

Thinking about standing in the 2025 Christchurch City Council elections?

Information for candidates

Election day is Saturday 11 October. Nominations open on Friday 4 July and close at noon on Friday 1 August.

Voting starts on Tuesday 9 September and closes at noon on Saturday 11 October.

Please read the information below and if you have any queries, contact the Electoral Officer Warwick Lampp on iro@electionz.com or 021 498 517 or Deputy Electoral Officer Jo Daly on 03 941 8581 or email elections@ccc.govt.nz

Information about the elections and information for candidates can be found on the Council website: ccc.govt.nz/elections. The website is being updated regularly.

Nomination forms for the 2025 local elections and the candidate information booklet will be available from late June. You can find them:

- On the [Council website](#)
- At Council service centres
- On request from the Deputy Electoral Officer

If you want to stand as a candidate, you can start campaigning at any time – however, there are some things you must be aware of to ensure you comply with the legislation and rules related to the conduct of elections.

Campaigning is at your cost, and you must record and declare any money you spend on your campaign or donations you receive.

Candidates must also be enrolled on a parliamentary electoral roll within New Zealand and be a New Zealand citizen.

A candidate information session will be held at 6pm on Thursday 5 June in the Ngā Purapura/Activity Room, Level 1, Tūranga, 60 Cathedral Square. A recording of the session will be available on the [Council website](#).

Being a Christchurch City Council elected member

We are looking for candidates for Mayor, Councillors for 16 wards and 37 members for six Community Boards.

To find out more about being an elected member you can check our website: [Candidate information : Christchurch City Council](#) and how the Council works: [How the Council works : Christchurch City Council](#)

- Go to a meeting: [Upcoming meetings and hearings : Christchurch City Council](#)
- Check out the agendas, minutes, live streaming or recordings of meetings: [Meetings, agendas and minutes : Christchurch City Council](#)
- Refer to external resources available online including: votelocal.co.nz/information-for-candidates and [Candidates' guidance - Local Government New Zealand - LGNZ](#)

Campaigning material and advertising

All election advertising must include an authorisation statement, including all online platforms (websites, Facebook, Instagram, X etc) and social media posts.

The authorisation statement must include:

- The true name of the person under whose authority they have been produced, and
- The contact detail for the person under whose authority they have been produced, being one of the following:
 - A residential address; or
 - An email address; or
 - A post office box number; or
 - A phone number; or
 - A link to an internet site if the page contains one or more of the above.

This means that for posters, signs, adverts, billboards, flyers, stickers, vehicle signage, websites, Facebook pages etc each advertising item must include a statement saying that it is authorised by the candidate or agent.

For example: "This advertising has been authorised by Joe Citizen, 20 Somewhere Street, Sometown" (or an email address, PO Box, phone number or website). This authorisation must be clearly visible on any campaigning material including signs and billboards.

No election material can contain:

- Any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and circulated to influence the vote of any elector.
- An imitation voting paper that has the names of 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.

Election offences are set out in the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#) and detailed in Appendix 6 of the Candidate Handbook which will be available in late June. To avoid committing an offence, please ensure you understand what is required of you. If you have any queries please check with the [Electoral Officer](#) or [Deputy Electoral Officer](#).

Election Signage and Hoardings

The Christchurch District Plan details the rules that control physical temporary election signage. This includes electoral signage on vehicles. Key matters to consider are:

- Temporary local election signage is only permitted in the period nine weeks before the start of voting and must be removed by midnight prior to election day. For this election signage is permitted from 8 July 2025 to midnight on 10 October 2025.
- Electoral signage on vehicles must be painted on or attached flush to a vehicle and should not protrude out from or above the vehicle body.
- Temporary election signage is not permitted on trailers or other structures attached to a vehicle that increase its size.
- Generally the maximum size of any temporary local election signage in residential areas is three square metres.
- All signage must have the permission of the property owner. This includes private, public, Council and Crown owned land and roads.
- There may be permitted exceptions to the time period and size on separately consented signage (for example billboards). This must be established before any election signage is displayed.
- All signage and advertising requires an authorisation statement.

For further information refer to the Election Signage Info Sheet and Candidate Handbook.

Council resources

Candidates are not permitted to use Council resources for campaigning purposes. Council resources include, but are not limited to, Council-owned or -controlled property and other resources including the Council logo and branding; all Council marketing and communication channels (including social media); Council-supplied business cards, stationery, computers, email, mobile phones, addresses, photocopiers, Council venues (other than those available for hire to the general public), Council funds, and Council's human resources.

This applies to either sitting members or other candidates in any context that could reasonably be construed as campaigning for elections.

Social media

Social media use requires sound judgement and common sense. You, and anyone acting on your behalf, are personally liable for the content you publish.

Social media sites are considered to be in the public domain. It is important to ensure you are confident of the nature of the information that you publish, as you could be quoted by media. Once published, content is almost impossible to control and may be used without your consent in ways you would prefer it was not. Familiarise yourself with the terms of service of any social media site and do not post any material that could leave you vulnerable.

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

- Election advertising, using any media, including social media, must include the authorisation statement as per section 113 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. This means that in your profile photography/biography, you must have a statement saying that all content/images on your social media channel are authorised by you or your agent, with a contact detail as detailed above.
- Christchurch City Council's social media accounts are not permitted to be used as a communications channel by anyone for promotion, electioneering or campaigning. Any campaign-related or electioneering content or comments will be removed immediately.
- The Council's social media accounts will remain neutral. Christchurch City Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates.

Candidate Safety

Being a candidate in local government elections means stepping into the public eye. With that comes increased scrutiny, and unfortunately, it may also raise the risk of abuse or harassment directed at you or your family.

It's important to take proactive steps to help keep yourself and your loved ones safe during this time. If you experience serious threats or harassment, you should report them to the Police. A practical step to consider now includes using a campaign specific email address, phone number and social media accounts rather than your personal ones.

Nomination process

Nominations are required to be made on the official nomination form for the position and must be with the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer by noon on Friday 1 August.

Nomination forms for the 2025 local elections and the candidate information booklet will be available from late June. You can find them:

- On the [Council website](#)
- At Council service centres
- On request from the Deputy Electoral Officer at elections@ccc.govt.nz or 03 941 8581

A candidate must be nominated by two electors enrolled in the city, ward or community board ward that the candidate is standing in. A candidate cannot nominate themselves.

Candidates are required to pay a \$200 nomination deposit for each position and provide evidence of New Zealand Citizenship. Candidates can also provide a 150-word candidate profile and a photo, which will be provided to voters with voting documents.

The lodging of nominations should not be left until the last minute to ensure that there is sufficient time for checking and allow for any corrections if necessary.