



Report 06.481
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Committee Interim Wellington Regional Strategy Committee
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Procedure to Elect Committee Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee of the procedure to elect the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Clause 5 of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2005 outlines the procedure for electing a committee chairperson and deputy chairperson.

For each election the Committee must choose one of two voting systems:

- (A) Election by the majority of members present and voting, or
- (B) Election by receiving a greater number of votes than any other candidate.

3.1 Characteristics of election by majority (voting system A)

- There is a first round of voting for all candidates.
- If no candidate is elected in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded.
- If no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and so on. Each time the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.

- If, in any round, two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.
- Rounds of voting will only be required where there are more than two candidates.

3.2 Characteristics of election by greatest number of votes (voting system B)

- A person is elected if they receive more votes than any other candidate.
- There is only one round of voting.

If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

4. Comment

The Committee can choose either of the two voting systems described above to elect the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson. The Committee is entitled to adopt different systems for the election of the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson. However, for reasons of ease and practicality, it is suggested that the Committee adopt the same procedure for the election of both the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson.

4.1 Determining by 'lot' where there is a tie

Both voting systems require a resolution by 'lot' if two candidates receive an equal number of votes and no one else is elected. The most common procedure is for the names of the candidates with the same number of votes to be placed in a container and the name of the person drawn out by an independent person is deemed the winner i.e. elected or not excluded from the next round. It is recommended that this process be used in the event that there is a tie between candidates.

4.2 Which voting system is best?

If the Committee wants to guarantee that the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson receive the votes of a majority of the members of the Committee it should adopt voting system (A) i.e. election by majority. This is because the alternative voting procedure, where a candidate is elected by receiving the greatest number of votes, does not ensure that the winning candidate has the support of more than half the members of the Committee in every instance.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. Choose either:

(a) voting system A (election by the majority of members)

OR

(b) voting system B (election by the greatest number of votes)

for the election of the Committee chairperson and deputy chairperson.

2. *Agrees that, in the event of a tie under voting system (B), the candidate to be elected is resolved by lot as described in section 4.1 of this report.*
3. *Agrees that, in the event of a tie under voting system (A), the candidate to be excluded from the next round of voting is resolved by lot as described in section 4.1 of this report.*

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