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A General Guide to the 2022 Local Authority Elections:

Standing as a candidate

Do you want to stand for election?

Candidate nominations open on 15 July and must be lodged by midday 12 August.

To be eligible to stand for mayor, a ward, community or local board, you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary electoral roll anywhere in New Zealand. You do not need to reside in the area (city, district, ward, constituency, or subdivision) that you are standing for.

Standing for a Maori ward

To be eligible to stand for a Māori ward or constituency, you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary electoral roll anywhere in New Zealand. you do not need to reside in the area (city, district, ward, constituency) that you are standing for. You do not need to be of Māori descent or on the Māori electoral roll to stand for a Māori ward or constituency.

Do I need qualifications to stand?

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a candidate in the local elections. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a desire to serve their community. However, there are some skills that will help you with the role.

Some skills that will help you run for election and be a successful councillor

Two skills that will assist you with your campaign are being able to publicly present your opinions confidently, and being able to listen to and present the views of the people that you will be representing.

The following skills are useful in the elected member role, either some or all of them:

- cultural awareness;
- strategic thinking;
- knowledge and understanding of your Council and local government;
- relationship building and collaboration;
- quality decision-making;
- political acumen;
- communication and engagement;
- knowledge and understanding of your community;
- leadership.

Nominations

You will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the area of election that you are standing for.

Equally, if you are standing for a Māori ward or constituency, you will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the Maori electoral roll within the area of election you are standing for.

It costs \$200 incl. GST to lodge a nomination for each position you are standing for. The funds must be paid by close of nominations, midday 12 August.

Most importantly, don't leave your application until the last moment because if there any problems with it, you might miss out.

You can find out more about the local elections at votelocal.co.nz.

This information has been provided by Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa.