Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections

2025 Local Elections Candidate Briefing Presentation

7 July 2025





Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 1

What is local government all about?



Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 2

2025 Election details



About electionz.com?

- Election services company based in Ōtautahi Christchurch
- 10 full time staff
- Average 200 elections in NZ each year (other than councils)
- Electoral Officer (EO) for 44 councils, 8 regional councils



- Carrying out vote processing for 47 councils, approx 825,000 returned voting papers
- Vote Processing centre in Ōtautahi, Christchurch
- Anthony Morton is based in Christchurch
- Electoral Officer for:

Tauranga, Western Bay, Matamata-Piako, Rotorua Lakes, Taupō, Waipā, Ōtorohanga, Waitomo, South Waikato, Ruapehu, Rangītikei, Manawatū, Whanganui, Horowhenua, Napier, Hastings, Central Hawkes Bay, Tararua, Carterton, Masterton, South Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Porirua, Wellington, Nelson, Buller, Grey, Westland, Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Christchurch, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate, Waitaki, Dunedin, Gore, Queenstown, Central Otago, Southland, Invercargill. Greater Wellington, Southland, Canterbury, Otago, Hawke's Bay, Horizons, Bay of Plenty, West Coast



Electoral Team

electionz.com Ltd contracted by Westland District Council

- Anthony Morton WDC Electoral Officer
 0800 666 048 or westlanddc@electionz.com
- Jennifer Beeby WDC Deputy Electoral Officer
 027 257 6219 or deo@westlanddc.govt.nz
- Warwick Lampp Electoral Official 0800 666 048 or westlanddc@electionz.com





Electoral Officer Role and 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
- Provides a level playing field for all candidates and voters
- **NB** Not responsible for monitoring campaigning by candidates. Only deals with alleged breaches of the Act by passing them to the Police.



Election Timetable

4 July (Friday) **11 July** (Friday) From **11 July** (Friday) **17 July** (Thursday) **1 August** (Friday) **9 – 22 September** (Tuesday to Tuesday) 9 September – 11 October **11 October** (Saturday) **11 October** (Saturday) **11 October** (Saturday) **12 October** (Sunday) **16 October** (Thursday) **29 October** (Wednesday) by **11 December** (Thursday)

Nominations open **Pre-election Period starts** Election signs can be displayed **Candidate Briefing** Nominations close at 12 noon Delivery of voting papers Special voting period Close of voting at 12 noon Progress results available by 2pm Removal of election signs by midnight Preliminary results announced Final results announced, Official Declaration Inaugural Meeting of Council Candidate expenses deadline

District Council | Te Kahulo Poultini



Nominations will be called for:

Mayor

8 Councillors from 3 Wards

Hokitika Ward Northern Ward Southern Ward

3 councillors3 councillors2 councillors

2 councillors



West Coast Regional Council

Westland Constituency

Development West Coast

Westland District



Te Ohu Whakawhanake o Te Tai Poutini

1 trustee

WEST COAST



Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 3

The nomination process



Sara

No. of Concession, Name

Candidate Eligibility

CANNOT:

- Be serving a prison sentence of three or more years
- Stand for Westland District Council and West Coast Regional Council
- Stand for DWC if current MP or elected member or permanent full time employee of any of West Coast councils
- Have interest in a contract over \$25K per year with council (or DWC)
- Nominate yourself

CAN STAND:

- For both mayor and/or councillor
- If you live outside area, but must state that on nomination paper
- If a council employee but must resign if elected as mayor or councillor or trustee

CANDIDATE MUST:

- Be a NZ citizen and enrolled on parliamentary electoral roll
- Be nominated by 2 electors who are enrolled for the electoral issue the candidate is standing for
- Provide all nomination documents together

CAN'T WITHDRAW AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE



Nomination Process

- Open Friday 4 July and close midday Friday 1 August (4 weeks)
- Documents to submit:
 - nomination form
 - evidence of \$200 deposit
 - evidence of NZ citizenship
 - profile statement (optional)
 - photo (optional)
 - evidence of bank a/c details (for deposit refund)
- Forms available from WDC office, 36 Weld St, Hokitika or WDC website
- Can be lodged at WDC office, 36 Weld St or emailed to deo@westlanddc.govt.nz
- Nomination deposit can be paid by cash, EFTPOS or online banking
- Candidates to be aware that contact details will be public info (available from website after close of nominations)





KOROMATUA | MAYOR PUKA TONO | NOMINATION FORM WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL | 2025 ELECTIONS



Important Notes:

- 1. The front page of completed nomination forms are required to be available for public inspection at the Westland District Council office, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika.
- 2. Candidate name, email address and/or phone number details as provided in Section B will be made available from the council's website.
- 3. Nominator names may also be made available from the council's website.
- 4. In this form LEA = Local Electoral Act 2001 and LER = Local Electoral Regulations 2001

I wish to stand for election as Mayor	of the Westland District.	
My principal place of residence (tick ONE circle):	is WITHIN the Westland District Council area	is NOT WITHIN the Westland District Council area
B MĀ TE KAITONO CANDIDAT	TE TO FILL OUT (after reading important in	formation on reverse)
I (candidate's full name),		
form and certify that I am qualified to	nat I have read and understand the Eligibility be a candidate under Section 25 of the LEA a ular, I am a New Zealand citizen and a New Ze	nd the LER and that I am not disqualified
Contact details (will be made availal	ble for public inspection):	
Phone No.:	Email Address:	
I am also standing for the following el	lections:	
I wish my name to be shown on the v	oting document as:	
	o be left blank if the candidate does not wish to u: dent' be shown. Maximum length is 38 characters	
Signature:		Date:
C MĀ TE KAITAUTOKO NOMII	NATORS TO FILL OUT	
	Vestland District Council hereby nominate the of Mayor , the election for which is to be held	
Full name of First Nominator:		

Residential Address:	
Phone No.:	
Signature of First Nominator:	
Full name of Second Nominator:	
Residential Address:	
Phone No.:	
Signature of Second Nominator:	

Nominations must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer before 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025 All nomination documents must be submitted at the same time. For assistance, phone the helpline: 0800 666 048

D CANDIDATE CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE ELECTORAL OFFICER/OFFICIAL

These contact details will not be made public and will be used for election communication by the Electoral Officer/Official:

Residential Address:

Email Address:

Phone No.:

ELIGIBILITY & CANDIDACY NOTES

Candidates for this position do not need to live within the Westland District Council election area, but must be a New Zealand citizen and enrolled as a
New Zealand parliamentary elector.

- 2 Both nominators must be enrolled as electors of Westland District Council.
- 3 No person can be elected to a local authority if they are concerned or interested in contracts over \$25,000 with that local authority. This restriction is waived if prior approval from the office of the Controller and Auditor-General is obtained (Section 3(1) Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968).
- 4 A candidate may stand for either the regional council or city/district council/community board in the regional council's district, but not both.
- 5 A candidate cannot nominate themself for office.
- 6 A candidate may under Section 56 of the LEA be nominated under a name which the candidate is commonly known as provided that the name will not: cause offence to a reasonable person; be unreasonably long; include or resemble an official rank or title; cause confusion or mislead electors (Section 56 of the LEA).
- Of the term of the term.
 Of the term of term of
- (a) Knowing themselves to be ineligible for election, consents to being nominated for election; or
- (b) Nominates any person as a candidate whom they know to be ineligible for election; or
- (c) Not being the candidate signs any nomination paper knowing that they are not qualified to vote at the election.

Evid

- 9 Each nomination must be accompanied by the required deposit of \$200.00 (GST inclusive) or proof of an electronic deposit. 10 Evidence of NZ citizenship is required at the time of candidate nomination. Acceptable evidence includes a copy of a NZ passport, NZ birth certificate
- or NZ citizensing documentation. 11 Nominations of candidates must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer, Westland District Council, before 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025. 12 An employee of a local authority may stand for election as mayor or councillor of that local authority, but if elected, must resign as a nemployee of the local authority before taking office. This provision does not apply to an employee of a local authority elected to a community or local abord.

RETURN, PAYMENT AND REFUND DETAILS

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

NZ citizenship	deposit	O Photo	
----------------	---------	---------	--

I understand that if I do not provide 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.

Deliver to (do not post): Westland District Council, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika

Or, scan and email to: deo@westlanddc.govt.nz

Payments can be made by cash or eftpos directly at the Westland District Council office at 36 Weld Street, Hokitika, if you are returning this form by hand or by online banking using the details provided below:

Account name:	Westland District Council	Bank:	Westpac	
Account number:	03 0850 0110046 00	Particulars/reference:	2025 Elections	
Code:	(Your initials and surname)			

Refunds of Nomination Deposits

Where eligible, refunds of nomination deposits will be made by online deposit into your nominated bank account. Please provide either a bank deposit slip or verification of your bank account for the processing of your refund. Verification can be a screen shot from online banking or from the top of a bank statement, and must include the bank logo, the account name and the bank a/c number.

ELECTORAL OFFICIAL TO FILL OUT

Received at the hour of:	on the	day of		20
Candidate roll #:				
First nominator roll #:		Second nominator roll #:		
Nomination documents approved:	Nomination paper Photo Standing for other elections	Deposit/proof of deposit Profile statement Deposit refund verification	00	Place of residence Proof of NZ citizenship
Signature of Electoral Official:			Date:	

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WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Profile

statement

Candidate Profile Statements and Photos

Profiles

- May be provided (not mandatory) see page 20 of Candidate Handbook
- Must be provided electronically with the other nomination documents as a MS Word doc not a
 pdf, not hand-written
- Up to **150** words about the candidate, their policies and intentions
- Paragraph format only no bullet points, bolding, underlining etc
- Cannot comment on policies etc of any other candidate
- Should be emailed to the DEO (with photo)
- EO not required to verify or investigate any information included in profile
- Profiles on Council website as soon as ready after close of nominations
- Candidate contact details on council website after nomination confirmed

Photos

- Photos in colour, within last 12 months (no hats, sunglasses, children, pets or friends)
- Photos provided as jpgs
- Should be against a light coloured background (not a window)



Example Profile Statement

Waitaki District Council

Electing the Mayor



Warwick LAMPP Your Switched-on Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Waitaki District Council area. I am also standing for Corriedale Ward Councillor.

150 word candidate profile text.

Auto-populated text

Hard-coded text



Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 4

> VOTE FOR ME

Campaigning

Candidate Safety

Being an Elected Member can be incredibly rewarding — but it also comes with challenges.

- Increasing levels of abuse, particularly online, and confrontations from fringe groups
- Plan ahead to keep yourself and others safe

Tips for Staying Safe During Your Campaign:

- Use campaign-specific social media accounts
- Set up a separate campaign email and phone number
- Be mindful of your surroundings know your exits and stay aware
- Stay calm in difficult interactions de-escalate where possible and seek help if needed
- Report any threats to Police immediately

Note: Candidate contact details published online will **not** include physical addresses.





Campaigning

• Can commence any time



- Can't use council resources for campaigning (logo, branding, colours, council FB or X feed, photos, council buildings etc)
- No campaigning or electioneering in council chambers or on council premises
- Election expenses for campaigning must be recorded and declared in a return after the election
- Any campaign material (signs, posters, billboards, flyers, ads, cars, social media) must have an authorisation from the candidate or their agent, stating their name and contact details
 - Can be address, mobile, email, PO Box
 - 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 the EO if you don't like what someone says about you!



Election Expenditure Limits

Total electoral expenses, including GST, must not exceed:

Westland District Council

Mayoralty	\$ 7,000
Hokitika Ward	\$ 3,500
Northern Ward	\$ 3,500
Southern Ward	\$ 3,500

West Coast Regional Council

Westland Constituency

Development West Coast

Westland District

If standing for more than one position, the higher limit applies, not both. Campaign expenses are the candidate's responsibility. Council doesn't refund you.

\$7,000

\$7,000



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Election Expenses

See pages 24 and 34 of handbook

- Declaration period starts 3 months before election day 11 July 2025
- Must pro-rata expenses for activity outside the 3 months
- Declaration listing summary of electoral expenses and electoral donations required within 55 days after the official result declaration – approx 11 December
- Includes Nil declarations
- Deposit not refunded until the return is completed (provided candidate gets more than 25% of the votes of the lowest successful candidate)
- Invoices and receipts not required with declaration but must be retained by candidate
- EO must make declarations available on Council website for **7 years**



Electoral Donations



See pages 25-26 of the handbook

- No time limit on when donations are received and no set maximum of how much can be received
- Donations with a reasonable market value of \$300 or less do not have to be declared
- Donations of more than **\$1,500 must** be declared
- Rules around "anonymous" donations can't be anonymous if you know who it has come from
- An anonymous donation cannot be over \$1,500
- It is an offence to circumvent \$1,500 limit, i.e., by deliberately splitting up a donation into smaller contributions
 - 1. Donations over \$1,500 made up of contributions (e.g via a trust or fundraising) are treated as one donation and all contributors need to be disclosed
 - 2. Crowd funding services do not meet the legislation for recording who donations are from
- The following are not candidate donations:
 - volunteer labour
 - goods or services provided free of charge to a candidate, or to any person on the candidate's behalf that have a reasonable market value of \$300 or less
 - money provided by the candidate for his or her own campaign



Election signs

See page 28 of Candidate Handbook

- Election signs can go up from **Saturday 11 July** (3 months prior to election day)
- Must comply with council hoardings policy re size and placement
- Must have authorisation statement
- Can't include copy of voting paper
- Can be on private land, with owner's permission
- One sign per candidate per site
- NZTA rules apply for State Highways, see page 28
- Vehicle signwriting is ok cost of running a vehicle if it is own personal transport is not an election expense
- Complaints about size and placement made to council's Enforcement Officers not the EO or DEO
- Signs to be removed by midnight 11 October
- The cost of framing for a sign is not an election expense



Example of Signs



VOTE VFRED DAGG

FOR THE TOWN WARD

"OPEN GOVERNMENT AT ALL HOURS"

THIS ADVERTISMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON



THIS ADVERTISMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON















Social Media

Beware of Social Media requirements during the three-month election period:

- Council's social media channels will remain neutral. Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates
- Council social media channels cannot be used for electioneering by candidates or members of the public – will be constantly monitored and strictly enforced
- 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
- 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



Social Media continued

This means, when with the intention of campaigning/electioneering:

- No posting on Council pages/accounts
- No comments/replies on Council pages
- No mentions with a tag (e.g. @WestlandDistrictCouncil)
- No picture tagging
- No rating or reviewing Council pages or posts

e.g. you cannot electioneer on Council's channels, or piggyback on their audiences – see pages 27

Candidates should not post photos of their completed voting paper on any social media platform



Election Offences

See page 41 – Appendix 6

- Imitation Voting Paper
- Bribery
- Treating
 - Can't provide food, alcohol, drinks, entertainment as an inducement to vote (light refreshments after a meeting is ok)
 - Can't give away a pen, note pad, fridge magnet or item of value
- Undue Influence can't stand over someone telling them how to vote
- Unauthorised advertisements
- Illegal nomination e.g. candidate with a court order
- Any formal complaint passed straight to the Police



Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 5

Election process and results



Electoral Rolls

Preliminary Electoral Roll

- available for public inspection from 4 July to 5pm Friday 1 August 2025
- at the following Westland District Council venues:
 - WDC office, 36 Weld St, Hokitika;
 - Hokitika i-SITE, 41 Weld St, Hokitika;
 - DOC office, Corner SH6 & Jackson Bay Road, Haast;
 - DOC office, 69 Cron St, Franz Josef.
- Includes the ratepayer roll
- **cannot** be provided electronically to candidates
- can purchase a hard copy for \$25 per ward or \$75 per set, plus GST

Final Electoral Roll

- produced following the EC update
- is the roll used for issuing voting papers
- can purchase a hard copy as above

Confirmed candidates can apply to Electoral Commission to purchase electronic file (\$455.50 fee applies). See page 14 of handbook.

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Voting Process

- Postal voting only. No early voting option available.
- Voter packs lodged with NZ Post Monday 8 September.
- Deliveries from 9 September.
- Closes 12 noon on election day, 11 October 2025.
- Special voting available at the WDC office, 36 Weld St, Hokitika or can be posted out to applicants (if time allows).
- 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 11 October 2025

Progress results: expected about 3pm – approx 90% of votes received (not special votes and votes in transit to processing centre).

Progress results:

- email to all candidates with email address
- candidates personally rung by Council staff
- will be available from Council's website

Preliminary results: expected late on Sunday 12 October, after all ordinary votes have been processed

Final results: expected by Thursday 16 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 result declaration is posted on Council's website - expected to be Friday 17 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

Candidate handbook and nomination papers LGNZ 'Making a Stand' booklet Manatū Wāhine | Ministry for Woman - Free to lead toolkit Own your online - Protect your privacy online Netsafe - Online abuse and harassment Council's Pre-election report – available from 4 July • 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

Long-Term Plan

Legislation (LEA, LER)

Council's website (for election information)





Last words

- Check that nominators are correctly enrolled
- Get your nomination documents in early
- Campaigning stick to your own promotions
- Campaigning if you don't have permission, don't use it
- Authorisation statements on all campaigning material
- Keep yourself safe
- Election results on websites/email from Saturday 11 October