

## Local Government and Elections

### 1. When were elections held in Pompeii?

Annually at the end of March.

### 2. What were "fautōrēs"?

Groups of supporters of particular candidates.

### 3. What were the offices open for election by the people each year ?

duoviri - the head officials of the town, these two men sat as judges in the courts.

aediles - two officials who were responsible for the running of the town with duties such as supervising the public markets, the police force, the upkeep of the baths, public entertainment, the water supply and the sewers.

### 4. What other officials not elected by the people were chosen at the annual elections?

Vacancies in the 100 man town council, mostly ex-officials, were filled by the vote of the current town councils.

### 5. What distinguished a candidate from the other citizens in the forum?

Any citizen running for office wore a brilliant white "chalked" toga when he attended the forum so that other citizens would instantly know who was running for office.

### 7. What demands were made of a successful candidate?

A successful candidate was expected to spend his own money in office to fulfill many of his duties.

### 8. What benefits did holding public office offer? Were magistrates paid?

Magistrates were not paid and were even expected to spend their own money while in office, so that successful candidates need to be wealthy or at least supported by some wealthy interests. Benefits included front row seats at public events and the prestige which holding office gave to a magistrate.



**9. How free was a small town like Pompeii to govern itself without interference from Rome?**

Rome allowed great freedom to towns in governing themselves as long as choices and decisions resulted in a peaceful and prosperous environment in relation to the greater Roman empire. If they failed, Rome would quickly step in and take control until it was seen that the town could once again be trusted to govern itself.

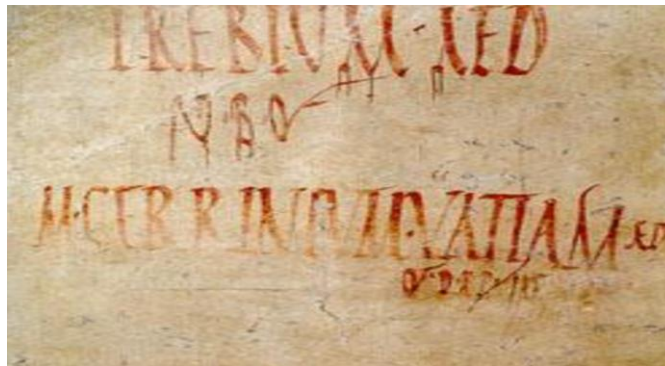
**Election Notices**

**10. What was the most popular way in which candidates publicized their candidacy ?**

Graffiti which can be seen all over Pompeii was the main way in which an election was publicized. Supporters of one candidate would praise their candidate and belittle the opposition. In turn, the supporters of other candidates would respond on the same walls making Pompeii a colorful mess at election time.

**11. Did Pompeian women have the right to vote?**

No. Only male citizens had the right to vote but women showed a lively interest in elections and supported candidates vigorously as shown in much of the graffiti around Pompeii.



**This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.**