

<p>Albert-Eden</p>	<p>i. Paragraph 66, point (vii) - Access to data associated with electoral roll The board supports the proposal for access to the electoral roll, noting that the date be used only for delivering election awareness campaigns and is not able to reveal people's identities.</p> <p>ii. Paragraph 66, point (viii) - Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements The board supports the proposal, so long as it is an option and not compulsory for all candidates.</p> <p>iii. Paragraph 66, point (ix) - Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections The board supports this proposal.</p> <p>iv. Paragraph 66, point (x) - Time period for printing electoral rolls The board supports this proposal.</p> <p>v. Paragraph 66, point (xi) - Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff The board supports this proposal.</p> <p>vi. Paragraph 66, point (xii) - Close of voting time The board supports extending the hours for available for voting on the final voting day and noted that there were a high number of people dropping off voting papers to local libraries on the last day of voting. The board also noted that there can also be delays in the mailing-delivery of voting packs.</p> <p>The board requests staff to further investigate the optimal voting period for the next election.</p> <p>vii. Paragraph 66, point (xv) - Candidate information in different languages The board supports this proposal.</p> <p>viii. Paragraph 66, point (xvi) - Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations The board supports this proposal.</p> <p>ix. Paragraph 66, point 66 (xvii) - Relationship with Electoral Commission (i) The board supports this proposal.</p>
<p>Devonport-Takapuna</p>	<p>agree in principle with the points identified within the agenda report for inclusion as part of Auckland Council's submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's 'Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections', save the following points:</p> <p>i) The board supports retention of the condition that candidates must state where they live as part of registering to run in local government elections, especially in relation to candidates running for local boards;</p> <p>ii) The board does not support access to statistical data associated with the electoral roll, particularly if such information is being used by political parties for the purposes of electioneering;</p> <p>iii) The board in general supports the concept of legislative</p>

	<p><i>confirmation that local authorities may promote elections, but does not support local authorities, in the course of promoting elections, targeting certain demographic groups to increase voter turnout;</i></p> <p><i>iv) The board does not support the concept of extending voting later into the day while postal voting is still used as the predominant mechanism to cast votes, and supports retaining the practice of polls closing at midday on election day; and</i></p> <p><i>v) The board has mixed views as to whether or not district health board (DHB) elections should be held apart from local government elections, but agree that options need to be investigated to increase voter knowledge and informed choice as part of DHB elections.</i></p>
Gt Barrier Island	Resolved to receive the report (without further comment)
Howick	<p>Verbal comments at workshop.</p> <p>Agreed all except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close of voting time • inappropriate use • separate DHB elections • re languages, made suggestion that could use Google Translate on the showyourlove (or equivalent) website • OK with residential statement with regard to whole board area.
Kaipātiki	<p>a) <i>agree the following comments be reported back to governing body for inclusion in the Auckland Council's submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's 'Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections':</i></p> <p><i>i) support vacancies occurring within six months of election day be filled with the next highest polling candidate;</i></p> <p><i>ii) support moving the election date away from school holidays – bringing forward one week;</i></p> <p><i>iii) support the requirement to state whether candidate resides in the area;</i></p> <p><i>iv) supports access to data associated with the roll;</i></p> <p><i>v) supports electronic nominations and candidate profile statements;</i></p> <p><i>vi) supports legislation to promote elections by local authorities;</i></p> <p><i>vii) support extending the final close of 'election day';</i></p> <p><i>viii) support separating district health board elections and aligning these with parliamentary elections; and</i></p> <p><i>ix) support the trial of online voting.</i></p> <p>b) <i>provide the following additional comments about the 2016 local authority elections to the governing body outside of the scope of the select committee inquiry:</i></p> <p><i>i) support the reinstatement of candidate information sessions; and</i></p> <p><i>ii) support the online format of candidate information being investigated.</i></p>
Ōrākei	<p><i>i. Matai titles</i> <i>The Board does not support the use of Matai titles on voting papers. The Board considers these are titles and not ordinary names and therefore the same principle of not having any titles on voting papers should apply.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Vacancies occurring within six months of an election</i> <i>The Board supports a law change to allow a local authority using the first</i></p>

	<p><i>past the post electoral system to appoint the highest polling unsuccessful candidate to a vacancy occurring within six months of an election.</i></p> <p><i>iii. Legal requirement for candidate to state whether residing in area</i> <i>The Board agrees that candidates should state whether or not they reside within the area for which they are standing as this is one of the criteria that electors use when electing candidates.</i></p> <p><i>iv. Timing of school holidays</i> <i>The Board agrees in principle of moving the election day so that it does not coincide with school or public holidays and would support moving election day to the first Saturday in October which would provide one week before election day that would not overlap with school holidays.</i></p> <p><i>v. Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas</i> <i>The Board agrees with sending blank voting documents electronically but is opposed to the return of completed votes electronically.</i></p> <p><i>vi. Electoral Officer to have access to the supplementary roll</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal.</i></p> <p><i>vii. Access to data associated with electoral roll</i> <i>The Board supports in principle accessibility to statistical data associated with the electoral roll, such as age groups of electors, as this would be helpful when planning election awareness campaigns. However this needs to be managed carefully to ensure data is not manipulated.</i></p> <p><i>viii. Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal. In the Auckland Council's 2016 election mistakes were made.</i></p> <p><i>ix. Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal but states that the role of the electoral officer should be very clearly defined to ensure that the electoral officer's role does not include promoting elections.</i></p> <p><i>x. Time period for printing electoral rolls</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal.</i></p> <p><i>xi. Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal.</i></p> <p><i>xii. Close of voting time</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal and suggests that there be consistency with the closing time for parliamentary elections.</i></p> <p><i>xiii. Discourage inappropriate use of elections</i> <i>The Board does not support this proposal as it interferes with the democratic process even though some candidates inappropriately use the election process for self-promotion.</i></p> <p><i>xiv. Separation of DHB elections</i> <i>The Board supports all local elections being held at the same time provided the same voting system is used. In recent elections the use of one local election having a different voting system from the other elections has caused confusion and consequentially a lower turnout.</i></p> <p><i>xv. Candidate information in different languages</i> <i>Given the range of cultural identities in Auckland the Board supports this proposal as part of the democratic process to ensure greater voter participation.</i></p> <p><i>xvi. Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal.</i></p> <p><i>xvii. Relationship with Electoral Commission</i> <i>The Board supports this proposal provided that the roles of the Electoral Commission and the Council are clearly stated as well as the</i></p>
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	<p><i>independency of the Electoral Officer.</i></p> <p>xviii. <i>Electoral system</i> <i>The Board does not support a change from First Past the Post to Single Transferable Vote for the 2019 elections.</i></p> <p>xix. <i>Māori wards</i> <i>The Board does not support the establishment of Māori wards as the Governing Body and local boards are elected to represent all citizens within their constituency.</i></p> <p>xx. <i>Review of representation arrangements</i> <i>The Board supports Governing Body members being elected on a ward basis provided the ward boundaries do not coincide with a local boards boundaries to avoid confusion and to differentiate the statutory roles of Governing Body and local board members; such boundaries, membership and names of the wards and areas would be determined by the Local Government Commission following consultation and hearings.</i></p> <p>xxi. <i>Existing members who are also candidates</i> <i>The Board considers that the present policies relating to existing members who are also candidates are unnecessarily restricting the ability of board members to uphold their local government duties and are unreasonable. Members are elected for a full three year term and the staff and governing body policies around presumed political neutrality in effect reduces the term by three months. In an attempt to have a so called level playing field, the stringent restrictions on elected members prevents them from fully carrying out their statutory duties.</i></p>
Manurewa	Noted the report
Rodney	<p>(i) <i>candidates should be permitted to file their nomination forms and supporting material online; this is particularly important for rural candidates who had to travel a considerable distance to attend one of the few service centres or locations authorised to take enrolments in 2016</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>more information should be made available to prospective candidates on the role and duties of being an elected member and, in particular, that candidate information evenings (which were run by Auckland Council in 2013 but not in 2016) should be widely held to provide more information and insight into the expectations of an elected member; this may help establish both realistic expectations for new candidates and encourage more high quality candidates to stand for local government</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>online voting should be made available as a priority for the 2019 local government elections, noting that this is one of the few ways to combat the ongoing decline in voter turnout in local government elections, especially in younger voters</i></p> <p>(iv) <i>the Electoral Commission should do more to assist in raising the profile of local government elections and the importance of voting and not leave this solely to local government and the candidates.</i></p>
Upper Harbour	<p>Verbal comments.</p> <p>Agreed all except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50/50 over residential statement – just local board area not subdivisions • Disagreed to move to avoid school holidays

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that promotion is a national responsibility • Close of voting – don't change, people will always leave to last minute • Inappropriate use – cannot stop candidates from standing • Separate DHB elections • Different languages – candidates should use english
<p>Waiheke</p>	<p><i>That the Waiheke Local Board:</i></p> <p>a) <i>note the report 2016 Elections – Highlights and Issues.</i></p> <p>b) <i>delegate to Board Member S Brown for feedback on the 2016 Elections – Highlights and Issues report.</i></p> <p>From Member S Brown:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Voter age should be lowered to 16. This would mean that many students would have had some civic engagement before leaving school which is likely to make them more engaged into the future. 2 The second benefit is that youth (under 40) turnout is much lower and adding these two years would skew the results less in favour of the old voting public. 3 The need to send postal votes by Wednesday but voting day and the close of voting on Saturday is shambolic. Possibilities: a) Get rid of postal votes in favour of online voting, b) make people specifically request a postal vote when the letters are sent around to check electoral details. Are these details correct – would you prefer to receive a notification for online voting or a postal ballot? If they don't answer send them the postal ballot with the option of online voting. c) allow votes to be received for a week after the close of voting. The provisional results can still be out on the Saturday, and the confirmed results the following week. 4 Bring in online voting alongside postal voting. I don't think online voting is a magic bullet and will need lots of advertising to support it but it is a worthy tool for that percentage of people who are switched into the system. Make sure the online voting works with a strong phone interface as well as general computer connectivity and people can also go to a place – like the library and service centre to vote. 5 Still waiting for the election results from Rimu but my own observations are that there is a lack of diversity in representation. One Maori Chair, one Maori Deputy Chair, most candidates deny their ethnicity, most candidates are over 40. Is the Maori Statutory Board working for us, and given we have a 20% Maori population what else do we need to be encouraging Maori to stand and support them to be elected in the mainstream. 6 By 2024? One in three people are apparently going to be Asian in that lovely wide description which incorporates anyone from the Middle East to China. This does not represent anything like the demographic of the people elected. 7 Youth candidates are not standing, but if they do, tend not to get in. The ones that are successful are very successful – all of them are either chairing or deputy chairing on the boards they're on. Many of them have come through the Youth Panel or youth initiatives which is great. Do we need initiatives that support participation in governance for immigrants and Maori in the way that initiatives like Youth Voice work? 8 Talking to friends in Auckland, they miss the elections as there is negligible press coverage – local papers either don't cover it or are patchy as the distribution area covers more than one ward. People have

	<p>a really patchy idea of which ward area/local board area they're in and can't seem to ever name either the chair of the board or their governing body member or the name of their ward or local board area.</p> <p>A) Use Our Auckland to talk about candidates in the run up to the election and give sitting members opportunity to be featured equally and answer questions.</p> <p>B) Have candidate meetings at the libraries. I tried to get our local library to do one and was told they couldn't as they're not supposed to be political. Politics is all around us – hosting something that is civic engagement would allow people to engage with candidates. They are sufficiently independent for the librarians to be able to run them without favouring incumbent candidates.</p> <p>C) Do some publicity (possibly centred in libraries) around civic engagement and what your local board area is. You could even make it part of a Summer reading challenge in election year.</p>
Waitākere Ranges	Advises they support the Henderson-Massey feedback
Franklin	Attached
Henderson-Massey	Attached
Hibiscus and Bays	Attached
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	Attached
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Attached
Papakura	Attached
Puketapapa	Attached
Waitematā	Attached
Whau	Attached

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 the 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.

(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.

Committee Secretariat

Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Re: Inquiry Into The 2016 Local Authority Elections

The Henderson-Massey Local Board submits:

Postal Voting System

1. This Board supports abolishing the postal voting system.
2. The 2016 elections were held in the wake of a significant downsizing of postal services in New Zealand. Post boxes were removed from various locations, and deliveries reduced in frequency as well. This made the act of voting even more difficult than usual.
3. For most, the idea of posting anything is becoming a foreign concept. Most residents would not know where the nearest post box is, and to expect a voter to post their vote is an unnecessary step that drives turnout down through the extra effort required.
4. An alternative system needs to be investigated further and designed carefully. This Board supports circulating the candidate information as before, with an online code available for online voting, but use a system of a polling day with polling booths and an early voting option. This would also bring local election voting in line with central government voting.

Electronic Submissions and Online Voting

5. The Board supports online voting, subject to a sufficient finding of security. While not a panacea for systemic voter engagement issues, we feel this will make a positive difference to voter turnout.
6. The Board also notes that online voting is as a preferred option for resolving the issue of overseas voters not being able to post their ballots back.
7. The Board supports electronic submission of candidate profile statements, as a more workable and modern solution that aids in avoiding mistakes from candidates and staff.

Candidate Information

8. This Board submits that requiring a candidate to indicate in the information book that they do not live in the Board area is unfair and supports removal of this requirement.
9. The statement described above creates a significant electoral distortion in favour of candidates that live inside the Board area. This distortion cannot be justified as local board areas are largely arbitrary and historical constructs, especially at the margins.

By-Election Issue

10. The Board considers the Howick by-election issue an egregious waste of ratepayer funds, and also negatively affects the dignity of the office of Board member in the perception of the public. Being an elected member of Auckland Council is a deep honour, and this incident is a reminder that this honour should not be treated lightly and that the residents of the board area should be treated with the utmost respect.
11. This Board would recommend legislative change to allow the next closest candidate to be appointed within 90 days.

District Health Board Elections

12. This Board supports a consistent voting system across every electoral position, and thus supports removal of the STV voting system for District Health Boards. The Board strongly submits that the DHB elections should be conducted with a First Past The Post voting system.
13. To promote geographic balance on the DHB, this Board supports an investigation into a ward system for Waitemata consisting of a West ward and North ward.
14. This Board does not support holding DHB elections in a separate year or with parliamentary elections.

Licensing Trust Elections

15. In line with this Board's support of one electoral system for simplicity and ease of use, the Board submits that Licensing Trust positions should be elected on a First Past The Post basis.
16. The Board submits that the requirement of a licensing trust candidate to live in that particular area for the entire term of service is an anachronism that does not reflect the modern housing situation. It is a unique quirk, not replicated in any other elected position in New Zealand, and thus should be removed.

Communications and Community Engagement

17. This Board has particular concerns with the “Love Bus” mobile voting engagement vehicle. We are concerned that concentrating the bus into specific areas creates a real risk of distorting the voting returns to favour candidates that tend to be more popular in an area.
18. Dealing with voter engagement from the organisational perspective is a sensitive issue. It is not enough that there is no bias, there must also be an avoidance of perception of bias at all cost. For this reason, the Board recommends the mobile bus not be used for future elections.
19. This Board is concerned that Auckland Council spent \$1.2 million on advertising and promoting the election, a mismanagement of ratepayer funds when there are more pressing issues. Further, the information online was difficult to access and many of our ratepayers do not access the internet regularly.

Other

20. The Board commends those that administrated the 2016 election, a high performing organisation that were strong in engagement and handled a complex process without significant organisational issues.
21. This Board supports randomisation of names on the ballot papers, as a fairer method to reduce primary and recency bias when voting.
22. The Board agrees with allowing matai titles on the ballot paper and candidate information.
23. The Board agrees with moving the voting period to avoid school holidays.

Summary

Local government is an incredibly important civic role, and the electoral system should reflect that importance. Our Board submits that the process of elections should mirror as close as possible the central government requirements and electoral process.

Yours sincerely,

Shane Henderson BA. LLB.
Chairperson
Henderson-Massey Local Board

Comments on Submission to Justice and Electoral Select Committee on legislative changes - Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board thanks Auckland Council for the opportunity to make comment on the proposed submission to the Select Committee and wishes to make the following comments.

- (i) Matai Names**
No particular view stated
- (ii) Vacancies occurring within six months of an election**
We support the request to seek a law change allowing a local authority using the first past the post electoral system to appoint the highest polling unsuccessful candidate to a vacancy occurring within six months of an election. Further consideration should be given to a financial penalty if it can be proven that a candidate who resigned did so for dis-ingenuous reasons.
- (iii) Legal requirement for candidate to state whether residing in an area.**
The HBLB opposes the Council's submission that the requirement to state in the profile statement whether the candidate lived in the area they were standing for be removed.
- (iv) Timing of school holidays**
The HBLB supports the suggestion of moving Election Day to the first Saturday in October if it means allowing an even greater number of people would participate.
- (v) Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas.**
The HBLB supports the request by Auckland Council to trial online voting as it believes that this would lead to far greater participation by the community and sees this as being supplementary rather than replacing postal voting (ie: voters would receive their voting papers in the mail but would have the option of casting their vote online or returning the ballot paper in the mail).

This would also assist those who are out of the country (where papers have been sent to them) to be able to cast their vote within the required timeframe.

Online voting has been used by Independent Election Services for the past year in the ballots held to establish or expand Business Improvement Districts in Auckland. Voting returns show that almost half of all electors chose to vote online.

- (vi) Electoral Officer to have access to the supplementary roll**
The HBLB supports the Council position that the electoral officer should have access to the supplementary roll.

- (vii) Access to data associated with electoral roll**
No particular view stated.
- (viii) Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements.**
The HBLB supports the request that candidates be given the ability to be able to lodge their nomination papers online. With the ability to be able to attach electronic files such as nomination forms and a candidate photo, this should be fairly easy to achieve.
- (ix) Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections**
The HBLB supports the Council suggestion that legislation should give a clear mandate to local authorities to promote elections.
- (x) Time period for printing electoral rolls**
No particular view stated
- (xi) Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff**
The HBLB supports the council position
- (xii) Close of voting time**
The HBLB Support the suggestion that voting be extended to 4pm on Election Day to allow more time for final votes to be cast.
- (xiii) Discourage inappropriate use of elections**
The HBLB does not support any moves to deny candidates the ability or right to stand for any position they wish, regardless of their perceived chance or otherwise of being elected.
- (xiv) Separation of District Health Boards elections.**
The HBLB supports investigation of holding Health Board elections at a different time to Local Government elections as the mixture of the two can be confusing and discourage people participating at all.
- (xv) Candidate information in different languages**
No particular view stated
- (xvi) Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations**
No particular view stated
- (xvii) Relationship with Electoral Commission**
No particular view stated

Electoral System

While members of the HBLB have differing views on the merits or otherwise of changing the voting system to STV, we believe that further investigation into this as an option

should be undertaken as it is apparent that there is a lot of misunderstanding around the perceived complexities of the STV voting system and the merits or otherwise of making a change.

1 May 2017

Committee Secretariat
Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Re: Inquiry into the 2016 Local Authority Elections

The Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board submits:

Postal Voting System

- The Maungakiekie Tamaki Local Board supports both Postal and Electronic Voting Systems to capture a wider range of our voters
- We support the need for security logins for the electronic system

Candidate Information

- We support the use of Matai Titles in Candidate forms and ballot papers
- We support that candidates need to live in the area that they are running for and this should be indicated on the form
- We support candidates being able to send through their candidacy forms online

By-Election

- Our Board supports the current process of By-Election and that elected members that pull out and cause By-Elections should cover the costs if it's not medical

District Health Boards and Licencing Trust Elections

- Our Board feels that we should separate District Health Boards and Licensing Trust Elections from Local Board and Governing Body Elections. We feel it is too much for our community to take in at once and that Local Board and Governing Body don't get enough attention

Communications and Advertising

- We feel that Council need to re-evaluate all communications and advertising to do with local elections
- Campaign packs to be more informative, helpful and useful to ensure that all candidates know what is involved with running

Yours sincerely

Otara-Papatoetoe

Submission

1. Measure of success in the 2016 Election

In a report to the Governing Body in March 2015, a focus area was a voter turnout of at least 40% for the 2016 election. In 2013 the turnout for Otara was 29%. In 2016 it was 27.3%. Papatoetoe only marginally increased the vote from 32% in 2013, to 32.6% in 2016. Therefore, based on turnout, the 2016 was not a success for Otara and minimal change for Papatoetoe.

There needs to be well stated clear strategies on how specific groups and areas will be targeted to have their voting turnout increased. Otherwise we can say on average the election was a success but fail to acknowledge that sections of our community continue to not participate in elections, term after term. Radical new thinking is needed to truly engage with these sections of the community. And these strategies need to be evaluated with true meaningful numbers, rather than averages across the entire city.

2. 'Showyourlove' campaign

This slogan may require further resourcing to get the message embedded and connected to voting. It is not particularly memorable, and it's unlikely the average person on the street would remember the slogan 6 months on from the elections. There was also a disconnection between those facilitating the 'showyourlove' campaign and the electoral office. I contacted the electoral office to find out what day the 'showyourlove' bus would be at Manukau. The electoral office staff did not know what I was talking about and said they had nothing to do with the campaign. Another unnecessary barrier to voting with misinformation or poorly coordinated campaigns. With that being said, having a voting booth in Westfield Manukau during late night shopping hours did help people cast their vote in the last week. This is particularly important when libraries close and many people only have spare time to vote outside of office hours.

3. Online voting

As noted in the report, younger people want online voting or app based voting. Conversely, young people are the least to vote under the current regime. We support making voting more accessible to voters, including online voting, with the necessary protections and safeguards to protect the integrity of the elections.

Many families in our communities are transient. Updating residential addresses by physically filling out a form and posting it is not a priority for many of our families who are trying to make ends meet. Therefore if online voting allows for online registrations to occur (rather than the current two step process - register online, then get sent a form by mail to sign and send back) this would make voting more accessible to many of our families as well.

4. Samoan Matai titles

Elected members in the Manukau Ward area were directly affected by this issue. It was disturbing that the Electoral Officer initially ruled that Samoan Matai titles could not be used on the ballot paper, in particular without seeking proper advice from cultural experts. Rather the Electoral Officer, and the legal advice it received, appeared to be based on a superficial reading of the words "Samoan Matai titles". Furthermore, the ruling appeared to be enforced on some Samoans and not others. Elected

members and Samoan candidates were relieved that the Electoral Officer eventually sought cultural experts to inform their interpretation of what a Samoan Matai title is, and then reversed his initial ruling, thereby allowing Matai titles to be used on ballot papers.

To be clear, Samoan Matai titles do not equate to European titles or rank. Anyone can be made a dame or a knight as deemed by Her Majesty, on the advice of the Government of the day. Whereas Samoan Matai titles are only given to people who generally have a familial link to the family that own the Matai title. I do not belong to the village in which National MP, Peseta Sam Lotu-liga derives his title from, therefore I could never be bestowed the title Peseta. The decision to call a person a Matai title is a decision made by a family and the extended family who own the title. Outsiders, even the Government of Samoa, do not have a say on who will gain a Matai title.

While the eventual decision by the Electoral Officer was favourable, many Samoan candidates were disappointed in the initial unilateral decision which was not considered or backed by culturally competent advice. Furthermore the ability to comment on the initial decision was not formally given to Samoan candidates; rather no appeal process was made available. If the legislation does state the Electoral Officer has the unilateral power to make rulings on such issues, we expect the rulings to be well reasoned, researched and with the proper consultation undertaken.

Similarly, if the Governing Body is to deal with this issue, we expect it to engage with the appropriate cultural experts in order to get a proper understanding of Samoan Matai titles, and therefore make just and reasoned decisions on this particular issue.

Signed

Apulu Reece Autagavaia LL.B., B.A.

Member of Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board delegated to make this response.

12 April 2016

Papakura Local Board

Auckland Council

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



Brent Catchpole

Chairperson Papakura Local Board

Papakura Local Board Office, level 1

Private Bag 92300

Auckland 1142

E-mail: Brent.Catchpole@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Telephone : 021 - 390 430

Report on 2016 elections – Puketapapa Local Board

Verbal feedback from 11 May 2017 workshop.

a) Agree with the following recommendations in their entirety:

- Matai names
- Legal requirement for candidate to state whether residing in area
- Timing of school holidays
- Separation of DHB elections
- Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas
- Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections
- Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements
- Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations
- Electoral Officer to have access to the supplementary roll
- Access to data associated with electoral roll
- Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff

b) Agree with the following recommendations, subject to the following:

- Vacancies occurring within six months of an election
 - Agree that if a vacancy within 6 months of an election then the next highest polling candidate should be appointed
- Discourage inappropriate use of elections
 - Agree with this, subject to an appeal process

c) Oppose the following:

- Candidate information in different languages
 - the board believes there should be translated into significant languages
- Online voting
 - The board opposes this until online security issues, with its potential for hacking and multiple votes, are addressed (an alternative method should always be available)
- Single Transferable Voting (an additional item raised by the board):
 - The board does not support STV

d) Doesn't have sufficient information to respond to the following:

- Close of voting time
- Time period for printing electoral rolls
- Relationship with Electoral Commission

Feedback on the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's "Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections"

From: The Waitematā Local Board

Date: 11 April 2017

Background

The Justice and Electoral Select Committee conducts an enquiry following each election. Auckland Council proposes to make a submission to the Committee regarding the 2016 election. Local board input into submissions to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's "Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections" has been requested to help inform Council's submission.

Waitematā Local Board Feedback:

The Waitematā Local Board provides the following feedback in relation to Justice and Electoral Select Committee's "Inquiry into the 2016 local authority elections":

Vacancies occurring within six months of an election

That caution be applied to allowing making appointments to vacancies occurring within six months of an election. Any such appointments should only be made by the actual body having the vacancy; that it can only be the highest polling unsuccessful candidate; and that in general any such appointed person must have come close to being elected, for example gaining a vote within 20% of the vote of the lowest successful candidate.

This is to ensure there is no presumption that there will automatically be an appointment (rather than a by-election) and to avoid having to appoint someone who is unpopular, inappropriate, hostile or unwilling to collaborate on the body concerned - they might be someone whose personality and value system is clearly unacceptable to most voters.

Timing of school holidays

That if a change is made to avoid the school holidays it would be preferable to move the elections to a week later in October rather than have the last working year of the local authority term even further truncated than it is at present.

Electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas

We support electronic transmission of voting documents to and from voters overseas. We also advocate that all local authorities be empowered, if they wish and have adequate security, to provide the range of on-line, postal and ballot box voting suitable for all voters to encourage greater turnout.

Electoral Officer to have access to the supplementary roll

We support the Electoral Officer having access to the supplementary roll

Access to data associated with electoral roll

We support having access to non- individualized data associated with the electoral roll.

Electronic nominations and candidate profile statements

We support an option to submit nominations and profile statements electronically as the current system leads to poor quality photograph reproductions and unnecessary errors in candidate statements. It is also more efficient to submit electronically.

Legislative confirmation that local authorities may promote elections

We support confirmation that local authorities can promote elections

Electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff

We support electronic access to electoral rolls for election staff.

Close of voting time

We strongly support creating one full voting day on the final Saturday, consistent with parliamentary elections from 9am until 7pm that day.

Discourage inappropriate use of elections

We do not support any methods to discourage candidates. No further barriers should be put in the way of potential candidates who wish to participate in the democratic process.

Separation of DHB elections

We support either having the DHB elections on a different ballot paper, posted separately; or at a different time in the three year term; or alternatively requiring them to use the same voting method as their predominant local authority.

This would mean usually having a first past the post-election conducted in wards. Auckland DHB elections had a higher and more informed turnout when elected from a northeastern ward with two members, a northwestern ward with two members and a southern ward with three members – all wards had a much less daunting array of less than 10 candidates each.

Candidate information in different languages

We support the current 150 limit for the candidate profile statement in English and Maori as the official languages of New Zealand.

We oppose allowing up to 150 more words in each of a range of languages. Well-resourced candidates would naturally provide translated statements in each of English, Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Mandarin, Hindi, Tagalog, Spanish, Fijian, Rarotongan, Urdu, and Korean as a bare minimum, making the candidate profiles unwieldy, the booklet too long and expensive and also unfairly advantaging well-resourced candidates who could afford paying for translations. Limited use of other languages within the 150 word limit may be acceptable.

Consistency between Electoral Regulations and Local Electoral Regulations

Enabling telephone dictation and other appropriate assistance for voters with a disability is really important for their ready participation in voting.

Relationship with Electoral Commission

In the light of the experience with the non- delivery of the ballot papers in Arch Hill/Grey Lynn the electoral officers should be enabled to distribute replacement ballot papers throughout geographical areas demonstrated not to have received ballot papers.

Review of representation

In terms of the review of representation arrangements the Auckland legislation should be amended so that no particular number is provided for in the legislation, in line with every other local authority in New Zealand. This would allow Council to recommend whatever number it believed appropriate to the Local Government Commission. Without in any way prejudging either issue it would allow Council to propose additional Māori Wards and/ or a Gulf Island Ward with less disruption of ward boundaries if the total was restricted to 20 members.

The feedback was prepared by Chairperson Coom and Member Northey based on resolution WTM/2017/1 and will be ratified by the Board at a business meeting on April 11 2017.

Pippa Coom

Chairperson

Waitematā Local Board

Date: 05 April 2017

Committee Secretariat

Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Re: Inquiry Into The 2016 Local Authority Elections

The Whau Local Board (WLB) submits:

Electronic Submissions and Online Voting

1. The WLB supports online voting, subject to a sufficient finding of security. While not a panacea for systemic voter engagement issues, this will increase voter turnout.
2. The WLB has indicative information that online voting is as a preferred option for resolving the issue of overseas voters not being able to post their ballots back.
3. The Board supports electronic submission of candidate profile statements, as a more workable and modern solution that aids in avoiding mistakes from candidates and staff.

Candidate Information

4. As Chair, it is a preference that a candidate indicates in the information book where they live.
5. A candidate should reside in the area for which they stand.

By-Election Issue

6. The Board considers the Howick by-election issue an egregious waste of ratepayer funds, and also negatively affects the dignity of the office of Board member in the perception of the public. Being an elected member of Auckland Council is a deep honour, and this incident is a reminder that this honour should not be treated lightly and that the residents of the board area should be treated with the utmost respect.
7. This Board would recommend legislative change to allow the next closest candidate to be appointed within 90 days.

Other

8. The WLB commends those that administrated the 2016 election, a high performing organisation that were strong in engagement and handled a complex process without significant organisational issues.
9. This WLB supports randomisation of names on the ballot papers, as a fairer method to reduce primary and recency bias when voting.
10. The WLB agrees with allowing matai titles on the ballot paper and candidate information.
11. The WLB agrees with moving the voting period to avoid school holidays.

Summary

Local government is an incredibly important civic role, and the electoral system should reflect that importance.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Mulholland
Chairperson
Whau Local Board