

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Mayoral By-Election

17 FEBRUARY 2018

## BACKGROUND

As a result of the recent resignation of the Mayor of Kaipara District Council, an extraordinary vacancy has occurred, and a by-election is now required to fill the vacancy.

The by-election will be held on **Saturday 17 February 2018**. It will be conducted by postal vote, using the Single Transferable Voting electoral system, under the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

## KEY DATES

Relevant key dates for your diary are:

Nominations open	Friday 24 November 2017
Nominations close	12 noon, Friday 22 December 2017
Delivery of voting packs	from Friday 26 January 2018
Appointment of scrutineers	by 12 noon, Friday 16 February 2018
Close of voting	12 noon, Saturday 17 February 2018
Preliminary results available	Saturday 17 February 2018 (as soon as practicable after close of voting)
Official declaration	Wednesday 21 February 2018
Return of electoral donations & expenses form due	by Tuesday 17 April 2018

## CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate **must** be:

- a New Zealand citizen by birth or naturalisation ceremony; **and**
- a parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); **and**
- nominated by two electors of the Kaipara District Council area.

## LODGING YOUR NOMINATION PAPER

Completed nomination papers for the Mayoral by-election must be lodged between Friday 24 November 2017 and 12 noon, Friday 22 December 2017:

- in person at Council's Main Office, 42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville; or
- in person at Council's Mangawhai Service Centre, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai; or
- posted to The Electoral Officer, Kaipara District Council, C/- Independent Election Services Ltd, PO Box 5135, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141.

Along with the nomination paper, each candidate:

- must pay a deposit of \$200 (inclusive of GST);
- may provide a candidate profile statement (150 words maximum);
- may provide a passport-sized colour photograph.

## CANDIDATE PROFILE STATEMENT

Every candidate may provide the electoral officer with a candidate profile statement with their nomination. This statement must not exceed 150 words and can contain information about the candidate, their qualifications and skills applicable to the position for which they are standing, and their policies/intentions if elected to office. A candidate profile statement cannot be used to comment on the policies, performance etc of any other candidate.

Candidate profile statements will be printed in plain text, without formatting, and sent to each elector with their voting document.

The candidate profile statement may be in English (150 words) or Māori (150 words) or both (maximum of 150 words in each language), or in any other language (not exceeding 150 words in total). Where more than one language is used, the information contained must be substantially consistent within each language.

Should all or part of a candidate profile statement be provided in a language other than English or Māori, it is required that this be provided in an electronic graphic file. The image supplied must meet the following criteria:

- PNG format
- black and white
- 600dpi
- maximum file size 400kB
- the image being 1300 pixels high and 2000 pixels wide.

For further advice regarding translation images, please contact the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822.

## CAMPAIGNING

Election campaigning can commence anytime and may continue up to and including by-election day.

Election signs can be displayed in the period two months preceding the by-election (from Sunday 17 December 2017).

Election advertising, using any media, must identify the true name of the person under whose authority they have been produced AND the physical address (not a PO Box) of the person under whose authority they have been produced. This may be details of the candidate or their agent.

## ELECTION SIGNS POLICY

Election signs can be referred to as hoardings, posters, signs or other similar types of promotion that are used to display information relating to the election of a candidate(s) or choice of political party or promotions of issues relating to a referendum. The display of election signs is governed by Council's Local Election Hoardings Policy.

Briefly, the following rules apply. Any election sign:

- must not exceed three square metres (3m<sup>2</sup>) in size;
  - must not use reflective material or illumination or have moving parts; and
  - must not look like a traffic sign in shape or colour
- Election signs may be displayed in the two months up to election day (ie: from Sunday 17 December 2017), and must be removed no later than midnight on the day before election day (ie: midnight on Friday 16 February 2018).
  - Election hoardings are allowed on private property subject to the consent of the land owner.
  - All signs are to be located so as not to obstruct sight distances at intersections, roundabouts or driveways, or visibility along roads.
  - Election signs are to display the true name and physical address (place of residence or business) of the person authorising them.

Further information regarding election signs (including maps of approved election signs sites) is available at: <http://www.kaipara.govt.nz>

## CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

Candidates should be aware that campaign expenditure limits apply.

For the Mayoral by-election, a candidate's total campaign expenditure must not exceed \$20,000 (inclusive of GST).

Electoral expenses are defined as relating to electoral activity which can comprise advertising, broadcasting or communicating material to the public (electronically or otherwise). These electoral expenses are funded by the candidate and are not reimbursable from Council.

Every candidate must, by law, complete an Electoral Donations & Expenses Return declaring all donations received and all expenditure. This must be submitted after the by-election, to be received by the Electoral Office by Tuesday 17 April 2018.

Those candidates who poll greater than 25% of the final quota as determined at the last iteration in the by-election will be eligible for refund of their \$200 nomination deposit. This will be refunded on receipt of a candidate's completed Electoral Donations & Expenses Return.

## VOTING PERIOD

Should the number of candidates exceed the number of vacancies (1), voting documents will be posted to all eligible electors of the Kaipara District Council from Friday 26 January 2018.

Electors may post their completed voting document back to the electoral officer using a pre-paid envelope sent with the voting document.

Voting documents should not be collected from electors by candidates or their assistants. This also applies to rest homes and hospitals - voting documents should not be collected from elderly or infirm electors by candidates or their assistants.

Candidates should also be aware that it is an offence (carrying a fine of up to \$5,000 if convicted) to interfere in any way with an elector with the intention of influencing or advising that elector as to how he or she should vote.

A polling place for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available over the voting period from the following locations:

- in person at Council's Main Office, 42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville; or
- in person at Council's Mangawhai Service Centre, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai; or
- posted to The Electoral Officer, Kaipara District Council, C/- Independent Election Services Ltd, PO Box 5135, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141.
- by phoning 0800 922 822, where one will be posted out.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official, by noon, Saturday 17 February 2018.

## SCRUTINEERS

Candidates may appoint one or more scrutineers to observe the following functions:

- the scrutiny of the roll;
- the preliminary count (after the close of voting);
- the official count.

A scrutineer must be appointed in writing by the candidate, no later than 12 noon, Friday 16 February 2018.

An appointed scrutineer is able to observe the above functions at the Electoral Office (Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland).

## RESULTS

Voting closes at 12 noon, Saturday 17 February 2018 and a preliminary result will be available around 2pm that day.

A final result, once special votes have been checked and counted, will be available on Monday 19 February 2018.

Candidates will be advised of the results by telephone and email (where these details have been provided). Results will then be placed on Council's website ([www.kaipara.govt.nz](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz)).

The declaration of results will appear in the Northern Advocate on Wednesday 21 February 2018 and the Kaipara Lifestyler and Mangawhai Focus on Tuesday 27 February 2018, and the successful candidate will take office on Thursday 22 February 2018.

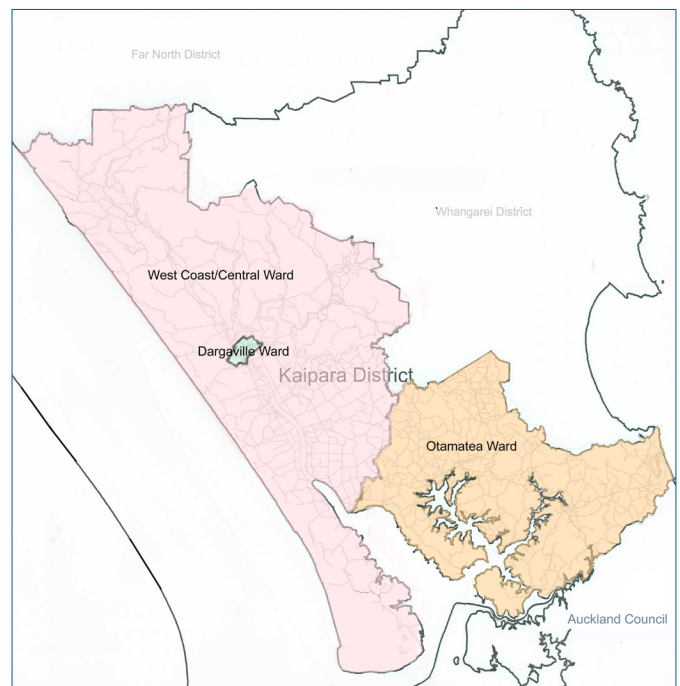
## COUNCILLOR INFORMATION

Kaipara District Council consists of 9 elected members - 8 councillors elected from 3 wards, plus the Mayor elected at large.

The Kaipara District has approximately 15,500 electors.

The current remuneration for the Mayor is \$94,809 p.a.

## Kaipara District Council Map



## CONTACT US

For enquiries regarding the electoral process, please contact the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822 or email: [info@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:info@electionservices.co.nz)

More detailed information regarding the electoral process is available in the Local Elections 2016 Candidate Information Handbook. This can be sent out or emailed on request.