

3 May 2017

Papakura Local Board input into the 'Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections

The Justice and Electoral Select Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections. The Governing Body is seeking input from local boards in relation to the inquiry.

The Papakura Local Board provides the following input into the Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections:

i) **Matai names**

The board agrees that the legislation should give guidance to avoid doubt.

ii) **Vacancies occurring within six months of an election**

The board supports a law change to allow a local authority, using the first past the post electoral system, to appoint the highest polling unsuccessful candidate to a vacancy occurring within **three** months from the date of the member are being sworn in.

iii) **Legal requirement for candidate to state whether residing in area**

The board could not reach a consensus, however, a majority of the board was of the view that:

- the candidate residing in the area should not be a requirement and
- that the legislation should be aligned with the central government requirements.

iv) **Timing of school holidays**

The timing of the election should not overlap with school holidays.

v) **Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas**

The board expressed concern about the potential for issues with technology compromising an electronic transmission process.

The board members are of the view that online voting is the future but acknowledge issues with technology at present.

vi) **Electoral Officer (EO) to have access to the supplementary roll**

The board supports the Electoral Officer having access to the supplementary roll to speed up the counting of special votes.

vii) **Access to data associated with electoral roll**

The board did not support councils having access to statistical data associated with the electoral roll to assist with planning election awareness campaigns as they did not have enough confidence in the processes.

viii) **Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements**

The board is supportive of the option for candidates to submit nominations and candidate profile statements electronically.

ix) **Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote**

The board supported legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections and felt this was already happening.

x) **Time period for printing electoral rolls**

The board supports extending the legislated time period for printing the electoral rolls in time for the start of candidate nominations.

xi) **Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff**

The board supports election staff having electronic access to the current roll.

xii) **Close of voting time**

The board supports extending voting later into the last day to create a full 'voting day'.

xiii) **Discourage inappropriate use of elections**

The board raised a concern about who would make the decision about "inappropriate use of elections". They felt everyone had a right to stand – that is democracy.

xiv) **Separation of District Health Board (DHB) elections**

The board felt the cost of two elections could not be justified. However, the board would like to see the DHB and Liquor Trust information and voting papers being clearly defined and separated off from the local authority information.

xv) **Candidate information in different languages**

The board supported 150 words in English and 150 words in the translation to a different language. The two statements would have to say the same thing.

xvi) **Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral**

The board agreed that there needed to be consistency between the Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations.

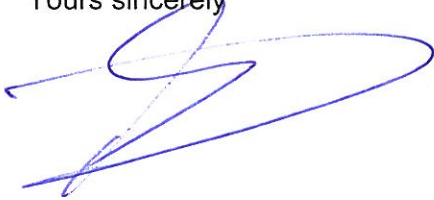
xvii) **Relationship with Electoral Commission**

The board supports utilising Local Government New Zealand to implement the promotion of awareness about who enquirers should contact with queries about local elections.

xviii) **Electoral system**

The board supports the first past the post electoral system and did not want to see a change to a single transferable vote system.

Yours sincerely



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