

Website stands to help council hopefuls

5 June 2008

The peak body for local government today launched a website for people considering standing for council at general elections around Victoria.

Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Mr Robert Spence said it is important that candidates in council elections have information available to them on what the role of a councillor entails.

“Becoming a councillor is a hands-on way of making a real difference in your local community. It’s a rewarding role but it can also be daunting at times.

“Councillors are elected for four years to make decisions that affect the lives of people living in their community.

“Often candidates stand for election because they want to change something in particular. That’s okay, but if you’re elected you’ll need to be prepared to make decisions on a whole range of issues, not just the issue you’re passionate about.

“You will need to balance the different opinions and needs of the community, and you will have to work with other councillors who won’t necessarily share the same views as you.

“I urge all candidates to avail yourselves of as much information as possible about what will be expected of you if you are successful in your campaign to be elected.

“Visit the website, attend public information sessions, observe a council meeting and make an appointment to speak with your Council’s Chief Executive Officer today. The earlier you start, the better equipped you will be to become a councillor after November,” said Mr Spence.

Visit www.standforcouncil.com.au for information about eligibility to stand for council, the role of a councillor, types of decisions councillors make, the time commitment involved, election processes and campaigning tips.

All councils in Victoria will hold general elections in November 2008.

- Ends -

For further information contact the MAV Communications Unit on (03) 9667 5540.

The Municipal Association of Victoria gratefully acknowledges Leader Newspapers commitment to local communities through sponsoring the Stand for Council campaign.