

VOTE
2022

LOCAL ELECTIONS

FAQs

Triennial elections

8 October 2022

GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Frequently Asked Questions

Gisborne District Council elections

General Information

Q1. When is the next Gisborne District Council election?

A Election day is Saturday 8 October 2022 and voting closes at 12 noon on that day. The voting period starts on Friday 16 September 2022.

Q2. Who runs the election?

A The electoral officer has full responsibility for running the election.

Q3. What is the name of the electoral officer and deputy electoral officer?

A The electoral officer is:

Dale Ofsoske, Independent Election Services Ltd
Electoral Office: Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
Phone: 0800 922 822
Email: dale.ofsoske@electionservices.co.nz

The deputy electoral officer is:

Heather Kohn, Gisborne District Council
15 Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne
Phone: 06 867 2049
Email: heather.kohn@gdc.govt.nz

Q4. What type of voting method is used?

A The STV (single transferable vote) electoral system will be used for the Gisborne District Council elections for the first time.

For more detailed explanation of this electoral system, refer Q56.

Q5. What elections can we vote for?

A Electors will be able to vote for the mayor and 13 ward councillors.

Following the decision to establish Māori wards in 2020, Gisborne District Council was required to review its representation arrangement (number of councillors, wards, boundaries, etc).

As a result of the Local Government Commission determination, there will be one district-wide general ward and one district-wide Māori ward, as below:

- Tairāwhiti General Ward, 8 councillors
- Tairāwhiti Māori Ward, 5 councillors.

There are no longer elections held for district health board members.

Q6. What is the difference between Māori and general wards?

A Māori ward councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the Māori electoral roll. Similarly, general ward councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the general electoral roll.

Q7. What is the role of the mayor and councillors?

A The mayor:

- presides at council meetings
- attends and participates at meetings of committees and working parties
- reads agenda and other materials before meetings
- leads the council and co-ordinates council political activity
- speaks on behalf of the council
- represents the council on related organisations, where appointed
- attends and participates at conferences and seminars
- attends to complaints and enquiries from members of the public

- presides at civic ceremonies
- hosts visiting groups, including overseas delegations
- attends and speaks at local functions, sometimes opening them
- declaring a state of civil defence emergency in the district if the need arises.

A Councillors:

- participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole district
- develop policy across a wide range of activities and services
- represent the district at functions as required
- review and develop bylaws for the district
- advocate on a wide range of issues
- coordinate and form partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies
- participate in the appointment and performance review of the chief executive
- act on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework, and setting a budget and rates
- monitor the performance of the council organisation.

but will need to disclose that fact in their candidate profile statement.)

Nominations open on Friday 15 July 2022. If you would like a nomination paper and candidate information handbook sent out, please contact the electoral office closer to this date. Nomination papers will also be available on the council's website (www.gdc.govt.nz) from 15 July 2022, with the candidate information handbook available in April 2022.

Candidate campaigning can commence any time prior to the election (no time restriction), but any expenditure made, within or outside the three month applicable period before election day, must be accounted for.

Candidates

Q8. I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

A You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

When lodging your nomination, proof of citizenship will be required (copy of passport, birth certificate, citizenship certificate).

You will need to have two electors enrolled on the relevant Parliamentary Electoral Roll in the area you are standing for to nominate you – e.g. if you stand for a councillor position in the Tairāwhiti General Ward, the nominators will need to be two electors enrolled on the Parliamentary General Electoral Roll for that ward. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which they are standing

Q9. How much will it cost me to stand?

A You will need to pay a nomination deposit of \$200 GST inclusive. This deposit applies to each election (position) you stand for.

Your nomination deposit can be paid by electronic bank transfer, EFTPOS or cash. Cheques will not be accepted.

If you poll more than 25% of the final quota as determined by the last iteration (for STV elections), you will receive your nomination deposit back.

Your nomination must be received by 12 noon Friday 12 August 2022.

Q10. What qualifications and experience do I need?

A Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a will/desire to serve the community.

All (or some) of the following capabilities will be useful in the elected member role:

- quality decision-making
 - political acumen
 - leadership
 - cultural awareness
 - strategic thinking
 - knowledge and understanding of Gisborne District Council and local government
 - communication and engagement
 - relationship building and collaboration.
-

Q11. Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?

A No, not for the Gisborne District Council elections.

Q12. How long is the term of the elected member?

A Three years.

Q13. Do I need to be resident in the area I am standing for?

A No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and be a New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony). You will however need to disclose whether or not you reside in the area you are standing for in the candidate profile statement.

The two people who nominate you must be on the relevant Parliamentary Electoral Roll within the area you are standing for.

Q14. Do I need to be on the Māori electoral roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in the Māori ward?

A No. To be eligible you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

You will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the Māori electoral roll within the area of election for which you are standing.

Equally if you are on the Māori electoral roll you can stand in a general ward, and will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the general electoral roll within the area of election for which you are standing.

Q15. How many positions can I stand for?

A You can stand for mayor and a ward councillor, but if you are elected to both positions, you must take the highest ranked position.

You cannot stand for more than one ward.

Q16. Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A Only if it is withdrawn before the close of nominations. You cannot withdraw voluntarily after nominations have closed. If you decide to opt out, your name will still appear on the voting document. If you do change your mind and decide not to run for election after you have been nominated, let the electoral officer know who will talk through the issues with you.

However, if you become incapacitated with serious illness or injury and unlikely to be able to perform the functions and duties if elected to office, an application to withdraw your nomination on those grounds can be made. Verification from a doctor or a lawyer about your situation will be required. See the electoral officer if you need more information about this process.

Q17. What is a candidate profile statement?

A You may provide a candidate profile statement when you lodge your nomination. This is a statement of up to 150 words containing information about yourself and your policies and intentions if elected to office. The profile statement will be included in the voting packs that all electors receive.

Your candidate statement can be submitted in both Māori and English, but the information contained in each language must be substantially consistent with the information contained in the other language. Each language has to be within a 150-word limit.

In addition, your candidate profile statement must state whether or not your principal place of residence is in the area you are seeking election, e.g., 'My principal place of residence is in the Tairāwhiti Māori Ward area', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Tairāwhiti Māori Ward area'. This is not part of the 150-word limit.

Your profile statement must be true and accurate. The electoral officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in your statement.

Your profile can include a recent passport size colour photograph.

See section 61 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for more information.

Q18. How much can I spend on my campaign?

A There is a limit on what you can spend on your campaign and it relates to the population of the area you are standing for.

The maximum amount that can be spent by a candidate cannot exceed the limits set out below:

Local government area population	Expenditure limit
Up to 4,999	\$3,500
5,000 – 9,999	\$7,000
10,000 – 19,999	\$14,000
20,000 – 39,999	\$20,000
40,000 – 59,999	\$30,000
60,000 – 79,999	\$40,000
80,000 – 99,999	\$50,000
100,000 – 149,999	\$55,000
150,000 – 249,999	\$60,000
250,000 – 1,000,000	\$70,000
1,000,000 or more	\$100,000*

* plus 50 cents for each elector

As an indication, the populations for each positions (as at 2020) and respective expenditure limits are:

Position	Population	Expenditure limit
Mayor	50,740	\$30,000
Tairāwhiti General Ward councillor	31,810	\$20,000
Tairāwhiti Māori Ward councillor	18,930	\$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.

Please note that any expenditure made by a candidate for an election campaign is funded by the candidate and is not refundable by the council to the candidate.

All candidates are required to lodge an electoral donations and expenses return within 55 days after the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected (by 9 December 2022).

If a candidate is outside New Zealand on this day, the return must be filed within 76 days after election result day.

If a return is not submitted within the required time period, the non-return will be advised to the New Zealand Police for enforcement.

The return needs to be received before a candidate nomination deposit is refunded if appropriate.

Q19. Can I raise campaign funds from donations and can I claim expenses?

A Yes, you can raise funds and claim expenses from your campaign. There is very specific legislation about donations and expenses which you need to abide by.

See the electoral officer if you need more information.

Q20. When is the campaign period?

A Election campaigning can start at any time and continue up to and including election day.

Q21. Can people already elected onto council use council resources to campaign?

A No, elected members cannot use council resources for their campaigns.

Q22. Are there any rules about using social media?

A Yes. Councils have policies or guidelines for web and social media use related to campaigning. They will not permit council social media pages to be used by anyone (candidates or members of the public) for electioneering or campaigning in the three months before election day. Councils monitor their websites and take down any campaign related posts.

Q23. Can I help people vote or collect their voting documents to send in?

A No, candidates or their assistants should not collect voting documents from electors. Each elector should post or deliver their own voting document to the electoral officer.

It is an offence (carrying a fine of up to \$5,000 if convicted) to interfere in any way with an elector with the intention of influencing or advising the elector as to how he or she should vote. Candidates and their assistants should be mindful of this particularly if campaigning

occurs in facilities such as rest homes or hospitals.

Q24. When do nominations close?

A Nominations close at 12 noon Friday 12 August 2022.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not to leave lodging their nomination until the last day, as to do so may mean having to queue and should there be an error with the nomination, little time to have it corrected.

Enrolment

Q25. Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A The preliminary electoral roll will be available for public inspection for a one-month period from Friday 15 July 2022 to Friday 12 August 2022.

The preliminary electoral roll will be available for inspection at:

- Council's Main Office, 15 Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne
- Te Puia Springs Service Centre, 4746 Waiapu Road, Te Puia Springs.

The availability of the above locations is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions in place. Should any COVID-19 restrictions be in place, refer to the council's website.

Q26. How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

A 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 electoral roll at an address in the Gisborne District Council area?
➤ Yes

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

Or

A Is this your main place of residence?
➤ Yes
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the Gisborne District Council area?
➤ No or Don't Know

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

- enrol online at www.vote.nz
- ring 0800 36 76 56
- Freetext your name and address to 3676
- download a form at www.vote.nz
- pick a form up at your local New Zealand Post agency.

Or

Is this your main place of residence?
➤ No
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral 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 non-resident ratepayer elector. (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice in Q32.)

Q27. I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

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

Q28. I am a New Zealand Māori; do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?

A Not necessarily. If you are enrolling for the first time you can decide whether you want to go on the Parliamentary Māori Electoral Roll or the Parliamentary 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.

If you are enrolled on the Māori electoral roll, you will be able to vote for the mayor and the Māori ward councillors. If you are enrolled on the general electoral roll, you will be able to vote for the mayor and the respective general ward councillors.

Q29. How do I know whether I am enrolled?

- A The Electoral Commission will be undertaking a roll update campaign at the beginning of July 2022 for the Parliamentary Electoral Roll which forms the basis of the electoral roll for the Gisborne District Council elections.

If you do not receive a letter in the post during early July 2022, the chances are you are not enrolled or your details are incorrect. You will then need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form.

You can check to see if you are enrolled at www.vote.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Q30. I turn 18 on the election day. Can I vote?

- A 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 during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon, Saturday 8 October 2022).

For special vote availability, see Q47.

Q31. We own a business in the Gisborne District Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Gisborne District Council area – do we get a say in the Gisborne District Council elections?

- A Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available:

- online (www.gdc.govt.nz)
- or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The non-resident ratepayer enrolment form should be returned to the electoral officer by 12 August 2022 and no later than 7 October 2022 in order to vote.

If it is after Friday 12 August 2022, a special voting document will need to be requested and will be issued on 16 September 2022, the start of the voting period.

For special vote availability, see Q47.

Q32. I own a property in the Gisborne District Council area, but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the ratepayer electoral roll?

- A Is your name on the rates notice?
➤ Yes

You may be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available:

- online (www.gdc.govt.nz)
- or by phoning 0800 922 822.

This form should be returned to the electoral officer or an electoral official by 12 August 2022 and no later than 7 October 2022 in order to vote.

If it is after Friday 12 August 2022, a special voting document will need to be requested and will be issued on 16 September 2022, the start of the voting period.

If it is easier, you can call at a special voting venue during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022) and complete the ratepayer enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time.

For special vote availability, see Q47.

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

- A Is your name on the rates notice?
➤ No

You may not be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Voting

Q33. Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?

- A All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Friday 16 September 2022 and Wednesday 21 September 2022.

There is no online voting option available.

Q34. I got my voting document but my partner didn't receive theirs.

- A Is it before Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ Yes

Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Wednesday 21 September 2022. If your voting document is not received, then please call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

- A Is it after Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ Yes

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see Q47.

- A Is it after Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am not correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ No

You will need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form. These are available at any New Zealand Post agency, or you can enrol online at www.vote.nz or ring 0800 36 76 56 or send your name and address to Freetext 3676.

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see Q47.

Q35. I didn't get my voting document, so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two voting documents. Which one should I use?

- A Use the original one and destroy the special vote.
-

Q36. I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) and have Power of Attorney for that person. Can I vote for that person?

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

Q37. I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) who does not live here. What should I do with the voting document?

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

If they are for an elderly parent who is incapable of voting, please destroy it by ripping/cutting it up. You cannot vote on their behalf unless instructed by them.

Q38. I received a voting document that does not belong to me and I don't know this person or where this person has gone.

- A Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.
-

Q39. What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?

- A It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode to mark the electoral roll that you have returned your vote so we can ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.
-

Q40. How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?

- A Returned 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.

Note that the voter's name is not shown on the voting document.

When the envelope is opened, the only thing the electoral office is looking for is that the vote for each election is valid.

This means that for STV elections we make sure that no preference numbers are used more than once or omitted, (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5), and that there is always a number 1 marked against a candidate's name. It should be like this: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc., in numerical order up to as many preferences as the voter wishes to vote for.

Q41. Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates.

A No, you don't have to vote, but we do encourage you to vote and exercise your democratic right.

You 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.

To help you get to know about the candidates:

- There may be candidate meetings being held in your community if you wish to go and hear what policies the different candidates are advocating for.
- There is a candidate profile booklet that comes with the voting document in which there is a photo and a statement from each candidate. This information will also be available on the council's website (www.gdc.govt.nz) after nominations close (expected 19 August 2022).
- 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 media are likely to cover information about the election.

Q42. Do I have to post my voting document back?

A You can post it but make sure you have it in the mail by Tuesday 4 October 2022 to make sure it gets back to us in time (by 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022).

However, you can also hand deliver your voting document to a ballot box during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022).

For ballot box locations see Q47.

Q43. I have lost my return envelope.

A You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Freepost number on it. (You will not need to put a stamp on the envelope if you write the Freepost number on the envelope and post it in New Zealand.)

Freepost number 4170
The Electoral Office
Gisborne District Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Q44. I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote please.

A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a special vote.

Q45. I didn't receive my voting document; how do I obtain a special vote?

A Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?
➤ Yes

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see Q47.

A Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?
➤ No/Don't Know

If you are not enrolled or not enrolled correctly on the Parliamentary electoral roll, you will need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can pick one up at any New Zealand Post agency, or you can enrol online at www.vote.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 close of business Friday 7 October 2022.

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see Q47.

Q46. I spoiled my voting documents / I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?

A If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear, then do so.

If necessary, we can issue you with a special voting document (phone 0800 922 822), but this will take time and require you to complete a declaration.

Q47. Where can I have a special vote?

- A Special votes can be obtained from:
- Council's Main Office, 15 Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne
 - Te Puia Springs Service Centre, 4746 Waiapu Road, Te Puia Springs
 - or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The availability of the above locations is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions in place. Should any COVID-19 restrictions be in place, refer to the council's website.

Q48. I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.

- A You will need to contact the electoral office for a special vote on 0800 922 822.
-

Q49. Do I have to vote for all the candidates for any election? If I don't vote for all the candidates or all the elections on my voting document, will all my votes be informal?

- A Under STV you can vote for all or as many candidates as you wish but these must be in order of your preference and no number can be repeated. Remember for STV, you rank the candidates you want to elect from number 1 onwards.

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

Q50. Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward?

- A You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live and the electoral roll you are on.

For example, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in another ward because you are not an elector of that other ward.

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general ward if you are on the Māori electoral roll and voting in the Māori ward election.

Q51. My partner's document and mine are different and there are more/less things to vote for. Why is the list of candidates different?

- A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.
-

Q52. I have received two voting documents.

- A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.
-

Q53. Do all the staff working on the election know who I voted for?

- A No, your vote remains secret under the required separate roll scrutiny and vote counting procedures.
-

Q54. Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

- A Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote.

If authorised by a voter who is physically or visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter.

Q55. What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

- A They are delivered to the Gisborne District Court and kept for 21 days so that the Court can access them should there be any application for a recount or inquiry.

After 21 days, the Court is responsible for destroying them.

Q56. What is STV and how do I vote in an STV election?

- A STV will be used for the Gisborne District Council elections for the first time.

STV stands for single transferable voting and is a preferential system of voting where you can rank as few or as many candidates as you like. It is a single vote which can be transferred between candidates to ensure the vote

contributes to the election of at least one candidate and is not wasted. If a popular candidate does not need all the votes he or she receives, a proportion is transferred to the voter's next preference. On the other hand, if a candidate is not popular and receives few votes, those votes are transferred to a voter's next preference.

For more information about STV, go to www.stv.govt.nz.

To exercise a STV vote, start by writing the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number 2 next to your second most preferred candidate and so on 3, 4, 5 etc.

You can write as many preferences or as few as you like up to however many candidates are standing for that election.

You must write the number 1 for your vote to be counted.

Do not write the same number more than once, e.g. 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, and do not miss a number from your preferences, e.g. 1, 2, 4, 5.

Election Results

Q57. When will we know the results of the election?

- A Progress results will be announced as soon as practicable on the afternoon of election day, Saturday 8 October 2022.

Preliminary results will be announced on Sunday morning, once all votes received at council offices (up until 12 noon on election day) have been delivered to the electoral office in Auckland and processed.

The official results will be announced when special votes have been validated, expected to be Thursday 13 October 2022.

Q58. How will I find out?

Candidates:

- A Will be advised by email as soon as practicable after the progress and preliminary results are known, on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October 2022 respectively.

Voters:

- A Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on the council's website (www.gdc.govt.nz) as soon as they are known, on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October 2022 respectively.

Q59. What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

- A Under legislation a candidate can challenge the declaration of results through either a judicial recount or a judicial inquiry. A candidate will have to provide reasons for the challenge and a deposit of \$750 with the application to the Gisborne District Court.

A candidate may wish to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 to discuss this.

Elected Members

Q60. When do elected members take up their roles?

- A Elected members take up office the day after the official result has been declared by public notice. However, members cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of the Council or community board. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known.

Q61. Who are elected members responsible to?

- A 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 Council follows the law.

Q62. Do elected members get paid and if so, how much?

- A Remuneration is set by the Remuneration Authority. The newly elected council will decide how to apply the pool of funding. Some expenses are also reimbursed*.

As an indication, the current remuneration is:

Office	Annual remuneration
Mayor	\$155,000
Deputy Mayor	\$66,674
Chairperson Operations Committee	\$57,784
Chairperson Regional Transport Committee and Rural Councillor	\$53,339
Chairperson Wastewater Management Committee	\$53,339
Rural Councillor	\$46,672
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	\$44,449
Councillor (Minimum Allowable Remuneration)	\$37,915

* For further information refer www.remauthority.govt.nz.

Q63. Would being an elected member take up much time?

A Being an elected member is a busy job that often involves meetings, events and speaking with community members outside of normal business hours. Flexibility and the ability to prioritise and manage time effectively are essential. This includes balancing a high volume of reading, paperwork and emails with a schedule of meetings and public commitments.

Consequently, the mayor is considered a fulltime job and councillors are generally considered part-time jobs.

Q64. How many elected members are there?

A Elections are being held for:

- mayor (elected 'at large')
- 13 councillors (elected district-wide from one Māori ward and one general ward).

Election Signs

Q65. What are the requirements for election signs?

A Election sign rules are set by the council's General Rules of the District Plan and all election signs must comply with this. In addition to private property, there are seven approved council-owned sites on which

election signs may be erected in the period six-weeks before election day (Saturday 27 August 2022 to midnight Friday 7 October 2022).

Q66. What locations can signs be erected?

Any private property.

Seven approved council-owned sites, these being:

- Kaiti Memorial Park, adjacent to Rutene Road and Wainui Road
- Alfred Cox Park, adjacent to Grey Street opposite the Information Centre
- Botanical Gardens, adjacent to Aberdeen Road
- Childers Road Reserve, adjacent to Childers Road
- Lysnar Reserve
- Lytton Road Bridge (Nelson Park)
- Adjacent to Waerenga-o-Kuri Hall.

Q67. When can they be erected and when must they be pulled down?

A Election signs can only be displayed during the period commencing six weeks prior to election day and must be removed before midnight on the day before election day – i.e. from Saturday 27 August 2022 until midnight Friday 7 October 2022.

Election Sign Complaints

Q68. I have a complaint about the electoral signage.

A Council's election sign rules are monitored and enforced by council. Any complaints around election signs in the first instance should be directed to the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q69. The signs don't have the required authorisation on them.

A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822