

**Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe
2025 Local Government Elections**

2025 Local Elections Candidate Briefing Presentation

23 June 2025

Pōtitanga Kawanatanga ā Rohe 2025 Local Government Elections PART 1

What is local government all about?



TDC 101.

Candidate Information Evening - Monday 23 June

Who is Timaru District?

We're 47,547 people in an amazing district stretching from Mesopotamia to Pareora, living in 21,429 homes working across 5,883 businesses.

(Census 2023)

The Council Looks after...

1,700 km of roads, 176 bridges, \$40 million of street furniture, 345km of sewer pipes, 1,850 km of drinking water pipes, three swimming pools, three libraries, one dog pound, 6.36 hectares of parks, one museum and a whole lot more.

(TDC LTP, 2024)

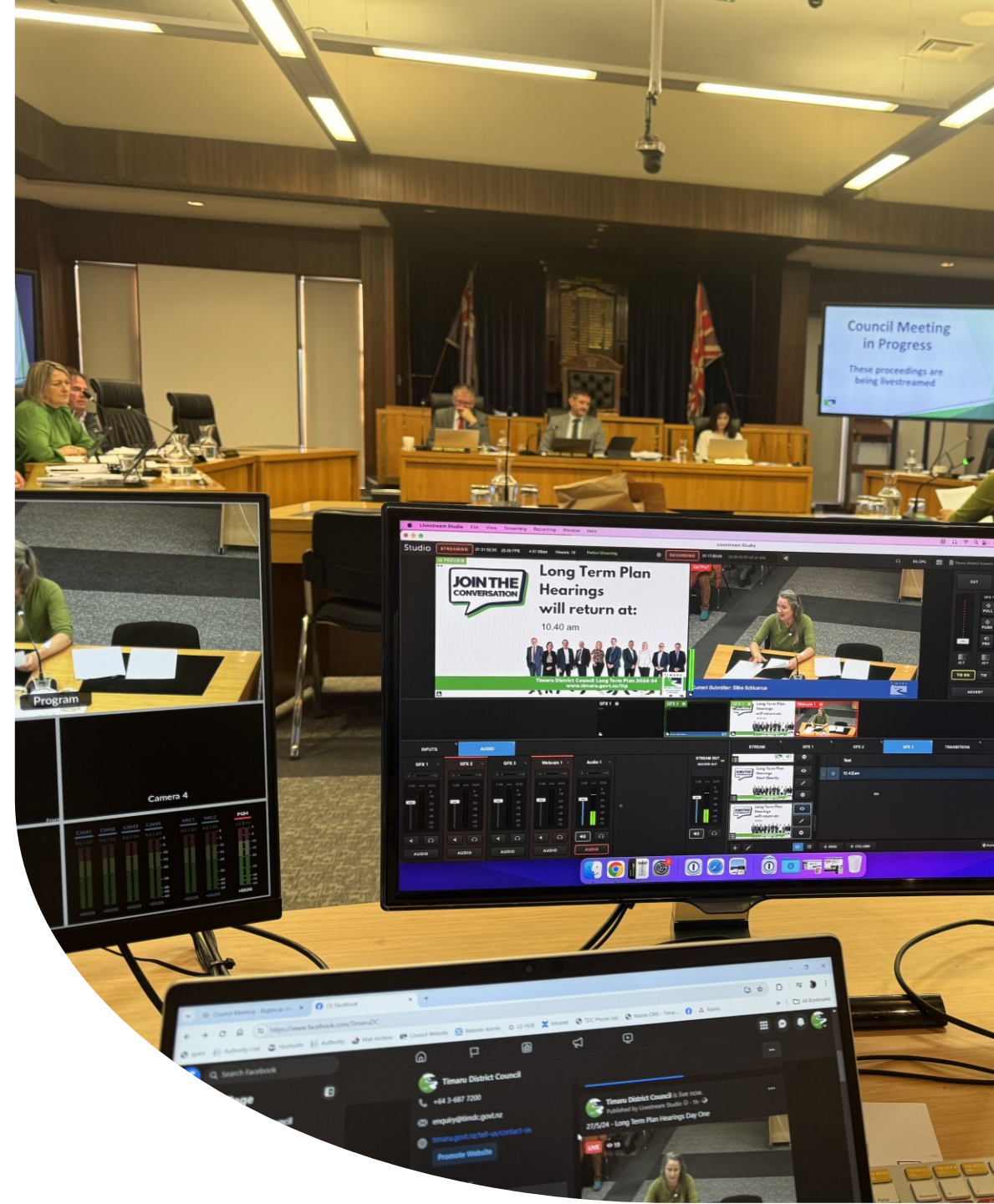
Council

9 Council members and 1 Mayor.

Usually meets on a Tuesday every month, with standing committees every 6 weeks, but can call extra meetings and workshops where required.

Has to have people in the room to form a quorum, online doesn't count.

All meetings are livestreamed, unless publicly excluded.





There's a lot of reading...

Agendas are sent electronically the Wednesday or Thursday before the meeting.

Staff presenting at council meetings will 'take the report as read' with the assumption you've read it.

It's really complex stuff, so don't be worried about asking questions.



One Big Deliverable



Three Big Projects Underway

- Theatre Royal and Museum Development
- Aorangi Stadium Development
- Timaru Urban Water Treatment Upgrades



Three Big Reforms

- Delivery of three waters service
- Changes to the Resource Management Act and building consent services.
- Council Scorecards and rates capping.



Challenges

- Ensuring affordability while meeting community expectations.
- Closing our operational deficit.
- Repaying debt while continuing to invest.
- Replacing ageing infrastructure.
- Changing government priorities.



Useful reading

Timaru District Council Long Term Plan 2024/34

Timaru District Council Annual Report 2023/34

Timaru District Council Annual Plan 2025/26 – from mid July

Pre-Election Report – From mid July



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2025 Local Government Elections
PART 2

2025 Election details



About electionz.com?

- Election services company based in Ōtautahi Christchurch
- 10 full time staff
- Average 200 elections in NZ each year (other than councils)
- Electoral Officer (EO) for 44 councils, 8 regional councils
- Carrying out vote processing for 47 councils, approx 825,000 returned voting papers
- Vote Processing centre in Ōtautahi, Christchurch
- Anthony Morton is based in Christchurch
- Electoral Officer for:
Tauranga, Western Bay, Matamata-Piako, Rotorua Lakes, Taupō, Waipā, Ōtorohanga, Waitomo, South Waikato, Ruapehu, Rangitikei, Manawatū, Whanganui, Horowhenua, Napier, Hastings, Central Hawkes Bay, Tararua, Carterton, Masterton, South Wairarapa, Upper Hutt, Porirua, Wellington, Nelson, Buller, Grey, Westland, Kaikōura, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Christchurch, Selwyn, Ashburton, Timaru, Mackenzie, Waimate, Waitaki, Dunedin, Gore, Queenstown, Central Otago, Southland, Invercargill.
Greater Wellington, Southland, Canterbury, Otago, Hawke's Bay, Horizons, Bay of Plenty, West Coast



Electoral Team

electionz.com Ltd contracted by Timaru District Council

- Anthony Morton – Electoral Officer
0800 666 048 or timarudc@electionz.com
- Stephen Doran – Deputy Electoral Officer
027 202 7784 or elections@timdc.govt.nz
- Brendan Madley – Electoral Official
03 684 1992 or elections@timdc.govt.nz
- Warwick Lampp – Electoral Official
0800 666 048 or timarudc@electionz.com



Electoral Officer Role and Responsibilities

- The Electoral Officer (EO) is solely responsible for the conduct of the election.
- The EO is not subject to the directions of any local authority, elected members, or the CE
- Provides a level playing field for all candidates
- **NB** Not responsible for monitoring campaigning by candidates. Only deals with alleged breaches of the Act by passing them to the Police.



Election Timetable



23 June (Monday)

4 July (Friday)

11 July (Friday)

1 August (Friday)

From **30 August** (Saturday)

9 – 22 September (Tuesday to Tuesday)

9 September – 11 October

11 October (Saturday)

11 October (Saturday)

12 October (Sunday)

16 October (Thursday)

18 October (Saturday)

28 October (Tuesday)

by **11 December** (Thursday)

Candidate Briefing

Nominations open

Pre-election Period starts

Nominations close at 12 noon

Election signs can be displayed

Delivery of voting papers

Special voting period

Close of voting at 12 noon

Progress results available from 2pm

Preliminary results announced

Final results announced, Official Declaration

Removal of election signs by midnight

Inaugural Meeting of Council

Candidate expenses deadline

Nominations will be called for:

Mayor

9 Councillors from 3 Wards

Geraldine Ward

1 councillor

Pleasant Point - Temuka Ward

2 councillors

Timaru Ward

6 councillors

Community Board members

Geraldine Community Board

6 members

Pleasant Point Community Board

5 members

Temuka Community Board

5 members

Geraldine Licensing Trust



At Large across Trust Area

6 members

Environment Canterbury



South Canterbury/Ōtuhituhi

2 councillors



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PART 3

The nomination process



Candidate Eligibility

CANNOT:

- Be serving a prison sentence of three or more years
- Stand for Timaru District Council and Environment Canterbury
- Have interest in a contract over \$25K per year with council
- Nominate yourself

CAN STAND:

- For both mayor and/or councillor and/or community board
- If you live outside area, but must state that on nomination paper (not for GLT)
- If a council employee but must resign if elected as mayor or councillor

CANDIDATE MUST:

- Be a NZ citizen and enrolled on parliamentary electoral roll
- Be nominated by 2 electors who are enrolled for the electoral issue the candidate is standing for
- Provide all nomination documents together

CAN'T WITHDRAW AFTER NOMINATIONS CLOSE

Nomination Process

- Open Friday 4 July and **close midday Friday 1 August** (4 weeks)
- **Documents to submit:**
 - nomination form
 - evidence of \$200 deposit
 - evidence of NZ citizenship
 - profile statement (optional)
 - photo (optional)
 - evidence of bank a/c details (for deposit refund)
- Forms available from the following locations:
 - TDC Office, 2 King George Pl, Timaru
 - Temuka TDC Library/Service Centre, 72-74 King St, Temuka
 - Geraldine TDC Library/Service Centre, 78 Talbot St, Geraldine
 - TDC website, www.timaru.govt.nz
- Can be lodged at TDC office, 2 King George Place or emailed to elections@timdc.govt.nz
- Nomination deposit can be paid by cash, EFTPOS or online banking
- Candidates to be aware that contact details will be public info (available from website after nomination confirmed)



KOROMATUA | MAYOR
PUKA TONO | NOMINATION FORM
TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL | 2025 ELECTIONS



Important Notes:

1. The front page of completed nomination forms are required to be available for public inspection at the Timaru District Council office, 2 King George Place, Timaru.
2. Candidate name, email address and/or phone number details as provided in Section B will be made available from the council's website.
3. Nominator names may also be made available from the council's website.
4. In this form LEA = Local Electoral Act 2001 and LER = Local Electoral Regulations 2001

A TE ROHE PŌTI | ELECTION AREA

I wish to stand for election as **Mayor** of the **Timaru District**.

My principal place of residence
(tick ONE circle):

☐

is **WITHIN** the Timaru District
Council area

☐

is **NOT WITHIN** the Timaru District
Council area

B MĀ TE KAITONO | CANDIDATE TO FILL OUT (after reading important information on reverse)

I (candidate's full name),

accept the nomination and confirm that I have read and understand the **Eligibility and Candidacy Notes** on the reverse of this form and certify that I am qualified to be a candidate under Section 25 of the LEA and the LER and that I am not disqualified under Section 58 of the LEA. In particular, I am a New Zealand citizen and a New Zealand parliamentary elector.

Contact details (will be made available for public inspection):

Phone No.:

Email Address:

I am also standing for the following elections:

I wish my name to be shown on the voting document as:

I wish to use the following affiliation (to be left blank if the candidate does not wish to use any party / group affiliation. A candidate with no affiliation may request that 'independent' be shown. Maximum length is 38 characters (including any spaces between words)):

Signature:

Date:

C MĀ TE KAITAUTOKO | NOMINATORS TO FILL OUT

We, the undersigned electors of the Timaru District Council hereby nominate the candidate listed in **Section B** above with their consent, as a candidate for the office of **Mayor**, the election for which is to be held on 11 October 2025.

Full name of First Nominator:

Residential Address:

Phone No.:

Signature of First Nominator:

Full name of Second Nominator:

Residential Address:

Phone No.:

Signature of Second Nominator:

Nominations must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer before 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025

All nomination documents must be submitted at the same time. For assistance, phone the helpline: 0800 666 048

D CANDIDATE CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE ELECTORAL OFFICER/OFFICIAL

These contact details will not be made public and will be used for election communication by the Electoral Officer/Official:

Residential Address:

(For the following 2 fields only complete if different from details listed in Section B of this form):

Phone No.:

Email Address:

ELIGIBILITY & CANDIDACY NOTES

- 1 Candidates for this position do not need to live within the Timaru District Council election area, but must be a New Zealand citizen and enrolled as a New Zealand parliamentary elector.
- 2 Both nominators must be enrolled as electors of Timaru District Council.
- 3 No person can be elected to a local authority if they are concerned or interested in contracts over \$25,000 with that local authority. This restriction is waived if prior approval from the office of the Controller and Auditor-General is obtained (Section 3(1) Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968).
- 4 A candidate may stand for either the regional council or city/district council/community board in the regional council's district, but not both.
- 5 A candidate cannot nominate themselves for office.
- 6 A candidate may under Section 56 of the LEA be nominated under a name which the candidate is commonly known as provided that the name will not: cause offence to a reasonable person; be unreasonably long; include or resemble an official rank or title; cause confusion or mislead electors (Section 56 of the LEA).
- 7 Where no affiliation is claimed, or an affiliation is disallowed by the Electoral Officer under Section 57 of the LEA, nothing will be shown in the public notice or the voting paper alongside the candidate's name. A candidate with no affiliation may request that 'independent' be shown.
- 8 Under Section 121 of the LEA, any person is liable to a fine of up to \$2,000 who:
(a) Knowing themselves to be ineligible for election, consents to being nominated for election; or
(b) Nominates any person as a candidate whom they know to be ineligible for election; or
(c) Not being the candidate signs any nomination paper knowing that they are not qualified to vote at the election.
- 9 Each nomination must be accompanied by the required deposit of \$200.00 (GST inclusive) or proof of an electronic deposit.
- 10 Evidence of NZ citizenship is required at the time of candidate nomination. Acceptable evidence includes a copy of a NZ passport, NZ birth certificate or NZ citizenship documentation.
- 11 Nominations of candidates must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer, Timaru District Council, before 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025.
- 12 An employee of a local authority may stand for election as mayor or councillor of that local authority, but if elected, must resign as an employee of the local authority before taking office. This provision does not apply to an employee of a local authority elected to a community or local board.

RETURN, PAYMENT AND REFUND DETAILS

I submit with this nomination
(please tick appropriate circles):

☐

Evidence of
NZ citizenship

☐

Evidence of
deposit

☐

Photo

☐

Profile
statement

I understand that if I do not provide a profile or photo, the words "Profile/Photo not supplied" will appear below my name in the profile booklet that will be sent out with the voting paper.

Deliver to (do not post):

Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru

Or, scan and email to:

elections@timdc.govt.nz

Payments can be made by cash or eftpos directly at the Timaru District Council office at 2 King George Place, Timaru, if you are returning this form by hand or by online banking using the details provided below:

Account name:	Timaru District Council	Bank:	BNZ
Account number:	02 0888 0269159 00	Particulars/reference:	Election deposit
Code:	(Your initials and surname)		

Refunds of Nomination Deposits

Where eligible, refunds of nomination deposits will be made by online deposit into your nominated bank account. Please provide either a bank deposit slip or verification of your bank account for the processing of your refund. Verification can be a screen shot from online banking or from the top of a bank statement, and must include the bank logo, the account name and the bank a/c number.

ELECTORAL OFFICIAL TO FILL OUT

Received at the hour of:		on the		day of		20	
Candidate roll #:							
First nominator roll #:				Second nominator roll #:			
Nomination documents approved:	<input type="radio"/> Nomination paper	<input type="radio"/> Deposit/proof of deposit	<input type="radio"/> Place of residence				
	<input type="radio"/> Photo	<input type="radio"/> Profile statement	<input type="radio"/> Proof of NZ citizenship				
	<input type="radio"/> Standing for other elections	<input type="radio"/> Deposit refund verification					
Signature of Electoral Official:						Date:	

Candidate Profile Statements and Photos

Profiles

- **May** be provided (not mandatory) – see page 21 of Candidate Handbook
- Must be provided electronically with the other nomination documents as a MS Word doc - not a pdf, not hand-written
- Up to **150** words about the candidate, their policies and intentions
- **Paragraph format only – no bullet points, bolding, underlining etc**
- Cannot comment on policies etc of any other candidate
- Should be emailed to the DEO (with photo)
- EO not required to verify or investigate any information included in profile
- Profiles on Council website as soon as ready after close of nominations

Photos

- Photos in **colour, within last 12 months** (no hats, sunglasses, children, pets or friends)
- Photos provided as jpgs
- Should be against a light coloured background (not a window)

Example Profile Statement

Waitaki District Council

Electing the Mayor



Warwick LAMPP

Your Switched-on Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Waitaki District Council area. I am also standing for Corridale Ward Councillor.

150 word candidate profile text.

Auto-populated text

Hard-coded text

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PART 4

Campaigning



Candidate Safety

Being an Elected Member can be incredibly rewarding — but it also comes with challenges.

- Increasing levels of abuse, particularly online, and confrontations from fringe groups
- Plan ahead to keep yourself and others safe

Tips for Staying Safe During Your Campaign:

- Use campaign-specific social media accounts
- Set up a separate campaign email and phone number
- Be mindful of your surroundings — know your exits and stay aware
- Stay calm in difficult interactions — de-escalate where possible and seek help if needed
- Report any threats to Police immediately

Note: Candidate contact details published online will **not** include physical addresses.



Campaigning



- Can commence any time
 - Can't use council resources for campaigning (logo, branding, colours, council FB or X feed, photos, council buildings etc)
 - No campaigning or electioneering in council chambers or on council premises
- Election expenses for campaigning must be recorded and declared in a return after the election
- **Any campaign material** (signs, posters, billboards, flyers, ads, cars, social media) **must have an authorisation** from the candidate or their agent, stating their name and contact details
 - Can be address, phone number, email, PO Box
 - Should be on the front of the sign or promotional material (not the back)
- Any content of signs is subject to ASA guidelines and complaints process – must be factual
- Usual rules of defamation apply but don't complain to the EO if you don't like what someone says about you!

Election Expenditure Limits

Total electoral expenses, including GST, must not exceed:

Timaru District Council

• Mayoralty	\$ 30,000
• Geraldine Ward	\$ 7,000
• Temuka Ward	\$ 7,000
• Timaru Ward	\$ 20,000
• Geraldine Community Board	\$ 7,000
• Pleasant Point Community Board	\$ 3,500
• Temuka Community Board	\$ 7,000

Geraldine Licensing Trust

• Members (whole area)	\$ 7,000
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Environment Canterbury

• South Canterbury/Ōtuhituhi Constituency	\$ 40,000
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If standing for more than one position, the higher limit applies, not both. Campaign expenses are the candidate's responsibility. Council doesn't refund you.



Election Expenses

See pages 25 and 44 of handbook

- Declaration period starts 3 months before election day - **11 July 2025**
- Must include/apportion expenses for activity outside the 3 months
- Declaration listing summary of electoral expenses and electoral donations required within 55 days after the official result declaration – **approx 11 December**
- Includes Nil declarations
- Deposit not refunded until the return is completed (provided candidate gets more than 25% of the votes of the lowest successful candidate)
- Invoices and receipts not required with declaration but must be retained by candidate
- EO must make expenses documents available on Council website for **7 years**

Electoral Donations



See pages 26-27 of the handbook


- No time limit on when donations are received and no set maximum of how much can be received
- Donations with a reasonable market value of **\$300 or less do not** have to be declared
- Donations of more than **\$1,500 must** be declared
- Rules around “anonymous” donations - **can’t be anonymous if you know who it has come from**
- An anonymous donation cannot be over \$1,500
- It is an offence to circumvent \$1,500 limit, i.e., by deliberately splitting up a donation into smaller contributions
 1. Donations over \$1,500 made up of contributions (e.g via a trust or fundraising) are treated as one donation and all contributors need to be disclosed
 2. Crowd funding services do not meet the legislation for recording who donations are from
- 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

Election signs


See page 29-30 of Candidate Handbook

- Election signs can go up from **Saturday 30 August** (6 weeks prior to election day)
- Must comply with council hoardings policy re size and placement
- Must have authorisation statement
- Can't include copy of voting paper
- Can be on private land, with owner's permission
- One sign per candidate per site
- NZTA rules apply for State Highways, see page 30
- Vehicle signwriting is ok – cost of running a vehicle if it is own personal transport is **not** an election expense
- Complaints about size and placement made to council's Enforcement Officers – not the EO or DEO
- Signs to be removed by midnight 18 October
- **The cost of framing for a sign is not an election expense**

Example of Signs




VOTE

 **FRED DAGG**


**FOR THE
TOWN WARD**


**“OPEN GOVERNMENT
AT ALL HOURS”**


THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN
SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON




VOTE

 **FRED DAGG**
BLUE PARTY

 **JOHN SNOW**
RED PARTY

 **JANE DOE**
WHITE PARTY

 **BILL BOBB**
PURPLE PARTY

**FRED DAGG
FOR THE
TOWN WARD**

“OPEN GOVERNMENT AT ALL HOURS”

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS AUTHORISED BY JOHN SMITH OF 12 THIRD STREET WELLINGTON





Social Media

Beware of Social Media requirements during the three-month election period:

- Council's social media channels will unlike/unfollow all candidate social media channels
- Candidates must not link their own social media channels (if they are used for campaigning purposes) to the Council's social media channels, and must ensure that they have the appropriate authorisation
- **Council social media channels cannot be used for electioneering by candidates or members of the public – will be constantly monitored and strictly enforced**
- Any post - positive or negative - made by any individual specifically relating to their own or someone else's nomination, intention to run for Council or election campaign, will be removed
- Council's social media channels will remain neutral. Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates

Social Media continued

This means, when with the intention of campaigning/electioneering:

- No posting on Council pages/accounts
- No comments/replies on Council pages
- No mentions with a tag (e.g. @TimaruDistrictCouncil)
- No picture tagging
- No rating or reviewing Council pages or posts

e.g. you cannot electioneer on Council's channels, or piggyback on their audiences – see pages 28

Candidates should not post photos of their completed voting paper on any social media platform

Election Offences

See page 51 – Appendix 6

- Imitation Voting Paper
- Bribery
- Treating
 - Can't provide food, alcohol, drinks, entertainment as an inducement to vote (light refreshments after a meeting is ok)
 - **Can't give away a pen, note pad, fridge magnet or item of value**
- Undue Influence – can't stand over someone telling them how to vote
- Unauthorised advertisements
- Illegal nomination – e.g. candidate with a court order
- Any formal complaint passed straight to the Police

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Election process and results



Electoral Rolls

Preliminary Electoral Roll

- available for public inspection from 4 July to 5pm Friday 1 August 2025
- at the following venues:
 - Timaru District Council Office, 2 King Goerge Pl, Timaru;
 - Timaru Library, Sophia St, Timaru;
 - Temuka TDC Library/Service Centre, 72-74 King St, Temuka;
 - Geraldine TDC Library/Service Centre, 78 Talbot St, Geraldine;
 - Environment Canterbury Office, 75 Church St, Timaru.
- Includes the ratepayer roll
- **cannot** be provided electronically to candidates
- can purchase a hard copy for \$40 per ward or \$100 per set, plus GST

Final Electoral Roll

- produced following the EC update
- is the roll used for issuing voting papers
- can purchase a hard copy as above

Confirmed candidates can apply to Electoral Commission to purchase electronic file (\$455.50 fee applies). See page 15 of handbook.

Voting Process

- Postal voting only. No early voting option available.
- Voter packs lodged with NZ Post Monday 8 September.
- Deliveries from 9 September.
- Closes 12 noon on election day, 11 October 2025.
- Special voting available at the TDC main office, 2 King George Pl, Timaru or Temuka or Geraldine Service Centres.
- Applicants can visit in person or request by phone or email for mail-out to applicants (if time allows).
- Candidates should not collect voting documents on behalf of electors.



Election Results

Preliminary count occurs from 12 noon, Saturday 11 October 2025

Progress results: expected from 2pm – approx 90% of votes received (not special votes and votes in transit to processing centre)

Progress results:

- emailed to all candidates with email address
- candidates personally rung by Council staff
- will be available from Council's website after candidates notified

Preliminary results: expected late on Sunday 12 October, after all ordinary votes have been processed

Final results: expected by Thursday 16 October, after special votes have been processed.

Coming into Office

- All members come into office on the day following the day on which the candidates are declared to be elected
- This is the day after the result declaration is posted on Council's website - expected to be Friday 17 October
- Successful candidates contacted by mayor/staff
- Council's inaugural meeting and the “swearing in” of elected members (elected candidates cannot act until this has occurred)

Resources

Candidate handbook and nomination papers

LGNZ 'Making a Stand' booklet

Manatū Wāhine | Ministry for Woman - Free to lead toolkit

Own your online - Protect your privacy online

Netsafe - Online abuse and harassment

Council's Pre-election report – available from 17 July

- To inform the community and candidates on key aspects of Council business
- To set out major projects and expenditure for next 3 years
- To promote discussion on issues and inform any elections debate

Long-Term Plan

Legislation (LEA, LER)

Council's website (for election information)



Last words

- Check that nominators are correctly enrolled
- Get your nomination documents in early
- Campaigning – stick to your own promotions
- Campaigning – if you don't have permission, don't use it
- Authorisation statements on all campaigning material
- Keep yourself safe
- Election results on websites/email from Saturday 11 October



Good Luck!
😊