

Frequently Asked Questions relating to the Motueka Ward By-election 2020

General Information		
<i>Q1 When is the next Local Government election?</i>	A	Election Day is Tuesday 12 May 2020 and voting closes at midday on that day. The voting period starts on Monday 20 April 2020.
<i>Q2 Who is running the election?</i>	A	The Electoral Officer has full responsibility for running the election.
<i>Q3 What is the name of the Electoral Officer?</i>	A	Sandra Hartley, Electoral Officer sandra.hartley@tasman.govt.nz 03 543 8554
<i>Deputy Electoral Officer?</i>	A	Trudi Zawodny, Deputy Electoral Officer trudi.zawodny@tasman.govt.nz 03 543 8987
<i>Q4 What type of voting method do you use?</i>	A	First Past the Post (FPP) for this By-election
<i>Q5 What issues (elections) can we vote for?</i>	A	One Councillor for the Motueka Ward
<i>Q6 What is the role of a councillor?</i>	A	<p>A Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in strategic and long-term planning for the whole District; • Participates in setting a budget and rates; • Develops policy across a wide range of activities and services; • Represents the District at functions as required; • Reviews and develops bylaws for the District; • Advocates on a wide range of issues; • Coordinates and forms partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies; • Participates in the appointment and performance review of the Chief Executive Officer; • Acts on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework • Monitors the performance of the Council organisation
Candidates		
<i>Q7 I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?</i>	A	<p>You must be a New Zealand citizen (evidence required) and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).</p> <p>You will need to have two electors registered in the area of the election you are standing for to nominate you – e.g. if you stand for the Motueka Ward, the nominators will need to be registered within that Ward. (Please note the candidate does not need to reside in</p>

the area in which they are standing, but will need to disclose that fact on their nomination form which will be shown in their Candidate Profile Statement).

The nominators must also be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at the address they are listed on the nomination paper (which must be in the area that they are nominating the person for).

<i>Q8 When do nominations open?</i>	A	Nominations open on Monday 17 February and close at 12 noon on Monday 16 March 2020.
<i>Q9 How much will it cost me to stand?</i>	A	<p>You will need to pay a nomination deposit of \$200 GST inclusive. This deposit applies to each issue (election) you stand for.</p> <p>Your nomination must be received by the close of nominations (12 noon on Monday 16 March 2020).</p> <p>If you pay the nomination deposit by cheque and if it is dishonoured after nominations close, your nomination will not be accepted. If you pay the nomination deposit by on-line banking, you must produce evidence of this.</p> <p>If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate you will receive your nomination deposit back.</p> <p>You can contact the Electoral Officer and request that a nomination form and a Candidate Information Sheet/booklet be posted to you, or you can download these from Council's website.</p>
<i>Q10 What qualifications and experience do I need?</i>	A	Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a will/desire to serve the community.
<i>Q11 Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?</i>	A	No, not at all for district and council elections.
<i>Q12 How long is the term of the elected member?</i>	A	Until the next triennial elections in October 2020.
<i>Q13 Do I need to be resident in the district or region I am standing for?</i>	A	No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and provide proof that you are a New Zealand citizen.
<i>Q14 I am a serving police officer. Can I stand for council and continue to work as a police officer?</i>	A	Yes. There are no longer any restrictions on police officers standing for local authority elections, apart from the normal eligibility criteria.

Q15 <i>How much can I spend on my campaign?</i>	Issue	Ward Councillor	Population	Expenditure Limit \$
		Motueka	13,000	\$14,000

- A All candidates are required to lodge an electoral donations and expenses return within 55 days after the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected (Public Notice of Final Results). If a candidate is outside NZ on this day, the return must be filed within 76 days after election result day. If this is not done, the non-return will be advised to the NZ Police. This return needs to be made before a candidate nomination deposit is refunded.

Q16 <i>Do I need to be on the Māori electoral roll if I am standing for election in a Māori Ward</i>	A	Not applicable for Tasman District Council – there are currently no Māori Wards
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Enrolment

Q17 <i>Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?</i>	A	Council offices and libraries in Richmond, Motueka
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Q18 <i>How do I enrol to vote in these elections?</i>	A	<p>Is this your main place of residence? → Yes</p> <p>Have you lived at your current address for more than one month? → Yes</p> <p>Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the <district>? → Yes</p> <p>You will automatically appear on the roll that is used for these elections.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Is this your main place of residence? → Yes</p> <p>Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the <district>? → No or Don't Know</p> <p>You need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enrol online at www.vote.nz • ring 0800 36 76 56 • send your name and address to Free text 3676 • download a form at www.elections.org.nz • pick a form up at your local electorate office, Council office or any New Zealand Post Shop <p>Is this your main place of residence? → No</p>
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<i>Enrolment cont</i>		<p>Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in another district? → Yes</p> <p>If you own a property in this district and it is not your main residence you may be able to enrol as a Ratepayer elector (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice below).</p> <p>(Refer to Electoral Officer – phone 03 543 8554, email Sandra.hartley@tasman.govt.nz)</p>
<i>Q19 I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?</i>	A	You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.
<i>Q20 I am a New Zealand Māori, do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?</i>	A	<p>Not necessarily. If you are enrolling for the first time you can decide whether you want to go on the Māori Electoral Roll or the General Electoral Roll by signing the appropriate panel on the Parliamentary Elector Enrolment form.</p> <p>However, if you have already made that choice you will have to wait until the next Māori Option period to change, which occurs following the next census, likely in 2023. The last Māori Option period was in 2018.</p>
<i>Q21 How do I know whether I am enrolled?</i>	A	You can check your enrolment status on www.vote.nz
<i>Q22 I turn 18 on Election Day. Can I vote?</i>	A	<p>Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled which you can do provisionally from the age of 17 and it automatically changes when you turn 18.</p> <p>You will also need to apply for a special vote. You can ring the Electoral Officer on 03 543 8554 for one to be sent to you, or you can visit the Richmond and Motueka Council offices up until Monday 11 May and request one. On Tuesday 12 May, special voting will be available at the Richmond and Motueka Council offices until 12 noon.</p>
<i>Q23 We own a business in your area and pay rates, but we don't live in your area – do we get a say in the local elections?</i>	A	<p>Yes, subject to being eligible to become enrolled as a ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.</p> <p>Request Electoral Officer to send out an enrolment form, or download one from Council's website.</p>
<i>Q24 I own a property in the district but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll?</i>	→ Yes A	Request a Ratepayer Enrolment form from Electoral Officer, or download the form from Council's website. This should be back in the hands of the Electoral Officer by 1 April 2020 for inclusion on the final electoral roll.

If it is easier you can call into the Richmond, Motueka Council offices and complete the ratepayer enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time up until 12 noon on Tuesday 12 May 2020 (election day).

In no case does this allow you to have two votes at the election.

If you are the sole ratepayer for the property (i.e. the rate account is only in your name), then you can apply to be the Ratepayer Elector.

If you are a joint ratepayer (i.e. the rate account is in more than one name), or the rate account is in the name of a Trust or Company etc., you must appoint a nominee to vote on behalf of the joint ratepayers or entity. For the case of companies, corporations, trusts etc., the nominee should be a member or officer of the entity.

Voting		
<i>Q25 Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?</i>	A	All local authority elections are conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Monday 20 April and Saturday 25 April 2020.
<i>Q26 I got my voting documents, but my partner didn't receive theirs.</i>	A	Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Wednesday 23 April 2020. If documents are not received then please contact the Electoral Officer.
<i>Q27 I didn't get my voting documents, so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two documents. Which one should I use?</i>	A	Use the original and destroy the special vote.
<i>Q28 I received voting documents for (children, parent) and have Power of Attorney for them can I vote for them?</i>	A	No – Power of Attorney does not apply to voting on behalf of that person.
<i>Q29 I received voting documents for (children, parent) and have Power of Attorney for them. What should I do with the documents?</i>	A	If they are overseas, you could airmail them to the person or destroy them if that is not practicable. If they are for an elderly parent who is unable to vote, please destroy them by ripping/cutting them up.
<i>Q30 I received voting documents that do not belong to me and I don't know these</i>	A	Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put them back in the mail.

Q35 <i>I have lost my return envelope.</i>	A	You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Freepost number on it (enter return address)
Q36 <i>I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary roll and I want a special vote please.</i>	A	Please contact the Electoral Officer and request a special vote.
Q37 <i>I didn't receive my voting paper, how do I obtain a special vote?</i>	A	Contact the Electoral Officer. If you are not enrolled on the Parliamentary Roll, you can enrol online at www.vote.nz or ring 0800 36 76 56 or visit your nearest NZ Post Shop and request an enrolment form. This form needs to be with the Registrar of Electors (include details) before close of business Monday 11 May 2020.
Q38 <i>I spoiled my voting documents / I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?</i>	A	If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear, then do so and initial the changes. If necessary, we can issue you with a special voting document, but this will require you to complete a declaration.
Q39 <i>Where can I have a special vote?</i>		Special voting is available at the Richmond and Motueka Council offices, or you can contact the Electoral Officer and request that a special voting document, along with a declaration form, be posted to you.
Q40 <i>I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.</i>		Contact the Electoral Officer who may be able to organise for the voting document to be sent to you.
Q41 <i>Do I have to vote for all the candidates for any issue?</i>	A	Under FPP you can vote for only one candidate for this By-election by ticking the candidate you want to elect.
Q42 <i>I have received two voting documents</i>	A	Contact the Electoral Officer
Q43 <i>Do all the staff working on the election know who I voted for?</i>	A	No, your vote remains secret under the required roll scrutiny and counting procedures.
Q44 <i>Can I help someone fill out their voting documents?</i>	A	Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote. If authorised by a voter who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter. An authorisation to do this should be completed (LER 34).

<p><i>Q45</i> <i>What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?</i></p>	<p>A</p>	<p>They are delivered to the District Court and kept for 21 days so that the Court can access them should there be any application for recount or petition for inquiry.</p> <p>After 21 days, the court is responsible for destroying them.</p>
<p><i>Q46</i> <i>What is FPP?</i></p>	<p>A</p>	<p>This is the First Past the Post voting system. The candidate that get the most votes wins.</p> <p>You should mark the one you want to vote for with a tick in the circle. Do not vote for more than one candidate, as shown in the instructions.</p>
<p><i>Q47</i> <i>When will we know the results of the election?</i></p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Progress results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on election day – Tuesday 12 May 2020.</p> <p>Preliminary results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on Wednesday 13 May 2020.</p> <p>The official results will be announced when the final count is complete and special votes have been checked, and will be publicly notified in the Nelson Mail on Saturday 16 May 2020, and published on Council’s website www.tasman.govt.nz</p>
<p><i>Q48</i> <i>How will I find out?</i></p>	<p>Candidates A The Voters A</p>	<p>Will be advised as soon as possible after Preliminary results are known. This may be by email or phone.</p> <p>Preliminary Results will be released to the media and placed on our website as soon as possible after noon on Wednesday 13 May 2020.</p>
<p><i>Q49</i> <i>What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?</i></p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Contact the Electoral Officer</p>