



ANALYSIS OF SOME ASPECTS OF 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL MAYOR

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
261,326	206,991	10,337	4.76%	217,328	83.16%	43,998	16.84%

- Nearly 17 per cent (nearly 44 thousand) of eligible voters did not vote.
- Another almost 5 per cent of votes (over ten thousand) were informal.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL HISTORICAL MAYOR ELECTION STATISTICS

YEAR	ENROLLED VOTERS	VOTES COUNTED		DID NOT VOTE		INFORMAL VOTES	
		NUMBER	% OF ENROLLED	NUMBER	% OF ENROLLED	NUMBER	% OF VOTES COUNTED
2024	261,326	217,328	83.16%	43,998	16.84%	10,335	4.76%
2020	230,373	171,854	74.60%	58,519	25.40%	12,570	7.31%
2016	206,960	169,990	82.14%	36,970	17.86%	9,184	5.40%
2012	211,195	169,694	80.35%	41,501	19.65%	10,279	6.06%

- Whilst a DNV for 2024 of 16.84% is the best result for recent Elections – it is surely concerning? Could ECQ seriously consider sending infringement notices to over forty thousand voters?

2024 SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL MAYORAL VOTING

	Formal Votes		Informal Votes		Total Votes
	Number	%	Number	%	
<i>In Person Declaration Votes</i>	3,402	97.2%	99	2.8%	3,501
<i>Ordinary Votes</i>	186,138	94.9%	9,983	5.1%	196,121
<i>Postal Declaration Votes</i>	17,394	98.6%	253	1.4%	17,647
	206,934	95.24%	10,355	4.8%	217,269

- Ordinary voters much more likely to vote informal.
- Does postal voting lead to less informal votes?

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
Rosanna Natoli	56,822	27.5%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Rosanna Natoli Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Natoli % of Votes Remaining in Count
Rosanna Natoli	56,849	14,559	71,408	73,599	133,392	53.53%

- Rosanna Natoli was preferred by 71 thousand voters out of the 206 thousand votes cast.
- Does that constitute a mandate?

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL DIVISION 5

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
26,935	22,724	1,172	5.16%	22,724	84.37%	4,211	15.63%

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
Winston Johnston	8,046	37.33%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Johnston Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Johnston % of Votes in Count
Winston Johnston	8,046	1,519	9,565	3,603	17,949	53.29%

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL DIVISION 8

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
26,080	20,362	1,084	5.05%	21,446	82.23%	4,634	17.76%

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
Taylor Bunnag	9,193	45.15%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Bunnag Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Bunnag % of Votes in Count
Taylor Bunnag	9,193	1,010	10,203	3,298	17,064	59.79%

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL DIVISION 9

	Formal Votes		Informal Votes		Total Votes
	Number	%	Number	%	
Absent Early Voting	3,079	93.47%	215	6.53%	3,294
Absent Election Day	1,025	88.74%	130	11.26%	1,155
In Person Declaration Votes	299	97.08%	9	2.92%	308
Ordinary Votes	14,090	93.86%	922	6.14%	15,012
On Election Day	7,207	92.72%	566	7.28%	7,773
Coolum EV Centre	6,883	95.08%	356	4.92%	7,239
Postal Declaration Votes	1,655	97.93%	35	2.07%	1,690
	20,148	93.89%	1,311	6.11%	21,459

- Prior to Election Day 7,239 votes were lodged at Coolum EV Centre, 3,079 absent votes were lodged early – at Sunshine Coast EV booths other than Coolum – and 1,690 votes were lodged by post. Thus a total of 12,008 votes (56 per cent of 20,148) were cast prior to Election Day.

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
Maria Suarez	10,439	51.81%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Suarez Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Suarez % of Votes in Count
Maria Suarez	10,439	1,070	11,509	3,207	16,941	67.94%

- Maria gained more than 50 per cent of total votes cast.
- Does this mean she does have a proper mandate to pursue the goals she set out whilst campaigning?

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL DIVISION 10

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
25,983	19,888	1,189	5.64%	21,077	81.12%	4,906	18.88%

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
David Law	6,807	34.23%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Law Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Law % of Votes in Count
David Law	6,807	1,112	7,919	4,075	15,813	50.08%

RATES OF PREFERENCE EXHAUSTION

	Preference Votes Available for Distribution	Number of Votes Exhausted	% Exhausted
Mayor	99,610	73,599	73.89%
Division 5	5,758	3,603	62.57%
Division 8	4,761	3,298	69.27%
Division 9	4,706	3,207	68.15%
Division 10	6,076	4,075	67.07%

- Around 70 per cent of the votes of unsuccessful candidates exhausted. Would there have been different results if there had been full preferential voting as in State Elections

ANALYSIS OF 2024 LG ELECTIONS
NOOSA SHIRE MAYOR

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
44,127	34,499	1,909	5.24%	36,408	82.51%	7,719	17.49%

	Formal Votes		Informal Votes		Total Votes
	Number	%	Number	%	
<i>In Person Declaration Votes</i>	513	96.61%	18	3.39%	531
<i>Ordinary Votes</i>	31,045	94.48%	1,814	5.52%	32,859
<i>Postal Declaration Votes</i>	2,941	97.45%	77	2.55%	3,018
	34,499	94.76%	1,909	5.24%	36,408

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Votes Cast
Frank Wilkie	13,846	40.13%

	Formal First Pref Votes	Preference Votes	Total Wilkie Votes	Votes Exhausting	Votes Remaining in Count	Wilkie % of Votes in Count
Frank Wilkie	13,846	1,518	15,364	7,462	27,037	56.83%

NOOSA SHIRE COUNCILLOR

ENROLLED	FORMAL VOTES	INFORMAL VOTES		TOTAL VOTES		DID NOT VOTE	
44,127	32,553	3,773	10.39%	36,326	82.32%	7,801	17.68%

	Formal Votes		Informal Votes		Total Votes
	Number	%	Number	%	
<i>In Person Declaration Votes</i>	485	91.34%	46	8.66%	531
<i>Ordinary Votes</i>	29,234	89.03%	3,602	10.97%	32,836
<i>Postal Declaration Votes</i>	2,834	95.78%	125	4.22%	2,959
<i>Total Ballots Cast</i>	32,553	89.61%	3,773	10.39%	36,326

- Of the 36 thousand total votes cast for Councillor, 3,773 (nearly 11 percent) were informal which is much higher than for mayor (1,909 = 5.24%). Does this indicate that too many voters did not comprehend that they had to mark a minimum of six boxes for the Councillor vote to be valid?

Note: As Noosa Council does not have Divisions, by the State's direction the election for Councillors is conducted on a first past the post basis. There was no preferencing.

ELECTED COUNCILLORS

	Formal First Pref Votes	% of Total Ballots Cast
Amelia LORENTSON	17,798	49.00%
Jess PHILLIPS	17,724	48.79%
Nicola WILSON	17,464	48.08%
Brian STOCKWELL	15,938	43.87%
Tom WEGENER	15,828	43.57%
Karen FINZEL	15,499	42.67%