

**Kia ora koutou!**

**Did you know that the Auckland Council local elections are held this year?**

### **Key Dates**

The nominations period runs from 19 July to 12 noon, 16 August.

The voting period takes place from 20 September to 12 noon, 12 October.

### **Requirements**

You can stand if you are:

- 18 years or older
- a citizen of Aotearoa New Zealand, and
- if you are correctly enrolled on the electoral roll by 12 noon, 16 August.

### **Key facts**

Auckland Council's governance is shared between the Governing body and 21 local boards.

The Governing body is made up of the mayor and 20 ward councillors, who collectively represent Auckland's 13 wards. Each ward varies in size and population, so some wards are represented by one councillor and some by two councillors to make sure there is fair representation. Together, the Governing body focuses on big-picture issues that affect the whole Auckland region. For example, the annual budget, the Auckland Plan, the Long-Term Plan and the Unitary Plan.

Local boards make decisions about local issues, activities and services (e.g. events, parks, community programmes and local fees and charges), and provide input into regional strategies, policies, plans and decisions. There are 149 local board members in total, with between five and nine members elected to each board.

There are no formal qualifications needed to run as a candidate for any of the 170 elected member roles at Auckland Council. But an effective member will bring a broad range of skills, such as confidence in communication and engagement, decision-making and strategic thinking, an awareness of Te reo and Te Ao Māori, and relationship building and collaboration.

Elected members come from all walks of life and demographics, and they represent all the diverse communities of Tāmaki Makaurau.

There is nothing stopping you from standing as a candidate, provided you meet the legal requirements.

*Find out more information about elected member roles, responsibilities and remuneration [here](#).*

### **Why Stand?**

Standing for Auckland Council is a meaningful way to commit, connect and contribute to making positive changes in your community. At the heart of it all, as a candidate, you have the potential to help make a huge difference in improving the everyday lives of all Aucklanders.

The job is paid, and it gives you a chance to use and further develop your own unique skills and talents.

An effective elected member will bring a wide variety of skills to the role, such as:

- decision making and strategic thinking
- communication and community engagement
- relationship building and collaboration.

Make the most of what you have to offer your community and city. You don't have to have a PhD to bring something that no one else can.

Now is the time to consider standing!

Be your own choice to represent the wants and needs of your community.

*Find out more information about standing [here](#).*

## Prepare Yourself

### Start now!

Get out into your community and build your networks. Link into community groups to find out what is happening in your area and what issues people might be advocating for.

Think about the key issues for Auckland and for your area, and what resonates with you. Think about issues from diverse communities' perspectives.

Understand the difference between regional decision-making (governing body) and local decision-making (local boards) and what issues you may be able to influence.

Increase your experience and knowledge of local government – Auckland Council has a unique governance model. Check out meeting agendas online and attend governing body and local body meetings to get a feel for the decisions that are made.

Identify a mentor – seek out someone more experienced, preferably not running in the same area as you, and ask them about their own experiences.

### Campaign

Know the rules – what are the rules around election signage? What are the exact boundaries of the area you are standing in? The rules are there to make sure that the election process is transparent and fair to everybody.

It doesn't have to be a costly experience. Find and use a variety of means to push your campaign. An expensive campaign does not necessarily equal a successful one. In fact, there are limits on how much you can legally spend on your campaign.

Think about using a 'ticket' – standing on a ticket can be more effective than standing as an independent, particularly for local boards. While local decisions may not necessarily be made along political lines, standing on a ticket can help you get elected in a local area.

Think about your own personal resilience and support networks. Campaigning can be pretty hard work and you open yourself to criticism! But remember your supporters will help deal with some of the critics for you.

### Nominations

There are four basic tips:

- Check, recheck and check the forms again
- Get someone else to review the forms
- Get your forms in early so that if there are problems, there is time to fix them
- Type your nomination form and candidate profile.

Keep in mind:

- Don't use the wrong form – the nomination forms are colour-coded and have either 'Ward of Auckland Council' or 'Local Board' in different variations written on the front page
- Make sure you include the \$200 deposit when you lodge your nomination
- Don't leave it till the last minute and find that there's a queue.

### Election campaign period and rules for election signs

The 'pre-election period'

- The pre-election period is three months prior to election day and in 2019 is from 12 July to 12 October.
- This is when election campaigning mostly takes place.

There are some rules about when and where you can put up election signs as well as how they may be displayed. See [appendix 1](#) for more information.

You can find a list of approved sites on parks and road reserves, and maps that show the sites, on the Auckland Transport [website](#).

If you have a problem with your signs, for example if your signs get defaced, your signs get blocked by other signs, contact the Electoral Officer on [info@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:info@electionservices.co.nz) or 0800 922 822

*Find out more information about election signage [here](#).*

### Things to remember

Be yourself – it is what you know best. Remember that you can't please everyone.

Be realistic about what you can achieve and how quickly. Things don't happen overnight, it may not be in one term that you see the fruits of your labour.

Learn to tell the difference between the trolls and the critics. Ignore the trolls or block them if they persist. Respond to the critics and keep it based on facts.

Check out [the website](#), the handbook and get in touch with the Electoral Officer with any specific questions.

## ***Where to find more information***

Make the most of [voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz)

The Electoral Officer is responsible for the conduct of the election. They will be your first point of call for election procedures. Email [info@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:info@electionservices.co.nz) - Call 0800 922 822.

The candidate handbook will be available on [voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz)

See minutes and agendas of governing body and local board meetings [here](#).

Watch Council meetings online [here](#).

Have a look at what other candidates are asking council. You can find the link on [voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz)

The pre-election report will be available on [voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz)

See current Governing Body terms of reference (subject to change) [here](#).

Find information about previous candidates, donations and expenses [here](#).

Find voting and candidate research [here](#).

Read the Local Governance Statement [here](#).

## **If standing isn't for you, you can still make a difference!**

The 2019 local elections are also about identifying, encouraging and helping those people we recognise doing great things for our communities to consider running as candidates themselves.

Potential candidates can be whānau, friends, colleagues, teachers, coaches or neighbours.

This is our chance as Aucklanders to collaborate, get involved and make a difference.

## **Act now!**

Aucklanders aren't silent about what matters to them the most.

Join the rest of your city and stand for the Auckland you love!

## Appendix 1

The bylaw applies to election signs on:

1. park sites which have been approved by Auckland Council local boards
2. road sites which have been approved by Auckland Transport
3. private sites
4. vehicles.

Note that commercial billboards are **not** covered by the election signs bylaw.

### Time period for erecting election signs

The time period for when signs may be erected depends on the site.

#### Signs in parks

- Signs are not usually allowed in parks. However local boards have approved some sites to be used for election signs.
- Election signs on these approved sites may be put up **nine weeks** before the election (in the Ōrākei Local Board this period is only four weeks).

#### Signs on roadsides, private sites and vehicles

- Auckland Transport approves some sites on roadsides for election signs.
- Election signs on these approved sites may be put up at any time.
- Election signs on private sites may be put up at any time.
- Election signs may be placed on vehicles at any time.

You can find a list of approved sites on parks and road reserves, and maps that show the sites, on the Auckland Transport website [election signs](#).

***Although there is no time restriction on signs on residential property or approved roadside sites, the council recommends that candidates do not put up their election signs earlier than **nine weeks** prior to the election period to manage the impact of signs and provide some consistency for all candidates<sup>1</sup>.***

### Removal of election signs

Note that **all** election signs must be removed **before midnight on Friday 11 October**.

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<sup>1</sup> Nine weeks is consistent with legislation passed by Parliament which recognises a nine-week period prior to Parliamentary elections for special legislation covering election hoardings.