

Candidate Information Presentation for **Ashburton District Council**



Anthony Morton
ADC Electoral Officer



Hamish Riach
ADC Chief Executive

2019 Local Government Elections

PART ONE

What is local government all about?



VOTE
2019
LOCAL ELECTIONS

PŌTI
2019
NĀA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE

What is Local Government all about?



It's a complex business!

Under more than 125 pieces of legislation, Council is responsible for:

- Formulating the District's strategic direction in conjunction with the community through the Long Term Plan (LTP) and reporting on progress
- Determining the services and activities to be undertaken by the Council
- Managing various regulations and upholding the law, including the formulation and enforcement of bylaws
- Advocating on behalf of the local community with central government, other local authorities and other agencies
- Environmental management through the Ashburton District Plan
- Ensuring local communities are encouraged to contribute to the decision-making processes of local government

What does an elected member do?



- There to represent and lead the district – “eyes and ears”
- Represent interests of council
- Formulate strategic direction and priorities
- Determine budgets
- Monitor performance
- Develop and oversee policy
- Ensure prudent use of council resources
- Employ and monitor the performance of the CE only

Core competencies



- Genuine interest for issues faced by Ashburton citizens
- Relate to wide range of people – good people skills
- Competent listening and public speaking skills
- Express ideas clearly and be results focussed
- Understand, analyse and resolve complex issues
- Understand governance versus management
- Think “district-wide” on issues
- Commit to elected members’ Code of Conduct

Current Council meetings

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voting made easy 



- Council and Committee meetings are held every 6 weeks
- Other subcommittees, working groups, project steering groups etc. are formed as needed
- Generally mayor is full time job, councillor 2-3 days per week and community board member 1-2 days per month
- A lot of reading of reports and agendas required
- Flexible working hours – evening and weekend work required

Council remuneration



- The Remuneration Authority sets remuneration for elected positions in local government
- New salary levels will take effect after October election
- Councillor base salary is the minimum and Councillors receive a higher duties allowances in recognition of additional responsibilities
- Additional expenses, identified in the EM Allowances & Reimbursement Policy can be claimed (eg vehicle mileage, communications equipment, childcare)

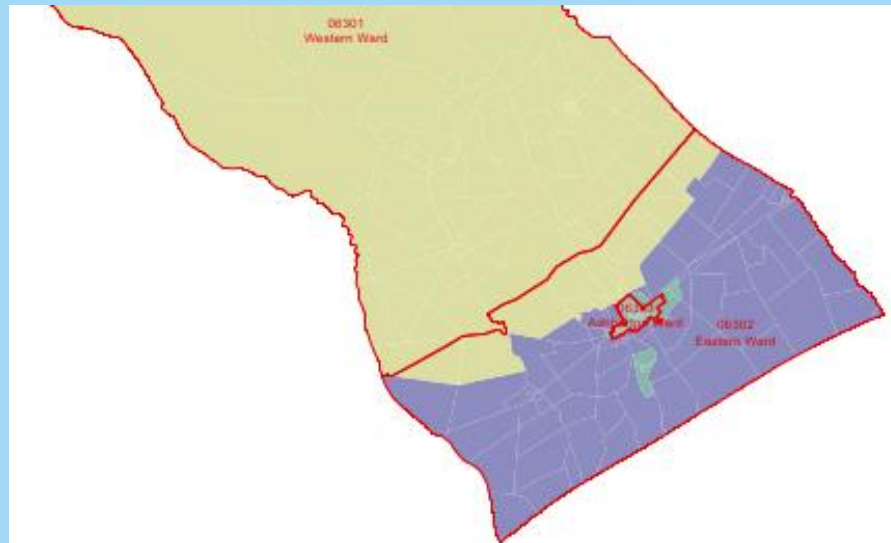
Mayor's salary	\$121,500 p.a.
Base councillor salary	\$25,047 p.a.
Methven Community Board Chair	\$5,396 p.a.
Methven Community Board Member	\$2,698 p.a.

Representation Review

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- Local Government Commission released their decision on Council's representation in April 2019
- Ward boundary changes
 - Lake Hood now included in the Ashburton Urban Ward
 - Boundary between Eastern/Western Ward was shifted closer to State Highway 1
 - Minor changes to align with Statistics New Zealand
- Reduction in the number of Councillors from 12-9
- No change to Methven Community Board representation or boundaries



Pre-Election Report

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- Designed to promote informed discussion about the issues facing Council
- Focused on how Council is performing financially, including our current financial position
- Signals key spending issues
- Provides information on the major projects we expect to deliver in the next three years





PART TWO

2019 Election Details

Electoral Team



Anthony Morton - ADC Electoral Officer

0800 666 928 or ashburtondc@electionz.com

Phillipa Clark - ADC Deputy EO

(03) 307 7700 or phillipa.clark@adc.govt.nz

Who is electionz.com?



- Election management company based in Christchurch
- 10 full time staff
- Average about 200 elections in NZ each year
- EO for 33 councils, 4 RCs and 10 DHBs
- Carrying out vote processing for 42 councils, 650K voting papers

EO for:

- Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Waipa, Otorohanga, Waitomo, South Waikato, Ruapehu, Rangitikei, Manawatu, Palmerston North, Horowhenua, Napier, Central Hawkes Bay, Carterton, Masterton, South Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Wellington, Nelson, Westland, Kaikoura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Selwyn, Ashburton, Mackenzie, Waimate, Waitaki, Dunedin, Central Otago, Gore, Invercargill

Vote processing only for:

- Hastings, Tararua, Hutt, Tasman, Marlborough, Christchurch, Timaru, Queenstown Lakes and Chatham Islands

EO Role & Responsibilities



- The Electoral Officer (EO) is solely responsible for the conduct of the election
- The EO is not subject to the directions of any local authority, elected members, or the CE
- **NB** Not responsible for monitoring campaigning by candidates. Only deals with alleged breaches of the Act by passing them to the Police.

Key Dates



Electoral signs can go up
Nominations open
Nominations close
Delivery of voting papers
Special voting period
Close of voting
Progress results available
Removal of election signs
Official declaration
Candidate expenses deadline

12 July (Friday)
19 July (Friday)
12 noon, 16 August (Friday)
20 – 25 September (Friday-Wednesday)
20 September - 12 October
12 noon, 12 October (Saturday)
12 October, approx 2pm
by midnight **13 October** (Sunday)
likely to be **17 October** (Thursday)
probably **12 December** (Thursday)

Positions to be filled within ADC area:



Mayor

Councillors - 9 councillors from 3 wards

- Ashburton Ward 5 councillors
- Eastern Ward 2 councillors
- Western Ward 2 councillors

Community Board members

- Methven CB 5 members



Ashburton Licensing Trust

- At Large across Trust Area 6 Trustees



Environment Canterbury

- Mid-Canterbury/Ōpakihi 2 members

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Canterbury DHB

7 members at large (STV)

PART THREE

The Nomination Process



Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MAYOR

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL **2019** NOMINATION PAPER

Nominations must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer/Official before 12 noon, Friday 16 August 2019

A: CANDIDATE to fill out after reading important information on reverse

I (candidate's full name),

accept the nomination and confirm that I have read and understand the **Eligibility and Candidacy** notes on the reverse of this form and certify that I am qualified to be a candidate under section 25 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and regulations and that I am not disqualified under section 58 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. In particular, I am a New Zealand citizen and a parliamentary elector and I am not a candidate for election to the Canterbury Regional Council (Environment Canterbury).

Address (as listed on the parliamentary roll):

Email (EO's preferred first point of contact):

Mobile phone:

Home phone:

☐ I understand that the details provided on this nomination paper will be publicly available for election purposes.

Please advise the Electoral Officer at the time of lodging your nomination if there are contact details that you would not like to be published.

Note: Section 55(5) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that this nomination form be available for public inspection at the **Ashburton District Council** offices located at **5 Baring Square West, Ashburton**. Please note that candidate and nominator details provided on this form may also be made available from the **Ashburton District Council** website.

I submit with this nomination
(please tick appropriate circles):



Evidence of NZ
citizenship



Evidence of
deposit (\$200)



Photo



Profile
statement

I understand that, in not providing a profile or photo, the words "Profile/Photo not supplied" will appear below my name in the profile booklet that will be sent out with the voting paper. **All nomination documents must be submitted at the same time.**

My principal place of residence
(tick ONE circle):



is **WITHIN** the Ashburton District area



is **NOT WITHIN** the Ashburton District area

I am also standing for the following elections:

I wish my name to be shown on the voting document as:

I wish to use the following affiliation (To be left blank if the candidate does not wish to use any party/group affiliation. A candidate with no affiliation may request that 'independent' be shown):

Signature:

Date:

Nomination Process



Nomination Period – Friday 19 July to midday Friday 16 August

All nomination documents **must be submitted together**

- Nom paper, profile statement, photo, evidence of \$200 deposit
- Should provide **evidence of NZ Citizenship** (passport, birth cert)
- Can be lodged at Ashburton DC main office or emailed
- Will accept online banking of deposits – evidence required
- Cheques will **not** be accepted
- Candidate contact details will be public info
- Party affiliations – cannot be offensive, confusing, or too long
- Confirmed candidate listings available from council website

Candidate Qualifications



MUST BE:

- A **New Zealand citizen** (required to provide evidence)
- Enrolled on the **parliamentary electoral roll** (in NZ)
- Nominator and seconder on the roll in the area

CANNOT:

- Be serving a prison sentence of three or more years
- Stand for Canterbury Regional Council and ADC
- Have interest in a contract over \$25K per year with council without OAG approval

CAN STAND:

- For both mayor and/or councillor and/or community board and/or ALT
- For DHB and any position on council or ALT
- If you live outside area, but must state that on nom paper

CAN'T WITHDRAW AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Candidate Profile Statements & Photos



Candidate Profiles

- **May** be provided (not mandatory) – see pages 18 & 32 of handbook
- If provided, must be provided electronically with the other nomination documents, as an email attachment (MS Word) or on a pen drive
- Up to **150** words about the candidate, their policies and intentions
- Cannot comment on policies etc of any other candidate
- Hand written profiles will **not** be accepted

Photos

- Should be in **colour, within last 12 months**, head and shoulders shot only (no hats, sunglasses, children, pets or friends)
- Should be supplied electronically as jpgs.
- Profiles and photos on ADC website as soon as ready after close of nominations
- Profiles (and photos) should be emailed to the DEO but a hard copy must be attached to the nom paper if lodging personally **i.e. all docs submitted together**

A: CANDIDATE to fill out after reading important information on reverse

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I submit with this nomination (please tick appropriate circles):



Evidence of NZ citizenship



Evidence of deposit (\$200)



Photo



Profile statement

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is **WITHIN** the Ashburton District area



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Signature:

Date:

Example Profile Statement

Wellington City Council

Electing the Mayor



Celia WADE-BROWN

a good choice for Wellington

My principal place of residence is not in the Wellington City Council area.

Auto-populated text

I am also standing for the Northern Ward and the Capital and Coast DHB.

Celia Wade-Brown is an approachable, fair and inclusive leader. Her positive Council contribution, community work and business background offer a good combination of skills. She has protected heritage and open space, led significant energy and water

Hard-coded text

PART FOUR

Campaigning



Campaigning



- Can commence any time
- Generally no rules around campaigning or conduct, but:
 - Can't use council resources for campaigning (logo, branding, colours, ADC FB or twitter feed, photos, council buildings)
 - Voting papers should not be collected from electors by candidates or their assistants
- Election expenses for campaigning must be recorded and declared in a return after the election
- **Any campaign material must have an authorisation** (signs, posters, billboards, flyers, ads, cars, social media) from the candidate or their agent, stating their name, and physical address
 - Not a PO Box, Private Bag, rural number, website address, council's street address
 - Should be on the front of the sign or promotional material (not the back)
- Any content of signs is subject to ASA guidelines and complaints process – must be factual
- Usual rules of defamation apply but don't complain to EO if you don't like what someone says about you!

Social Media



During the three month election period:

- 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
- ADC social media channels cannot be used for electioneering by candidates or members of the public – will be 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
- During the lead up to elections, the current Mayor and Councillors may be used in social media posts where it is appropriate and is considered 'business as usual' to use them.
- e.g. you cannot campaign on Council's channels, or piggyback on their audiences

Election signs



- See page 24 of candidate handbook
- Election signs can go up from **Friday 12 July** (3 months prior to election day)
- Must comply with ADC hoardings policy re size and placement
- Can be on private land, with owners permission
- One sign per candidate per site
- NZTA rules apply for State Highways, see page 24
- Vehicle signwriting is ok – cost of running a vehicle if it is own personal transport is **not** an election expense
- Must include authorisation statement
- Complaints made to ADC's Enforcement Officers – not the EO or DEO
- Election signs to come down by midnight **Sunday 13 October**

Authorisation on Signs



VOTE

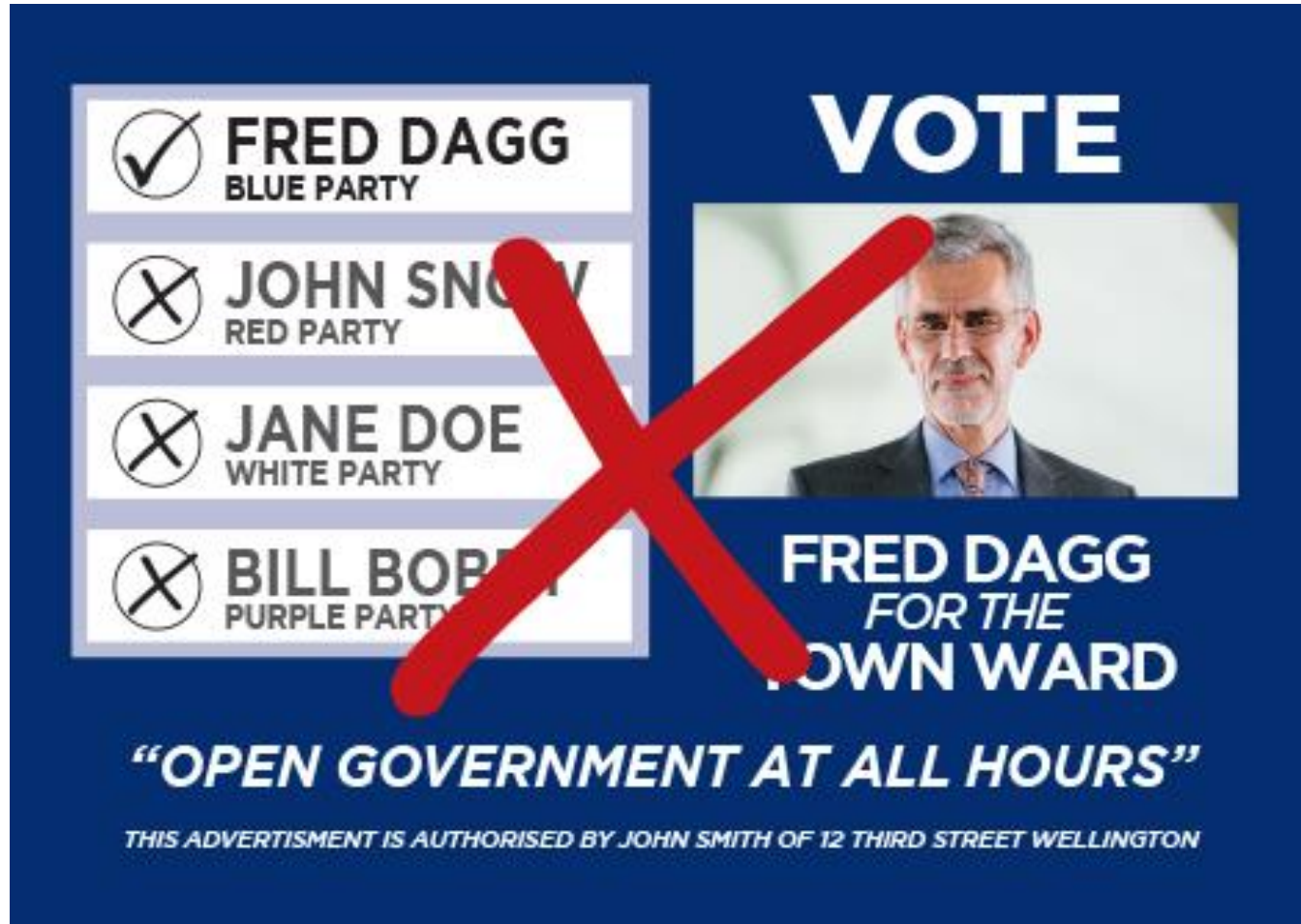
 **FRED DAGG**

**FOR THE
TOWN WARD**

***“OPEN GOVERNMENT
AT ALL HOURS”***

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS AUTHORISED BY GLADYS
EMMANUEL OF 99 DONCASTER STREET HASTINGS

Example of Non-compliant Sign



Election Expenditure Limits



Ashburton Mayoralty	\$20,000
Ashburton Ward	\$14,000
Eastern Ward	\$7,000
Western Ward	\$7,000
Methven CB	\$3,500
Ashburton Licensing Trust	\$20,000

Election Expenses

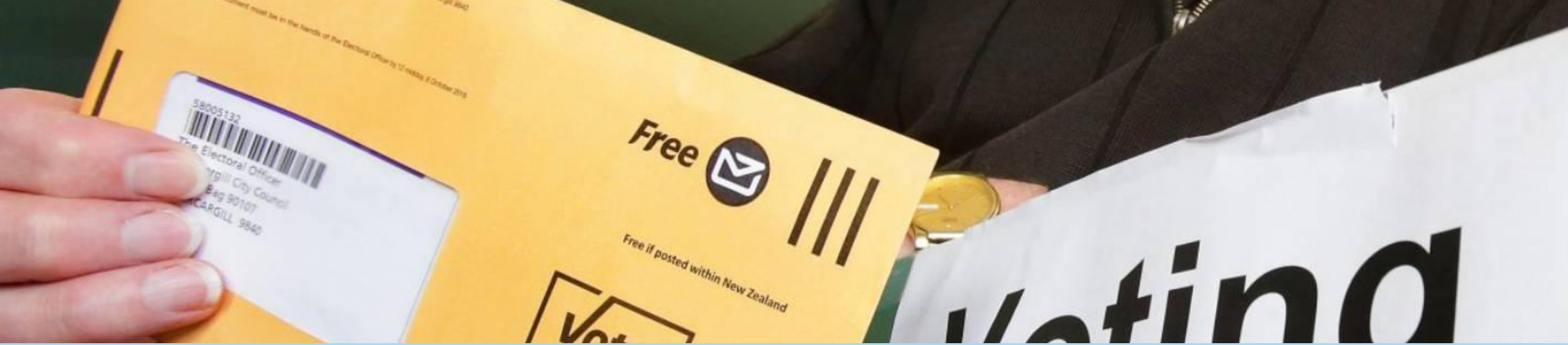


- If standing for more than one position the higher limit applies
- The applicable period for which campaign expenditure limits apply is 3 months before election day - **12 July 2019**
- Candidates required to provide details of electoral expenses incurred before or after the applicable period to Electoral Officer – pro-rata expenses for activity outside the 3 months
- Electoral expenses and electoral donation returns required within 55 days after the official result declaration – about 12 December
- Deposit not refunded until the return is completed (provided candidate gets more than 25% of the votes of the lowest successful candidate)
- Electoral expenses and electoral donations returns are public documents - available on council website for **7 years**
- See pages 20 & 34 of handbook

Electoral Donations



- No time limit on when donations are received, every donation to be recorded
- You don't have to accept a donation – be careful of reason for donation
- If over \$1500 must be included in candidate expenditure return
- No such thing as an “anonymous” donation if you know who it has come from:
 - someone can't give a donation and ask for it to be treated anonymously
 - anonymous means you don't know who it came from, can't reasonably work it out
 - A third party who passes on a donation must disclose who the donor is
- An anonymous donation cannot be over \$1,500:
 - if it is, candidate can't keep balance over \$1,500, it must be given to EO to pass onto council
 - a donation made up of contributions (e.g. to a trust) is treated as one donation, and can't be over \$1,500
 - it is an offence to circumvent \$1,500 limit, i.e. by deliberately splitting up a donation into smaller contributions.



PART FIVE

Election Process and Results



Voting Process



- Postal voting only – no early voting process
- Voter packs lodged with NZ Post Thursday 19 September
- Deliveries from 20 September
- Closes 12 noon on election day, 12 October 2019
- Special voting available in person at the Council office, or can be posted out to applicants
- Applicants can come in or contact DEO by phone or email
- Candidates should not collect voting documents on behalf of electors

Election Results



Preliminary count occurs from 12 noon, Saturday 12 October 2019

Progress results expected about **2pm** – approx 98% of votes received (not special votes and votes in transit to processing centre).

Progress results:

- Will be available from council's website
- email to all candidates with email address

Preliminary results expected by Sunday 13 October, after all ordinary votes have been processed

Final results expected by Thursday 17 October, after special votes have been processed

Coming into Office



- All members come into office on the day following the day on which the candidates are declared to be elected
- This is the day after the public notice has been published - expected to be Friday 18 or Saturday 19 October
- Successful candidates contacted by mayor/staff
- Council's inaugural meeting and the "swearing in" of elected members (elected candidates cannot act until this has occurred)

Resources



ADC website – www.adc.govt.nz

- candidate handbook and nomination papers
- Links to other election related organisations and material
- **ADC's Pre-election report** – available in July 2019:
 - To inform the community and candidates on key aspects of Council business
 - To set out major projects and expenditure for next 3 years
 - To promote discussion on issues and inform any elections debate

Legislation (LEA, LER) – viewable from www.legislation.govt.nz

Ashburton Licensing Trust – www.ashburtontrust.co.nz

Canterbury Regional Council – www.ecan.govt.nz

Canterbury DHB – www.cdhb.health.nz

Last words



Nominations – don't be late!

Campaigning – stick to your own promotion

Election results – on websites/email –
progress/prelim/final

Election day – Saturday 12 October 2019

Good luck!!