

# FAQs

Whakatāne District Council's

Local Elections

8 October 2022



**VOTE**  
**2022**  
LOCAL ELECTIONS

 **WHAKATĀNE**  
District Council  
*Kia Whakatāne au i ahau*



# CONTENTS

General information .....	3
Candidates .....	4
Elections .....	7
Voting .....	9
Members.....	13
Election signs .....	15
Election sign complaints .....	15
Enrolment .....	6
Voting .....	8
Election Results .....	11
Members .....	12
Election Signs .....	13
Election Sign Complaints .....	13

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Whakatāne District Council elections

### General information

**Q1. When is the next Whakatāne District Council election?**

A Election day is Saturday, 8 October 2022 with voting closing at 12 noon. 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 Ofoske,  
Independent Election Services Ltd Electoral  
Office: Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland  
Phone: 0800 922 822  
Email: dale.ofoske@electionservices.co.nz

The deputy electoral officer is:  
Cindy Butt, Manager Governance Services  
Whakatāne District Council  
4 Commerce Street, Whakatāne  
Phone: 07 306 0500  
Email: cindy.butt@whakatane.govt.nz

**Q4. What type of electoral system is used?**

A The FPP (first past the post) electoral system is used for the Whakatāne District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council elections.

For a 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, ward councillors, community board members and Bay of Plenty Regional Council members. There are no longer elections held for district health boards. Following the decision to establish Māori wards in 2021, Whakatāne District Council undertook a representation arrangements review (review of wards, boundaries, numbers of elected members etc). As a result of this, there will be 10 councillors being elected from the following six wards\*:

Ward	Councillors
Rangitāiki General	2
Whakatāne-Ōhope General	4
Te Urewera General	1
Rangitāiki Māori	1
Kapu te rangi Māori	1
Toi ki Uta Māori	1

In addition, there will be 24 community board members elected as follows\*:

Community board	Members
Rangitāiki	6
Whakatāne-Ōhope	6
Tāneatua	6
Murupara (Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision)	2
Murupara (Murupara Subdivision)	3
Murupara (Te Urewera Subdivision)	1

\*subject to determination by the Local Government Commission, expected by 10 April 2022.

For further information refer to Council's website [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

**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, members of general wards are elected by those enrolled to vote on the general electoral roll.

- » participate in the appointment and performance review of the chief executive;
- » act on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework;
- » setting a budget and rates;
- » monitor the performance of the council organisation.

---

**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 Community board members:

- » promote residents' issues and initiatives to the board and the council;
- » monitor the provision of council services and advocate changes as necessary;
- » engage in community development activities in conjunction with the council;
- » take a proactive stance anticipating strategies and policies that may be needed;
- » represent the community to other agencies;
- » promote the role of the community board in the wider community;
- » work cooperatively with the council.

A Mayor and 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;

---

## 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 or certificate of citizenship).

You will need to have two electors enrolled on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll in the area you are standing for to nominate you – e.g. if you stand for the Rangitāiki General Ward, the nominators will need to be two electors enrolled on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for that ward. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which they are standing but will need to disclose that fact in their candidate profile statement).

Nominations open on Friday 15 July 2022 and close at 12 noon, Friday 12 August 2022.

Nomination material will be available during this period from:

- » Whakatāne District Council's temporary customer service centre, 4 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
- » Murupara Service Centre and Library, Civic Square, 48 Pine Drive, Murupara
- » online at [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)
- » phone 0800 922 822

The availability of 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 [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

A candidate information handbook will be available in April 2022.

---

**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 you stand for.

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

If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate, you will receive your nomination deposit back.

---

**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 Whakatāne 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 Whakatāne 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 citizenship 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 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 one of the Māori wards?**

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, a ward councillor and a community board member, but if you are elected to more than one position you take the highest ranked position.

You cannot stand for more than one ward, or for both the Whakatāne District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.vw v

**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 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 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.

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.

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 Rangitāiki General Ward’, or ‘My principal place of residence is not in theRangitāiki General Ward’. This is not part of the 150-word limit.

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

\*plus 50 cents for each elector

For example, a candidate for the Whakatāne-Ōhope Ward (which has a population in the range of 10,000 – 19,999) can spend up to \$14,000 inclusive of GST.

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 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.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**Q24. When do nominations close?**

A **Nominations close at 12 noon Friday, 12 August 2022.**

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not 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.

---

## Elections

**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:

- » Whakatāne District Council's temporary customer service centre, 4 Commerce Street, Whakatāne
- » Murupara Library & Service Centre, Civic Square, 48 Pine Drive, Murupara
- » Edgecumbe Library, 38 College Road, Edgecumbe
- » Ōhope Library, 4 Harbour Road, Ōhope
- » Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre (Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi), 49 Kākahoroa Drive, Whakatāne.

The availability of 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 [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

A 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 Q31 and Q32).

---

**Q26. 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 Electoral Roll at your current address in the Whakatāne District Council area?

» **Yes**

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

Or

Is this your main place of residence?

» **Yes**

Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the Whakatāne District Council area?

» **No or Don't Know**

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

- » enrol online at [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz)
- » ring 0800 36 76 56
- » send your name and address to Freetext 3676
- » download a form at [vote.nz](http://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**

---

**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 a person is enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the mayor, the respective Māori ward councillors and the respective community board members. If a person is enrolled on the General Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the mayor, the respective general ward councillors and the respective community board members.

---

**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 Whakatāne 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.

If you have recently changed address, you will need to update your address details on [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) You can check to see if you are enrolled at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

**Q30. I turn 18 on 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 Whakatāne District Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Whakatāne District Council area – do we get a say in the Whakatāne 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 [whakatane.govt.nz](https://www.whakatane.govt.nz);
- » any Whakatāne District Council office;
- » or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The non-resident ratepayer enrolment form should be returned to the electoral officer by Friday, 12 August 2022 and no later than Friday, 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.

---

**Q32. I own a property in the Whakatāne 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. Contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a ratepayer enrolment form. This should be returned to the electoral officer or an electoral official by Friday, 12 August 2022 and no later than Friday, 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 the 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.

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.

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 [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) or ring  
0800 36 76 56 or send your name and  
address to Freetext 3676.

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

**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 we are making sure that the  
voter's intention is clear and the voter has not  
ticked or marked more than the number  
of candidates than there are vacancies.

**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 the 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

**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 post 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.

will also be available on the council's website ([whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)) after nominations close (expected 19 August 2022);

- » candidates may have their own website, 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).

Note that the Murupara Service Centre closes at 5pm Friday, 7 October 2022 and will not be open on Saturday morning, 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 4710  
The Electoral Office  
Whakatāne District Council  
PO Box 5135  
Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142

---

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

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

**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.

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](http://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 vote (for special vote availability, see Q47), 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 during the voting period (16 September 2022 to 12 noon, Saturday, 8 October 2022) from:

- » Whakatāne District Council's temporary customer service centre, 4 Commerce Street, Whakatāne - Murupara Library & Service Centre, Civic Square, Murupara (until 5pm Friday, 7 October 2022) - or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The availability of 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 [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

---

**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 impaired, 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 Whakatāne District Court and kept for 21 days so that the Court can access them should there be any application for a recount or petition for inquiry.

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

---

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

A This is the first past the post voting system. The candidate or candidates that gets the most votes wins.

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.

---

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

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

---

**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 You can vote for as many candidates as you want to but not more than the number of positions available on the voting document. So, if you are electing two councillors then you can vote for up to two candidates. Remember, for FPP you tick the candidates you want to elect.

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 or community board?**

A You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live. You cannot vote for a candidate who is standing for example in another ward because you are not an elector of that other ward.

---

**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 Candidates for all elections are listed in random order – this means that every voting document has a different order of candidate names for each election.

For any other differences, you will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

## Election results

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

A Progress results will be announced early afternoon of election day. Preliminary results will be announced on the morning of Sunday, 9 October 2022, once all votes received at the 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 checked and included in the final result, expected to be Thursday, 13 October 2022.

### Q58. How will I find out?

Candidates:

A Will be advised as soon as possible after progress results are known on Saturday, 8 October 2022, and preliminary results are known on Sunday, 9 October 2022. This may be by email or phone.

Voters:

A Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on council's website ([whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)) as soon as practicable on the afternoon of Saturday, 8 October 2022 and on 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 Whakatāne District Court.

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

## 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, found on the Council's website. However, members cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of the council. 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 A remuneration pool 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	134,000
Deputy Mayor	67,351
Committee Chairperson (3)	56,126
Deputy Committee Chairperson (2)	41,159
Councillor with no additional responsibilities (4)	37,417
Councillor (Minimum Allowable Remuneration)	33,375

Murupara Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration (\$)
Chairperson	8,107
Member	4,053

Rangitāiki Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration (\$)
Chairperson	10,515
Member	5,258

Tāneatua Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration (\$)
Chairperson	8,107
Member	4,053

Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration (\$)
Chairperson	17,581
Member	8,790

For further information refer [remauthority.govt.nz](http://remauthority.govt.nz)

#### Q64. How many elected members are there?

- A Elections are being held for:
- » Mayor (elected 'at large')
  - » Councillors – 10 (elected from 6 wards)
    - 2 from the Rangitāiki General Ward
    - 4 from the Whakatāne-Ōhope General Ward
    - 1 from the Te Urewera General Ward
    - 1 from the Rangitāiki Māori Ward
    - 1 from the Kapu te rangi Māori Ward
    - 1 from the Toi ki Uta Māori Ward
  - » Community board members – 24 (elected from 4 community boards)
    - 6 from the Rangitāiki Community Board
    - 6 from the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board
    - 6 from the Tāneatua Community Board
    - 2 from the Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board
    - 3 from the Murupara Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board
    - 1 from the Te Urewera Subdivision of the Murupara Community Board
  - » Bay of Plenty Regional Council members – either 2 from the Eastern Bay of Plenty General Constituency or 1 from the Kōhi Māori Constituency.

#### 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 and community board members are generally considered part-time jobs.

# Election signs

## Q65. What are the requirements for election signs?

A Election signs are referenced in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and council's election signs policy – which must be complied with.

Local Electoral Act 2001

All election material, including signs and hoardings, must show an authorisation statement (name and physical address of the candidate or the candidate's agent). Not to do so is an electoral offence.

Refer section 113 Local Electoral Act 2001.

Council's election signs policy:

### Time

The maximum period of time during which a sign, poster or placard may be displayed is from 12.01am Saturday, 13 August 2022 to midnight Tuesday, 11 October 2022.

### Size

The maximum permitted face surface area of any sign is 3 sq. m. (approx. 1700mm x 1700mm) and be competently constructed and comply with the NZ Building Code where necessary.

### Placement

Signs advertising a candidate standing for election can only be displayed on private property, provided landowner permission is given.

Signs are not permitted on council roads, State Highways, council reserves or any other council property.

No sign may be placed or displayed: in or within 15 metres of a road safety or direction sign;

» where it may obstruct driver visibility along the road, at intersections or driveways or at a railway level crossing.

No sign may be rotating, flashing, reflective or illuminated.

Poorly maintained signs which may present a danger to road users or the general public will be removed by council staff.

Signs located next to any state highway must have minimum lettering height according to the speed limit.

### Further information

For further information relating to council's election signs policy refer to [whakatane.govt.nz](http://whakatane.govt.nz)

---

## Election sign complaints

### Q66. I have a complaint about the electoral signage.

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

A You will need to contact the council's Planning Monitoring Officer on 07 306 0500.

The signs are bigger than they should be or have been pulled over or damaged:

A You will need to contact the council's Planning Monitoring Officer on 07 306 0500.