10 great reasons to become a council member

Only a small number of people ever nominate for position on their local council, but here are 10 reasons you might want to consider it:

1. You care about what's happening in your local community
2. It's a great way to develop your knowledge
3. You want to contribute to your community
4. You want to provide a voice for your age group/cultural group/gender
5. You're sick of watching from the sidelines
6. You've got great ideas to contribute
7. It's a nice addition to your CV
8. You'll meet interesting people
9. It's a way of making a meaningful and lasting contribution
10. Your chance to make a difference

Long version

Only a small number of people ever nominate for position on their local council, but here are 10 reasons you might want to consider it:

1. You care about what's happening in your local community

Consider for a moment how everyday life is improved by the many services that councils provide. Imagine your community without street lighting, rubbish collection, footpaths, libraries, playgrounds and sports club facilities, community halls, senior's services – and the list goes on. Decisions about council services, policies and projects are made by people just like you, who care about what's happening in their local community.

2. It's a great way to develop your knowledge

Councils deal with an enormous range of subjects, from economic development and environmental protection to dog and cat management the list and variety is almost endless. As a councillor you'll learn about a wide range of topics and the legislative and budgetary frameworks that sit around them.

3. You want to contribute to your community

As you learn about council business and develop your knowledge of council meeting procedures, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the (often robust) discussions in chamber and build further in terms of your confidence in your public speaking and debating skills by representing your community.

4. You want to provide a voice for your age group/cultural group/gender

Like other levels of government and most of our social institutions, councils are typically made up of older 'anglo' males. They are knowledgeable and experienced and more often than not, nominate for council, however to achieve a greater diversity similar to our communities we encourage people of different ages, genders, cultures and backgrounds to step up and make themselves heard on council. We believe this is the best way to ensure a broad range of views are represented on council.



5. You're sick of watching from the sidelines

Are you one of the silent majority growing increasingly frustrated with the state of politics as you watch from the sidelines? Councils are the closest level of government to the community, so stop shouting at the TV and nominate for council instead!

6. You've got great ideas to contribute

Think you know how things could be better? Being closer to the community, councils are more agile and responsive to community needs than other levels of government and have a record of implementing innovate new ideas.

7. It's a nice addition to your CV

Community service (tick). Broad range of knowledge (tick). Ability to put forward a cogent argument (tick). Understanding of political systems and processes (tick). Ability to work constructively in a team environment (tick). What aspiring executive wouldn't want to add a stint on council to their CV?

8. You'll meet interesting people

As a councillor you'll represent the residents in your council ward – and that means you'll get to meet a few of them! You'll also work closely with your fellow councillors and council staff.

9. It's a way of making a meaningful and lasting contribution

You'll play an important part in the ongoing life and development of your community. In years to come you'll be able to say things like "I had a role in getting that new sports centre built" or "I helped get that program started to support our migrant community".

10. Your chance to make a different

The workings of council are often criticised due to lack of knowledge of what legislation governs how councils run and what can and can't be resolved during a council meeting. Councils can be quite complex and a challenge to some. However, there is training available to those newly elected and support systems in place to help ease the way. Ask most councillors they'll say it can be a challenge however helping make a difference in their communities makes it all worthwhile. Use this opportunity to get out and make a difference! Nominate for council.

Speak to your local council for further details.