

Questions from the candidate briefing session – 20 May 2026

Question: How often do council guidelines change and are they reviewed regularly?

Answer: Representation and boundary matters are reviewed through formal processes. The process to changes to council boundaries is voluntary and can occur if a council of the day chooses to pursue a change. Councils are required under legislation to undertake representation reviews [examining the number of representatives appropriate for resident population] periodically, with the next review expected around 2029.

Question: With the growth expected from Kudla, could Council expand and take on more elected members?

Answer: It is unlikely. Some councils with much larger populations still operate with around 10 elected members. Legislation currently caps the maximum number of Council Members at 12. For example, the City of Playford currently has 16 members, but this number has been reduced for the upcoming election.

Question: Could council representation structures change in the future?

Answer: Yes. During representation reviews, councils must review the structure and composition of the representation of the council areas and assess whether changes such as introducing a ward structure would better suit the growing community.

Question: Do you need to be an expert on everything to serve on council?

Answer: No. Council Members are supported by staff and fellow elected members. Council Members bring their own perspectives and expertise, while relying on others for specialist knowledge when needed.

Question: What support is available for newly elected Council Members?

Answer: Significant support is provided once elected. New Council Members are not expected to know everything immediately, and part of the staff leadership team's role is to create a supportive environment to assist new and re-elected members in the roles.

Question: Should candidates focus on a single issue when running for council?

Answer: Candidates are encouraged to think broadly about their goals and contributions rather than focusing their attention on a single issue. Potential candidates should think about if their one issue were resolved quickly, what would their focus and purpose for being on Council be for the remainder of the four year term, as Members need to represent the community regarding a wide range of council matters for a four year term.

Question: Is there flexibility around training sessions if someone can't attend?

Answer: Yes. Alternative times or additional sessions can be arranged for people who cannot attend a scheduled session. There are also online make-up sessions available through the LGA. Efforts are made to schedule training at time convenient to Members, but it is acknowledged that Members have lives outside of council and unexpected things do come up as well as planned events e.g. holidays.

Question: Are Tuesday night council meetings mandatory, and how often are they held?

Answer: Under the legislation, councils must hold council meeting per month.

Question: What happens if a councillor misses a meeting due to illness, holidays, or family reasons?

Answer: It is normal for Council Members to occasionally miss meetings. Under legislation, a councillor can miss up to three meetings in a row before council may consider a motion regarding removal from office, particularly if no apology has been provided. Council Members can submit apologies, review livestreams and minutes after a meeting, and speak with fellow Council Members to share their views.

Question: Is there an option for extended leave from council duties?

Answer: Yes. Council Members can request a leave of absence be granted by Council for extended periods of absence.

Question: Will the second information session in July be different from this session?

Answer: The second session is expected to be very similar, although feedback from attendees at this session may influence changes. The aim is to provide the same overview for people considering nomination for Council at different times.

Question: How do I nominate for council and what is the process?

Answer: The Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA) provides detailed step-by-step information online. Relevant website links will be shared with attendees. Questions can also be submitted through the "Your Voice" platform ([2026 Elections | Your Voice Gawler](#)) or by emailing Council.

Question: Where can people ask further questions or access resources?

Answer: Questions can be submitted through the "Your Voice" platform ([2026 Elections | Your Voice](#)

[Gawler](#)) or emailed to Council. Responses will be published so everyone can access the information. The livestream recording and presentation materials will also be made available online.

Question: Why can't council staff provide detailed campaign advice?

Answer: Council staff must remain neutral during elections and cannot be seen to favour or guide candidates in relation to campaigning activities. Staff will direct prospective candidates and nominated candidates to resources from the LGA and ECSA but cannot provide direct campaign advice.

Question: Can current Council Members provide campaign advice?

Answer: Yes. Current elected Council Members are not bound by the same neutrality requirements as staff and may be willing to answer questions about campaigning, handling social media, and related issues.
