

# 2025 Local Government Elections

Wairoa District Council  
Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer  
3 July 2025



# Agenda

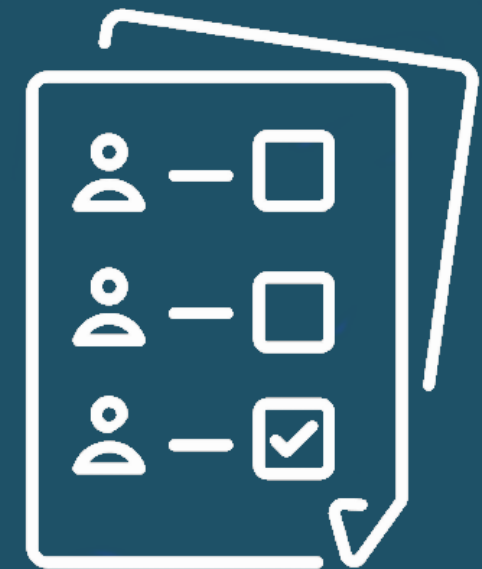
How do I become a candidate?



What do I need to know about campaigning?



How does the voting work?



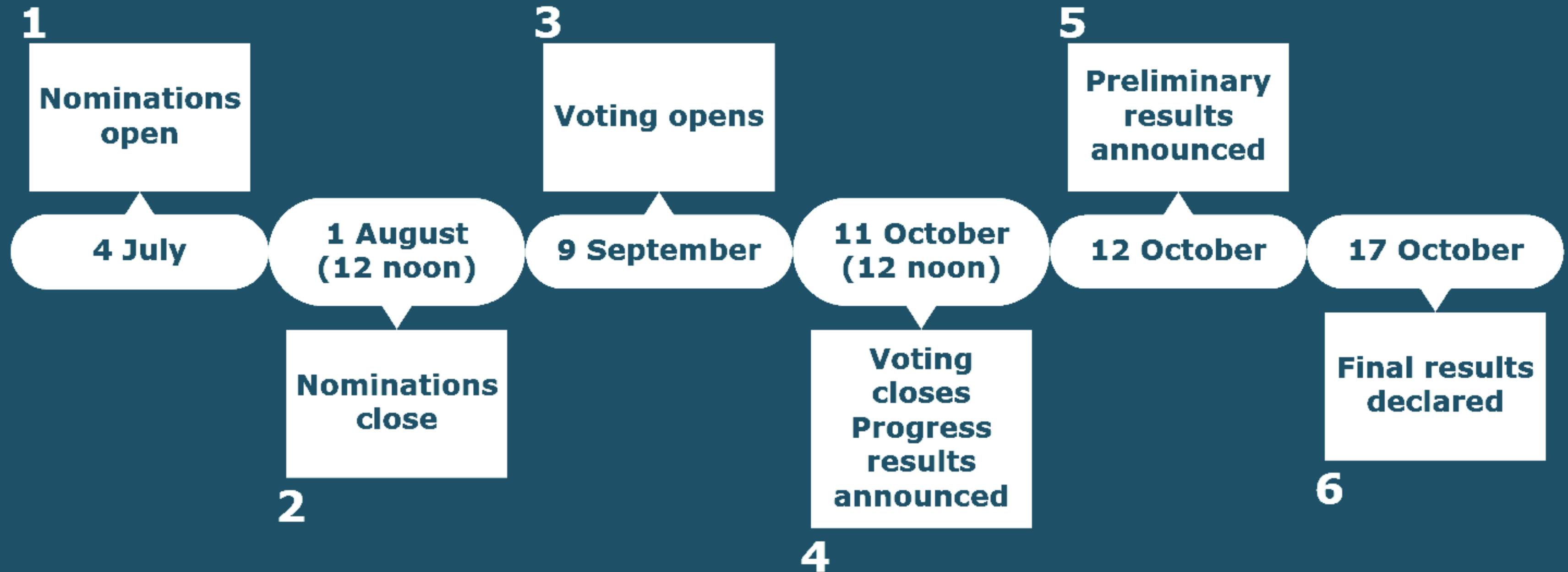
# Key terms

Some terms:

- WDC: Wairoa District Council
- HBRC: Hawke's Bay Regional Council
- Elector: a person who is eligible to vote, and who is enrolled
- Electoral roll: list of electors, who are either on the Māori or general roll
- Māori Electoral Roll: a list of electors who are enrolled on the Māori roll
- General Electoral Roll: a list of electors who are enrolled on the general roll



# Key election dates



# General electoral information

WDC:

- Population of around 9,000 people, and around 5,700 electors
  - 3,100 electors on the general roll
  - 2,600 electors on the Māori roll
- Candidates listed in alphabetical order by surname
- A Māori ward poll for will not be held with the election  
(but, a Māori constituency poll will be held for HBRC)



# Elections required

## WDC:

- 1 mayor
- 6 councillors:
  - 3 general ward councillors from the Wairoa General Ward
  - 3 Māori ward councillors from the Wairoa Māori Ward

## HBRC:

- 2 regional councillors:
  - 1 councillor from the Wairoa General Constituency
  - 1 councillor from the Māui ki Raki Māori Constituency



# Elections required


A poll will be held with 2025 elections, with two options:


- Vote to KEEP or REMOVE the HBRC Māori constituency
- Poll is binding
- Outcome will apply for 2028 and 2031 elections
- Regardless of the outcome of the poll, the Māori constituency will be in place for 2025-2028 term

**Sample Māori Constituency Poll**

☒ Tick the circle next to the one (1) option you wish to vote for

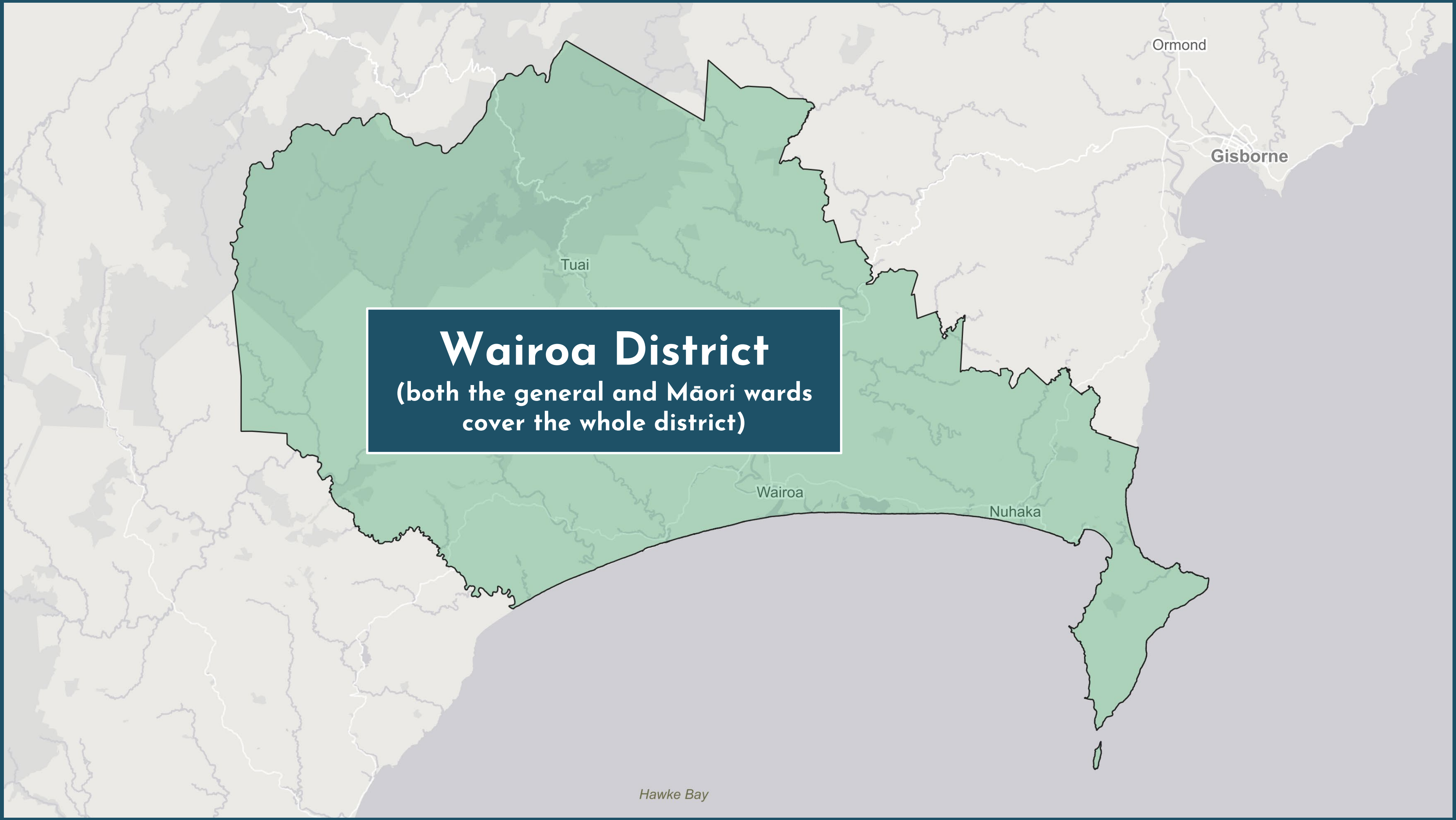
☐ I vote to KEEP the Māori constituency 

☐ I vote to REMOVE the Māori constituency 









**Wairoa District**  
(both the general and Māori wards  
cover the whole district)

Ormond

Gisborne

Tuai

Wairoa

Nuhaka


Hawke Bay







# Electoral systems

- WDC and HBRC are using the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system
- Vote by ticking candidate names
- Candidates with highest number of votes wins
- Don't vote for more candidates than the number of positions

**Sample FPP Voting Document**

 Tick the circle next to **one (1)** candidate you want to vote for.

<input type="radio"/>	Candidate A		201
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Candidate B		202
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate C		203
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate D		204
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate E		205
			206

*Candidate names are listed alphabetically.*

# Candidate eligibility

To be a candidate, you must be:

- A NZ citizen
- 18 or over
- Enrolled on the parliamentary roll in New Zealand
- Nominated by two people from area and roll standing
  - i.e. if you're standing for the Wairoa General Ward, your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled on the general roll in the Wairoa District Council area
  - or, if you're standing for the Wairoa Māori Ward, your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled on the Māori roll in the Wairoa District Council area



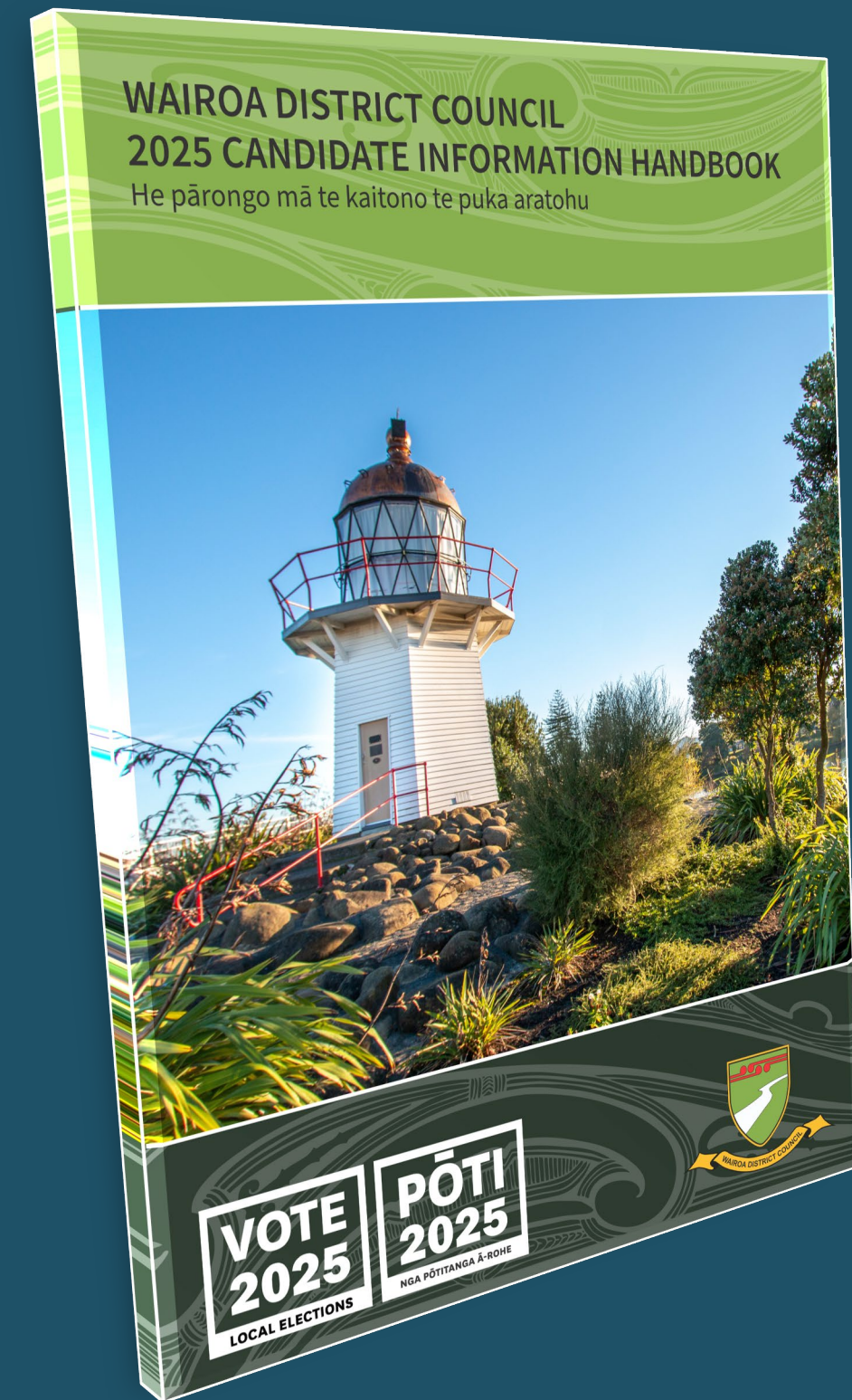
# Candidate eligibility

- Can stand for multiple positions (mayor, and council)
  - If elected to more than one position, candidate takes higher position
  - Can't stand for more than one ward
- Elected members (or spouses) cannot have contracts with council over \$25,000 (incl GST) in one financial year without approval
- If a council employee is elected to mayor or council, they must resign
- Can't nominate yourself



# Nomination process

- First off – obtain a copy of the candidate information handbook
- Download a PDF from council's website, or request a hardcopy
- Contains everything you need to know about being a candidate
  - Nomination criteria, election sign rules, campaigning guidelines etc



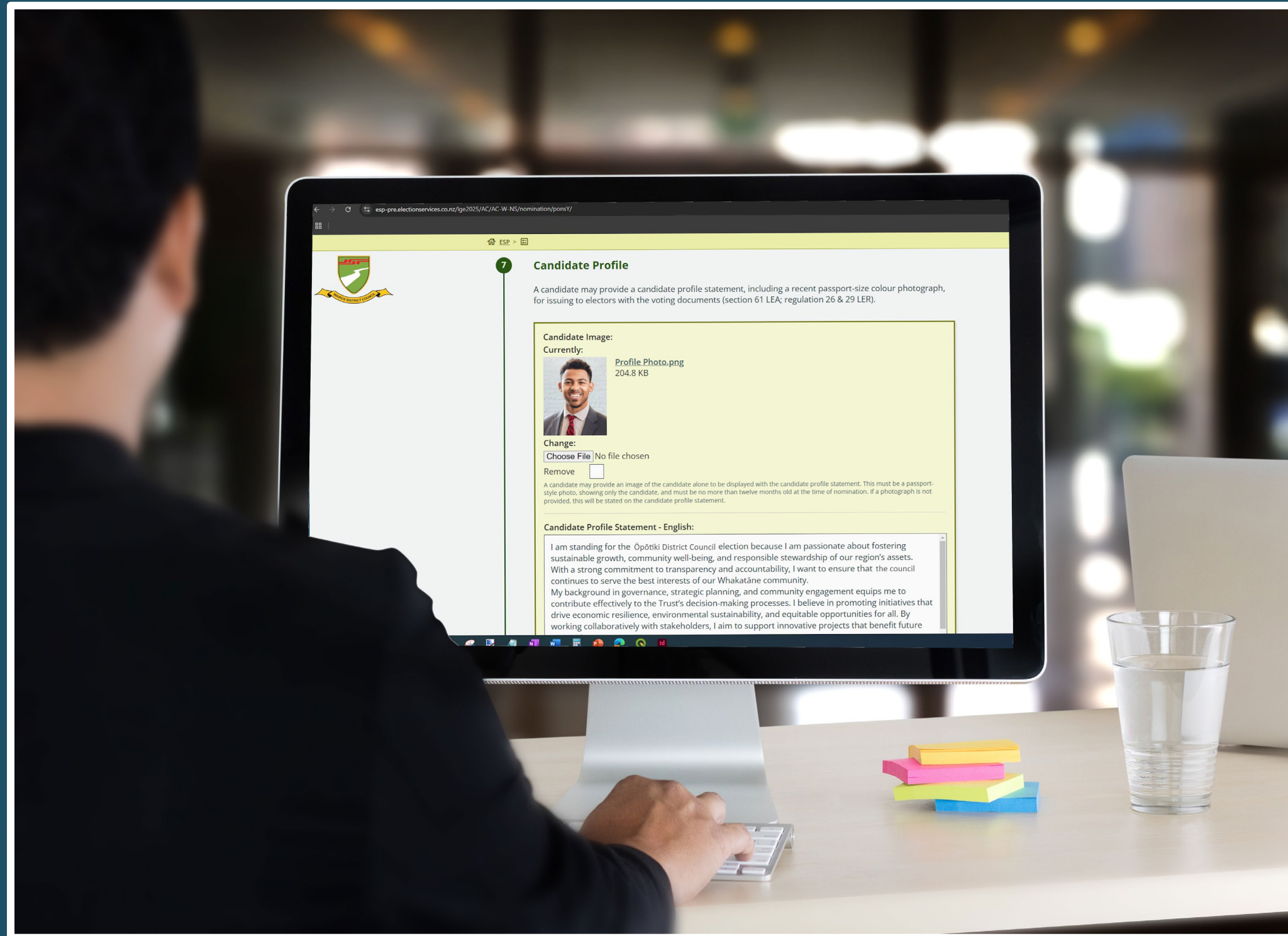
# Nomination process

- Nominations open Friday 4 July
- Two ways to submit your nomination:
  1. Online (easiest way) at [esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/WR](https://esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/WR)
  2. Complete a hardcopy form and drop off in person to (see location in handbook or check Council's website)





# Nomination process



Online nominations portal:

- No printing, handwriting, scanning etc
- Enter your statement electronically
- Upload your photo
- Instantly confirm your nominators are eligible



# Nomination process

Each nomination requires:

- \$200 (including GST) deposit (for each position standing for)
- 150-word candidate profile statement (English, Māori or both)
- Recent passport-size colour photo
- Evidence of NZ citizenship
- Candidates can declare an affiliation
  - Can be group, organisation or independent
  - Unacceptable affiliations (slogan, indecent, slanderous)





# Nomination process

Required to include:

- Statement on principal place of residence
  - This automatic and not counted in your 150 words
- List any other positions you're standing for
- Nominations close 12 noon, 1 August
  - Sharp - don't leave to last minute
  - What if you need to fix an issue? Will you have time?



# Nomination process

Sample District Council  
Mayor  
Electing the Mayor

---



**Firstname SURNAME**

Communities for Progress

My principal place of residence is in the Sample District Council area.

I am also standing for the Sample Māori Ward.

As a lifelong resident in our community, I understand the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. I've served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and volunteered with local and regional non-profits, giving me firsthand experience in collaborative

- This candidate is standing for mayor
- They have supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is in the area they're standing for
- They have supplied a photo
- They have supplied a statement



# Nomination process

Sample District Council  
Mayor  
Electing the Mayor

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No photo  
provided

**Firstname SURNAME**

My principal place of residence is not in the Sample District Council area.

No statement provided.

- This candidate is also standing for mayor
- They have not supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is not in the area they're standing for
- They have not supplied a photo
- They have not supplied a statement



# Voter eligibility

If you're on the general electoral roll, you can vote for four issues:

The mayor



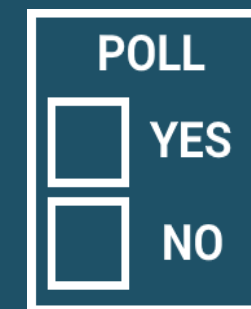
1 general constituency  
councillor



3 general ward  
councillors



Māori  
constituency poll



# Voter eligibility

If you're on the Māori electoral roll, you can vote for four issues:

The mayor



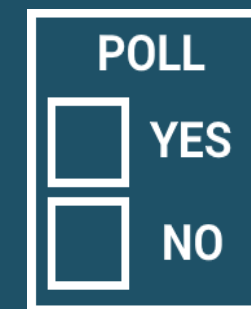
1 Māori constituency  
councillor



3 Māori ward  
councillors



Māori  
constituency poll



# Campaigning

- Campaigning can occur anytime (from now)
- WDC has an election signs policy
  - Signs can go up 2 months before election day (11 August 2025)
  - Must remove them by midnight on 10 October 2025
  - Good idea to read the full policy at [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)
  - If signs in other council areas, check respective council's policy
- All election advertisements must show contact details of authorising person
  - Signs, notices, pamphlets, webpages, vehicles etc
  - Excludes posts, tweets, messages - just put it once on your main page



# Campaigning

Social media great way to campaign

- Instant, far-reaching, free
- Promote yourself and policies - state policies, run polls, encourage people to vote, key dates etc
- Fake news not acceptable

Council's media channels off-limits

- Must be politically neutral, monitored

Cyber-security - keep safe

- Computers can be hacked
- Be mindful of election offences





# Donations

Yes, you can receive donations to spend on your campaign, noting:

- All donations must be recorded and declared after the election
- How much and who it came from, unless 'anonymous'
- 'Anonymous' donation can't be over \$1,500
- There's no limit on donations but there is a limit of how much you can spend



# Campaign spend

How much can you spend on your campaign? Depends on which position you stand for

Position	Population	Expenditure limit
Mayor	8,920	\$7,000
Wairoa General Ward	4,610	\$3,500
Wairoa Māori Ward	4,310	\$3,500



# Campaign spend

- Expenditure limits include GST
- Can't add limits together if campaigning for multiple seats
- Electoral expenses and donations return required by 11 December (enforced)
- Completed forms available for public inspection (7 years)
- Care to ensure accurate (declaration)



# Voting

- Voting period 9 September to 12 noon, 11 October
- Voting packs delivered to electors 9 - 22 September
- Able to campaign up to and including election day
- Special votes available at certain locations - check council website or handbook
- During the voting period, a voting return schedule will be available on council's website
- Candidates not to collect votes from electors
- Voters can post back their votes or hand-deliver to a council location
- Voting closes 12 noon, Saturday 11 October (sharp)



# Results

- Progress results on election day afternoon (est 90% votes)
  - Do NOT assume progress results are final - outcomes may change!
- All candidates contacted, media advised
- Preliminary results on Sunday (includes all votes counted except special votes)
- All results available on Council website
- Final results expected by Friday 17 October
- Take office day after public notice (18 October)
- Can act after sworn in at first meeting



# Resources

- Candidate Information Handbook
- Electoral legislation
  - Local Electoral Act 2001
  - Local Electoral Regulations 2001
  - [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)
- Attend a council meeting
- Read agendas and minutes available online
- Talk to a council staff member



# Contact us

## Electoral Officer

Dale Ofsoske

Independent Election Services

Ground Floor, 167 Victoria Street West, Auckland (entrance off Dock Street)

Phone: 0800 922 822

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## Deputy Electoral Officer for WDC

Juanita Savage

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Website: [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)





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