

Frequently Asked Questions Relating to Local Government By-Election 2018 (Palmerston North Constituency)

General Information

Q1	<i>When is the next Local Government By-election?</i>	Ans	Election Day is Friday 21 September 2018 and voting closes at midday on that day. The voting period starts on Thursday 30 August 2018.
Q2	<i>Who is running the election?</i>	Ans	The Electoral Officer has full responsibility for running the election.
Q3	<i>What is the name of the Electoral Officer/Deputy Electoral Officer?</i>	Ans	Craig Grant craig.grant@horizons.govt.nz Electoral Officer Tel. 021 2277455 Kay Booth kay.booth@horizons.govt.nz Deputy Electoral Officer Tel. 021 2277455 Calls may also be answered by members of the Electoral Team.
Q4	<i>What type of voting method do you use?</i>	Ans	First Past the Post (FPP) for Horizons Regional Council.
Q5	<i>What issues (elections) will we vote for?</i>	Ans	Horizons Regional Council has six (6) constituencies. This By-election is for the Palmerston North constituency only. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horowhenua–Kairanga• Manawatu–Rangitikei• Palmerston North• Ruapehu• Tararua• Wanganui
Q6	<i>What is the role of a councillor?</i>	Ans	A Councillor: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participates in strategic planning for the whole Region;• Develops policy across a wide range of activities and services;• Represents the Region at functions as required;• Reviews and develops bylaws for the Region;• Advocates on a wide range of issues;• Coordinates and forms partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies;• Participates in the appointment and performance review of the Chief Executive;• Acts on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework, and sets a budget and rates.

Candidates

Q7 <i>I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?</i>	Ans <p>You must be a New Zealand Citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll.</p> <p>You will need to have two people who live and are registered in the area of the election you are standing for to nominate you – eg if you stand for the Palmerston North Constituency, they will need to reside within that Constituency. (Please note the candidate does not need to reside in the constituency in which they are standing but will need to disclose that fact on his/her nomination form which will be shown in his/her Candidate Profile Statement).</p> <p>The nominators must also be on the Parliamentary electoral roll at the address they are listed on the nomination paper (which must be in the area that they are nominating the person for).</p> <p>You cannot be interested in Council contracts of \$25,000 (GST incl) or over unless prior approval is sought.</p>
Q8 <i>How much will it cost me to stand?</i>	Ans <p>You will need to pay a deposit of \$200 GST inclusive.</p> <p>Your nomination must be received by close of nominations at 12 noon on 26 July 2018.</p> <p>If you pay the deposit by cheque and it is dishonoured after nominations close, your nomination will not be accepted.</p> <p>If you poll greater than 25% of the successful candidate (for FPP elections) you will receive your deposit back on receipt of the Electoral Expenses Form.</p>
Q9 <i>What qualifications and experience do I need?</i>	Ans <p>Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have will/desire to serve the community.</p> <p>However the following skills would be helpful if you are elected: time management, communication, listening, relationship building, influencing and negotiating, media skills.</p>
Q10 <i>Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a candidate?</i>	Ans No, not at all for city, district and regional council elections.
Q11 <i>How long is the term of the elected member?</i>	Ans One year (until October 2019).

Q12	<i>Do I need to be resident in the city, district or region I am standing for?</i>	Ans	No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Roll and be a New Zealand Citizen.
Q13	<i>How many offices can I stand for?</i>	Ans	You cannot stand for both a regional council and one of its constituent district or city councils.
Q14	<i>I am a serving Police Officer. Can I stand for council and continue to work as a Police Officer?</i>	Ans	Eligibility depends on the particular circumstance. Contact the Electoral Officer.
Q15	<i>How much can I spend on my campaign?</i>	Ans	At the end of the election period, all candidates are required to submit to the Electoral Officer a summary of donations received and expenditure made on campaigning for the by-election. For this by-election the total election expenses must not exceed \$50,000 (inclusive of GST). All candidates are required to lodge an electoral expenses and donations return within 55 days after the results are officially notified. If this is not done it is possible that a non return will be advised to the NZ Police. This return needs to be made before a candidate deposit is refunded.

Enrolment

Q16	<i>Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?</i>	Ans	The main office of Horizons Regional Council at 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North.
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Q17 <i>How do I enrol to vote in these elections?</i>	<p>Ans If you are on the Parliamentary roll at an address in the constituency you want to vote in then you will automatically appear on the roll that is used for these elections.</p> <p>If you don't know, see Q16.</p> <p>If you are not enrolled, you need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick one up at any New Zealand Post Shop • contact your local city or district council • you can enrol online at www.elections.org.nz • ring 0800 36 76 56 • send your name and address to Freetext 3676 • download a form at www.elections.org.nz <p>If you own a property in the Palmerston North constituency and it is not your main residence you may be able to enrol as a Ratepayer elector. Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>
Q18 <i>I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?</i>	<p>Ans You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.</p>
Q19 <i>I am a New Zealand Maori, do I need to enrol on the Maori roll?</i>	<p>Ans Not necessarily. If you are enrolling for the first time you can decide whether you want to go on the Maori Electoral roll or the General Electoral roll by signing the appropriate panel on the Parliamentary Elector Enrolment form.</p>
Q20 <i>I turn 18 on Election Day. Can I vote?</i>	<p>Ans Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled which you can do provisionally from the age of 17 and it automatically changes when you turn 18.</p> <p>You will also need to apply for a special vote. Please contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>
Q21 <i>We own a business in your area and pay rates, but we don't live in your area – do we get a say in the local elections?</i>	<p>Ans Yes, subject to being eligible to become enrolled as a ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled. Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>
Q22 <i>I own a property in the district but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll?</i>	<p>Ans Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>

Voting

Q23 <i>Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?</i>	Ans	All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Thursday 30 August 2018 and Tuesday 4 September 2018.
Q24 <i>I got my voting documents but my partner didn't receive theirs.</i>	Ans	Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.
Q25 <i>I didn't get my voting documents so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two documents which one should I use?</i>	Ans	Use the original and destroy the special vote, or contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.
Q26 <i>I received voting documents for (children, parent) and have Power of Attorney for them, can I vote for them?</i>	Ans	No – Power of Attorney does not apply to voting for that person.
Q27 <i>What should I do with the documents?</i>	Ans	If they are overseas, you could fast post them to the person or destroy them if that is not practicable. If they are for an elderly parent who is unable to vote please destroy them by ripping/cutting them up.
Q28 <i>I received voting documents that do not belong to me and I don't know these people or where they have gone.</i>	Ans	Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put them back in the mail.
Q29 <i>What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?</i>	Ans	It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode number to mark the Electoral roll that you have voted so we can ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.

Q30 <i>How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?</i>	<p>Ans Envelopes containing a voting document cannot be opened until there is a JP present. The JP is required to sign off that the processes used by the Electoral Officer met the legal requirements.</p> <p>The voter's name is not on the voting document.</p> <p>When the envelope is opened the only thing the Electoral Officer is looking for is that the vote for each election is valid.</p> <p>This means that for FPP they are making sure that the voter's intention is clear and they have not ticked or marked more than the number of candidates that they are electing.</p>
Q31 <i>Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates</i>	<p>Ans No you don't have to vote. But your vote is important because the person elected will be responsible for making decisions about what happens in your community for the next year.</p> <p>To help you get to know about the candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate meetings are usually held in each area if you wish to go and hear what policies the different candidates are advocating for. • Additionally there is a candidate profile booklet that comes out with the voting documents in which there is a photo and a statement from candidates.
Q32 <i>Do I have to post my voting document back?</i>	<p>Ans You can post them but make sure you have them in the mail by Tuesday 18 September to make sure they get back to us in time (by 12 noon Friday 21 September 2018).</p> <p>However, you can also deliver it to the voting box at Horizons Regional Council, 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North until 12 noon Friday 21 September 2018).</p>
Q33 <i>I have lost my return envelope.</i>	<p>Ans You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address on it OR contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>
Q34 <i>I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary roll and I want a special vote please.</i>	<p>Ans Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>
Q35 <i>I didn't receive my voting paper, how do I obtain a special vote?</i>	<p>Ans Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.</p>

Q36	<i>I spoiled my voting documents / I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?</i>	Ans	If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear then do so and initial the changes. or Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer so they can issue you with another voting document.
Q37	<i>Where can I have a special vote?</i>	Ans	Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.
Q38	<i>I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.</i>	Ans	Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.
Q39	<i>I have received two voting documents</i>	Ans	Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.
Q40	<i>Do all the staff working on the election know who I voted for?</i>	Ans	No, your vote remains secret under the required roll scrutiny and counting procedures.
Q41	<i>Can I help someone fill out their voting documents?</i>	Ans	Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote. If authorised by a voter who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter. An authorisation to do this should be completed (Local Electoral Regulations # 34).
Q42	<i>What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?</i>	Ans	They are delivered to the District Court and kept for 21 days so that the Court can access them should there be any application for recount or petition for inquiry. After 21 days the court is responsible for destroying them
Q43	<i>What about FPP?</i>	Ans	This is the First Past the Post voting system. The candidate that gets the most votes wins. You should mark the candidate you want to vote for with a tick in the circle. Do not vote for more than one candidate as shown in the instructions.

Election Results

Q44 *When will we know the results of the election?*

Ans Progress and preliminary results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on Friday 21 September 2018.

The official results will be announced when the final count is complete and special votes have been checked, but likely to be on or around 24 September 2018.

Q45 *How will I find out?*

The Candidates

Ans Will be advised as soon as possible after Preliminary results are known. This may be by email or phone from the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer.

The Voters

Ans Preliminary Results will be released to the media and placed on our website as soon as possible after noon on Friday 21 September 2018 – www.horizons.govt.nz.

Q46 *What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?*

Ans Contact the Horizons' Electoral Officer.

Members

Q47 *When do elected members take up their roles?*

Ans Elected members take up office the day after the official result has been declared by public notice. However, they cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of council. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known.

Q48 *Who are elected members responsible to?*

Ans Ultimately the elected members' final responsibility is to the local community. The Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that councils follow the law.

Q49 *Do elected members get paid and if so how much?*

Ans This is set by the Remuneration Authority. Some expenses are also reimbursed.

Q50 *Would being an elected member take up much time?*

Ans The time commitment varies depending on the role and the size of the constituency you are representing.

Q51 *How many elected members are there?*

Ans Twelve (12)

Complaints

Q52 *I have a complaint about Electoral signage?*

Ans Contact the Palmerston North City Council Electoral Officer, for that Council's Signage Policy, or the Horizons' Electoral Officer.

The signs don't have the required authorisation on them.

The signs have been pulled over.

The signs are bigger than they should be.

What locations can signs be erected?

When can they be erected and when must they be pulled down?
