

Elections – frequently asked questions

Candidates for elections

I'm an NT Government employee and intend to be a candidate at an election:

- Do I need to resign from my position in the NTPS?
- If I need to resign, what do I need to do to resign from the NTPS?
- What happens if I am not elected?
- What happens if I am elected?
- Are there rules about campaigning for the election while I'm still employed by the NTPS?

Do I need to resign from my position in the NTPS?

Northern Territory Elections

Yes. You need to resign from your position – whether you are an 'ongoing' or 'fixed term' employee, or an executive contract officer employed on a contract of employment. You can't nominate as a candidate to become a member of the Legislative Assembly and also hold a job in the NTPS. Nominations for the 2020 Legislative Assembly close at 12 noon Thursday 6 August 2020. A leave of absence, e.g. recreation leave, long service leave or leave without pay is not available after the employee has nominated as a candidate.

Federal Government Elections

Yes. You need to resign from your position. You can't stand for election to become a member of Federal Parliament and also hold a job in the NTPS.

Local Government Elections

No. There is no requirement to resign to contest a Local Government election. However, you will need to seek approval from your Chief Executive Officer as it is classed as outside employment. If you wish to, you can apply for Recreation Leave during the election period, in line with your agency's normal procedures, and then approval to engage in outside employment.

Consequently, an employee who wishes to contest a Local Government election is entitled to apply for recreation leave in accordance with normal provisions.

However, your local government responsibilities must not impact on your NTPS employment. For example, you couldn't hold a full-time position as mayor and be employed by the NTPS.

What do I need to do to resign from the NTPS?

If you intend to nominate as a candidate for election, you must first resign, in writing, from your position in the NTPS.

Nomination as a candidate occurs after the writ for the election is issued and before 12.00pm on nomination day.

You may wish to seek private advice on the impact of your resignation in relation to your superannuation.

What happens if I'm not elected?

If you are unsuccessful in the election, you can apply to be re-appointed to the NTPS, but this cannot occur until after the official declaration of the results. You have to apply within two months of the election results being declared. Further information on the process for re-appointment will be available from your agency's HR area.

Are there rule about campaigning for the election while I'm still employed by the NTPS?

You are still covered by the Code of Conduct while you are employed with the NTPS and so it is important to distinguish your comments as a **potential candidate** from your role within the NTPS.

It may be a breach of discipline if you use government assets as part of your election campaign. For example, using photocopiers or printers to print election material, sending emails from your government email account, or researching or working on your campaign during work hours and/or using government IT facilities.

It may also be a breach of discipline if you are making public comment through the radio, TV, or social media where you haven't distinguished between your role as a candidate and an NTPS employee. For example, if you conduct interviews in a NTPS uniform or if your social media account states that you are employed with the NTPS, any comments you make may be construed as comments made in your role as an NTPS employee, not as a candidate.

Where do I go for further information?

You can obtain further information by:

- contacting your agency's HR area
- going to the webpage [NTPS Employees and Elections](#)
- going to the webpage [Code of Conduct](#)
- going to the webpage [Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993](#).