



Tai Tokerau Māori in Local Government Symposium

Becoming involved in the electoral process

















Becoming involved in the electoral process Dale Ofsoske, electoral officer





- Local elections to be held Saturday 12 October 2019
- By postal voting (no online voting option yet)
- Just over 120,000 eligible electors in Tai Tokerau
- Some changes following 2018 representation reviews
- 2016 national average voting only 43% (42% 2013)
- Conducted under legislation (LEA, LER) lots of do's and don'ts





What can you stand for?

- Far North District Council (29 positions)
- Whangarei District Council (14 positions)
- Kaipara District Council (9 positions)
- Northland Regional Council (9 positions)
- Northland District Health Board (7 positions)
- Cannot stand for a district council and the regional council
- Can stand for a district or regional council and the district health board





Each district council elects

- mayor (elected district-wide)
- councillors (from wards)
- community board members (FNDC only from communities/subdivisions)

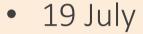
Northland Regional Council

9 councillors from 6 constituencies

Northland District Health Board

• 7 members region-wide, plus 4 appointed by Minister





• 16 August

20 September

• 12 October

• 17 October

• 22 October

nominations open

nominations close

delivery voting packs, voting opens

close of voting

declaration of results

elected members come into office



Candidate eligibility



- Candidates must be
- a New Zealand citizen
- over the age of 18
- enrolled on any parliamentary electoral roll
- Can stand for multiple positions
- mayor, council, community board and district health board
- if elected to mayor, council and community board, take highest position
- Any employee elected as mayor, councillor must resign
- Not apply to community board member or DHB member



Candidate eligibility



- Elected members (or spouses) with contracts with council
- over \$25,000 (incl GST) in one financial year
- may require approval from the Office of the Auditor-General
- Additional restrictions for NDHB candidates
- clause 17, schedule 2, NZPHDA eg undisclosed bankrupt
- can stand for only one DHB anywhere in NZ



Nomination process



- Nominations open Friday 19 July
- Nomination papers available from
- district or regional council offices
- phoning 0800 922 822
- respective organization's website
- Cannot nominate yourself
- Need to be nominated by two electors from area (e.g. ward)



Nomination process



- Each nomination requires
- nomination paper
- \$200 (incl GST) deposit
- 150 word candidate profile statement (English and Māori)
- recent passport-size colour photo
- evidence of citizenship
- Candidates can group together to form a 'party' or 'ticket'
- Nominations close noon, Friday 16 August



Campaigning



- Campaigning can occur anytime (now)
- Candidate information handbooks available
- District council election sign policies applicable
- All election advertisements must show contact details of authorising person
- signs, notices, pamphlets, webpages, vehicles etc
- excludes posts, tweets, messages
- Be mindful of election offences



Campaigning



- Social media great way to campaign (instant, far-reaching, free)
- promote yourself and policies (state policies, run polls, encourage people to vote, key dates, post videos etc)
- council's media channels off-limits (politically neutral)
- cyber-security keep safe (computers can be hacked)



Campaign expenditure



- All positions have candidate election expenditure limits
- Based on population size of area
- e.g. FNDC's Te Hiku Ward expenditure limit \$20,000
- Expenditure limits include GST
- Can't add limits together
- Electoral expenses and electoral donation return
- Care to ensure accurate (declaration)



Electoral roll



- Two electoral rolls compiled
- Resident electoral roll
- NZ citizen or permanent resident aged 18 or over
- resided continuously in NZ for one year or more
- resided at an address for one month or more
- provided by Electoral Commission
- Ratepayer electoral roll
- for non-resident ratepayers
- updated every three years
- by application, not automatic





- Voting period 20 September to 12 October
- Voting packs delivered to electors 20 25 September
- Able to campaign up to and including election day
- Special votes available at district council offices
- Candidates not to collect votes from electors
- Voting closes noon, Saturday 12 October



Results



- All candidates contacted, media advised
- Preliminary results (100% votes counted) Sunday morning
- All results available on respective websites
- Final results available Thursday 17 October



Resources



- Candidate Information Handbook
- Electoral legislation

Local Electoral Act 2001 Local Electoral Regulations 2001 <u>www.legislation.govt.nz</u>

- Attend a council meeting
- Read agendas and minutes available online
- Talk to a council staff member



Contact us



• Electoral officer for all Tai Tokerau councils:

Dale Ofsoske

Independent Election Services Ltd

Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland

phone: 0800 922 822

email: dale.ofsoske@electionservices.co.nz





Tai Tokerau Māori in Local Government Symposium

Becoming involved in the electoral process











