



Thinking about standing in the 2022 Christchurch City Council elections?

Information for candidates

updated July 2022

Election day is Saturday 8 October. Nominations open on Friday 15 July and close at noon on Friday 12 August.

Voting starts on Friday 16 September and closes at noon on Saturday 8 October.

Please read the information below and contact the Electoral Officer Jo Daly with any queries on 03 941 8581 or elections2022@ccc.govt.nz

Information about the elections and information for candidates is being regularly updated on the Council website: ccc.govt.nz/elections

Nomination forms for the 2022 local elections and the candidate information booklet will be available from June 2022, both on the website and on request from the Electoral Officer.

Candidates must be enrolled on a parliamentary electoral roll within New Zealand and a New Zealand Citizen.

If you want to stand as a candidate you can start campaigning at any time – however, there are some things you must be aware of to ensure you comply with the legislation and rules related to the conduct of elections. Campaigning is at your cost, and you must record and declare any money you spend on your campaign or donations you receive.

Campaigning material and advertising

All election advertising must include an authorisation statement, including all online platforms (websites, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and social media posts.

The authorisation statement must include the:

- The true name of the person or organisation under whose authority the advertising has been produced, and
- The contact details for that person/organisation:
 - a residential or business address; or
 - an email address; or
 - a post office box number; or
 - or a phone number;
 - or a link to an internet site (if the page contains one or more of the above).

**The Local Electoral (Advertising) Amendment Bill enacted in July 2022 has amended the contact details requirement of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to be met by including one of the five options above. Up until that time contact details were required to be either a physical residential or business address.*



This means that for posters, signs, adverts, billboards, flyers, stickers, vehicle signage, websites, Facebook pages etc. each advertising item must include a statement saying that it is authorised by the candidate or agent. For example:

"This advertising has been authorised by Joe Citizen, 20 Somewhere Street, Sampletown"
[or email, or PO Box, or phone number, or internet site with contact information].

This authorisation must be clearly visible on any campaigning material including signs and billboards.

No election material can contain:

- Any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and circulated to influence the vote of any elector.
- An imitation voting paper that has the names of candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contains such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.

Election offences are set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and detailed in Appendix 6 of the Candidate Information Booklet. To avoid committing an offence, please ensure you understand what is required of you.

Campaigning material and advertising

The Christchurch District Plan details the rules that control physical temporary election signage. This includes electoral signage on vehicles. Key matters to consider are:

- Temporary local election signage is only permitted in the period nine weeks before the start of voting, and must be removed by midnight prior to election day. For this election signage is permitted from 15 July 2022 to midnight on 7 October 2022.
- Electoral signage on vehicles must be painted on or attached flush to a vehicle, and should not protrude out from or above the vehicle body.
- Temporary election signage is not permitted on trailers or other structures attached to a vehicle that increase its size.
- Generally the maximum size of any temporary local election signage in residential areas is three square metres.
- All signage must have the permission of the property owner. This includes private, public, Council and Crown owned land and roads.
- There may be permitted exceptions to the time period and size on separately consented signage (for example billboards). This must be established before any election signage is displayed.
- All advertising requires an authorisation statement.

Note: a Plan Change in 2021 made some amendments to the requirements around temporary election signage (local government and central government) from those that have been in place for previous elections.

Council resources

Candidates are not permitted to use Council resources for campaigning purposes. Council resources include, but are not limited to, Council-owned or -controlled property and other resources including the Council logo and branding; all Council marketing and communication channels (including social media); Council-supplied business cards, stationery, computers, email, mobile phones, addresses, photocopiers, Council venues (other than those available for hire to the general public), Council funds, and Council's human resources.

This applies to either sitting members or other candidates in any context that could reasonably be construed as campaigning for elections.



Social media

Social media use requires sound judgement and common sense. You, and anyone acting on your behalf, are personally liable for the content you publish.

Social media sites are considered to be in the public domain. It is important to ensure you are confident of the nature of the information that you publish, as you could be quoted on it. Once published, content is almost impossible to control and may be used without your consent in ways you would prefer it was not. Familiarise yourself with the terms of service of any social media site and do not post any material that could leave you vulnerable.

Candidates must comply with the following guidelines for social media use and presence related to campaigning:

- Election advertising, using any media, including social media, must include the authorisation statement as per section 113 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. This means that in your profile photography/biography, you must have a statement saying that all content/images on your social media channel are authorised by you or your agent and the required contact detail.
- Christchurch City Council's social media accounts are not permitted to be used as a communications channel by anyone for promotion, electioneering or campaigning. Any campaign-related or electioneering content or comments will be removed immediately.
- The Council's social media accounts will remain neutral. Christchurch City Council will promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates.

Nomination process

Nominations are required to be made on the official nomination form for the position, and must be with the electoral officer by noon on Friday 12 August.

A candidate must be nominated by two electors enrolled in the city, ward or community board area that the candidate is standing in. A candidate cannot nominate themselves.

Candidates are required to pay a \$200 nomination deposit for each position and provide evidence of New Zealand Citizenship. Candidates can also provide a 150 word candidate profile and a photo, which will be provided to voters with voting documents.

The lodging of nominations should not be left until the last minute to ensure that there sufficient time for checking and allow for any corrections if necessary.