

Frequently Asked Questions - Standing for Local Government Elections

NB More detailed information on standing for local government is available in a [Candidate Handbook](#), available on the CDC website

Candidates	
Q1. What is the election date?	A Election Day is Saturday 8 October 2022. The elections are by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered from Friday 16 September 2022 to Wednesday 21 September 2022.
Q2. When do nominations open?	A Nominations for people who wish to stand for council open on Friday 15 July 2022 and close at 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022. <u>A candidate briefing will be held 7 pm, 5 July 2022 at the Carterton Events Centre, 50 Holloway St.</u>
Q3. When is the campaign period?	A Election campaigning can start at any time and continue up to and including election day. However, there are specific rules about when you must take down election signage (refer to Q27).
Q4. What qualifications and experience do I need to be a candidate?	A You must be a New Zealand citizen and on the parliamentary electoral roll anywhere in New Zealand. You do not need to reside in the area (city, district, ward, constituency, community board or local board) that you are standing for. You do not need any formal qualifications. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a desire to serve their community. <i>Other requirements:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are nominated by two electors in the area you are standing for.• You or your spouse/partner must not have concerns or interests in contracts over \$25,000 with the council.• If you are subject to a Court Order under section 31 of the Protection of Personal Property Rights Act 1988, you should take legal advice.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are an employee of the council, you must resign before taking up your position as an elected member. The rules of some councils may require you to take leave for campaigning prior to the election.
Q5. Do I need to be resident in the city, district or region I am standing for?	A	No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and provide proof you are a New Zealand citizen.
Q6. What is the role of a councillor?	A	<p>A councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Participates in strategic and long-term planning for the whole city/district/region;Participates in setting a budget and ratesDevelops policy across a wide range of activities and services;Represents the city/district/region at functions as required;Reviews and develops bylaws for the city/district/region;Advocates on a wide range of issues;Coordinates and forms partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies;Participates in the appointment and performance review of the Chief Executive Officer;Acts on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework;Monitors the performance of the council organisation
Q7. How much will it cost me to stand?	A	<p>You will need to pay a nomination deposit of \$200 GST inclusive for each election you stand for.</p> <p>The funds must be deposited with the Electoral Officer at the same time your nomination is submitted. It is recommended you pay the nomination deposit by online/internet banking (or EFTPOS or cash) noting that cheques are no longer accepted.</p> <p>For Carterton District Council If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate you will receive your nomination deposit back.</p>

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- Q8. How many people do I need to nominate me?** **A** You need two people to nominate you.
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- Q9. Who is able to nominate me?** **A** A nominator must be on the electoral roll for the area (city, district, constituency, ward, community board or local board) for which you are standing.
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- Q10. What is a candidate profile statement?** **A** You are asked to provide a candidate profile statement when you lodge your nomination along with a recent passport size colour photograph.
- The candidate profile 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.
- If your candidate statement can be submitted in English, or Māori and English. 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.
- 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 Carterton (at large¹)', or 'My principal place of residence is not in Carterton (at large)'. This is not part of the 150-word limit.
- See section 61 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for more information.
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- Q11. How long is the term of the elected member?** **A** Three years.
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- Q12. Is the role I want to stand for full-time or part-time?** **A** For Carterton District Council the role is part-time.
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¹ 'At large' means the candidate is standing for the whole Carterton District (as opposed to some councils that have a ward system and the candidate is standing for the ward or a section of the district).

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Q13. How much will I get paid?

A Pay and allowances are determined by the Government's Remuneration Authority. The pay rates vary according to population size and other factors. You can see all the councils remuneration schedules by clicking on this link to the [Local Government Members \(2021/22\) Determination](#).

More information about how the Remuneration Authority determines pay can be found [here](#).

Q14. Which local government positions am I able to run for?

A You can choose to stand for election for any position in a city council, district council or regional council. You are able to run for mayor, councillor, community board member or local board member.

If you choose to stand for more than one position there are some restrictions and rules:

- You cannot stand for both a city council/district council and a regional council.
- Where a council has both an 'at large' and wards system of representation, you cannot stand as councillor for both positions.
- You cannot stand as councillor for more than one ward or constituency in a council.

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- You can stand as a member for more than one community board or local board within that council (but if elected to more than one local board, you must have preselected which local board you will take).
- You can stand for councillor and also for member of a community board or local board (but if elected to both positions, you must choose one).
- You can stand for both mayor and councillor.

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Q15. How do I receive information on standing for the Masterton Community Trust or for Greater Wellington Regional Council?

A Nomination papers for the Masterton Community Trust are available from Masterton District Council. Contact harrietk@mstn.govt.nz. Forms must be lodged at the Masterton District Council office, 64 Chapel Street (PO Box 444) Masterton. **These nomination papers cannot be lodged with Carterton District Council.**

Nomination papers for the Greater Wellington Regional Council elections are available from [Greater Wellington Regional Council – Elections \(gw.govt.nz\)](http://www.gw.govt.nz). Forms must be lodged at the GWRC office, 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington. **These nomination papers cannot be lodged with Carterton District Council.**

Q16. Do I need to be on the Māori electoral roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in a Māori Ward or Constituency?

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.

Q17. Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A Only if it is withdrawn before the close of nominations.

If you decide to opt out after the close of nominations, your name will still appear on the voting document.

If you become incapacitated with serious illness or injury and unlikely to be able to perform the functions and duties if elected to office, you can apply to withdraw on those grounds. You will need verification from a doctor and lawyer about your situation. See your local electoral officer if you need more information about this process.

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Q18. Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?

A No, not at all for city, district, and regional council elections.

Q19. What does, 'at large', 'ward' and 'constituency', mean?

A If you are standing 'at large', then you are standing for the whole council area rather than for a ward. Carterton District Councils doesn't have wards, so candidates putting their names forward for councillor are standing for an 'at large' position.

Outside of Carterton District Council, if you are standing for a 'ward' these are parts of a council area that have been determined by population and communities of interest. There can be either general wards or Māori wards.

If you plan to stand for a regional council, the term 'constituency' is used rather than 'ward'.

Q20. How many offices can I stand for?

A You can stand for mayor, at large councillor **or** ward councillor and local/community board member. However, if elected to more than one position, you will take up the highest ranked position.

You can stand as a member of the governing body (i.e. Council) and a local/community board if the triennial local election is happening at the same time. However, if you win more than one election, you must take up the highest ranked position.

You cannot stand for both a regional council and one of its constituent district or city councils or a community board.

Q21. I am a serving police officer. Can I stand for council and continue to work as a police officer?

A Yes. There are no longer any restrictions on police officers standing for local authority elections, apart from the normal eligibility criteria.

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- Q22. Can I raise campaign funds from donations to offset electoral expenses?** **A** Yes, you can raise funds from donations to help offset your campaign expenses. There is very specific legislation about donations and expenses which you need to abide by.
- Further information is provided in the Carterton District Council Candidate Booklet.
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- Q23. How much can I spend on my campaign?** **A** 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.
- 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 (public notice of final results). If a candidate is outside NZ on this day, the return must be filed within 76 days after election result day. If this is not done, the non-return will be advised to the NZ Police. This return needs to be made before a candidate nomination deposit is refunded (if applicable).
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- Q24. Can people already elected onto council use council resources to campaign?** **A** No. Elected members are not permitted to use council resources for their campaigns as this is considered an advantage at the ratepayer's expense.
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- Q25. 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 do 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.
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Candidates

Q26. What does 'authorisation of advertising' mean?

A Election advertising, using any media, must identify either you or your agent. The publication of any advertisements (in any newspaper, periodical, notice, poster, pamphlet, handbill, billboard or card, or broadcast over radio or television) for candidates requires the written authorisation of you or your agent.

The advertisement must contain a statement setting out you or your agent's true name, or at whose direction, it is published and the street address (not a PO box) of their residence or business. This applies during your entire campaign.

Q27. Where and when can I put up election signs?

A Election signs are permitted on private property (with the owner's consent) at any time. The sign must be erected in a stable fashion, not be a hazard to the public or to traffic safety, and must comply with the (local authority district plan/bylaw).

For State Highways, signs must meet Waka Kotahi/NZTA rules.

On these sites, signs can be erected in accordance with the rules, and generally must be removed by midnight Friday 7 October 2022.

In Carterton District Council election signs are not permitted on council property/road reserves.

If you have any questions about the rules for Carterton District Council contact the Deputy Electoral Officer demservices@cdc.govt, phone 027 444 1561.

Q28. Can I view the electoral roll?

A Yes, the electoral roll will be open for public inspection at the Carterton District Council offices and library from 15 July 2022 to 12 August 2022.

Q29. 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. During the voting period each elector should post their voting forms, or deliver them to an official collection point at the Carterton District Council office.

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.

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Q30. *When will election results be known?*

A Voting closes at 12 pm Saturday 8 October 2022. Progress results (approximately 90 per cent of votes cast) will be known early that afternoon, with preliminary results known on Sunday morning, 9 October 2022. Final results are likely to be declared on Thursday 13 October 2022. All results will be posted on the Council's website.
