

11 June 2025

File Ref: IRC-8551

On 3 June 2025 the Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) received the following request for information:

- *Could I please see any information given to councillors about the number of special polling booths planned for this year's council elections?*
- *If there has been a briefing on plans for this year's election, I would like to see that too.*

A response was provided to the requestor on 4 June 2025 confirming the following information:

No specific information has been provided to Councillors about voting locations, however they have been told there will be orange voting bins around the region and we will be repeating the voting hubs that were used in the 2022 election. Information on voting locations will become available on our public facing website once they are confirmed.

Councillors received a public excluded briefing on 10 April 2025, the focus of the presentation was the election protocols for elected members and other basic election information was included. The elected member protocols that were shared at that briefing are available on our website [Local body elections 2025 - Elections - Wellington City Council](#). Please note the location of it may shift as we update the website with additional election content.

The release of the full presentation provided to elected members at this briefing has been made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). A copy of this presentation can be found below.



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Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections

Local Elections 2025 - Briefing to Elected Members

10 Pāenga-whāwhā 2025 (10 April 2025)

Tangata Matua

Key People

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- **Warwick Lampp**, Wellington CC Electoral Officer
 - – electionz.com Limited
 - Runs the election on the Council's behalf
- **Jennifer Parker**, Deputy Electoral Officer
 - Supports the Electoral Officer in their functions
 - Key point of contact for candidates
- **Matt Prosser**, Chief Executive
 - Responsible for "facilitating and fostering representative and substantial elector participation in elections and polls held under the Local Electoral Act 2001"
- **Maria Belich**, Manager Strategic Communications
 - Leading engagement function for the 2025 local elections

Wātaka Pōtitanga

Key Election Dates

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4 July (Friday)
10 July (Thursday)
11 July (Friday)
15 July (Tuesday)
1 August (Friday)
29 August (Friday)
9 – 22 September (Tuesday to Tuesday)
9 September to 11 October
10 October (Friday)
11 October (Saturday)
11 October
12 October (Sunday)
16 October (Thursday)
Late October
probably **11 December** (Thursday)

Nominations open
Māori Electoral Option Closes
Election Period starts
Candidate Briefing, Wellington
Nominations close at 12 noon
Election signs can go up from 6pm, 6 weeks prior
Delivery of voting papers
Special voting period
Removal of election signs by 11:59pm
Close of voting at 12 noon
Progress results available by 2pm
Preliminary results announced
Final results announced, Official declaration
Inaugural Meeting of Council
Candidate expenses deadline

Whakatairanga Pōtitanga Election Promotion

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- Orange Ballot Bins around the region
- Pre-Election Report
- Working with Electoral Commission to encourage enrolment
- Faster Special Voting
- Digital Comms Campaign

Huringa ture mai i te 2022

Changes Since the 2022 Local Elections

Huringa ture mai i te 2022

Changes Since 2022

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- **Amendment Act 2024:**

- Voting period now 32.5 days
- Postal services now have 14 days to deliver votes
- Nomination period slightly shorter

- **Māori Electoral option:**

- Those of Māori descent can change rolls until 10 July 2025
- Applies to voting for Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional Council

Huringa ture mai i te 2022

Changes Since 2022

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- DX Mail entry into vote delivery market
- Electoral Commission data sharing Supplementary Electoral Roll means faster processing of special votes
- Telephone dictation voting
- Changes to recounts and ties
- Māori Ward Polls around the country

Tukanga Pōtitanga

Election Processes

Pepa Pōti?

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What will be on the voting paper?

- Koromatua | Mayor
- Kaikaunihera | Councillors - 16 councillors from 5 general wards and 1 Māori ward
- Māori Ward Poll for Council
- Greater Wellington Regional Council – election for general and Māori constituencies
- Greater Wellington Regional Council – GWRC Māori constituency poll
- Location-specific elections: Depending on where in Wellington you live, you might also be eligible to vote for the Tawa Community Board, Mākara / Ōhāriu Community Board.

All elections have **random** order of candidate names

Whakaaringa Nomination Process

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You will need to (for each position you are standing for):

- Complete a nomination form and lodge this at the Council's main building, or electronically, along with a \$200 deposit
- Be a parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand
- **Must** be a New Zealand citizen
- Get two people to nominate you, they **must** be enrolled in the area you wish to stand in
- Lodge all nomination documents at the same time
- You or your spouse/partner cannot have contracts with the Council of more than \$25,000 (unless prior Auditor-General approval received)
- Nominations must be in by **12 Noon, 1 August 2025**

Ngā kōrero whaitake me ngā whakaahua a te Kaitono

Candidate Profile Statements and Photos

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- You may provide a candidate profile statement with nomination (electronically)
- No more than 150 words:
 - Must be true and accurate (not the EO's role to verify or investigate)
 - About policies and intentions, can't comment on another candidate's policies
 - Can have 150 words in English **AND** 150 words in te reo Māori.
 - Can have a mix of English and other languages to a maximum of 150 words e.g. 100 words English, 50 words Sāmoan
- may include a passport-sized colour photo taken in the last 12 months, jpg, 300 dpi
- head and shoulders shot only (no hats, sunglasses, whanau, pets, friends)
- may have an Affiliation – can include slogan or tag line, max of 38 characters

Otinga Pōtitanga Election Results

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- **Progress results** released approx 3 pm on Election Day (Saturday 11 October). These are approx 90% of the votes cast. Progress results do not include any votes cast on Election Day, or any special votes
- Results **could change** between progress and preliminary results.
- **Preliminary results** announced on Sunday 12 October. Includes votes cast on Election Day, but not special votes
- **Final results** announced Thursday 16 October. These include all votes (including special votes)

Ngā Pūtea Koha Electoral Donations

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- Donations are defined as: *“gifts of money, goods or services made to a candidate”*
- Donations exclude:
 - Volunteer labour
 - Goods and service provided free which have a reasonable market value of under \$300
- Anonymous donations cannot exceed \$1,500
- You must keep records of all donations and expenses
- No time limit on when donations are received

Ngā Utu Whakahaere Electoral Expenses

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- Expenses that relate to more than one candidate can be shared
- The cost of any framework supporting a hoarding is not an electoral expense
- You must submit a return of your donations and expenses by mid - December 2025 (likely 11 December 2025). This includes if you did not receive any donations, or spend any money on your campaign
- Goes on Council's website for 7 years
- A candidate failing to submit a return **must** be referred to the Police

Ngā Tohu Pōti

Signs and Advertising

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- Signs on public sites must have a permit approved by Council
 - Signs can be erected from **6pm Friday 29 August 2025** – 6 weeks prior
 - Signs must be removed by **11:59pm Friday 10 October 2025**
- More information on sign locations will be available as part of the candidates handbook and on our website
- Election material:
 - Must not contain untrue or defamatory statements
 - Must not be an imitation of a voting document
- **Must include an authorisation statement of the name of the person authorising on every item of campaign material**
- You must include a promoter statement on social media pages

Tikanga mo mema kua pōtiahia

Protocols for Elected Members – Key Messages

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- Elected members seeking re-election must balance between being an elected member and candidate
- Council will not promote the re-election of current elected members
- What is BAU and what is campaigning, and when?
- Elected members will have access to the information they need to perform their current roles
- Elected members cannot use Council resources for re-election purposes (logo, branding, colours, Council FB, Instagram, or X feed, photos, Council buildings)
- Elected members may not be photographed/quoted in any media release and any standard media slots paid for by Council

Tikanga mo mema kua pōtīhia

Protocols for Elected Members

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- No campaigning or electioneering in Council Chambers or on Council premises, or in the same premises as an orange ballot bin
- No articles or columns by EMs in local publications after 11 July
- Can't use Council taken photos in campaigning
- Council staff will not assist with electioneering activities
- Using your own email address and electronic devices for campaigning
- Voting papers are not to be collected from electors by candidates or their assistants

Pae Pāpāho Pāpori

Social Media Guidelines

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- **Council social media channels cannot be used for electioneering by candidates or members of the public - are constantly monitored and strictly enforced**
- Any post - positive or negative - made by any individual specifically relating to their own or someone else's nomination, intention to run for Council or election campaign, will be removed
- Council's social media channels will remain neutral. Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates
- Council's social media channels will unlike / unfollow all candidate social media channels
- Candidates must not link their own social media channels (if they are used for campaigning purposes) to the Council's social media channels, and must ensure that they have the appropriate authorisation
- Council's social media posts and campaigning – how does it work?
 - No posting on Council pages / accounts
 - No comments / replies on Council pages
 - No mentions with a tag (e.g. @WellingtonCityCouncil)
 - No picture tagging
 - No rating or reviewing Council pages or posts
 - Yes, you can take a Council post and send to your audience, with comments
- **It is illegal to post a photo of your completed voting on FB**

Māori Ward Poll

A binding poll will be held at the same time on whether Council will retain a Māori Ward (result valid for the 2028 and 2031 local elections).

Councils must not promote a 'Council position' on a poll and cannot use Council resources to promote a position.

- You may take a stance in your own campaign, via your own media.
- You must not promote a stance in Council Chambers or on Council premises, or via any Council resources (including media slots paid for by Council).

Pātai?

Questions?

Electoral Officer contact details

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
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- Warwick Lampp, *electionz.com* Ltd
- Based in Tauranga
- 021 498 517
- wlampp@electionz.com