

**Submission to Justice and Electoral Select Committee on legislative change:
Franklin Local Board Views**

Franklin Local Board provides the following feedback on the detailed points raised in the draft council submission:

- (i) *Matai names*
Agree - the legislation should give guidance.
- (ii) *Vacancies occurring within six months of an election*
If there is a vacancy within the first 6 months of a term then then next highest polling candidate should be elected if they agree. If they are not in agreement, the next highest polling candidate should be elected, and so on. The same should apply for Governing Body members but not for the mayor.
- (iii) *Legal requirement for candidate to state whether residing in area*
There should not be a differentiation with boards that have sub-divisions. The sub divisions are used for large LBs to ensure representation for that area, the person is being elected to a local board as a whole.
- (iv) *Timing of school holidays*
The electoral period is three weeks and the school holidays are two weeks so there is ample time to vote before or after the school holidays.
- (v) *Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas*
This should be an option. This option should be expanded to all voters.
- (vi) *Electoral Officer to have access to the supplementary roll*
Agree.
- (vii) *Access to data associated with electoral roll*
Agree.
- (viii) *Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements*
Agree - also extend to digital images that are a true representation of the person. Printing of a photo is an additional step when images are taken and supplied digitally. It adds a further step in the process for preparation of artwork for print. It would save time and costs for all parties.
- (ix) *Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections*
Agree - the council should be able to organise or promote drop in sessions to try to provide public accessibility to candidates. There would need to be rules about the types of events, for example council should not host or control public meetings or debates.
- (x) *Time period for printing electoral rolls*
Agree that there should be an extended time period for printing.
- (xi) *Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff*
Agree that staff should be able to access the current roll electronically.

**Submission to Justice and Electoral Select Committee on legislative change:
Franklin Local Board Views**

(xii) Close of voting time

Disagree - extending the time for close of votes will not alter the fact that many people leave it to the last minute.

(xiii) Discourage inappropriate use of elections

Anyone should be able to stand for election and promote their point of view.

(xiv) Separation of DHB elections

Separating the elections will add unnecessary costs. The board supports the use of online voting, which may reduce costs and has the benefit that electors are more likely to be able to differentiate between what body they are voting for.

(xv) Candidate information in different languages

Do not support printing information in languages other than English and Te Reo Māori. Translations in other languages could be provided digitally, which people can print themselves or upon request at libraries and service centres.

(xvi) Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations

Agree.

(xvii) Relationship with Electoral Commission

Agree that the council and the Electoral Commission should jointly promote awareness about who electors should contact with queries about local elections.

Māori wards

Keep things as they are, unless there is a desire to reduce the number of overall Governing Body members to accommodate change.