

Pukapuka Aratohu Kaitono Pōti

Candidate Handbook

elections.gw.govt.nz



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FIND OUT HOW TO
STAND, VOTE AND
GET INVOLVED



The information in this booklet is specific to the Greater Wellington Regional Council elections. Further general information is available from the LGNZ website.

www.votelocal.co.nz



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Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is accurate and consistent with the Local Electoral Act 2001 and its amendments and regulations. Greater Wellington Regional Council takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It is recommended that candidates obtain a full copy of the Act, which can be purchased from retail outlets that stock New Zealand legislation or viewed on-line at www.legislation.govt.nz.

Tīmatanga Kōrero

Introduction

This booklet provides information which may be of interest to potential candidates and others interested in the 2022 local elections. It should be used as a guide only, and candidates or other persons requiring more detailed information should contact the Electoral Officer directly. No responsibility is taken for the accuracy of information in this booklet or candidates' failure to comply with legislative requirements.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA), its amendments and regulations, is the presiding legislation for local government elections. It covers all matters pertaining to the conduct of the elections, including voting methods, voting systems, nomination requirements, electoral roll requirements, length of voting period and progressive processing period, candidate profiles, offences, and campaign expenditure limits. All candidates should familiarise themselves with the LEA and the information as set out in this document.

Copies of the LEA and its regulations can be viewed online at www.legislation.govt.nz or purchased from retail outlets that stock New Zealand legislation.

Council Name

Throughout this handbook Wellington Regional Council is referred to by its known name of Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Authority

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) states that the purpose of local government is:

1. To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
2. To promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

The LGA reflects a clear view that local authorities are effective, responsible, and accountable to the communities they represent, and are a fundamental part of New Zealand's system of democratic governance. The LGA also provides greater scope for communities to make their own choices about what local authorities do and the way they do these things.

All councils have the full capacity, rights, powers and authority to carry on or undertake any activity or business, do any act, or enter into any transaction that promotes the purpose of local government, subject to other legislation, to -

- a) Give effect, in relation to its district or region, to the purpose of local government; and
- b) Perform the duties, and exercise the rights, conferred on it by or under the LGA and any other enactment.

The Regional Council must exercise these powers wholly or principally for the benefit of all or a significant part of its region and not for the benefit of a single district or group.

It is important to note that there are numerous statutes, which specifically identify regional councils as having a specific function and role in various activities.

The principal Acts under which councils operate include:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)
- Local Electoral Act 2001 and Regulations
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- Land Transport Management Act 2003
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- various other Acts of Parliament, including Regulations made under those Acts.

The following statements envelop a number of related ideas that reflect the actual job of the council and therefore councillors.

- Democracy - ensuring opportunities for participation by electors in decision-making processes, within the overall framework of representative democracy.
- Effectiveness - decision-making processes are intended to ensure that representatives are well informed about the preferences of electors, and electors are well informed about the actions of their representatives (and the likely consequences of those actions).
- Local decision-making and accountability - a framework for decision-making that reflects the need to provide effective means for local accountability.

Regional Council role

The Regional Council's role is concentrated on the 'natural environment' - water, air, land, coastal- with a long-term view to make sure these are used sustainably, and are just as available and just as good (if not better) in the future as they are today.

In comparison, city and district councils concentrate more on the built environment and deliver services to their local communities such as drinking water, sewage and rubbish disposal, local roading, swimming pools and libraries, and deal with subdivisions.

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is one of the key legislations underpinning the work of regional councils and many of our activities are aimed primarily at benefiting the environment. We also have responsibility for functions that are more appropriately carried out on a regional basis such as land transport planning, delivery of public transport, delivery of public transport, river control and land drainage, plant and animal pest control, and economic development.

Electoral Officer Appointment

Greater Wellington Regional Council has engaged *electionz.com* Ltd as its election contractor for the 2022 local body elections.

As part of that contract Warwick Lampp has been appointed Electoral Officer by the Council.

About electionz.com

electionz.com provides public and private sector election services for council, producer boards, companies, associations, non-profit organisations, schools, universities and companies.

For the 2022 local body elections *electionz.com* will be processing voting papers for forty six local authorities, using both First Past the Post (FPP) and Single Transferable Vote (STV) voting methods. The processing of voting papers is being carried out in Christchurch.

Additionally, for the 2022 triennial elections *electionz.com* will be providing electoral officer services to thirty eight district or city councils and six regional councils.

In addition to local government election processing, *electionz.com* also provides returning officer services as well as internet voting, internet surveys, and telephone voting on contract to private and public organisations.

About the Electoral Officer

Warwick Lampp has extensive local government and electoral officer experience. He has worked in excess of 13 years for North Island councils before joining *electionz.com* in 2000. Since joining *electionz.com* he has worked on more than 4,000 elections for many public and private organisations in NZ, including Fonterra Co-operative Group, Beef & Lamb New Zealand, TECT, Ballance Agri-nutrients, Ravensdown, DairyNZ, The Co-operative Bank, Fish & Game NZ, NZ Teachers Council etc.

Electoral Officer

Warwick Lampp, *electionz.com* Ltd, PO Box 3138, CHRISTCHURCH

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Deputy Electoral Officer

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Role of Electoral Officer

The role of the Electoral Officer is to conduct the election in accordance with the legislation.

The Electoral Officer has complete and final control over how the election is carried out. The Electoral Officer is appointed by Council and is accountable to the chief executive of the Council, but does not take direction from the Chief Executive, or elected or appointed members.

The Electoral Officer is responsible for all staff, systems, resources, policies, procedures and actions to ensure that the democratic process is carried out with utmost integrity, security and fairness for all parties.

The conduct of local body elections is strictly regulated by legislation including:

- Local Electoral Act 2001
- Local Electoral Regulations 2001
- Local Government Act 2002
- Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968.

Specific duties of the Electoral Officer as outlined in section 15 of the LEA are:

- The compilation and certification of electoral rolls
- The publication of any public notice relating to elections and polls
- Calling for and receiving nominations, candidate profile statements and deposits
- Issuing and receiving of ordinary and special votes
- Processing and counting of votes
- Declaration of results
- Receiving and dealing with returns of electoral expenses.

Queries regarding the actions or performance of the Electoral Officer for Greater Wellington Regional Council should be directed to Francis Ryan, Manager Democratic Services, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Ph 04 830 4248 or francis.ryan@gw.govt.nz.

Election Principles

The electoral principles contained in section 4 of the LEA are outlined below. The principles must be taken into account in the conduct of any election or poll.

"4 Principles

- (1) *The principles that this Act is designed to implement are the following:*
 - (aa) *representative and substantial electoral participation in local elections and polls*
 - (a) *fair and effective representation for individuals and communities:*
 - (i) *cast an informed vote:*
 - (ii) *nominate 1 or more candidates:*
 - (iii) *accept nomination as a candidate:*
 - (b) *all qualified persons have a reasonable and equal opportunity to —*
 - (i) *cast an informed vote:*
 - (ii) *nominate 1 or more candidates:*
 - (iii) *accept nomination as a candidate:*
 - (c) *public confidence in, and public understanding of, local electoral processes through—*
 - (i) *the provision of a regular election cycle:*
 - (ii) *the provision of elections that are managed independently from the elected body:*
 - (iii) *protection of the freedom of choice of voters and the secrecy of the vote:*
 - (iv) *the provision of transparent electoral systems and voting methods and the adoption of procedures that produce certainty in electoral outcomes:*
 - (v) *the provision of impartial mechanisms for resolving disputed elections and polls.*
- (2) *Local authorities, electoral officers, and other electoral officials must, in making decisions under this Act or any other enactment, take into account those principles specified in subsection (1) that are applicable (if any), so far as is practicable in the circumstances."*

Wātaka Pōti Election Timetable

2022 Local Government Election Timetable

From 13 July (Wednesday)	Public notice of election – Council website and various regional papers
15 July (Friday)	Nominations open. Electoral roll open for inspection
12 August (Friday)	Nominations close at 12 noon, electoral roll closes
From 17 August (Wednesday)	Further public notice of election – Council website and various regional papers
12 September (Monday)	Electoral Officer compiles and certifies final electoral roll
16 September (Friday)	Enrolment Services letter sent to electors on unpublished roll
16 September (Friday)	Delivery of ordinary voting documents starts Ordinary and special voting opens
16 September to 8 October	Voting period
7 October (Friday)	Last day for appointment of scrutineers - by 12 noon
8 October (Saturday)	Election Day - voting closes at 12 noon Progress results available as soon as practicable after close of voting
8 - 13 October	Official count – process special votes
13 October to 23 October (as soon as practicable)	Final results announced Public notice of official declaration of election result – Council website and various regional papers
By 14 December (Wednesday) (estimated)	Return of election expense declaration forms (55 days after date of declaration of results)

Ngā Take Pōti Election Issues

Elections will be held in October for the election of 13 councillors on the following basis:

Constituencies	Number of Councillors
Pōneke/Wellington	5
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt	3
Porirua-Tawa	2
Kāpiti Coast	1
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt	1
Wairarapa	1

Population Statistics

Statistics NZ population estimates as at 30 June 2021.

Constituency	Est Resident Population as at 30 June 2021
Pōneke/Wellington	201,500
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt	112,800
Porirua-Tawa	77,400
Kāpiti Coast	58,000
Wairarapa	49,900
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt	47,500

These elections will be conducted by postal voting.

Ngā Mahere ā Rohe Constituency Map



Ngā whakamahuki ā ngā Pou Kaunihera

Governance Information

Council's Responsibilities

Regional councils' responsibilities include –

- Sustainable regional well-being.
- Managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters, by developing regional policy statements and the issuing of consents.
- Managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control.
- Regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness.
- Regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services.
- Harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

Councillor – Base role description

Collective duties of the council

- Representing the interests of the council
- Formulating the council's strategic direction and relative priorities through the Long Term Plan (LTP), which determines the services and activities to be undertaken by council over a ten-year period
- Determining the expenditure and funding requirements of council activities through the LTP and annual planning processes
- Overseeing, developing and/or approving all council policies, administrative, legal, financial and strategic, including formal regional, planning matters within the council's geographical area of responsibility
- Monitoring the ongoing performance of council against its stated objectives and policies (including formal sign-off of the Annual Report)
- Ensuring prudent use of council resources
- Law-making (bylaws)
- Overseeing council compliance with any relevant Acts of Parliament
- Employing, setting performance requirements for, and monitoring the ongoing performance of the council's Chief Executive. (Under the LGA, the local authority employs the Chief Executive who, in turn, employs all other staff on its behalf – elected members of council have no responsibilities for, and cannot direct, any staff employed by the council other than the Chief Executive.)

Representation and advocacy

- Bringing the views of the community into council decision-making processes
- Being an advocate for community groups and individuals at council meetings

- Balancing the need to advocate for specific interests against the needs of the wider community
- Listening to the concerns of local residents and ratepayers on issues pertaining to the council
- Maintaining contact with community representatives and other local stakeholders
- Participating in any relevant consultative processes with the local community and/or other organisations.

Governance

- Participating constructively and effectively in the good governance of the council as a whole
- Understanding and ensuring that basic principles of good governance are a part of the decision-making approach of the council
- Understanding and respecting the differing roles of the chairperson, committee chairs and councillors
- Recognising that the governance role does not extend to operational matters or to the management of any implementation
- Having a good understanding of the council processes set out in the Standing Orders that determine how council meetings are run
- Developing and maintaining a working knowledge of council services, management processes, powers, duties and constraints
- Participating in the setting and monitoring of council policies, budgets, strategies and service delivery through annual and long-term planning processes
- Ensuring familiarity with agendas and other council reports before council meetings
- Being familiar with and complying with the statutory requirements of an elected councillor
- Complying with the Code of Conduct adopted by the council
- Identifying, being aware of and declaring any potential personal conflicts of interest, whether of a pecuniary or non-pecuniary nature.

Additional Information

Core Competencies

- Genuine interest, understanding (and passion) of/for the issues faced by the Wellington Region.
- Ability to relate to wide range of people at many levels and across many disciplines and cultures.
- Ability to hear and understand the varying positions of others and consider these in decision making.
- Ability to express ideas clearly.
- Ability to understand, focus on and resolve complex issues through long term planning.

- Ability to understand financial and reporting statements.
- Understands the differing roles of governance and management.
- Ability to think “region-wide” on issues to come to decision.
- Be results focused.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the LGA.

Experience and Background

- May have experience relevant to the challenges facing the region.
- May have extensive community networks.
- Be familiar with the existing Greater Wellington Regional Council’s LTP.

Personal Qualities

- Demonstrates integrity and ethical behaviour.
- Is independent, inquisitive and innovative.
- Has the ability to see all sides of an argument.
- Is hard working and can work unsupervised.
- Ability to develop and maintain positive working relationships with councillors and staff
- Committed to Greater Wellington Regional Council.
- Sense of humour.
- Respect for others.
- Flexible working hours, some evening and weekend work may be required.
- Actively demonstrates commitment to the Elected Members’ Code of Ethics

Members’ Interests

Prospective candidates should be aware of the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members’ Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA).

Under Section 3 of the LAMIA, elected members may not be concerned or interested in contracts made by the council when payments made for the contracts entered into during a particular year exceed \$25,000 including GST whether individually or in total. That amount may only be exceeded if the council has either obtained the prior approval of the Auditor General or, in special circumstances, obtained retrospective approval. When payments exceed \$25,000 or any other approved amount, the elected member concerned is automatically disqualified from office. He or she also commits an offence if they continue to act as a member.

Under Section 6 of the LAMIA, elected members may not discuss or vote on any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest when it is being considered by the council or a committee. Elected members failing to observe this prohibition commit an offence and can be prosecuted. Conviction leads to disqualification from office.

When a matter is raised at a meeting of the council or a committee in which a member has a pecuniary interest, the member prohibited from voting or discussing the matter must declare the pecuniary interest. The fact of that disclosure and abstention from discussion and voting on it

is also recorded in the minutes. While it is not necessary to withdraw from the meeting, it is good practice to do so.

The Auditor General has no power under LAMIA to grant candidates an exemption from the contracting rule. For further information visit www.oag.parliament.nz/2020/lamia

Members’ Remuneration

Remuneration for elected members is set by the Remuneration Authority annually. The base councillor and Chairperson’s remuneration is determined by Council’s size index, which is derived from population and council expenditure factors.

Following the election, the base councillor and the Chairperson’s remuneration will be:

Chairperson	\$176,609
Councillor	\$63,237

There is funding set aside for positions of additional responsibility. Council determines the allocation of the remuneration pool based on positions of additional responsibility, which it then recommends to the Remuneration Authority.

The Remuneration Authority has set Council’s governance remuneration pool for 2022/23 following the election at \$947,216. Council will allocate the governance remuneration pool based on its governance structure. The remuneration pool does not apply to remuneration for the Council Chair.

Under the current governance structure, the remuneration for Greater Wellington’s councillors for the 2022/23 financial year (until the election) is:

Chairperson	\$176,436
Deputy Chairperson (with committee chair responsibilities)	\$93,084
Committee chairperson (5)	\$82,712
Chair Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee and Portfolio Leader	\$82,712
Portfolio Leader, Sustainable Development	\$79,614
Councillor (no additional responsibilities) (4)	\$66,346

Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) is part of a reform package aimed at reducing the number of serious work-related injuries and deaths in New Zealand.

The HSWA is designed to:

- Ensure everyone has a role to play
- Make everyone’s responsibilities clear
- Focus on managing risk

- Require those who create the risk to control the risk
- Require businesses to engage with their workers and enable them to participate on an ongoing basis
- Allow flexibility in managing health and safety risks.

For elected members, the most significant implication is the introduction of the role of officer and the requirement for officers to meet due diligence duties.

What is an officer and what do they need to do?

An officer is a person who holds a very senior leadership position, and has the ability to significantly influence the management of a business. At Greater Wellington Regional Council this includes elected members and the Chief Executive.

Officers must ensure the business is meeting its health and safety responsibilities by doing due diligence to ensure the business understands and manages its key risks. To do this officers must take reasonable steps to:

- Keep up to date knowledge of health and safety
- Understand the operations of the business
- Ensure and check that their business has appropriate resources and processes for health and safety.

Elected members of a Council are not required to exercise due diligence over a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) provided they are not an officer of that CCO e.g. an elected member will be an officer of a CCO if they are on the Board of the CCO.

Greater Wellington Regional Council and elected members as officers under the HSWA

Greater Wellington is proactively partnering with elected members to ensure Greater Wellington and its officers can meet their responsibilities under the Act.

Liabilities of officers under the HSWA

Under the HSWA there is a raft of offences that can be committed which carry fines (which need to be paid in some cases by the organisation and in some cases personally by the officer) and in extreme cases even jail sentences. Elected members as officers have an exemption under the HSWA from some of these offences. Offences that elected members as officers can be liable for include offences such as failure to comply with an improvement notice. This can be a fine up to \$50,000 for an individual or \$250,000 for a body corporate. Insurance is not available to cover the cost of such fines.

Meeting Frequencies

Council

Council meetings are usually held in the Council Chambers at our Wellington office at 100 Cuba Street on a Thursday on a six weekly basis. Meetings may also be held at other locations. Council meetings typically start at 9.30am and last for three hours, and are often followed by a workshop. In addition to the main council meetings there is a range of committee and sub-committee meetings that councillors would be expected to attend.

All meeting agendas (for council and committee meetings) are distributed to members electronically three working days before the meeting and all elected members are expected to have read and made necessary queries

to understand all agenda items ahead of the meeting. Depending on the complexity of the agenda items, that can be a time-consuming task.

The current schedule of meetings is available on the events calendar on our website.

Inaugural Meeting

The successful candidates will take office on the day after the Electoral Officer gives their official notification of the result of the election. However, no person is permitted to act as a member of the council before making a declaration. This declaration will be made at the inaugural meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday 27 October 2022. Newly elected members will be contacted by staff with the key dates.

The business to be conducted at that meeting will include:

- The making and attesting of declarations required of the chair and councillors. Traditionally, this has been a ceremonial occasion
- A general explanation of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and other laws affecting elected members
- Appointment of the chair and deputy chair
- The fixing of the date and time of the first ordinary meeting of the council, or the adoption of the schedule of ordinary meetings.

All councillors elected (whether returning or newly elected) will need to make this declaration:

Declaration by Councillors

I declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgement, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Wellington Region, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in or imposed upon me as a member of the Wellington Regional Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

Pre-election Report

All councils must prepare a pre-election report. The report is prepared by the chief executive independently of the councillors.

Section 99A of the LGA sets out the information that must be included in the report and its timing. It includes information previously published in other council documents including long term plans, annual plans and annual reports. As such the information reflects the policy and service delivery direction of the current council.

The pre-election report has a particular focus on how the council is performing financially, including the current financial position and key spending issues over the coming years. It provides historic information for the past three years, an overview of the current election year and council's planned financial position for the next three years. It also outlines council's broader financial goals, which are included in its long term plan.

The pre-election report will be available from the Greater Wellington Regional Council's website in July 2022. Candidates are advised to read the report when it becomes available.

Pūnaha Pōti Electoral System

Local bodies can conduct their elections under the First Past the Post (FPP) or the Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral systems.

Greater Wellington Regional Council has opted to use the STV electoral system for their 2022 elections.

Briefly, the STV electoral system consists of the following:

- Voters receive a single (transferable) vote irrespective of the number of vacancies.
- Voters rank the candidates in order of preference, by writing a "1" next to the name of their most preferred candidate, then a "2" next to the name of the next preferred candidate and so on.
- Voters can rank as few or as many candidates as they wish.
- To be elected, a candidate must reach a "quota" of votes, which is based on the number of vacancies and the number of valid votes.
- When votes are counted, all the first preferences are allocated first.
- A candidate who reaches the quota first is elected. If there is more than one vacancy, and a candidate gets more votes than the quota, a proportion of each vote for that candidate is transferred to the voter's second preference. If, as a result, another candidate gets more votes than the quota, a proportion is transferred to the third preferences, and so on.
- If insufficient candidates reach the quota after the first preferences are allocated and any surplus votes are transferred, then the candidate who received the fewest votes is eliminated and each vote for that candidate is transferred to the voter's second preference. This process is repeated until enough candidates reach the quota to fill all the vacancies.

More information on STV can be accessed from the Department of Internal Affairs website www.stv.org.nz.

Rārangi Pukapuka Pōti Electoral Roll

Each territorial local authority (TLA) must compile a preliminary electoral roll during July 2022. Those electoral rolls will include regional council entitlements. Copies of the preliminary electoral roll for the election will be available for public inspection during normal office hours from 15 July to 12 August 2022 at the main office of each TLA and Greater Wellington Regional Council's Cuba Street office.

Each TLA's electoral roll will list all parliamentary electors residing in that TLA area, except those recorded on the unpublished roll. Parliamentary electors listed on the unpublished roll must apply for a special vote if they wish to vote in the election. The Electoral Commission writes to those listed on the unpublished rolls, informing them of the election and how to source special voting documents if required.

In addition to the residential electors, each TLA must also include in their electoral rolls details of any non-resident ratepayers who have enrolled as ratepayer electors. Ratepayer elector voting entitlements are determined by the electoral issue and the elector's place of residence, meaning ratepayer electors will often have less voting entitlements than residential electors in the same TLA.

Any alterations to the residential roll, should be made:

- Online at www.vote.nz
- By texting your name and address to **3676** to get a form sent to you
- By calling **0800 36 76 56** to ask for a form to be sent to you
- By email request to enquiries@elections.govt.nz

Hard copies of the preliminary electoral rolls covering the Greater Wellington Regional Council area may be purchased from the Electoral Officer. A separate fee for each roll will apply, based on the size of each roll.

The final electoral roll is produced once the preliminary electoral roll closes on 12 August 2022. The final electoral roll is the roll used for issuing voting papers. Copies of this roll may be purchased as above.

Details appearing in the electoral roll are electors names (surname, then first names) listed alphabetically, the qualifying address, occupation and voting entitlements.

Information contained on the electoral roll is not available from the electoral officer in an electronic form.

In limited circumstances, an electronic listing of resident electors is available from the Electoral Commission (provided the criteria of section 114 of the Electoral Act 1993 is met). An application form is required to be completed and can be obtained by emailing a request to data@elections.govt.nz. A fee of \$455.50 applies.

The files can only be released after a candidate's nomination has been confirmed so the Electoral Commission will check with the Electoral Officer to see if the applicant's nomination has been accepted. The Electoral Commission will endeavour to assess applications within 5 working days of receipt, however, it may take longer during busy election periods.

Te Raupapa Kaitono Order of Candidate Names

Councils are required to determine the order of candidates on the voting papers.

There are three options.

Alphabetical - names are listed in alphabetical order of surname, i.e. every voting paper has the same alphabetical order.

Pseudo random - candidate surnames are drawn out of a hat by the Electoral Officer soon after the close of nominations, and the names stay in that order, i.e. every voting paper has the same randomly ordered listing of candidates.

Fully random order - each candidate's name is printed randomly on each voting paper, i.e. every voting paper will have the candidates listed in a different random order.

Candidates for any Greater Wellington Regional Council election in 2022 will be listed in fully random order on the voting papers.

Te Paearu Kaitono

Candidate Eligibility

Candidates for the 2022 Greater Wellington Regional Council triennial elections must be:

1. Enrolled on a **parliamentary electoral roll** somewhere in New Zealand; and
2. A **New Zealand citizen** (either by birth or naturalisation ceremony). [Section 25, Local Electoral Act 2001.]

Restrictions on candidates for local authority elections:

- a. A candidate may stand for either the regional council or any city/district council/community/local board in the regional council's district but not both [section 58 LEA].
- b. A candidate may not stand for more than one constituency of the same local authority [section 57A LEA].
- c. A candidate cannot nominate themselves for office.
- d. A candidate cannot be a person concerned or interested in contracts over \$25,000 with the local authority (Section 3(1) Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968).
- e. An employee of Greater Wellington Regional Council can stand for election as a Greater Wellington Regional Council councillor; however, if elected, they must resign from their position as an employee of the local authority before taking up their elected position. (section 41 (5) Local Government Act 2002)

Notes:

- i. A candidate for the Greater Wellington Regional Council election can stand for other regional council elections or for city or district council elections outside of the Greater Wellington Regional Council boundary.
- ii. Candidates are required to record on the nomination paper if they are standing for election in any other elections in New Zealand.
- iii. Candidates need not be a resident or ratepayer in the constituency in which they are seeking election, or for that matter, the Wellington Region, but they must be nominated by two electors of that constituency and they must declare whether they reside within the election area or not.
- iv. Evidence of NZ citizenship will be required at the time of candidate nomination. Acceptable evidence includes NZ passport, NZ birth certificate, or NZ citizenship documentation.

Te Pūnaha Tautapa Nominations

Nominations open on **Friday 15 July 2022** and close at **12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022**

Each candidate must be nominated on the official nomination paper available during normal office hours from the following Greater Wellington Regional Council offices:

- 100 Cuba, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington
- 34 Chapel Street, Masterton

Or by:

- Phoning the toll free number 0800 496 734 (during normal office hours)
- Downloading from the Greater Wellington Regional Council's elections website elections.gw.govt.nz
- Emailing a request to elections@gw.govt.nz

Completion of Nomination Paper

Each nomination paper must have the consent of the candidate and be nominated by **two** electors whose names appear on the electoral roll for the constituency the candidate is standing for (e.g. if a person wishes to stand for election for the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/ Lower Hutt Constituency, then that person must be nominated by two electors listed on the electoral roll with an entitlement to vote for the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/ Lower Hutt Constituency).

A candidate **cannot** nominate themselves.

If a candidate is unable to sign the nomination paper (e.g. absent overseas), a letter of consent signed by the candidate is acceptable to attach to the nomination paper. A scanned copy of a completed nomination paper will also be accepted, provided the nomination deposit payment (or evidence thereof) and proof of citizenship is received by the close of nominations.

Residency in Area

A candidate must declare if they reside in the area of election or not. This is shown at the top of the profile statement but does not count as part of the 150 word profile.

Standing in Other Elections in New Zealand

A candidate must declare if they are standing as a candidate in any other local body election in New Zealand at the time of the 2022 elections. This is shown at the top of the profile statement but does not count as part of the 150 word profile.

Affiliation

The nomination paper provides for a party affiliation or other designation.

Individual candidates not part of a political party may wish to nominate their designation as "Independent" or leave as blank (if left blank, nothing will show alongside the name on the voting paper).

A candidate requiring a specific political party affiliation must have authority to adopt the affiliation from the party concerned. This is a safety measure to avoid any illegal adoption of party affiliations.

No party affiliation or other designation that is offensive in nature or likely to confuse or mislead electors will be accepted.

The Electoral Officer may require written evidence that a candidate belongs to a group or organisation if there is some contention about the use of a particular party affiliation.

The party affiliation limit is 38 characters. This will be strictly enforced.

Website address, hashtags, twitter handles or Facebook links will not be accepted as an affiliation.

Candidate information in voting papers

Other Names

If a candidate is commonly known in the community by a slightly different name (e.g. Edward Smith is commonly known as Ted Smith) and has been known by this name for at least the last six months (to the satisfaction of the Electoral Officer), the commonly known name may appear on the voting paper.

Titles

Titles (i.e. Dr, JP, Sir, Dame etc) are **not** permitted next to the candidate's names on the voting paper or profile statement, but can be included as part of the candidate's 150 word profile text if desired.

Submitting the Nomination Documents

Nomination papers, with the deposit, candidate profile statement, photograph and evidence of citizenship must be:

- **emailed to elections@gw.govt.nz ; or**
- **delivered to The Electoral Officer, Greater Wellington Regional Council, 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington**

Should the documents be received by the Electoral Officer after the close of nominations, the nomination is invalid.

Nomination documents can be delivered during normal business hours at the above venue between Friday 15 July and Friday 12 August 2022 except on 12 August 2022 when 12 noon is the cut-off time for lodgement.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure all nomination documents (nomination form, nomination deposit or proof thereof, and proof of NZ citizenship) are submitted together and that they are all correct.

The lodgement of nomination documents should not be left to the last minute.

Nominations close at 12 noon, Friday 12 August 2022.

Once lodged, nomination papers are checked to ensure the candidate is eligible (name appears on a parliamentary roll and the nominators are two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll for the relevant constituency).

Should a nomination paper be lodged late on the morning nominations close, and/or be incorrectly completed or ineligible nominators are provided, there may not be enough time to correct the situation and the nomination could be invalidated.

Candidate Details

Confirmed candidate details will be made available on on Greater Wellington Regional Council's elections website. The details will be updated on a regular basis throughout the nomination period and will include at least the candidate name, any affiliation claimed and candidate contact details.

Candidates may be contacted by journalists, advertisers, pollsters and other groups interested in election matters.

Nomination Deposits

Each nomination paper lodged, requires a deposit of **\$200** (including GST). If an election is required the deposit is refunded if the candidate polls greater than **25%** of the lowest polling successful candidate for each election issue. The deposit is also refunded if no election is required.

Payment of the nomination deposit can be made by EFTPOS at Greater Wellington Regional Council's Cuba Street office or online banking only. Payment by cash will not be accepted. Should an online banking transaction be dishonoured or declined, the nomination becomes invalid as the deposit has not lawfully been made. If this occurs after the close of nominations, then the nomination is invalid and the candidate will be withdrawn.

Payment can be made by online banking. Details for the payment of the deposit by online banking are shown on page 2 of the nomination paper. If paying by online banking, evidence of the transaction **must** be provided at the time the nomination documents are submitted, i.e. a copy of the transaction receipt. The nomination paper also sets out the reference and code details required for each online payment.

Nomination papers, with the deposit, evidence of NZ citizenship, candidate profile statement and photograph, can be sent to the Electoral Officer by mail or email, but should they be received after the close of nominations, the nomination is invalid.

Nominations close at 12 noon, Friday 12 August 2022.

Te Maunu Kaitono Candidate Withdrawals

A candidate can withdraw their nomination by application to the Electoral Officer up to the close of nominations i.e. 12 noon, Friday 12 August 2022.

Candidates cannot strategically or politically withdraw their nomination once nominations have closed. Candidates may only withdraw after the close of nominations for medical reasons, i.e. incapacity.

A medical certificate must be provided for a withdrawal notice to be accepted by the Electoral Officer after the close of nominations. An application can be made by a candidate or an agent on their behalf, and must be signed by a Solicitor or Justice of the Peace.

A candidate wishing to withdraw must discuss this with the Electoral Officer as soon as possible.

Ngā Kōrero Whaitake a ngā Kaitono

Candidate Profile Statements

The LEA allows for candidate profile statements of up to 150 words to be provided by each candidate with the completed nomination form. If an election is required these are then collated by the Electoral Officer and forwarded to electors in a booklet with the voting papers. Refer also to the notes listed in Appendix 1 for word limits and translation requirements.

Candidate profile statements must be provided electronically via email, in a MS Word document that has been spell checked. As the Electoral Officer could receive dozens of profiles, consistent format of delivery and content is required (refer to guidelines below).

Candidate profile statements are governed by Sections 61 and 62 of the LEA.

If the nomination forms are being personally delivered, a hard copy format of the profile must be provided at the same time. Hand written profiles will not be accepted.

Format of Candidate Profile Statements

The format requirements for profiles are:

The English text must be plain text, in paragraphs, with no special formatting, i.e.

- No bold, italic, underlining etc.
- No words in CAPS (except acronyms)
- No tabs
- No quote marks
- No accent marks (this restriction is in English text only)
- No bullet points.

If bullet points are provided in the profile statement, they will be turned into a “run on” list after a semi-colon.

The profiles will be loaded into software provided by the printer that will automatically apply the required font, type size, line spacings etc. If there is no profile statement or photo from a candidate, then “No Profile Statement and/or Photo provided.” text or similar will be printed in the profile book.

Any non-English candidate profile content must be supplied with the following formatting:

- Font - Times New Roman (or Equivalent)
- Point Size - 9 point size, 11 point line spacing
- No special formatting of text – e.g. no bolding, no italics, no underlines, no quote marks, etc.

Facebook links can be included in the 150 word profile but have a maximum limit of 60 characters, so that they stay on one line. This will be strictly enforced.

Translations

The following contact details are given for a translation company, for those candidates who are unable to prepare the translation image themselves or do not know of anyone to do this for them:

Pacific International Translations (NZ) Ltd 4/203 Queen Street, Auckland. Phone: 09 9135290 Fax: 09 9135291

Email: info@pactrans.co.nz

The translation service will provide the translations in the above format to meet the requirements of the printer, the cost of which is to be met by the candidate.

Candidate Photos

Candidates may also submit a recent (less than 12 months) colour photograph for inclusion with the candidate profile statement in the booklet to accompany the voting papers. Photos should also be provided electronically as an attachment to an email to the Electoral Officer. Greater Wellington Regional Council does not accept USB or other external devices for transfer of files.

If hard copy photographs are provided, then two copies of each photo should be provided with the candidate's name clearly printed on the rear of each photograph (Care needs to be taken when labelling hard copies of photos to ensure the photo image is not damaged in the process). Photos will not be returned to candidates.

Format of Candidate Photos

Candidate photos are to be a head and shoulders shot only, with nothing else in the photo, i.e. no hats, sunglasses, pets, external objects or impediments, or other people. They should be in colour. If necessary the Electoral Officer will crop the photo accordingly but the onus is on the candidate to provide a photo of the candidate only that complies with this format.

Electronic copies of photos should be scanned as a jpeg at a minimum of 300 dpi.

Any queries regarding the format of photos and profiles are to be made to the Electoral Officer.

Note: The onus is on the candidate to ensure that all nomination documents including the profile and photo are submitted to the Electoral Officer by 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022.

Correctness of Candidate Profile Statements

The candidate is responsible for ensuring that the candidate profile statement contains correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. The Electoral Officer may make corrections to the statement without affecting content but accepts no responsibility to make any correction. The candidate should ensure the statement is correct when submitted and not expect any corrections to be applied.

The Electoral Officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in a candidate profile statement.

The Electoral Officer will take no responsibility for the accuracy of the content. A disclaimer concerning the accuracy of the information contained in the statements will be published in the profile statement booklet.

If the profile statement or photo does not comply with the legislative requirements, the Electoral Officer will as soon as practicable, return the statement to the candidate and specify his/her concerns and the reasons therefore. The candidate will then have up to three (3) days to submit an amended candidate profile statement to the Electoral Officer.

A candidate is to be treated as having failed to provide a candidate profile statement, if the candidate:

- fails to submit an amended candidate profile statement within the requested period, or
- submits an amended candidate profile statement that, in the opinion of the Electoral Officer, does not comply with the requirements.

Where the Electoral Officer is not satisfied that the candidate profile statement complies and cannot reach agreement with the candidate within the period specified, but the candidate has submitted a suitable photograph, the Electoral Officer will act as if the written part of the statement was never received but still publish the photograph in the candidate profile booklet to be included with the voting paper sent to each elector, as well as a message to the effect that a statement was not supplied.

Remember that the profile statement cannot include any special formatting, ie no bullet points, words in CAPS (except acronyms), bold, underlines, italics etc.

Whakahaeretia, Rauemi Kaunihera, Pae Pāpāho Pāpori

Campaigning, Council Resources and Social Media

Election campaigning can commence anytime but should cease by the close of voting, i.e. 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022.

There are generally no rules around conduct of campaigning by candidates, although there are certain election offences, which are detailed for your information in this guide, see Appendix 6. Please refer to them for your own protection.

No election material can contain:

- any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and calculated to influence the vote of any elector.
- an imitation voting paper which has the names of the candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contains such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.

Voting papers should not be collected from electors by candidates or their assistants. Each elector is required to post or deliver his or her own voting paper to the Electoral Officer or official voting boxes.

Candidates can use official titles in their campaigning material, ie Dr, OMNZ, CMNZ, Sir, Madam etc but these are not permitted on the voting papers.

Candidates should not display completed voting papers on any media channels as this could be construed as an offence under section 122 (1) (b) of the LEA of attempting to interfere or influence voters. Candidates should not display completed voting papers on social media channels or any other form of election signage or publications etc.

Council Resources

Candidates are not permitted to use council resources for campaigning purposes. Council resources include but are not limited to Greater Wellington Regional Council's logo and branding, website, council taken photos of buildings and amenities or landmarks, facebook page, twitter account, any forms of social media, computers, email, mobile phones, faxes, stationery, photocopiers, printers, stamps, cars, meeting rooms and venues (except those available for public hire).

Campaigning on Metlink buses, ferries and trains

Campaigning, including the distribution of candidate information, is not permitted on Metlink buses, ferries and trains under the Metlink Conditions of Carriage.

Campaigning at railway stations (excluding Wellington Railway Station), and park and ride facilities.

Railway station buildings (excluding Wellington Railway Station) within the Wellington Region are owned by Greater Wellington Rail Limited (GWRL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Greater Wellington Regional Council. GWRL owns all passenger trains in the Wellington Region (except the Capital Connection). GWRL also owns and/or controls all the park and ride facilities across the region.

The GWRL network is kept politically neutral. Therefore political campaigning of any kind is **not** permitted in the following places:

- In or around the railway stations (including platforms)
- In or around park and ride facilities.

Campaigning at Wellington Railway Station

The Wellington Railway Station is owned by KiwiRail. Applications to campaign at this Station must be made to KiwiRail.

Election Advertising and Authorisation on Campaign Material

Election advertising, using any media, including social media, must identify the person under whose authority they have been produced, as per section 113 of the LEA.

This means that for posters, adverts, signs, billboards, flyers, vehicle signage, websites, Facebook pages etc, each advertising item must include a statement saying that it is authorised by the candidate or agent, e.g. "Authorised by Joe Citizen, 20 Main St, Tinseltown." This authorisation must be clearly visible on any campaigning material including signs and billboards.

It must be included on every item of campaigning material.

The Local Electoral (Advertising) Amendment Act 2022 amended the advertising authorisation provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001. The legislation allows the **address** requirements of an advertisement authorisation statement to be met by providing:

- A residential or business address; or
- An email address; or
- A post office box number; or
- A phone number; or
- A link to a page on a internet site (if the page contains 1 or more of the above).

The requirements to list the authorising party remains. There must be a reasonable expectation that anyone wishing to discuss the advertising can do so with the candidate or their agent from the contact details listed in the authorisation statement. Inclusion of local authority details is not permitted in the authorisation address.

Advertising Standards Code for Campaign Material

Candidates are reminded to be socially responsible and truthful with the content of their campaign material. Campaign advertisements are subject to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Code. Wherever facts are quoted, the Code is strict that the facts must be correct, however, where a person holds a broad view or opinion, the Code allows them to do so. The ASA settles disputes during elections within two to three days, and takes complaints from electoral officers and the public. The usual penalty for breaches of the code is for the advertising to be removed.

LGOIMA Requests

Greater Wellington Regional Council is required to respond to information requests made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Greater Wellington Regional Council will publish all responses to candidates to its website.

Policy Local

A partner of the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) 'Vote 22' campaign, and published in partnership with The Spinoff, Policy Local is an information source about local election candidates published at policylocal.nz during the triennial election campaigns.

Policy Local is the local elections version of Policy.nz, which is published during the parliamentary elections.

Policy Local aims to be a comprehensive source of information where voters can learn about and compare candidates in their local election. In 2019 the majority of Mayor and Councillor candidates took part in Policy Local.

Participation is free and optional for candidates. To participate, candidates need to complete the Policy Local email questionnaire that will be sent to them once nominations are confirmed in August 2022.

Candidate contact details will be made available from the Greater Wellington Regional Council's election website as soon as possible after has candidacy been confirmed. Policy Local will use that information to contact candidates and invite them to participate.

To find out more, visit 2022.policylocal.nz or by emailing candidates@policylocal.nz.

Campaign Expenditure Limits

Candidates have campaign expenditure limits and are required to file a return to the Electoral Officer after the election. The campaign expenditure limit is population based and is to ensure that there is a level playing field for all candidates in regard to how much money they can spend on campaigning.

Campaigning funds will generally be provided by the candidate or, in some cases, from donations. Please note that the council does not reimburse ANY campaigning costs, which remain the responsibility of each candidate.

Campaign expenditure is all expenses relating to the campaign from the period 3 months before election day,

i.e. all expenditure from **8 July to 8 October 2022** plus any apportioned costs of any election campaigning carried out prior to 8 July 2022 (refer S.112 LEA 2001).

These population figures are estimates sourced from Statistics NZ as at 30 June 2021.

The campaign expenditure limits for Greater Wellington Regional Council are:

Constituency	Est Resident Population as at 30 June 2021	Expenditure Limit (inc GST)
Pōneke/Wellington	201,500	\$60,000
Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai/Lower Hutt	112,800	\$55,000
Porirua-Tawa	77,400	\$40,000
Kāpiti Coast	58,000	\$30,000
Wairarapa	49,900	\$30,000
Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt	47,500	\$30,000

Return of Electoral Expenses

Each candidate is required to keep a record of all campaign election expenses, and must furnish a return to the Electoral Officer within 55 days of the election result being declared, estimated to be no later than Wednesday 14 December 2022.

The return of electoral expenses and electoral donations form once returned becomes a public document and can be inspected by any person for a period of 7 years after receipt. The Electoral Officer is required to make the expenditure return and any supporting documents available on Greater Wellington's website for seven years.

A model election expenses return form is attached as Appendix 2. The relevant sections of the LEA on election expenses is attached as Appendix 3.

Note:

- 1) Candidates are required to keep evidence of any election expenses for amounts exceeding \$200, but do not need to provide them with the declaration.
- 2) All candidates must submit a return of election expenses and donations form even if no expenses have been incurred or donations received.

Candidate Expenses

Sec 104 of the LEA lists the following definition of electoral expenses, in relation to a candidate at an election,—

- (a) Means expenses that are incurred by or on behalf of the candidate in respect of any electoral activity; and
- (b) includes expenses that are incurred by or on behalf of the candidate, before or after the applicable period before the close of polling day, in respect of any electoral activity; and
- (c) includes the reasonable market value of any materials applied in respect of any electoral activity that are given to the candidate or that are provided to the candidate free of charge or below reasonable market value; and
- (d) includes the cost of any printing or postage in respect of any electoral activity, whether or not the expenses in respect of the printing or postage are incurred by or on behalf of the candidate; but
- (e) does not include the expenses of operating a vehicle on which election advertising appears if that vehicle is used in good faith by the candidate as the candidate's personal means of transport; and
- (f) does not include expenses incurred by the candidate in preparing a candidate profile statement; and
- (g) does not include the labour of any person that is provided to the candidate free of charge by that person; and
- (h) does not include the cost of any framework (other than a commercial framework) that supports a hoarding on which an advertisement is displayed.

Note – the \$200 nomination deposit fee is not an electoral expense.

N.B. Money spent on campaigning cannot be refunded by the Council.

Candidates can use hoardings signs or campaign material from previous elections for which the cost has already been declared. The item should be noted on the expenditure return form as being declared in the previous election, but no costs needs to be recorded for it.

Definition of electoral donation

An electoral donation is a donation of money, goods or services that is made for use in a candidate's election campaign (section 103A LEA). Electoral donations and contributions to donations, of more than \$1500 incl. GST are required to be declared in the candidate's return of donations and expenses. A series of donations made by one person that adds up to more than \$1500 must also be declared. An electoral donation includes:

- where a candidate is provided with goods or services free of charge that have a reasonable market value greater than \$300
- where a candidate is provided with discounted goods or services and the reasonable market value of the goods or services is greater than \$300, the difference between the contract or agreed price and the reasonable market value of those goods and services is a donation
- where a candidate sells over-valued goods or services,

the difference between the price paid and the reasonable market value is a donation, for example a fundraising auction or dinner.

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.

If a person or organisation gives or pays for goods or services that would otherwise be candidate election expenses, the reasonable market value of those items, whatever their value, should be recorded as an election expense. If the reasonable market value of the items exceeds \$300 it should also be recorded as a donation.

Donations made up of contributions

Donations to candidates can be made up of pooled funds contributed by more than one person (referred to in the LEA as donations funded from contributions). These types of donations include, for example, campaign donations made through a trust, or where there is a fundraising collection for a candidate's campaign (section 103A LEA). The total proceeds of a collection are treated as a donation under the LEA. The person who collects the money will normally be the donor. The individuals who contribute to the collection are contributors for the purposes of the LEA. If an electoral donation, other than an anonymous donation, is made up of contributions, the transmitter or donor must tell the candidate:

- the name and address of the donor
- whether the donation is made up of contributions
- the total amount of individual contributions of \$1500 or less
- in the case of individual contributions greater than \$1500, the name, address, and contribution of each contributor.

If the candidate knows, or has reasonable grounds to believe, that the donor has failed to supply information about contributions, the whole donation must be returned to the donor.

Transmitted donations

A donation can be made either directly by the donor to the candidate or indirectly by a transmitter who transmits a donation to the candidate on someone else's behalf, for example via a lawyer's trust fund. Any person who receives a candidate donation on the candidate's behalf must transmit it to the candidate within 10 working days. When transmitting a donation, the transmitter must tell the candidate:

- that the donation is being transmitted on behalf of a donor
- the name and address of the donor
- whether the donation is made up of contributions
- the total amount of contributions of \$1500 or less
- in the case of contributions greater than \$1500, the name, address, and contribution of each contributor.

Where a transmitter does not disclose the name and address of the donor, the donation must be treated as an anonymous donation (see below).

Anonymous donations

Candidates are not permitted to retain anonymous donations exceeding \$1500. An anonymous donation is a donation made in such a way that the candidate who receives the donation does not know the identity of the donor and could not, in the circumstances, reasonably be expected to know the identity of the donor (section 103A LEA). If a candidate receives an anonymous donation greater than \$1500, he or she may retain \$1500 of that donation. The balance of the donation must, within 20 working days of receipt, be paid to the electoral officer for payment into the general fund of the local authority.

Applicable period for donations

There is no provision within the LEA or its regulations specifying a period for recording or declaring donations. On that basis, all qualifying donations contributed for use in a candidate's election campaign for the 2022 triennial local body elections should be recorded and included in the candidate's return of election expenses and donations.

Crowdfunded contributions

If a candidate was to use crowdfunding to raise election money, the money raised from crowdfunding would be treated as a donation "funded from one or more contributions".

The person raising the money (the donor) would have to disclose that the donation was funded from contributions, including the total proportion of the donation that came from any contributor providing more than \$1,500 and the total of all other contributions (section 103D(2)(a), (c) and (d) LEA).

If any individual contributor's contribution to a crowdfunded donation exceeds \$1500 (either through one contribution or multiple contributions from the same individual), section 103D(2)(b) of the LEA will require whoever raises the money (the donor) to disclose that individual's name, address and the total amount of their contribution.

Section 103D(3) requires candidates to return the entirety of a donation if they know, or have reasonable grounds to believe, that section 103D(2) has not been complied with. For example, if a candidate has reasonable grounds to believe that one contributor had donated more than \$1500 to their crowdfunding campaign but has not been informed of that contributor's name and address, and how much they donated, the candidate will have to return everything raised by the crowdfunding.

Given that contributors could easily use false identities while making multiple contributions, candidates could easily find themselves in a position where they have reasonable grounds to believe section 103D(2)(b) has not been complied with, and therefore have to return everything raised due to section 103D(3).

Some crowdfunders' platforms have processes which are unlikely to enable compliance with the requirement in section 103C of the LEA to transmit donations to candidates within 10 working days. Sections 103E and

103K of the LEA contain offences relating to concealing the identity of people who contribute more than \$1500, or circumventing the requirement to only keep \$1500 of any anonymous donations that exceed \$1500. "Anonymous" donations are where the candidate does not, and could not reasonably be expected to, know the identity of the donor.

For these reasons it is understandable if crowdfunding providers will not host crowdfunding for election candidates, given that their platforms could be used to conceal the identity of people contributing more than \$1500, thereby putting them at legal risk.

Reasonable market value of donations

Sometimes goods or services are provided to a candidate for use in their campaign at less than their reasonable market value. If the reasonable market value of the goods or services provided exceeds \$300 then the goods and services is considered a donation. The amount of the donation is the difference between what is paid by the candidate for the goods or services (if anything) and their reasonable market value.

Sometimes goods or services are sold by or on behalf of a candidate for more than their reasonable market value and the proceeds used in their campaign, in which case a portion of the payment made for the goods and services will constitute a donation. The amount of the donation is the difference between what the goods or services are sold for and their reasonable market value.

For example, in the scenario of a fund raising auction, the person who gives or sells the candidate an item for auction is considered to have made a donation if the reasonable market value of the item is greater than \$300 and the candidate has paid less than the reasonable market value (if anything). The amount of the donation is the difference between what was paid for the item and its reasonable market value. In addition, the person who buys the item at the auction is considered to have made a donation if they have paid more than the reasonable market value of the item. The donation is the difference between the reasonable market value of the item and the price paid at the auction.

The reasonable market value should be taken as the value determined by applying normal market conditions. For example, fund raising auctions are not the normal markets for buying and selling wine or paintings. The normal markets for those items would be wine shops and art galleries.

Care should be taken when determining the reasonable market value of an item which has had a signature added to it, particularly where it is the candidate's signature. The reasonable market value should still be determined by applying normal market conditions. The starting point should be the reasonable market value of the item without a signature and then a realistic assessment should be made of whether the addition of the signature has in fact increased (or even decreased) the reasonable market value of the item.

Talk to your Electoral Officer if you need further information about donation calculations.

Auction Donation Workbook

Taituarā has prepared a workbook to help candidates identify what amounts need to be declared from fundraising auctions. The workbook includes an example sheet as well as a blank template worksheet that the candidate can use for input of their own auction results. The workbook is available from www.electionz.com/LGE2022_landing.

Greater Wellington Regional Council's Social Media Guidelines for Candidates

Candidates must comply with the following guidelines for web and social media use and presence related to campaigning.

Things to be aware of:

- During the lead up to elections, the current Council Chair and councillors may be used in social media posts where it is appropriate and is considered 'business as usual' to use them. This may be in images or quotes.
- Election advertising, using any media, including social media, must identify the person under whose authority they have been produced, as per section 113 of the LEA. This means in your profile photo/bio, you must have a statement saying that all content/images on your social media channel are authorised by you or your agent. You must include a physical address in the authorisation statement (not a PO Box, private bag or rural number), and you must not use the council's main office address.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media accounts (listed below), including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Neighbourly, are not permitted to be used as a communications channel by anyone (candidates or members of the public) for promotion, electioneering or campaigning. This also applies to all social media accounts owned by CCOs.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media accounts are constantly monitored and any campaign related or electioneering content will be removed immediately.
- If Greater Wellington Regional Council already follows your public social media accounts, please note you will be unfollowed 3 months prior to the election date. This protocol is in line with the Local Electoral Act 2001.
- Any social media post made by anybody on a Greater Wellington Regional Council social media page related to their own or somebody else's nomination, intention to run for Greater Wellington Regional Council, or election campaign, will be removed immediately
- Candidates must not reply to Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media posts or share with a comment encouraging people to like or follow their own social media accounts or any other electioneering tool. Any posts that do this will be removed immediately.
- Candidates must not link their own social media accounts (if they are used for campaigning purposes) to Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media accounts.

- Candidates must not rate, review, check-in or tag Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media channels.
- Greater Wellington Regional Council's social media accounts will remain neutral. Greater Wellington Regional Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates.
- It is illegal for candidates to display their completed voting papers on social media, so please do not take a photo of your completed voting paper and post it on Facebook etc.

For the sake of clarity, our organisation's web and social media channels under control of Greater Wellington Regional Council (at 1 May 2022) are:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterWellington/>
<https://www.facebook.com/metlinkwgtn/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/greaterwgtm>
<https://twitter.com/metlinkwgtn>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/greaterwellington/>

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/greaterwellington>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/greater-wellington-regional-council/?originalSubdomain=nz>

Neighbourly

<https://www.neighbourly.co.nz/organisation/greater-wellington-regional-council>

Ngā Tohu Pōti Election Signs

Election Signs are hoardings, posters, signs etc that are used to display information relating to the election of candidates and/or choice of a political party and/or the promotion of issues relating to a referendum.

Each territorial local authority within the Wellington Region has their own rules or by-laws covering election signage and candidates wishing to campaign via this medium should check with the relevant territorial local authority for their specific signage requirements.

Greater Wellington Regional Council does not permit the placement of election signs on any land and assets under its ownership, management and/or control.

Additionally, Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has separate signage requirements for advertising material placed on or adjacent State Highways. Generally, for safety reasons, election signage is not allowed on or alongside State Highways.

Content of election signs

Queries regarding content of election signs including authorisations are to be made to the Electoral Officer.

The Electoral Officer will make a candidate aware of any campaign material that does not have an appropriate authorisation.

Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Guidelines for Managing Electioneering Signs on State Highways

The guideline objectives are to minimise the potential for road crashes arising from drivers being distracted by indiscriminate installation of electioneering signs and to ensure consistency of application of NZTA policy on such signs with minimal involvement by NZTA.

With this in mind there are some fundamental considerations to make when erecting electioneering signs adjacent to state highways. These are:

In **rural** areas (where speed limits are 70km/h or above):

- Signs should be located off the highway reserve. You will, of course, need to consult with property owners and the appropriate local authority to gain any necessary consent.
- If the sign requires resource consent, approval will likely be required from Waka Kotahi as an affected party under Section 95 of the RMA, your local authority will be able to advise on this.
- Signs must not be reflectorised or erected in such a location that will create an obvious conflict with existing road signs.
- Signs must not imitate or be of a form similar to any traffic signs. (This is a legal requirement in terms of the Land Transport Act 2003.)
- The location of signs must give consideration to visibility and other traffic safety aspects.
- Signs must be located **at least 100m** from intersections, bends in the highway and from other regulatory signs
- Signs are not permitted on or adjacent to **motorways**.
- For the above noted safety reasons, vehicle mounted signs situated on State Highways **are not permitted**.

In **urban** areas (where speed limits are 70 km/h or less) you should seek the local authority's approval for erection of signs within or adjoining the road reserve.

Signs erected on rural State highways in a location or manner likely to cause distraction or danger to road users may be removed by Waka Kotahi or its agents without prior notice. Where a sign is removed the party will then be advised of the action taken and that the sign may be redeemed for a fee of \$50 to cover Waka Kotahi costs.

If you have any further queries, please contact Jude Ward, Waka Kotahi on (03) 964 2813 or jude.ward@nzta.govt.nz.

Pōtitanga, Hātepe Pōti, Otinga Pōtitanga me ngā Pūrongorongo

Voting, Vote Processing, Election Results and Recounts

Special Voting

Special voting documents are available to electors:

- whose names do not appear on the final electoral roll, but who qualify as electors
- who did not receive a voting paper previously posted to them
- who spoil or damage a voting paper previously posted to them.

Special voting documents will be available from 16 September to 12 noon, Saturday 8 October 2022 at the main offices of the TLAs within the Wellington Region.

If time allows, special voting documents can be posted out directly to electors. The completed voting paper however, must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer by noon on election day, i.e. 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022.

Special voters must complete a statutory declaration. This is a legal requirement and a protection for electors against possible duplicate voting.

If an elector requests a special vote and is not on the parliamentary roll (e.g. just turned 18 years of age), the person must enrol on the parliamentary roll by Friday 7 October 2022.

- An application for registration as a parliamentary elector can be made online at <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>). The identity verification needed is a New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.
- If people are not able to enrol online, they can enrol or update their details in other ways, more information can be found at <https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/other-ways-to-enrol/>) on the Electoral Commission website or they can call 0800 36 76 56 to arrange for forms to be sent to them directly.

After voting closes, special vote declarations are forwarded to the Registrar of Electors for verification that the elector is eligible and has enrolled as a parliamentary elector.

Special voting documents cannot be collected by candidates or their assistants for distribution to electors.

Early Processing of Returned Voting Papers

Greater Wellington Regional Council's returned voting papers will be opened and processed during the voting period before the close of voting.

Voting papers for Greater Wellington Regional Council are being processed by its election contractor, electionz.com Ltd. electionz.com will be processing approximately 600,000 voting papers for 46 councils at its processing centre in Christchurch.

The early processing of voting papers involves the following functions:

- opening of envelopes
- extracting of voting papers
- checking for informal or duplicate votes
- electronic capture of valid votes

No tallying of votes is undertaken until after the close of voting (12 noon, Saturday 8 October 2022).

The early processing functions are undertaken within strict security measures. One or more Justices of the Peace observe all early processing functions, and sign a statement at the end of the processing that all functions were undertaken correctly and conformed with the legal and secrecy requirements.

Candidates' scrutineers are not permitted to observe the early processing functions (refer to Appendix 4).

Election Results

The counting of votes takes place as soon as practicable after 12 noon on Saturday 8 October 2022.

There are three types of results.

1. Progress Results

Not all ordinary votes have been counted yet, those votes received on the last morning will still be in transit to the Electoral Officer. Progress results are expected to be available on Saturday 8 October from 5pm as reconciliations and quality assurance checks are completed. Results could change.

2. Preliminary Results

All ordinary voting papers have been received and counted, but not all special votes. These will be announced later on Saturday evening or Sunday after we receive the last ordinary voting papers that were delivered to TLA council offices prior to the close of voting. Results could change.

3. Official Results

All ordinary and special votes have been counted. These will be released by Thursday 13 October, once special votes are confirmed. Results are final.

It is expected that a progress result will be released by the Electoral Officer from 5pm on Saturday 8 October 2022. The preliminary result will be released as soon as all ordinary voting papers have been received and processed at the processing centre. This is likely to be by 5pm Sunday 9 October, if not before.

Candidates will be advised by email. These will be sent around the time that progress results are posted to the council website.

Results will be released to candidates and media via email and www.gw.govt.nz.

Recounts and Petitions for Inquiry

A recount can be requested by a candidate within 3 working days after the public declaration of the final election results. This sometimes happens when a result is very close, i.e. less than 5-10 votes, depending on the size of the election.

A candidate must make application to the District Court along with the payment of a \$750 deposit. This is usually lodged with the court by a solicitor, so legal advice may be required. The application usually states the reason why a recount should be granted by the Judge. In recent times it has been demonstrated that just because a result is close, that is not necessarily enough of a reason for a recount.

A Petition for Inquiry can be applied for by a candidate or a minimum of 10 electors, if in their opinion the election result is incorrect or may have been compromised. This also has to be made by application to a District Court Judge upon payment of a \$750 deposit within 21 days of the official result declaration. Legal advice should be sought by anyone contemplating a Petition for Inquiry.

Ngā Kōrero Whaitake a ngā Kaitono Candidate Profile Statements

Local Authority Elections 2022

Right to Submit a Candidate Profile Statement

Every candidate for election to a local authority may submit a candidate profile statement (CPS) with their nomination (section 61, LEA). This is a permissive right – it is not mandatory to submit a CPS.

Candidate Profile Statement Conditions

- Under section 61(2)(a) and (3) of the LEA and Clause 27 of the Regulations, a CPS
 - if in English or Māori or both, must not exceed 150 words in each of the languages used in the CPS. The information contained in each language must be substantially consistent with the information contained in the other language;
 - in any other language other than English or Māori, must not exceed 150 words, or their equivalent, if symbols are used rather than words. This includes any translation of those words into another language provided by the candidate. Where a CPS is in a language other than English or Māori, then the candidate must provide a CPS in English or Māori.
- Every CPS must be submitted with the candidate's nomination form.
- The content of a CPS, under section 61(2)(c) of the LEA, must be confined to information:
 - concerning the candidate or any group or organisation the candidate claims affiliation to under section 55(4) of the LEA;
 - on the candidate's policies and intentions if elected.
- A CPS **cannot** be used to comment on the policies, performance, etc of any other candidate.

A candidate may include with their CPS a recent hard copy photograph of the candidate alone which has been taken within 12 months of the candidate's date of nomination.

Note: Soft (electronic) versions of the candidate photos may be submitted with the CPS. These should be emailed to the Electoral Officer at elections@gw.govt.nz

Photos must be submitted at the same time as all other nomination documents on or before 12 noon on 12 August 2022. [Section 61(2)(c) of the LEA and Clause 28] of the Regulations.

(Refer to pages 17 and 18 for the production specifications for the CPS and candidate photograph).

Duties, Powers and Responsibilities of Electoral Officers

Where an Electoral Officer is not satisfied that a CPS complies with section 61(2) and (3) of the LEA, they must, under section 61(4) of the LEA, return the CPS to the candidate specifying the concerns and reasons for them and the period within which an amended CPS may be resubmitted.

A candidate will be treated as having failed to provide a CPS if section 61(4) of the LEA applies and he/she fails to submit an amended CPS within the period specified by the Electoral Officer or submits an amended CPS, which in the Electoral Officer's opinion, still fails to comply with section 61(2) and (3) of the LEA.

It is important to note that under section 61(6) of the LEA, the Electoral Officer is not required to verify or investigate any information in a CPS may include in or with any CPS a disclaimer concerning the accuracy of the information therein.

The Electoral Officer is not liable in relation to:

- any statement in or omitted from a CPS; or
- the work of a prudently selected translator; or
- the exercise of the powers and functions conferred on the Electoral Officer under section 61 of the LEA.

Distribution of Candidate Profile Statement

- Section 62 of the LEA and Clause 29 of the Regulations requires the Electoral Officer to send to each elector with the voting documents, all CPSs that comply with Section 61 of the LEA, for each candidate in the election for a local government area or subdivision. In addition, a local authority may display CPSs at its offices, or service centres, and publish them on its website as soon as they are ready after nominations have closed.
- Any failure of an Electoral Officer to comply with section 62 of the LEA will not invalidate the election.

Examples of a CPS					
A	English				= 150 words
B	Māori				= 150 words
C	English	+		Māori	= 300 words
(must be substantially consistent with each other)					
D	1 Other Language (Non English / Māori)	+	English Translation	OR	Māori Translation = 150 words
E	2 Other Languages (Non English / Māori)	+	English Translation	OR	Māori Translation = 150 words
F	3 + Other Languages (Non English / Māori)	+	English Translation	OR	Māori Translation = 150 words

Whakahoki o ngā Pōtitanga, Koha me ngā Utu Whakahaere

Return of Electoral Donations and Expenses

RETURN OF ELECTORAL DONATIONS AND EXPENSES



I

was a candidate for the following election(s) held on 8 October 2022 (*Election/Ward/Issue name*):

and make the following return of all electoral expenses incurred by me or on my behalf at the election and of all electoral donations made to me or to any person on my behalf.

Notes and Definitions of Donations and Expenses:

- All candidates in elections held under the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 must file a return of electoral donations and expenses. If no donations were received or expenses incurred, a Nil return must be made.
- All candidates are required to keep proper records of donations received and expenses paid for election work. These do not have to be filed with this return but must be available to support enquiries about the return if required.
- Donations can be monetary or physical goods or services supplied or a combination thereof.
- Donations to a candidate of labour only or donations of goods and services that have a fair market value of \$300 or less do not have to be declared – see S103A of the LEA 2001.
- Candidates must declare donations from each contributor that exceed \$1500 in value. Where a contributor has made donations in instalments that sum to more than \$1500 in value, each contributing donation needs to be listed in Section A2 and the aggregated sum shown.
- If there is insufficient space provided in any section, attach a separate sheet with the additional detail.

Section A1: Candidate Donations (Anonymous)

List here details of any **anonymous** (*identity of donor is unknown to yourself or any officials engaged on your behalf*) donations that **exceed** \$1500:

Date Received	Amount	Description of Contribution	Date Paid to Electoral Officer	Amount Paid to Electoral Officer

Section A2: Candidate Donations (Other)

List here details of any other donations received that **exceed** \$1500:

Date Received	Name of Contributor	Address of Contributor	Description of Contribution	Amount

Section B: Candidate Expenses

List here details of any election expenses paid for (*inclusive of GST*):

Date Paid	Name of Party Paid	Description of Payment Made	Amount

Dated at (place) this day of 20

Candidate's Signature

Appendix 3

Ngā Koha me ngā Utu Whakahaere Pōti Electoral Expenses and Donations

The following sections of the LEA cover requirement provisions for electoral donations, expenses and returns which all candidates should be aware of.

111 Maximum amount of electoral expenses

- 1) The total electoral expenses (inclusive of goods and services tax) of a candidate must not—
 - (a) exceed \$3,500 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 5 000;
 - (b) exceed \$7,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 10 000 and larger than 4 999;
 - (c) exceed \$14,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 20 000 and larger than 9 999;
 - (d) exceed \$20,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 40 000 and larger than 19 999;
 - (e) exceed \$30,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 60 000 and larger than 39 999;
 - (f) exceed \$40,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 80 000 and larger than 59 999;
 - (g) exceed \$50,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 100 000 and larger than 79 999;
 - (h) exceed \$55,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 150 000 and larger than 99 999;
 - (i) exceed \$60,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 250 000 and larger than 149 999;
 - (j) exceed \$70,000 if any local government area over which the election is held has a population smaller than 1 000 000 and larger than 249 999;
 - (k) exceed the sum referred to in subsection (1A) if any local government area over which the election is held has a population of 1 000 000 or more.
- 1A) The sum is—
 - (a) \$100,000 plus the amount prescribed under section 139(1)(ha) for each elector; or
 - (b) \$100,000 plus 50 cents for each elector, if no amount is prescribed under section 139(1)(ha).
- 2) Despite subsection (1), if a candidate is a candidate for more than 1 election held at the same time, the total electoral expenses (inclusive of goods and services tax) of that candidate must not exceed the highest amount permitted under subsection (1) in respect of any one of the elections for which the person is a candidate.

112 Apportionment of electoral expenses

- 1) If any activity of the kind described in paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of the term electoral activity (as set out in section 104) is, in relation to a candidate at an election, carried on both before and within the applicable period before the close of polling day,—
 - (a) the expenses incurred in respect of the activity (being expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate) must be properly apportioned so that a fair proportion of those expenses is attributed to the carrying on of the activity in the applicable period before the close of polling day; and
 - (b) the fair proportion of those expenses are electoral expenses.
- 2) If any election activity relates exclusively to campaigns for the election of 2 or more candidates, any electoral expenses in respect of that electoral activity must be apportioned equitably in relation to each of those candidates.

112AA Offence to pay electoral expenses in excess of relevant prescribed maximum

- 1) This section applies to any candidate or other person who directly or indirectly pays or knowingly aids or abets any person in paying for or on account of any electoral expenses any sum in excess of the relevant maximum amount prescribed by section 111.
- 2) The candidate or person commits an offence and is liable on conviction—
 - (a) to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or a fine not exceeding \$10,000, if he or she knew the payment was in excess of the relevant prescribed maximum amount; or
 - (b) to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 in any other case, unless he or she proves that he or she took all reasonable steps to ensure that the electoral expenses did not exceed the relevant prescribed maximum amount.

112A Return of electoral donations and expenses

- 1) Within 55 days after the day on which the successful candidates at any election are declared to be elected, every candidate at the election must file a return of electoral donations and expenses.
- 2) However, in any case where a candidate is outside New Zealand on the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected (election result day), the return must be filed within 76 days after election result day.
- 3) The return of electoral donations and expenses must set out—

- (a) the details specified in subsection (4) in respect of every electoral donation (other than a donation of the kind referred to in paragraph (c)) received by the candidate that, either on its own or when aggregated with all other donations made by or on behalf of the same donor for use in the same campaign, exceeds \$1,500 in sum or value; and
 - (b) whether any donation is funded from contributions, and if so, and to the extent known or ascertainable from the information supplied under section 103D, the details specified in subsection (5) in respect of every contribution that, either on its own or when aggregated with other contributions by the same contributor to the donation, exceeds \$1,500 in sum or value; and
 - (c) the details specified in subsection (6) in respect of every anonymous electoral donation received by the candidate that exceeds \$1,500; and
 - (d) details of the candidate's electoral expenses.
- 4) The details referred to in subsection (3)(a) are—
- (a) the name of the donor; and
 - (b) the address of the donor; and
 - (c) the amount of the donation or, in the case of aggregated donations, the total amount of the donations; and
 - (d) the date the donation was received or, in the case of aggregated donations, the date that each donation was received.
- 5) The details referred to in subsection (3)(b) are—
- (a) the name of the contributor; and
 - (b) the address of the contributor; and
 - (c) the amount of the contribution or, in the case of aggregated contributions, the total amount of the aggregated contributions.
- 6) The details referred to in subsection (3)(c) are—
- (a) the date the donation was received; and
 - (b) the amount of the donation; and
 - (c) the amount paid to the Electoral Officer under section 103(1) or (2) and the date that payment was made.
- 7) Every return filed under this section must be in the form prescribed in Schedule 2.
- 8) It is the duty of every Electoral Officer to ensure that this section is complied with.
- 9) In this section, file in relation to a return, means to send the return to the Electoral Officer responsible for the conduct of the election.

112B Nil return

If a candidate considers that there is no relevant information to disclose under section 112A, the candidate must file a nil return under that section.

112C Failure to file return of electoral donations and expenses

- 1) A candidate who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with section 112A commits an offence and is liable on conviction to—
- (a) a fine not exceeding \$1,000; and
 - (b) if he or she has been elected to office, a further fine not exceeding \$400 for every day that he or she continues to hold office until the return is filed.

112D Filing a false return of electoral donations and expenses

- 1) A candidate who files a return under section 112A that is false in any material particular commits an offence and is liable on conviction—
- (a) to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or a fine not exceeding \$10,000, if he or she filed the return knowing it to be false in any material particular; or
 - (b) to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 in any other case, unless the candidate proves that—
 - (i) he or she had no intention to misstate or conceal the facts; and
 - (ii) he or she took all reasonable steps in the circumstances to ensure the information in the return was accurate.

112E Obligation to retain records necessary to verify return

- 1) A candidate must take all reasonable steps to retain all records, documents, and accounts that are necessary to enable a return under section 112A to be verified.
- 2) The records, documents, and accounts must be retained until the expiry of the period within which a prosecution may be commenced under this Act in relation to the return or to any matter to which the return relates.
- 3) A candidate who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

112F Return to be open for public inspection

- 1) The Electoral Officer must keep every return filed under section 112A in the Electoral Officer's office, or at some other convenient place to be appointed by the chief executive of the local authority, for a period of 7 years after the date of the election to which it relates (the public inspection period).
- 2) During the public inspection period the Electoral Officer must—
- (a) publish, electronically or in any other manner the Electoral Officer considers appropriate, every return filed under section 112A; and
 - (b) make available for public inspection a copy of every return filed under section 112A; and
 - (c) provide to any person upon request a copy of 1 or more returns filed under section 112A, subject to the payment of any charges that may be made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

113 Advertisements for candidates

- 1) No person may publish or cause to be published in any newspaper, periodical, notice, poster, pamphlet, handbill, billboard, or card, or broadcast or permit to be broadcast over any radio or television station, any advertisement that is used or appears to be used to promote or procure the election of a candidate at an election, unless subsection (2) or subsection (4) applies.
- 2) A person may publish or cause or permit to be published an advertisement of the kind described in subsection (1) if—
 - (a) the publication of that advertisement is authorised in writing by the candidate or the candidate's agent or, in the case of an advertisement relating to more than 1 candidate, the candidates or an agent acting for all of those candidates; and
 - (b) the advertisement contains a statement setting out the true name of the person or persons for whom or at whose direction it is published.
- 3) A candidate is not responsible for an act committed by an agent without the consent or connivance of the candidate.
- 4) A person may publish or cause or permit to be published an advertisement of the kind described in subsection (1) if—
 - (a) the publication of the advertisement is endorsed by an organisation or body representing residents or ratepayers in the community or district in which the advertisement is published; and
 - (b) the advertisement contains a statement setting out—
 - (i) the true name and contact details of the person or persons for whom or at whose direction it is published;
 - (ii) the true name of the organisation or body that has endorsed the publication of the advertisement and the address of the place of business of that organisation or body.
- 5) This section does not restrict the publication of any news or comments relating to an election in a newspaper or other periodical, or on the Internet, or in any other medium of electronic communication accessible by the public, or in a radio or television broadcast made by a broadcaster within the meaning of section 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1989.
- 6) A person who wilfully contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.
- 7) In this section, contact details means 1 or more of the following:
 - (a) a residential or business address;
 - (b) an email address;
 - (c) a post office box number;
 - (d) a phone number;
 - (e) a link to a page on an Internet site, if the page contains 1 or more of the contact details specified in paragraphs (a) to (d).

138 Duty to take action in respect of offences

- 1) Subsection (2) applies if an Electoral Officer—
 - (a) receives a written complaint that an offence has been committed under—
 - (i) Part 5; or
 - (ii) Part 5A; or
 - (iii) this Part; or
 - (b) believes for any other reason that an offence has been committed under either of the Parts specified in paragraph (a).
- 2) If this subsection applies, the Electoral Officer must—
 - (a) report the complaint or belief to the Police; and
 - (b) provide the Police with the details of any inquiries that he or she considers may be relevant.
- 3) Subsection (2) does not prevent any person from reporting an alleged offence to the Police.
- 4) Despite subsection (2), an Electoral Officer is not required to report the failure by a candidate to file a return under section 112A if the candidate files the return promptly after being required to do so by the Electoral Officer.

Appendix 4

Ngā Kaititiro Scrutineers

Role of Scrutineers

The LEA and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (LER) do not specify in detail the role of scrutineers. However, the general role of scrutineers is to oversee and observe certain election or poll procedures to ensure they are undertaken fairly and that votes are counted consistently and accurately

The election or poll procedures which scrutineers are statutorily permitted to oversee and observe are:

- **Scrutineering of Roll** (sections 81 and 83 LEA and Clause 55 LER). This involves comparing the rolls used at the election or poll upon which there is recorded the fact that an elector has voted. The objective is to establish any dual voting which is disallowed
- **Preliminary and Official Counts** (section 84 LEA, and Clauses 59, 60 and 62 LER). The preliminary count involves the first count of votes immediately following close of voting. The outcome is the preliminary result announced on polling day. The official count follows the preliminary count and includes any remaining special votes. It can commence on polling day and due to special voting issues is usually completed on the Monday or Tuesday following polling day
Note: With electronic processing, the count processes are computerised tasks undertaken once required reconciliations have been completed. Both counts (preliminary and official) are likely to take several minutes to complete
- **Recount** (section 91 LEA). A recount takes place on the order of a district court judge following an application from a candidate. When required, it involves a recount of the relevant voting documents.

In observing the processes above, it is lawful for a scrutineer to pass on information to any person of the names of persons who have voted (section 68 LEA). The passing on of any other information is not permitted – see offences later in this booklet

Given that the practice has been for all local authority elections to be conducted by postal voting and not by booth voting as per parliamentary elections, scrutineers are less involved in the local elections process than for parliamentary elections

Scrutineers are not entitled or empowered to interfere with the conduct of an election or poll or raise questions of procedure or law with electoral officials. If a scrutineer believes that electoral procedures are not being followed, he or she should draw the matter to the attention of the Electoral Officer.

Appointment of Scrutineers

- For a local authority election a candidate may appoint one or more scrutineers (section 66 LEA)
- In relation to a local authority poll, 10 or more electors, who are either in favour of or opposed to the proposal being polled, may appoint 1 or more scrutineers (section 67 LEA)
- Every scrutineer appointed under sections 66 or 67 of the LEA must be appointed in writing (a model letter of appointment is contained in the back of this section)
- An appointment as scrutineer is not valid unless a copy of the notice of appointment is delivered by the candidate or the 10 electors to the Electoral Officer. The Electoral Officer **must** receive this notice not less than **24 hours** before the close of the voting period. The deadline is **12 noon Friday, 7 October 2022** in the case of this year's local authority elections (section 68(1) LEA). It is suggested that a scrutineer should always carry a copy of this notice when undertaking scrutineering duties.
- section 68(3) of the LEA contains three restrictions on who may be appointed a scrutineer. No person can be a scrutineer if they are:
 - a candidate in the elections;
 - a member or employee of any local authority or community board for which the election or poll is being held; or
 - under 18 years of age.

Declaration

No person appointed as a scrutineer can carry out scrutineering duties until he or she has completed a declaration (section 14(2) LEA and clause 91 LER)

The key obligations for a scrutineer arising from the declaration is that they:

- will well and truly serve in the office of scrutineer; and
- will not directly or indirectly disclose any fact coming to their knowledge at the election or poll that they are required by the LEA not to disclose.

A person appointed as a scrutineer must report to the Electoral Officer on the first day on which they are to undertake any scrutineering duty to complete the required declaration. Upon completing the declaration, the scrutineer will be given a 'scrutineer' nametag. This nametag must be returned to the Electoral Officer when the scrutineer leaves the premises where they are acting as a scrutineer.

Information to be Supplied by Electoral Officer

As soon as practicable following the appointment of a scrutineer, the Electoral Officer will advise that person of:

- arrangements for the election or poll process that they are appointed for
- what restrictions apply to scrutineers; and
- how that person is expected to conduct themselves.

Arrangements for Roll Scrutiny, Preliminary and Official Counts and any Recount

The Electoral Officer will advise the scrutineer:

- where they should go, and at what time, to complete the required declaration before any scrutineering duties can be undertaken
- when and where any planned briefing of candidates and scrutineers about election processes is to be held
- when and where any planned briefing of electoral officials about the election or poll process is to be held
- where the scrutiny of the roll will be conducted (address and office)
- what days and time that the scrutiny of the roll will take place
- that the preliminary count of voting documents will commence at 12 noon on Saturday, 8 October 2022
- when and where the official count will commence and take place and on what days it will extend over if there are special votes to clear with the Registrar of Electors
- on how the preliminary and official counts will be undertaken – manually or electronically
- if a recount has been ordered by a district court judge, where and when that recount will take place
- that no remuneration will be paid to any scrutineer by the local authority for the undertaking of scrutineering duties.

Candidates should note that all vote processing will be carried out in Christchurch and that if they wish to appoint scrutineers all costs thereof are to be met by the candidate.

Restrictions on Scrutineers During Election and Poll Processes

- Pursuant to section 80 of the LEA, the Electoral Officer will process voting documents during the voting period. Scrutineers are prohibited under section 81 of the LEA from being present during the early processing of voting documents. Early processing of voting documents does not involve counting or totalling votes for any candidate for election or for or against any proposal in a poll. Counting of votes can only commence for the preliminary count after the close of voting i.e. after 12 noon on Saturday 8 October 2022.
- It is permissible for a candidate in the case of an election, and for 10 electors in the case of a poll, to appoint more than one scrutineer. However, only one scrutineer for any candidate can be present at the same place to undertake scrutineering duties
- It is permissible for scrutineers at any time to leave and return to the undertaking of the roll scrutiny, and after close of voting, the preliminary and official counts. Upon returning to the process, a scrutineer has no power or right to expect the Electoral Officer to go back for his or her benefit and repeat the activities in relation to voting documents that were dealt with in his or her absence. The same practice will apply if a scrutineer is late for the commencement of any of these processes.

Conduct of Scrutineers

The general role of scrutineers is to oversee and observe that particular procedures at an election or poll are undertaken fairly and that votes are counted fairly and reasonably. As the emphasis in relation to the role of scrutineers is on overseeing and observing, it is expected that scrutineers must not talk to electoral officials involved in the roll scrutiny, the preliminary or official counts or in any recount. If a scrutineer believes that electoral procedures are not being followed he or she should draw the matter to the attention of the Electoral Officer. It should not be raised with other electoral officials

A scrutineer must also not seek from the Electoral Officer and other electoral officials any progressive voting trends during the preliminary count

The scrutiny and the preliminary and official counts are critical processes to the outcome of an election or poll and demand a high level of concentration from electoral officials. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon scrutineers not to distract, annoy, linger close by or talk loudly to one another so as to disrupt or upset any electoral officials

In keeping with the needs of electoral staff, scrutineers are not allowed to use or have mobile phones switched on within the area where scrutiny of the roll, the preliminary or official count or a recount is being conducted.

The LEA and LER are silent on the display of any party affiliation by scrutineers. The adopted policy will be what normally applies to scrutineers at parliamentary elections. This provides for the following items, in party colours but without party name, emblem, slogan or logo, may be worn on the person or displayed in a vehicle:

- streamers
- ribbons
- rosettes (but see also the special rule about party lapel badges below)
- items of a similar nature.

Party lapel badges may be worn anywhere on the person. A party lapel badge is any badge or rosette designed to be worn on the lapel and bearing a party name, emblem, slogan or logo. None of the above items may be displayed on bags or briefcases. Political parties will be asked to supply the Electoral Officer with a sample of their rosette prior to the commencement of the polling period. In the case of this year's local authority elections, the polling period commences on Friday, 16 September 2022

Scrutineers should also bring their own refreshments. The Electoral Officer will not provide meals and refreshments for scrutineers.

Offences

Scrutineers can be present at election and poll processes, which will expose them to returned voting documents and information about voting. While scrutineers are permitted to tell any person the names of persons who have voted, under the declaration a scrutineer must not directly or indirectly disclose any fact coming to his or her knowledge at the election or poll that he or she is required by the LEA or Regulations not to disclose

Should a scrutineer break their declaration and disclose information which is prohibited then they are likely to have committed an offence under one or more of the following provisions of the LEA:

- section 123, Offences in respect of official documents
- section 129, Infringement of secrecy
- section 130, Disclosing voting or state of election or poll.

These three sections are reprinted in full later. Scrutineers are advised to become familiar with them before they complete their declaration and undertake any scrutineering duties.

Whakaritenga o ngā Kaititiro

Appointment of Scrutineers

LETTER OF APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEER



I (<i>candidate</i>),			
a candidate for the (<i>council/LT etc.</i>):			
(<i>issue/ward/position</i>):			
appoint (<i>full name</i>):			
to act as scrutineer at the following election processes (<i>delete any not applicable</i>):			
1. Scrutiny of the roll	2. Preliminary Count	3. Official Count	4. Recount
Signed:			(<i>candidate</i>)
Notes for candidates:			
1. A copy of this letter of appointment must be given to the electoral officer no later than 24 hours before the close of voting (i.e. by 12 noon Friday 7 October 2022).			
2. Scrutineers should carry this letter at all times when undertaking their scrutineering duties.			
3. At any of the election processes only one scrutineer for each candidate may be present at any one time.			

Appendix 6

Ngā Hēanga Pōtitanga Election Offences

The LEA includes provisions relating to offences at elections. In particular, candidates are asked to note the following legal requirements:

- Ensure all election advertising includes a proper authorisation statement. Such a statement will include your name (or your agent's name) and the street address for the appropriate place of residence or business. A website or postal address does not suffice.
- Do not interfere or try to influence anyone who is about to vote. Do not offer to collect, post or deliver to the Council completed voting papers from any other elector.
- Do not give, as part of your campaign, any gift or item of value to any other person. An item of value is anything you would expect to pay for and typically may be useful to the recipient other than as election literature. Examples of such items in the lower value category might include pens, biros, message or note pads, rulers, fridge magnets, key-chains and the like.
- Do not, as part of your campaign, provide anyone with anything they can eat or drink, or with any entertainment or other provision. However, light refreshments provided **after** any meeting relating to an election does not amount to treating, but such light refreshments probably should not include alcoholic drinks.

The electoral process in New Zealand is jealously guarded and electoral law is written in such a way so as to reinforce this through prescribing high standards for electoral behaviour.

The penalties for election offences differ. For unauthorised advertisements, the penalty is a fine up to \$1,000. Other offences could result in a larger fine or imprisonment and, in some cases, loss of office as an elected member.

If the Electoral Officer receives any formal complaint about an offence, or become aware of an offence, the matter will be referred to the Police, as required by the LEA. The Electoral Officer generally does not have discretion to refuse to report offences.

Information on advertising and election offences is set out in full below, or in other parts of this handbook for advertising, donations and expenses. The detailed law is a little complex in some instances, so the statements presented above are a simplification of the law and should not be regarded as a substitute for reading the statutory provisions.

Candidates are requested to read the following sections of the LEA carefully and to ensure that there is no infringement of these provisions either prior to or during the election:

Local Electoral Act 2001

121 Illegal nomination, etc

Every person commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000, who—

- (a) consents to being nominated as a candidate for an elective office knowing that he or she is incapable under any Act of holding that office; or
- (b) signs a nomination paper purporting to nominate as a candidate a person who is, to the knowledge of the person signing, incapable under any Act of holding that office; or
- (c) signs a nomination paper purporting to nominate another person as a candidate knowing that he or she is not qualified to vote at the election of the person named in the nomination paper as the candidate.

122 Interfering with or influencing voters

- 1) Every person commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, who—
 - (a) interferes in any way with any person who is about to vote with the intention of influencing or advising that person as to how he or she should vote:
 - (b) prints, publishes, distributes, or delivers to any person (using any medium or means of communication) a document, paper, notice, or message, being or purporting to be in imitation of any voting document to be used at the election or poll that,—
 - (i) in the case of an election, includes the name of a candidate or candidates, together with any direction or indication as to the candidate or candidates for whom any person should vote:
 - (ii) in the case of a poll, includes a statement or indication as to how any person should vote:
 - (iii) in any way contains or suggests any such direction or indication or other matter likely to influence how any person votes:
 - (c) prints, publishes, or distributes any instruction on the method of marking the voting document that differs in any material way from the instructions required by this Act or any regulations made under this Act to accompany the voting document.
- 2) Despite subsection (1)(b), it is not an offence under that subsection to print, publish, distribute, or deliver a card or leaflet (not being an imitation voting document) on which is printed—

- (a) the names of all or any of the candidates and the elective offices for which they are candidates (with or without the name of the organisations or groups to which those candidates are affiliated, and including those who are independent); and
 - (b) nothing else.
- 3) Nothing in this section applies to—
- (a) any official statement or announcement made or exhibited under the authority of this Act or regulations made under this Act; or
 - (b) any candidate profile statement, published, displayed, or distributed under the authority of this Act or regulations made under this Act.

123 Offences in respect of official documents

- 1) Every person commits an offence who—
- (a) intentionally removes, obliterates, or alters any official mark or official writing on any voting document, or other official document used at an election or poll;
 - (b) intentionally places any mark or writing that might be mistaken for an official mark or official writing on any voting document, or other official document used at an election or poll;
 - (c) forges, counterfeits, fraudulently marks, defaces, or fraudulently destroys any voting document, or other official document used at an election or poll, or the official mark on that document;
 - (d) supplies, without authority, a voting document to any person;
 - (e) obtains or has possession of any voting document, other than one issued to that person under this Act or any regulations made under this Act for the purpose of recording his or her vote, without authority;
 - (f) intentionally destroys, opens, or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or box or parcel of voting documents without authority.
- 2) Every person who commits an offence against subsection (1) is liable on conviction,—
- (a) in the case of an Electoral Officer or other electoral official, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years;
 - (b) in the case of any other person, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

124 Voting offences

Every person commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, who—

- (a) votes or applies to vote more than once at the same election or poll; or
- (b) without authority, removes, deletes, or otherwise interferes with any voting document, or other record of a vote that has been cast.

125 Bribery

- 1) Every person commits the offence of bribery who, directly or indirectly, on that person's own or by another person,—
- (a) gives, lends, agrees to give or lend, offers, promises, or promises to obtain any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting; or
 - (b) gives or obtains, agrees to give or obtain, offers, promises, or promises to obtain or to try to obtain any office or place of employment to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce the elector to vote or refrain from voting; or
 - (c) corruptly does any act referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) on account of an elector having voted or refrained from voting; or
 - (d) makes any gift, loan, offer, promise, or agreement referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) for, or with, any person in order to induce that person to obtain or try to obtain the election of any person or the vote of any elector; or
 - (e) upon or as a consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, or agreement referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), obtains, or tries to obtain, the election of any person or the vote of any elector; or
 - (f) advances or pays, or causes to be paid, any money to or for the use of any other person, intending that that money or any part of it will be used for bribery at any election or poll; or
 - (g) knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or partly used for bribery at any election or poll.
- 2) An elector commits the offence of bribery if,—
- (a) before or during the voting period at the election or poll, he or she, directly or indirectly, on his or her own or by another person, receives, or agrees or contracts for, any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place, or employment for himself or herself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to refrain from voting;
 - (b) after the voting period at the election or poll, he or she directly or indirectly, on his or her own or by another person, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting.
- 3) Every person who commits the offence of bribery is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

126 Treating

- 1) Every person commits the offence of treating who corruptly, before, during, or after an election or poll, and directly or indirectly, on that person's own or by another person, gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing, any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to or for any person—
 - (a) for the purpose of influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting; or
 - (b) for the purpose of obtaining his or her election; or
 - (c) on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting.
- 2) Every holder of a licence under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 commits the offence of treating who knowingly supplies any food, drink, entertainment, or provision—
 - (a) to any person, if the supply is demanded for 1 or more of the purposes specified in subsection (1); or
 - (b) to any person, whether an elector or not, for the purpose of obtaining the election of a candidate or affecting the result of a poll, and without receiving payment for it at the time when it is supplied.
- 3) Every elector who corruptly accepts or takes any such food, drink, entertainment, or provision also commits the offence of treating.
- 4) Despite subsections (1) to (3), the provision of light refreshments after any meeting relating to an election or poll does not constitute the offence of treating.
- 5) Every person who commits the offence of treating is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

127 Undue influence

- 1) Every person commits the offence of undue influence—
 - (a) who, directly or indirectly, on that person's own or by another person, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or restraint against any person—
 - (i) in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting;
 - (ii) on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting;
 - (b) who, by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent device or means,—
 - (i) impedes or prevents the free exercise of the vote of any elector;
 - (ii) compels, induces, or prevails upon any elector either to vote or to refrain from voting.
- 2) Every person who commits the offence of undue influence is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

128 Personation

- 1) Every person commits the offence of personation who, at any election or poll,—
 - (a) votes in the name of some other person (whether living or dead), or of a fictitious person;
 - (b) having voted, votes again at the same election or poll;
 - (c) having returned a voting document, applies for or returns another voting document with the intention of returning an additional valid voting document or invalidating a vote already cast at the same election or poll (whether or not any voting document he or she returns is valid).
- 2) Every person who commits the offence of personation is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

129 Infringement of secrecy

- 1) Every Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer, and other electoral official—
 - (a) must maintain and assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting; and
 - (b) must not communicate to any person, except for a purpose authorised by law, any information likely to compromise the secrecy of the voting.
- 2) No person, except as provided by this Act or regulations made under this Act, may—
 - (a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when marking or recording his or her vote; or
 - (b) attempt to obtain, in the building or other place where the voter has marked or recorded his or her vote and immediately before or after that vote has been marked or recorded, any information as to any candidate for whom, or the proposal for or against which, the voter is about to vote or has voted; or
 - (c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in the building or other place where the voter has marked or recorded his or her vote and immediately before or after that vote has been marked or recorded, as to—
 - (i) any candidate for whom, or the proposal for or against which, the voter is about to vote or has voted; or
 - (ii) any number on a voting document marked or transmitted by the voter.
- 3) Every person present at the counting of votes must—
 - (a) maintain and assist in maintaining the secrecy of the voting; and
 - (b) must not, except as is provided by this Act or regulations made under this Act, communicate any information obtained at that counting as to any candidate for whom, or proposal for or against which, any vote is cast by a particular voter.

- 4) No person may, directly or indirectly, induce any voter to display or provide access to his or her voting document or any copy of that document after it has been marked or transmitted, so as to make known to any person the name of any candidate for or against whom, or proposal for or against which, the voter has voted.
- 5) Every person commits an offence who contravenes or fails to comply with this section.
- 6) Every person who commits an offence against subsection (5) is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

130 Disclosing voting or state of election or poll

- 1) Every Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer, other electoral official, Justice of the Peace, or scrutineer commits an offence who—
 - (a) makes known for what candidate or candidates or for which proposal any particular voter has voted for or against, except as provided by this Act or regulations made under this Act; or
 - (b) before the close of voting, makes known the state of the election or poll or gives or pretends to give any information by which the state of the election or poll may be known.
- 2) Subsection (1)(b) does not prevent an Electoral Officer from disclosing the total number of voting documents so far returned at an election or poll at any time during the voting period.
- 3) A person who commits an offence against subsection (1) is liable on conviction to a fine—
 - (a) not exceeding \$5,000 for an Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer;
 - (b) not exceeding \$2,000 for any other person.

131 Penalty for Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer, and other electoral officials

Every Electoral Officer, Deputy Electoral Officer, or other electoral official commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000, who is guilty of any intentional or reckless act of commission or omission contrary to the provisions of this Act or regulations made under this Act in respect of any election or poll, and for which no other penalty is imposed by this Act or regulations made under this Act.

General Provisions

137 Property may be stated as being in Electoral Officer

In any proceedings for an offence in relation to any voting documents or other official documents, files, records, instruments, or devices used officially for an election or poll, the property in those documents, files, records, and instruments is to be treated as that of the Electoral Officer at that election or poll.

138 Duty to take action in respect of offences

- 1) Subsection (2) applies if an Electoral Officer—
 - (a) receives a written complaint that an offence has been committed under—
 - (i) Part 5; or
 - (ii) Part 5A; or
 - (iii) this Part; or
 - (b) believes for any other reason that an offence has been committed under either of the Parts specified in paragraph (a).
- 2) If this subsection applies, the Electoral Officer must—
 - (a) report the complaint or belief to the Police; and
 - (b) provide the Police with the details of any inquiries that he or she considers may be relevant.
- 3) Subsection (2) does not prevent any person from reporting an alleged offence to the Police.
- 4) Despite subsection (2), an Electoral Officer is not required to report the failure by a candidate to file a return under section 112A if the candidate files the return promptly after being required to do so by the Electoral Officer.

