

Become a candidate in Auckland Local Elections 2025

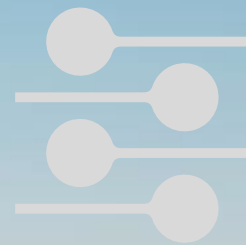
11 December 2024



Overview

- ✓ Local elections – what are they? why do they matter?
- ✓ Our governance structure - how does the council work?
- ✓ Roles you can stand for – what do they do? how much do they earn?
- ✓ Becoming a candidate – who can do it? what's required?
- ✓ How to campaign – do's and don't's; how much does it cost?





**Setting the scene:
Auckland local elections**



Local elections overview

Local government (Auckland Council) elections occur every three years by postal vote.

Auckland voters elect:

- A mayor
- 20 councillors (across 13 wards)
- 149 local board members (across 21 local boards)



The opportunity

- A **critical leadership** role for our large, diverse and growing region: bring your **unique talents** and perspectives
- **Guide and make decisions** on **major projects**, how to allocate resources, input on future infrastructure needs and drive value for money for Aucklanders
- **Contribute** to your community, connect and build networks
- **Help manage** the council's assets, worth \$42 billion
- **Develop your journey** as a governance professional or community leader



Why it matters

Auckland Council's elected members make decisions on:

Public transport & local roads



Water distribution



Rubbish & recycling



Beaches



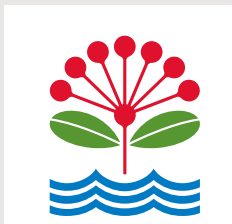
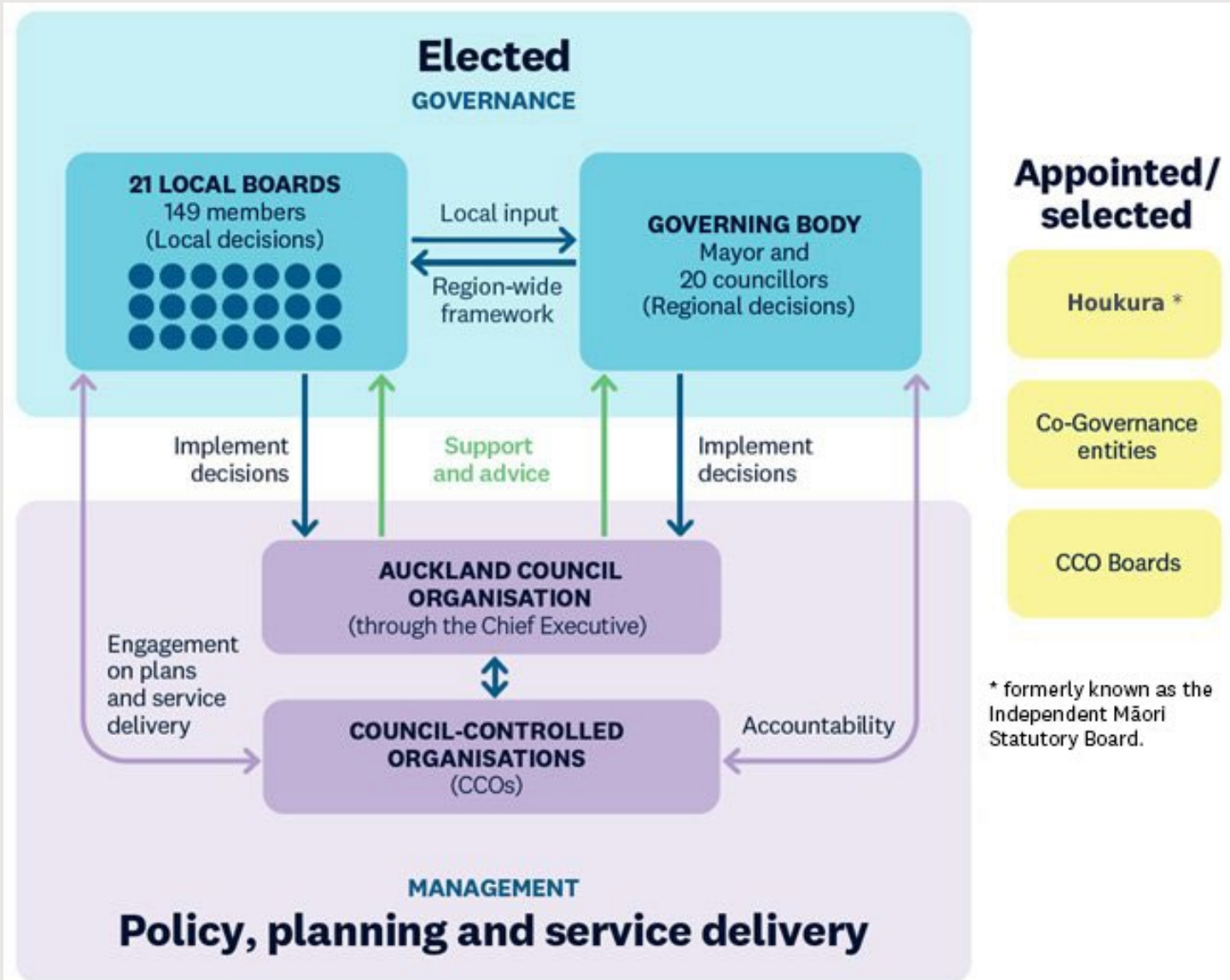
Local & regional parks



Libraries

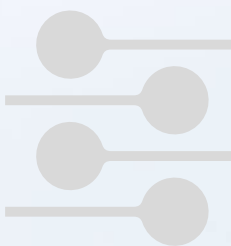


How Auckland Council works





Roles you can stand for



Roles you can stand for



Key responsibilities:

- **leads** the Governing Body
- **sets vision** for Auckland
- develops of **plans, policies** and **budgets**
- establishes **committees of the Governing Body**
- **engages** with the council organisation and the people of Auckland

Time commitment

- significant professional and personal **commitment**
- **full time** role
- after-hours and weekends as required.

Pay as at December 2024

- \$306,952



Roles you can stand for



Ward councillor

Key responsibilities:

- attend **governing body and committee meetings**, meetings with **local boards, council employees**
- **attend events** and public meetings, liaise with residents and community groups
- **work alongside** the local board in their ward
- can take on **additional responsibilities**, such as deputy mayor or chair of a committee

Time commitment

- significant professional and personal **commitment**
- **full time** role
- 40+ hours per week

Pay - varies based on additional responsibilities (as at December 2024)

- **\$111,782 - \$168,817**



Roles you can stand for

Key responsibilities:

- **engage** with and provide **leadership** to local community
- **make decisions** on local matters
- develop and adopt local board **plans**
- propose **bylaws** and **targeted rates**
- contribute to regional **strategies, policies, plans and decisions**
- oversee **specific portfolios**, such as events or parks
- chair and deputy chair have extra responsibilities

Time commitment

- Part-time role for members and deputy chair (12-30 hours a week)
- Full-time role for the chair

Pay varies based on size of local board areas (as at December 2024)

- \$31,141 - \$55,811 for board members
- \$37,369 - \$66,974 for deputy chairs
- \$62,282 - \$111,623 for chairs



Local
board
member



A week in the life of an elected member

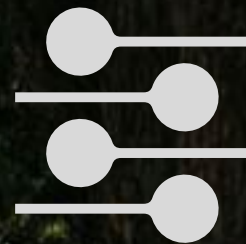
- **Read, prepare** for and **attend** meetings and workshops
- **Vote** in **decision-making** meetings and committees
- **Engage** with the public to hear their views
- **Represent** the council at community and cultural events



Additional benefits

- **Development opportunities**
 - governance skills and leadership
 - strategic thinking and open-mindedness
 - commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori outcomes
 - relationship building and working with diverse audiences and communities
 - communication skills
 - council processes, systems and policies
 - time management
- **Resources and support** to help manage personal or work-related challenges, and the **equipment and tools** to do the job





**How to become a
candidate**



Who can be a candidate?

1. Over 18 years old; and
2. a New Zealand citizen; and
3. registered on the New Zealand Parliamentary electoral roll; and
4. nominated by two electors from the area you are standing for.



Key dates

CANDIDATE
NOMINATIONS

FRI 4 JUL – FRI 1 AUG 2025

VOTING CLOSES

MIDDAY
SAT 11 OCT 2025

INAUGURATION /
ONBOARDING

OCT 2025 - NOV 2025

START
CAMPAIGNING

ANYTIME

VOTING PERIOD

9 SEP 2025 - 11 OCT 2025

RESULTS

11 – 17 OCT 2025



Ways to run as a candidate

1. Independent

- This means you run on your own
- Expressing your own “political” colour or ideas

2. Affiliated (on a “ticket”)

- Supported by/part of a political party, organisation or group
- Usually between like-minded individuals
- Support each other’s campaign, share name recognition and campaign costs
- Join an existing affiliation
- Create your own “ticket”



Standing for multiple positions

- You can stand for more than one position at a time
- If elected to more than one position, the highest position takes precedence
- If you are elected to more than one local board, you will only be able to serve on one
- \$200 deposit for each nomination



Nomination process

- Electronic nominations will be available for the first time.
- Paper nominations will still be available at 20+ locations across Auckland.
- Forms (online and paper) will be available from **4 July 2025**.
- Nominations close at on **Friday 1 August 2025, 12pm**.
- You need to be enrolled and your two nominators need to be enrolled in the area you are standing for.



Nomination process

- Be **contactable**:
 - ensure **contact details are correct**.
 - if you choose to keep your contact details private, we will not be able to share with media and other interested parties
 - your **photo and profile statement** will be key information for voters
 - your statement needs to **include relevant information** about your policies.





Campaigning tips



Cost of campaigning

- Campaign costs are not funded by Auckland Council
- Some candidates spend close to nothing, others spend several thousand dollars
- The law limits how much you can spend on your campaign
- Candidates are legally required to declare any donations and campaign expenses
- Typical campaign expenses may include:
 - hoardings and election signage
 - posters and leaflets
 - media advertisements.



Campaigning tips

- Have a **plan** and set yourself a **budget**
- Ensure you have a **support network** and consider finding a mentor
- **Cost-effective** ways to run a campaign can include:
 - social media
 - door-knocking
 - attend local events and community meetings
- Be an **informed candidate**
- Make the most of voteauckland.co.nz
- Maintain **good standards** of behaviour



If ELECTED

Onboarding and **inaugurations** commence immediately.

In the first few months you'll be required to:

- learn about the council's systems and processes
- set up devices and pay
- multiple training sessions and plenty of reading material to learn about the job
- attend your inauguration and meet your supporting staff.



**Want to
know more?**

- Visit voteauckland.co.nz/beacandidate
- Get in touch at elections@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- Contact the Electoral Office at 09 973 5212 or info@electionservices.co.nz

