



## **2019 Local Authority Elections**

### **Frequently Asked Questions relating to Local Authority Elections**

**12 October 2019**

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## Section A

### Frequently Asked Questions Relating to Local Government Elections

#### General Information

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When is the next Local Government election?	Election Day is Saturday 12 October 2019 and voting closes at midday on that day. The voting period starts on Friday 20 September 2019.
Who is running the election?	The Electoral Officer has full responsibility for running the election.
What is the name of the Electoral Officer/Deputy Electoral Officer?	<b>Electoral Officer – Warwick Lampp (Electionz.com)</b> Phone: 0508 440 013    Mobile: 021 498 517 Email: <a href="mailto:waipa@electionz.com">waipa@electionz.com</a>  <b>Deputy Electoral Officer – Jo Gread</b> Ext: 7080 Email: <a href="mailto:waipa.elections@waipadc.govt.nz">waipa.elections@waipadc.govt.nz</a>  <b>Electoral Official – Veronica Huxtable</b> Ext: 6802 Email: <a href="mailto:waipa.elections@waipadc.govt.nz">waipa.elections@waipadc.govt.nz</a>  Electoral Commission Elections Website <a href="http://www.elections.org.nz/">http://www.elections.org.nz/</a> 0800 36 76 56
What type of voting method do you use?	Waipa District Council uses First Past the Post (FPP) Environment Waikato (Waikato Regional Council) uses FPP
What issues (elections) will we vote for?	<b>Waipa District Council</b> Mayor – at large (voters from across all wards) 13 Councillors – by ward <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Cambridge Ward – 5</li><li>▪ Maungatautari Ward – 1</li><li>▪ Te Awamutu Ward – 4</li></ul>

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- Kakepuku Ward – 1
  - Pirongia Ward – 2

#### 11 Community Board Members

- Cambridge Community Board
    - Cambridge Ward – 5
    - Maungatautari Ward – 1
  - Te Awamutu Community Board
    - Te Awamutu Ward – 4
    - Kakepuku Ward - 1
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#### What is an At Large Councillor?

These are also known as District-wide councillors. These councillors are elected by the whole district or city – not just by part of the district or city.

Some councils elect all their councillors At Large (District-wide), while some have councillors who are elected to a specific ward, while others have a mixture of both.

The Mayor of a district or city is elected at large.

Regional Councillors are elected on a constituency basis.

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#### What is the role of a councillor/community board member?

A Councillor:

- Participates in strategic planning for the whole District/Region;
  - Develops policy across a wide range of activities and services;
  - Represents the District/Region at functions as required;
  - Reviews and develops bylaws for the District/Region;
  - Advocates on a wide range of issues;
  - Coordinates and forms partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies;
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- Participates in the appointment and performance review of the Chief Executive Officer;
  - Acts on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework, and setting a budget and rates.
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A Community Board member:

- Promotes residents' issues and initiatives to the Board and the City or District Council;
  - Monitors the provision of Council services and advocates changes as necessary;
  - Engages in community development activities in conjunction with council officers;
  - Takes a proactive stance anticipating strategies and policies that may be needed;
  - Represents the community to other agencies;
  - Promotes the role of the community board in the wider community;
  - Works cooperatively with the Council.
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## Candidates

I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

You must be a New Zealand Citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll.

You will need to have two people who live in the area of the election you are standing for to nominate you – eg if you stand for the XYZ Ward, they will need to reside within that Ward. (Please note the candidate does not need to reside in the district or ward in which they are standing, but will need to disclose that fact in their Candidate Profile Statement if they provide one),

The nominators must also be on the Parliamentary electoral roll at the

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	address they are listed on the nomination paper (which must be in the area that they are nominating the person for).
When do nominations open?	Nominations open on Friday 19 July 2019 and close at 12 noon on Friday 16 August 2019.
How much will it cost me to stand?	<p>You will need to pay a deposit of \$200 GST inclusive.</p> <p>Your nomination must be received by 12 noon on Friday 16 August 2019.</p> <p>If you pay the deposit by cheque and if it is dishonoured after nominations close, your nomination will not be accepted.</p> <p>If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate (for FPP elections) you will receive your deposit back.</p> <p><b>Nomination forms can be found on <a href="#">Council website</a>.</b></p>
What qualifications and experience do I need?	Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have will/desire to serve the community.
Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a candidate?	<p>No, not at all for city, district and regional council elections.</p> <p><b>For further information please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer on 0800 924 723.</b></p>
How long is the term of the elected member?	Three years
Do I need to be resident in the city, district or region I am standing for?	No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Roll and be a New Zealand Citizen
How many offices can I stand for?	<p>You can stand for mayor, district-wide councillor <b>or</b> ward councillor and community board member. However, if you win more than one you will take up the highest ranked position.</p> <p>You cannot stand for both a constituent district or city council and their regional council.</p>

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I am a serving Police Officer. Can I stand for council and continue to work as a Police Officer?

Yes. There are no restrictions on police officers standing for local authority elections, apart from the normal eligibility criteria.

**For further information please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer on 0800 924 723**

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How much can I spend on my campaign?

District-wide Issue	Est Resident Population as at 30 June 2018	Expenditure Limit (inc GST)
Mayorality	54,000	\$30,000
Councillors	Est Resident Population as at 30 June 2018	Expenditure Limit (inc GST)
Cambridge	20,900	\$20,000
Takepuku	4,120	\$3,500
Maungatautari	4,060	\$3,500
Pirongia	8,960	\$7,000
Te Awamutu	16,000	\$14,000
Community Board	Est Resident Population as at 30 June 2018	Expenditure Limit (inc GST)
Cambridge	20,900	\$20,000
Takepuku	4,120	\$3,500
Maungatautari	4,060	\$3,500
Te Awamutu	16,000	\$14,000

If you stand for more than one position, the amount you can spend is the highest amount for **one** position. You cannot add positions together to allow you to spend more than the limit.



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All candidates are required to lodge an electoral expenses and donations return within 55 days after the results are officially notified. If this is not done it is possible that a non return will be advised to the NZ Police. This return needs to be made before a candidate deposit is refunded.

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## Enrolment

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Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

**Te Awamutu – 101 Bank Street and TA Library**  
**Cambridge – 23 Wilson Street and CB Library**

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How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

Is this your main place of residence? → **Yes**

Have you lived at your current address for more than one month?  
→ **Yes**

Are you on the Parliamentary roll at an address in the **Waipa District**?  
→ **Yes**

You will automatically appear on the roll that is used for these elections.

*or*

Is this your main place of residence? → **Yes**

Are you on the Parliamentary roll at an address in the **Waipa District**?  
→ **No or Don't Know**

You need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can either:

- pick one up at any New Zealand Post Shop
  - I can send one out
  - you can enrol online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)
-

- 
- ring 0800 36 76 56
  - send your name and address to Freetext 3676

Is this your main place of residence? → **No**

Are you on the Parliamentary roll at an address in another district?  
→ **Yes**

If you own a property in this district and it is not your main residence you may be able to enrol as a Ratepayer elector. (refer to ratepayer enrolment advice below)

**For further information please contact the assistance line 0800 666 049.**

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I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.

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I am a New Zealand Maori, do I need to enrol on the Maori roll?

Not necessarily. If you are enrolling for the first time you can decide whether you want to go on the Māori Electoral Roll or the General Electoral Roll by signing the appropriate panel on the Parliamentary Elector Enrolment form.

However, if you have already made that choice you will have to wait until the next Māori Option period to change, which occurs following the next census, likely in 2023. The last Māori Option period was in **2018**.

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How do I know whether I am enrolled?

You can check your enrolment status on [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz).

The Electoral Enrolment Centre will be undertaking a roll update campaign for the Parliamentary Electoral roll which forms the basis of our roll for the local authority election.

This has started. If you did not receive a letter in the post during June

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I turn 18 on Election Day. Can I vote?

the chances are you are not enrolled or your details are incorrect.

Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled which you can do provisionally from the age of 17 and it automatically changes when you turn 18.

You will also need to apply for a special vote.

You can do both if you call at **either of the Council offices**

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We own a business in your area and pay rates, but we don't live in your area – do we get a say in the local elections?

Yes, subject to being eligible to become enrolled as a ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

**For further information please contact the assistance number: 0800 666 049**

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I own a property in the district but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll?

I can send you out a Ratepayer Enrolment form. This should be back in the hands of the Electoral Officer by 16 August 2019 and absolutely no later than COB 11 October 2019. If it is after Friday 20 September I will also enclose special voting papers and advise these should all be sent back together.

If it is easier you can call at (either Council Offices) and complete the enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time.

In no case does this allow you to have two votes at the election.

If you are the sole ratepayer for the property (i.e. the rate account is only in your name), then you can apply to be the Ratepayer Elector.

If you are a joint ratepayer (i.e. the rate account is in more than one name), or the rate account is in the name of a Trust or Company etc., you must appoint a nominee to vote on behalf of the joint ratepayers or entity. For the case of companies, corporations, trusts etc., the nominee should be a member or officer of the entity.

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**For further information please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer on 0800 924 723**

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## **Voting**

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Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?

All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Friday 20 September and Wednesday 25 September.

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I got my voting documents but my partner didn't receive theirs.

### **Before Wednesday 25 September 2019**

Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Wednesday 25 September 2019. If documents are not received then please call back.

### **After mail delivery Wednesday 25 September 2019 or if not enrolled correctly**

You will need to apply for a special vote. Please phone 0800 924 723 to speak with the Deputy Electoral Officer or Electoral Official.

You need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can pick one up at any New Zealand Post Shop, one can be sent to you, or you can enrol online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or ring 0800 36 76 56 or send your name and address to Freetext 3676.

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I didn't get my voting documents so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two documents which one should I use?

Use the original and destroy the Special Vote

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I received voting documents for (children, parent) and have Power of Attorney for them can I vote for them?

No – Power of Attorney does not apply to voting for that person.

What should I do with the documents?

If they are overseas, you could fast post them to the person or destroy them if that is not practicable.

	If they are for an elderly parent who is unable to vote please destroy them by ripping/cutting them up.
I received voting documents that do not belong to me and I don't know these people or where they have gone.	Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put them back in the mail.
What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?	It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode number to mark the roll that you have voted so we can ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.
How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?	<p>Envelopes containing a voting document cannot be opened until there is a JP present. The JP is required to sign off that the processes used by the Electoral Officer met the legal requirements.</p> <p>The voter's name is not on the voting document.</p> <p>When the envelope is opened the only thing the Electoral Officer is looking for is that the vote for each election is valid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This means that for FPP they are making sure that the voters intention is clear and they have not ticked or marked more than the number of candidates that they are electing.</li> </ul>
Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates	<p>No you don't have to vote. You also don't have to vote for all candidates or for all elections. But your vote is important because the people elected will be responsible for making decisions about what happens in your community for the next three years.</p> <p>To help you get to know about the candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate Evening held 27 June 2019 – 6.00pm at the Sir Don Rowlands Centre, Mighty River Domain - Karapiro. Following the event the presentation and other resources can be found on <a href="#">Council website</a></li> <li>• There are candidate meetings being held if you wish to go</li> </ul>

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and hear what policies the different candidates are advocating for.

- Additionally there is a candidate profile booklet that comes out with the voting documents in which there is a photo and a statement from candidates.
- Candidates may have their own website page, social media page(s), advertise in local newspapers or send out information to letterboxes in your area.
- Local newspaper(s) are likely to cover information about the election.

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[Do I have to post my voting document back?](#)

You can post them but make sure you have them in the mail by Wednesday 9 October 2019 to make sure they get back to us in time (by 12 noon Saturday 12 October 2019)

However, you can also deliver to one of our voting boxes which are at **either office until 12 noon Saturday 12 October.**

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[I have lost my return envelope.](#)

You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address on which is The Electoral Officer, Waipa District Council, Private Bag 2402, Te Awamutu – mark the envelope “VOTING DOCUMENT”

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[I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary roll and I want a special vote please.](#)

**Papers will be sent out.**

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[I didn't receive my voting paper, how do I obtain a special vote?](#)

Are you on the parliamentary roll for the address you want to vote for?

If not enrolled or not enrolled correctly you will need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can pick one up at any New Zealand Post Shop, or you can enrol online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or ring 0800 36 76 56 or send your name and address to Freetext 3676. This form needs to be with the Registrar of Electors before COB Friday 11

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October 2019.

**Ratepayers - not main residence**

If not enrolled you will need to complete a [Ratepayer Enrolment Form](#) this must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer by COB 11 October 2019.

**In both instances you will need to have a special vote please phone 0800 924 723 to request a special vote as a Ratepayer Elector.**

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[I spoiled my voting documents / I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?](#)

If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear then do so and initial the changes.

However we can issue you with another voting document if you would rather. Please phone 0800 924 723 to request a special vote or call into either of the Council offices.

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[Where can I have a special vote?](#)

**Either of the Council offices. 101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu or 23 Wilson Street, Cambridge**

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[I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.](#)

**Please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer or Electoral Official on 0800 924 723.**

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[Do I have to vote for all the candidates for any issue?  
If I don't vote for all the candidates or all the issues on my voting document, will all my votes be informal \(invalidated\)?](#)

Under FPP you can vote for as many candidates as you want but not more than the instruction states on the voting document. So if you are electing 5 councillors then you can vote for **up to** five candidates.

You can decide not to vote for one or more of the different elections on your voting document. This does not however invalidate all your other votes.

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[Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward, community board or other issue?](#)

You can only vote in the ward or constituency of a district/region in which you reside and are an elector of. You cannot vote for a candidate for the same district or region who is standing in another ward or constituency because you are not an elector of that ward or constituency.

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Why have some issues on my voting documents been voided?	<p>Refer to <a href="#">Council website</a> 'Find out your ward'</p> <p>You are only entitled to vote for any issue once.</p>
My partner's paper and mine are different/ they have more/less things to vote for/ their list of candidates is different to mine.	<p><b>Please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer or Electoral Official on 0800 924 723.</b></p> <p><b>Waipa District Council is using random name order on the voting documents. This could explain why the list looks different.</b></p>
I have received two voting documents	<p><b>Please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer or Electoral Official on 0800 924 723.</b></p>
Do all the staff working on the election know who I voted for?	<p>No, your vote remains secret under the required roll scrutiny and counting procedures.</p>
Can I help someone fill out their voting documents?	<p>Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote.</p> <p>If authorised by a voter who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter.</p>
What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?	<p>They are delivered to the District Court and kept for 21 days so that the Court can access them should there be any application for recount or petition for inquiry.</p> <p>After 21 days the court is responsible for destroying them.</p>
Do I get a vote for the DHB?	<p>NO DHB election 2019</p>
What is FPP?	<p>This is the First Past the Post voting system. The candidate or candidates that gets the most votes wins.</p> <p>You should mark those you want to vote for with a tick in the circle. Do not vote for more than the number of candidates shown in the instructions.</p>



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## Election Results

When will we know the results of the election?

Progress and preliminary results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on Saturday 12 October 2019  
[www.waipadc.govt.nz](http://www.waipadc.govt.nz)

The official results will be announced when the final count is complete and special votes have been checked which will be between Thursday 17 October 2019 – Wednesday 23 October 2019.

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How will I find out?

### **Candidates**

Will be advised as soon as possible after Preliminary results are known. This may be by phone where possible.

### **The Voters**

Preliminary Results will be released to the media and placed on our website as soon as possible after noon on Saturday 12 October via [Council website](#) and on office doors as soon as available.

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What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

**Please contact the Deputy Electoral Officer or Electoral Official on 0800 924 723.**

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## Elected Members

When do elected members take up their roles?

Elected members take up office the day after the official result has been declared. However, they cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of council. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known, usually sometime towards the end of November.

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Who are elected members responsible to?

Ultimately the elected members' final responsibility is to the local community. The Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that councils follow the law.

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Do elected members get paid and if so how much?

This is set by the Remuneration Authority. Some expenses are also

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reimbursed.

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Would being an elected member take up much time?

The time commitment varies depending on the role and the size of the local authority/community you are representing.

**Refer the website to view 'Candidate Information Booklet' or phone 0800 924 723 to request one posted out.**

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How many elected members are there?

**Waipa District Council (WDC)**

- (a) Election of Mayor of the Waipa District Council
- (b) Election of Thirteen (13) Councillors of the Waipa District Council as follows:

Cambridge Ward	Five (5) members
Maungatautari Ward	One (1) member
Te Awamutu	Four (4) members
Takepuku Ward	One (1) member
Pirongia Ward	Two (2) members
- (c) Election of six (6) members to the Cambridge Community Board and five (5) members to the Te Awamutu Community Board.

**Waikato Regional Council (WRC)**

Election on (1) Councillor to represent the Waipa-King Country Constituency and one (1) Councillor to represent the Nga Tai Ki Uta Constituency.

**Waikato District Health Board (WDHB)**

No DHB election in 2019. In May 2019 the Board was replaced by a Commissioner.

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**Complaints**

I have a complaint about Electoral signage?

**For a complaint, refer CRM to Planning Enforcement staff. For information refer Elections page of website.**

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The signs don't have the required authorisation on them.

The signs have been pulled over.

The signs are bigger than they should be.

What locations can signs be erected?

When can they be erected and when must they be pulled down?

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## **Section B**

### **Frequently Asked Questions Relating to District Health Board (DHB) Elections**

**There are no Waikato District Health Board elections being held in 2019.  
In May 2019 the Minister replaced the Board with a commissioner.**