

Local Authority elections 2010

Local Elections 2010
YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY

Background

The 3-yearly elections for the various local and ad hoc authorities are to be held in October this year. Election day is set for Saturday 9 October, with voting closing at noon on that day.

The various issues and election process for each are:

- The Mayor of the Buller District is elected at large (ie by all electors of the Buller) using the First Past The Post (FPP) electoral method (ie the highest number of votes wins);
- The Buller District Council is elected by wards using the FPP method:

two councillors are elected from the Seddon ward (Fairdown north);

two councillors elected from the Inangahua ward (Berlins through to the Lewis Pass, to the northern boundary with the Tasman district south of Murchison, and down to the Grey District boundary south of Ikamatua;

six councillors elected from the Westport ward (Fairdown south to the Punakaiki River);

- The Inangahua Community Board has four members elected using the FPP system by the constituents of the Inangahua ward, and these members are joined by the councillors from that ward to form the full Board;
- The two Buller councillors on the West Coast Regional Council are elected by the whole district electorate using the FPP method;
- The Buller representative on Development West Coast is elected by the same method as the District Mayor (FPP at large);
- The West Coast District Health Board has 7 members elected at large throughout the whole of the West Coast Region by the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system, where the elector ranks each candidate (or as many as he/she wishes) in order of preference, and a programmed calculator is used to determine the successful candidates through a process of elimination and transfer of preference votes.

Election Information

Nominations for the vacancies open on Friday 23 July, and will close at noon on Friday 20 August. Nomination forms will be available during this period from Council's offices in Westport and Reefton.

The election will be a postal ballot, with voting documents being sent to all eligible electors (ie those enrolled at the time the electoral roll closes, being the same day as the candidate nominations) by post, from Friday 17 September.

Electoral Rolls

All residential electors and non-resident ratepayer electors whose names appear on the electoral roll for the district are eligible to vote in the election. The preliminary electoral roll will be available for public inspection at the Council offices in Westport and Reefton from Friday 23 July. The final roll closes on Friday 20 August, and this roll is the one used to send the voting papers to all electors.

Residential Electoral Roll

All parliamentary electors are automatically enrolled on the local body residential electoral roll at the address where they live. Any changes to the residential electoral roll (address details, etc) should be made by:

- completing the appropriate form, parliamentary elector's enrolment, at any post shop; or
- by telephoning 0800 ENROLNOW (0800 367 656); or
- by accessing the Electoral Enrolment Centre website on www.elections.org.nz.

Ratepayer Electoral Roll

If a person is on the parliamentary electoral roll in any area outside the district, but pays rates on a property within the Buller, then he/she is (more than likely) eligible to be enrolled on the non-resident ratepayer roll.

A firm, company, corporation or society paying rates on a property in the Buller, may nominate one of its members or officers as a ratepayer elector (provided the nominated person resides outside the district).

Likewise, where a property is owned and rates are paid by two or more individuals, they may nominate one of their number, who must be a parliamentary elector not resident in the Buller, as a ratepayer elector.

Ratepayer roll enrolment forms are ONLY available from the Electoral Officer.

Election Calendar 2010

23 July	Nominations Open/Roll Open for Inspection
20 August	Nominations Close (12 Noon)/ Roll Closes
17 to 22 September	Delivery of Voting Documents
20 September to 9 October	Progressive Roll Scrutiny; Special Voting Period; Early Processing
9 October	Election Day - Voting closes 12 Noon – counting concludes
	Preliminary Results available as soon as practicable after close of voting
9 to 10 October	Official Count
14-15 October	Declaration of Result/Public Notice of Results
By mid December	Return of Election Expenses & Donations Form

Voting period

Voting documents will be sent to all eligible electors by post from Friday 17 September.

All completed voting documents must be returned to the Electoral Officer by noon, Saturday 9 October.

The voting period is three weeks, and electors may post their completed voting papers using a pre-paid envelope, which will be sent with the voting documents, or dropped into the Council's office in Westport where a polling place for the issuing of special voting papers and to receive completed voting papers will be available (until noon on election day).

Preliminary results will be released as early as possible on Election Day and published on this site.

Contact the Electoral Officer

For further information please direct all enquiries to the Electoral Officer by:

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Fax: (03) 788 8041
Email: jayar@bdc.govt.nz
Person: Brougham House
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