



2023 Annual General Meeting Voting Rules Information Sheet

The following information provides a summary on voting and nomination rights for members as per the Multicultural Council Constitution. You can also access a full copy of the [MCOT Constitution-October-2021](#) here.

Officers of the Council shall be nine elected board members and up to three co-opted board members. Those officers of the Council who will serve as executive officers of the Council shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The Board shall appoint consenting officers of the Council to the positions of Treasurer and Secretary (Section 22.1). Please refer to Section 22.2 of the Constitution for Board eligibility.

Board positions vacant

At elections held in an odd-numbered year, the following positions will be elected for 2 years:
Four additional board members (Section 11.6).

The 2023 AGM will therefore vote for **Four Ordinary board members**. Due to the resignation of the chair position in April 2023 this election will vote, **in addition**, on a new Chair under Section 22.5 of the Constitution.

In odd-numbered years, wherein four board member vacancies are to be filled, **two** of those vacancies are to be reserved for female candidates (Section 24.12)

In the event of a casual vacancy in the executive mentioned in section 22.1, the Board may appoint an officer of the Council to the position. In the event of a casual vacancy in the officers of the Council, the members of the Board may appoint an Individual Member or Delegate who satisfies the eligibility rule under section 22.2 to the vacant office, although this must be a female appointee if the vacancy was originally reserved for female candidates. **The member or delegate so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of that appointment. If the vacancy occurs in the first year of a two-year term, the election to the position would be for a one-year term at the next immediate Annual General Meeting** (Section 22.5).

Nominations

Candidates for election as officers of the Board shall be Individual Members or Delegates of Organisational Members. A person may be nominated as a candidate for election as Chair or an ordinary board member. The nominations shall be made in writing signed by two members of the Council and/or delegates, other than the person being nominated, and accompanied by the written consent and signature of the candidate (Section 24.3).



The nomination form must be emailed, lodged or posted so as to be received by the Returning Officer no later than close of business on COB **Friday 22 September 2023**.

A candidate in an election may supply the Returning Officer with a written statement to be distributed with ballot papers. The statement must be received by the Returning Officer in the election by the close of nominations. The statement is not to: exceed 150 words; or mention any other candidate unless the signed consent of that other candidate is received by the Returning Officer with the statement (Section 24.4).

Votes

Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Council, and in board member elections, an Individual Member (being a member entitled to vote under these rules) and each delegate has one vote only (even if a person is a delegate of more than one member organisation) (Section 18.1)

All votes on questions arising at a general meeting of the Council shall be given personally (Section 18.2)

No member (being a member entitled to vote under these rules) shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting or in board member elections during a financial year if the annual subscription due to the Council for that financial year is in arrear (Section 18.4).

For delegates of Organisational Members and for Individual Members, voting rights are disallowed within the first twelve months of paid membership (Section 18.5).

An Individual Member and a Delegate of an Organisational Member will be entitled to voting rights at an Annual General Meeting and in board member elections when it is in their second or subsequent financial year of paid membership (Section 18.6).