

FAQS | NGĀ PĀTAI AUAU

2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

11 October 2025





CONTENTS

➔	GENERAL INFORMATION	3
➔	CANDIDATES	4
➔	ENROLMENT	7
➔	VOTING	9
➔	ELECTION RESULTS	14
➔	MEMBERS	15
➔	ELECTION SIGNS	15

➔ GENERAL INFORMATION

Q1: When is the next Palmerston North City Council election?

A1: Election day is Saturday 11 October 2025 with voting closing at 12 noon. The voting period starts on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

Q2: Who runs the election?

A2: The Palmerston North City Council’s electoral officer has overall responsibility for the election.

Q3: What is the name of the electoral officer and deputy electoral officer?

A3: The electoral officer is:

Dale Ofsoke,
Independent Election Services Ltd
Electoral Office: 167 Victoria Street West,
Auckland Central (entrance off Dock Street)
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West, Akl 1142
Phone: 0800 922 822
Email: dale.ofsoke@electionservices.co.nz

The deputy electoral officer is:

Hannah White,
Manager Governance
Palmerston North City Council
32 The Square, Palmerston North
Phone: 06 356 8199
Email: hannah.white@pncc.govt.nz

Q4: What elections can we vote for?

A4: Electors will be able to vote for the mayor, ward councillors, and Manawatū-Whanganui (Horizons) Regional Council.

The current structure is:

- ➔ mayor (elected ‘at large’)
- ➔ 15 councillors (from 2 wards)
- ➔ 4 regional council members (from 2 Constituencies)

Ward	Councillors
Te Hirawanui General Ward	13
Te Pūao Māori Ward	2

Horizons Regional Council	Councillors
Palmerston North General Constituency	4
Tonga Māori Constituency	1

In addition, there will be a poll on whether the Māori ward remains or is disestablished for Palmerston North City Council. There will be a second poll on whether the Horizons Regional Council Māori constituency remains or is disestablished. The outcome of these binding polls are applicable for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

For further information refer to council’s website: www.pncc.govt.nz/.

Q5: What is the difference between Māori and general wards?

A5: Māori ward councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the Māori electoral roll. Similarly, general ward councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the general electoral roll.

Q6: What type of electoral system is used?

A6: The STV (single transferable voting) electoral system will be used for the Palmerston North City Council elections.

The FPP (first past the post) electoral system will be used for the Manawatū-Whanganui (Horizons) Regional Council elections.

For a more detailed explanation of these electoral systems, refer [Q58](#) and [Q59](#).

Q7: What is the role of the mayor and councillors?

A7: The chairperson is a councillor and is elected by the other regional councillors following the election:

Mayor:

- presides at council meetings;
- leads the council and co-ordinates council political activity;
- speaks on behalf of the council;
- represents the council on related organisations, where appointed;
- presides at civic ceremonies;
- hosts visiting groups, including overseas delegations;
- declares a state of civil defence emergency in the region if the need arises.

Mayor and councillors:

- attends and participates at meetings of committees and working parties;
- reads agenda and other materials before meetings;
- participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole district;
- develop policy across a wide range of activities and services;
- review and develop bylaws for the district;
- attends and participates at conferences and seminars;
- represent the district at other functions as required;
- advocate on a wide range of issues;
- coordinate and form partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies;
- attends to complaints and enquiries from members of the public;
- participate in the appointment and performance review of the chief executive;
- act on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework;
- set a budget and rates;
- monitor the performance of the council organisation.

→ CANDIDATES**Q8: You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).**

A8: When lodging your nomination, proof of citizenship will be required (copy of passport, birth certificate, citizenship certificate).

You will need to have two electors enrolled on the electoral roll in the area you are standing for to nominate you –

e.g. if you stand for the Te Hirawanui General Ward, the nominators will need to be enrolled on the electoral roll for that ward. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which they are standing but will need to disclose that fact in their candidate profile statement.)

Nominations open on Friday 4 July 2025. If you would like a nomination paper and candidate information handbook sent out, please contact the electoral office closer to this date. Nomination papers and a candidate information handbook will be available on Council's website (www.pncc.govt.nz) or in hard-copy from designated council offices from May 2025.

Candidate campaigning can commence any time prior to the election (no time restriction), but any expenditure made, within or outside the three-month applicable period before election day, must be accounted for.

Q9: How much will it cost me to stand?

A9: You will need to pay a nomination fee of \$200 GST inclusive. This fee applies to each election (position) you stand for.

Your nomination fee can be paid by electronic bank transfer, EFTPOS, credit card or cash.

If you poll greater than 25% of the final quota as determined by the last iteration (for STV elections), you will receive your nomination fee back.

Q10: What qualifications and experience do I need?

A10: Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a desire to serve the community.

All (or some) of the following capabilities will be useful in the elected member role:

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

Come along to a council or committee meeting to get an idea of what happens in practice.

Q11: Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a Council candidate?

A11: No.

Q12: How long is the term of an elected member?

A12: Three years.

Q13: Do I need to be resident in the area I am standing for?

A13: No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and be a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony). If you don't reside in the area you are standing for, this needs to be disclosed to electors.

The two people who nominate you must be on the electoral roll within the area you are standing for.

Q14: Do I need to be on the Māori Electoral Roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in the Māori ward?

A14: No. To be eligible you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

You will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the Māori Electoral Roll within Palmerston North.

If you are on the Māori Electoral Roll you can stand in a general ward, and will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the General Electoral Roll within Palmerston North.

Q15: How many positions can I stand for?

A15: You can stand for mayor and for a general or Māori ward councillor but if you are elected to mayor you must take that position.

You cannot stand for more than one ward, or for both the Palmerston North City Council and the Manawatū-Whanganui (Horizons) Regional Council.

Q16: Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A16: Only if it is withdrawn before the close of nominations (noon, Friday 1 August 2025). You cannot withdraw voluntarily after nominations have closed. If you decide to opt out, your name will still appear on the voting document.

If you do change your mind and decide not to run for election after you have been nominated, let the electoral officer know who will talk through the issues with you.

If you become incapacitated with serious illness or injury and are unlikely to be able to perform the functions and duties if elected to office, an application to withdraw your nomination on those grounds can be made. Verification from a doctor or lawyer about your situation will be required.

Contact the electoral officer if you need more information about this process.

Q17: What is a candidate profile statement?

A17: You may provide a candidate profile statement when you lodge your nomination. This is a statement of up to 150 words containing information about yourself and your policies and intentions if elected to office. The profile statement will be included in the voting packs that all electors receive.

Your candidate statement can be submitted in both Māori and English, but the information contained in each language must be substantially consistent. You can have 150 words in English and 150 words in te reo Māori. If you choose to use other languages this is counted within the 150 English word limit.

In addition, your candidate profile statement must state whether or not your principal place of residence is in the area you are seeking election, e.g., 'My principal place of residence is in the Te Pūao Māori Ward', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Te Pūao Māori Ward'. This is not part of the 150-word limit.

Your profile statement must be true and accurate. The electoral officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in your statement.

Your profile can include a recent passport size and style colour photograph (taken in the last 12 months).

Refer [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 61](#) for more information.

Q18: When is the campaign period?

A18: Election campaigning can start any time before the election and continue up to and including election day.

Refer [Q68](#) for information on campaign signage.

Q19: Can I raise campaign funds from donations, and can I claim expenses?

A19: Yes, you can raise funds and claim expenses from your campaign.

There is very specific legislation about donations and expenses which you need to abide by.

For more information go to [Local Electoral Act 2001, sections 103A – 112F](#).

Q20: How much can I spend on my campaign?

A20: There is a limit on what you can spend on your campaign and it relates to the population of the area you are standing for.

The maximum amount that can be spent by a candidate cannot exceed the limits set out in the table:

Local government area population	Expenditure limit
Up to 4,999	\$3,500
5,000 – 9,999	\$7,000
10,000 – 19,999	\$14,000
20,000 – 39,999	\$20,000
40,000 – 59,999	\$30,000
60,000 – 79,999	\$40,000
80,000 – 99,999	\$50,000
100,000 – 149,999	\$55,000
150,000 – 249,999	\$60,000
250,000 – 999,999	\$70,000
1,000,000 or more	\$100,000 *

*plus 50 cents for each elector

For example, a candidate for the Te Hirawanui General Ward (which has a population in the range of 80,000 – 99,999) can spend up to \$50,000 inclusive of GST.

If you stand for more than one position, the amount you can spend is the highest amount for one position. You cannot add positions together to allow you to spend more than the limit.

Please note any expenditure made by a candidate for an election campaign is funded by the candidate and is not refundable by Council to the candidate.

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 (by 11 December 2025).

If a candidate is outside New Zealand on this day, the return must be filed within 76 days after the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected.

If a return is not submitted within the required time period, the non-return will be advised to the New Zealand Police for enforcement.

If a candidate is eligible for a refund of the nomination fee, the return needs to be received before the fee is refunded.

Q21: Can people already elected onto Palmerston North City Council use Council resources to campaign?

A21: No, elected members cannot use Council resources for their campaigns.

Q22: Are there any rules about using social media?

A22: Yes. Councils have policies or guidelines for web and social media use related to campaigning. They will not permit Council social media pages to be used by anyone (candidates or members of the public) for electioneering or campaigning in the three months before election day. This includes tagging Council in social media posts. Council monitors its online sites and take down any campaign related posts.

Q23: Can I help people vote or collect their voting documents to send in?

A23: No, 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 the elector as to how they should vote.

Candidates or their assistants should not collect voting documents from electors. Each elector should post or deliver their own voting document to the electoral officer.

Candidates and their assistants should be particularly careful if campaigning occurs in facilities such as rest homes or hospitals.

Q24: When do nominations open and close?

A24: Nominations open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not leave lodgement of their nomination until the last day. There may be insufficient time to rectify any error with the nomination, if lodgement occurs on Friday 1 August 2025.

Q25: Where can I obtain a nomination paper?

A25: From 4 July 2025 nominations can be completed and submitted online at: esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/PA/

Nomination papers will also be available:

→ in hard copy at Civic Administration Building, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North

→ online at www.pncc.govt.nz/elections

→ by phoning 0800 922 822.

A candidate information handbook will be available in May 2025.

→ **ENROLMENT**

Q26: Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A26: The preliminary electoral roll will be available for public inspection for a one-month period from Friday 4 July 2025 to Friday 1 August 2025.

The preliminary electoral roll will be available for inspection at:

→ Civic Administration Building, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square,

Palmerston North;

- Central Library, 4 The Square, Palmerston North (in the New Zealand and Pacific Room);
- Libraries at Ashhurst, Te Pātikitiki, Roslyn, Awapuni and Linton;
- Mobile Library. To find out when it will be in your area check www.pncc.govt.nz.

Q27: How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

A27: Is this your main place of residence?

- Yes → Have you lived at your current address for more than one month
- Yes → Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at your current address in the Palmerston North City Council area?
- Yes → You will automatically appear on the electoral roll that is used for these elections

Or

Is this your main place of residence?

- Yes → Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the Palmerston North City Council area?

No or Don't Know

- You need to complete an enrolment form with the Electoral Commission for this. You can either:
- enrol online or download a form at www.vote.nz
 - phone the Electoral Commission 0800 36 76 56 to request a form in the post with a return envelope.

Or

Is this your main place of residence?

- No → Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in another district?
- Yes → If you own a property in a different district to your main residence,

you may be able to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector. (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice in [Q32](#) and [Q33](#).)

Q28: I turn 18 on election day. Can I vote?

A28: Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled. You can provisionally enrol from the age of 17 and if you do that, when you turn 18 your enrolment will be automatic.

You will also need to apply for a special vote during the voting period (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to 12 noon, Saturday 11 October 2025).

For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Q29: I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

A29: You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.

Q30: I am a New Zealand Māori; do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?

A30: Not necessarily. When enrolling for the first time you decide whether you want to go on the Parliamentary Māori Electoral Roll or the Parliamentary General Electoral Roll by signing the appropriate panel on the parliamentary elector enrolment form.

However, you are able to change from the Māori Electoral Roll to the General Electoral Roll (or vice versa) at any time, except during the 3 months before election day, i.e. not between midnight Thursday 10 July 2025 and noon 11 October 2025. If you do change your roll during this 3 month period, it will not be processed until after the local elections.

If a person is enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the mayor, the respective Māori ward councillors and the respective regional Māori constituency members.

If a person is enrolled on the General Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the mayor, the respective general ward councillors and the respective regional general constituency members.

Q31: How do I know whether I am enrolled?

A31: The Electoral Commission will be undertaking a roll update campaign from 1 April 2025 for the Parliamentary Electoral Roll which forms the basis of the electoral roll for the Far North District Council elections.

If you do not receive a letter in the post after 9 April 2025 the chances are you are not enrolled, or your details are incorrect. You will then need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form.

If you have recently changed address, you will need to update your address details on www.vote.nz. You can check to see if you are enrolled at www.vote.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Q32: I own a business in the Palmerston North City Council area and pay rates, but I don't live in the Palmerston North City Council area. Do I get a say in the Palmerston North City Council elections?

A32: Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

A Non-Resident Ratepayer enrolment form is available from:

- online portal www.ratepayer.co.nz
- download www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/elections/How-to-enrol
- or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The Non-Resident Ratepayer enrolment form should be submitted to the electoral officer by Friday 1 August 2025 (in order to receive an ordinary vote), and no later than Friday 10 October 2025 (in order to receive a special vote).

Q33: I own a property in the Palmerston North City Council area, but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the ratepayer electoral roll?

A33: Is your name on the rates notice?

Yes → You may be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Go to

www.ratepayer.co.nz to complete a ratepayer enrolment online, download a form from www.pncc.govt.nz/Participate-Palmy/elections/How-to-enrol or contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a ratepayer enrolment form.

This should be submitted to the electoral officer or an electoral official by Friday 1 August 2025 in order to receive an ordinary vote, and no later than Friday 10 October 2025 in order to receive a special vote.

If it is easier you can call at a special voting venue during the voting period (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to 12 noon Saturday 11 October 2025) and complete the ratepayer enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time.

For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

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

Or

Is your name on the rates notice?

No → You may not be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Go to www.ratepayer.co.nz to check your eligibility or contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

→ VOTING**Q34: Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?**

A34: All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote.

There is no online voting option available.

Voting documents will be delivered by post between Tuesday 9 September 2025 and Monday 22 September 2025.

If your details are correct on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll, you will receive your voting documents automatically.

If you are on the unpublished electoral roll, you will need to cast a special vote.

Special voting documents are available on request. Refer [Q49](#) on availability of special votes.

Q35: My partner received a voting document, but I haven't received mine. What should I do?

A35: Is it before Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are correctly registered on the electoral roll?

Yes → Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Monday 22 September 2025. If your voting document is not received, then please call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a special vote.

Or

Is it after Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are correctly registered on electoral roll?

Yes → You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Or

Is it after Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are not correctly registered on the electoral roll?

Yes → You will need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form. You can enrol online at www.vote.nz or phone 0800 36 76 56 and a form with return enveloped will be posted to you.

You will also need to apply for a special vote. You may visit Council offices to enrol and cast your special vote at the same time.

For alternative ways to apply for a special vote, refer [Q49](#).

Q36: I didn't receive my voting document, so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two voting documents. Which one should I use?

A36: Use the original one and destroy the special vote.

Q37: I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) and have Power of Attorney for that person. Can I vote on behalf of that person?

A37: No, you are not allowed to vote on behalf of that person as Attorney.

Q38: I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) who does not live at my address or is incapable of voting. What should I do with the voting document?

A38: If they are overseas, you could post it to the person or destroy it if that is not practicable.

If the family member has moved, please let them know they need to update their details on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (www.vote.nz) and they will need to cast a special vote for this election. Refer [Q49](#).

If it is for a person who is cognitively impaired, for example someone who is living with advanced dementia, please destroy it by ripping/cutting it up. You cannot vote on their behalf unless directly instructed by them.

Q39: I received a voting document that does not belong to me and I don't know this person or where this person has gone. What should I do with the voting document?

A39: Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.

Q40: What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?

A40: It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode to mark the electoral roll that you have returned your vote so we can ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.

Q41: How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?

A41: Returned envelopes containing a voting document cannot be opened until there is a justice of the peace (JP) present. The JP is required to sign off that the processes

used by the electoral officer meet the legal requirements.

Note that the voter's name is not shown on the voting document.

When the envelope is opened the only thing the electoral office is looking for is that the vote for each election is valid.

This means that we are making sure that the voter's intention is clear and the voter has not ticked or marked more candidates than the number of vacancies.

Q42: Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates.

A42: No, you don't have to vote, but we do encourage you to vote and exercise your democratic right.

You don't have to vote in all elections. But your vote is important because the people elected will be responsible for making decisions about what happens in your community for the next three years.

To help you get to know about the candidates:

- candidate meetings may be held in your community and by attending you can find out what policies the different candidates are advocating for;
- a candidate profile booklet comes with the voting document and this will include a photo and a statement from each candidate if these have been provided. This information will also be available on the Council's website (www.pncc.govt.nz) after nominations close (expected 8 August 2025);
- candidates may have their own website, social media page(s), videos, advertise in local newspapers or send out information to letterboxes in your area;
- local media are likely to cover information about the election.

Q43: Do I have to post my voting document back?

A43: You can post your voting document in a DX Post Box, but to ensure it is received in time, it must be posted no later than Tuesday 7 October 2025.

You can also hand-deliver your voting document to a ballot box during the voting period, from Tuesday 9 September 2025 until 12 noon on Saturday 11 October 2025.

For ballot box locations refer [Q48](#).

Q44: I have lost my return envelope. What shall I do?

A44: You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Replypaid number on it.

You will not need to put a stamp on the envelope if you write the Replypaid number (4710) on the envelope and post it in New Zealand.

Replypaid number 4710
The Electoral Office
Palmerston North City Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Q45: I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote. What should I do?

A45: You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Q46: I didn't receive my voting document. How do I obtain a special vote?

A46: Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?

Yes → You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Or
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?

No/Don't Know

- If you are not enrolled or not enrolled correctly on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll, you will need to complete an enrolment form. You can enrol or update your details online at www.vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

Alternatively, you can download an enrolment update form and return it by uploading it to the enrolment team at www.vote.nz/upload, or request one to be mailed to you with a return envelope.

For any queries regarding enrolling on the residential roll, email: enquiries@elections.govt.nz.

The completed enrolment form needs to be with the Electoral Commission before close of business Friday 10 October 2025.

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Q47: I spoiled my voting documents/I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?

A47: If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear, then do so.

If necessary, we can issue you with a special vote (for special vote availability, refer [Q49](#)), but this will take time and require you to complete a statutory declaration.

Q48: Where are ballot boxes located?

A48: You can drop your completed vote into the official ballot bins located at:

- Civic Administration Building
Palmerston North City Council
32 The Square, Palmerston North

- Central Library, 4 The Square, Palmerston North
- Libraries at Ashhurst, Te Pātikitiki, Roslyn, Awapuni, Linton and the mobile library.

There will be other official ballot bins within your community. Check www.pncc.govt.nz/elections for up-to-date locations.

Q49 Where can I have a special vote?

A49: Special votes can be obtained from:

- Civic Administration Building, Palmerston North City Council, 32 The Square, Palmerston North.
- All Palmerston North City Council community libraries on Saturdays.
- or phone the electoral office 0800 922 822.

All special votes must be completed and returned to the electoral officer or an electoral official (at one of the above locations) by noon, Saturday 11 October 2025. If posting, you can send your special vote right up until the close of voting on election day – noon, Saturday 11 October 2025.

Q50: I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out. What should I do?

A50: You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q49](#).

Q51: Do I have to vote in all elections for the maximum number of candidates permitted?

Will my votes be counted if I don't vote for the maximum number of candidates permitted in all the elections on my voting document?

A51: Under STV you can vote for as many candidates as you wish but these must be in order of your preference and no number can be repeated. Remember for STV, you rank the candidates you want to elect from number 1 onwards.

FPP is a simple majority vote, where you tick the option you want to vote for. Horizons Regional Council uses FPP for their elections.

In 2025, FPP will also be used for the Māori ward poll and the Māori constituency poll.

With either system, you can decide not to vote for one or more of the different elections on your voting document. This does not invalidate votes for other elections on your voting document.

For more information refer [Q57](#) and [Q58](#).

Q52: Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward or other election?

A52: You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live or the electoral roll you are on.

You cannot vote for a candidate who is standing for example in another ward or constituency, because you are not an elector of that other ward or constituency.

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general ward if you are on the Māori Electoral Roll and voting for the Māori ward, and vice versa.

Q53: Why are my partner's document and mine different? There are more/less things to vote for, or the list of candidates is different.

A53: Candidates for all of Council's elections are listed in random order. This means that every voting document has a different order of candidate names for each election.

Note that there are also different voting entitlements depending on which electoral roll you are on (Māori or general).

For any other differences, you will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q54: I have received two voting documents. What shall I do?

A54: You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q55: Do the staff working on the election know who I voted for?

A55: No, your vote remains secret under the required separate roll scrutiny and vote counting procedures.

Q56: Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

A56: Under the [Local Electoral Act 2001](#), you cannot interfere with or influence any person as to how they should vote.

An elector who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, can direct a person to assist them to vote. The person assisting must only act as directed by the elector.

Telephone voting will be available for electors with disabilities. To access this service, electors will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q57: What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

A57: They are delivered to the Palmerston North District Court and kept for 21 days after public notice is given declaring the result of the election so that the Court can access them should there be any application for a recount or petition for inquiry.

After this time, or the completion of any recount or enquiry, the Court is responsible for destroying them.

Q58: What is STV and how do I vote in an STV election?

A58: STV is used for the Palmerston North City Council.

STV stands for single transferable voting and is a preferential system of voting where you can rank as few or as many candidates as you like. It is a single vote which can be transferred between candidates to ensure the vote contributes to the election of at least one candidate and is not wasted.

If a popular candidate does not need all the votes they receive, a proportion is transferred to the voter's next preference. On the other hand, if a candidate is not popular and receives few votes, those votes are transferred to a voter's next preference.

For more information about STV, go to www.stv.govt.nz.

To exercise an STV vote, start by writing the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number 2 next to your second most preferred candidate and so on 3, 4, 5 etc.

You can write as many preferences or as few as you like up to however many candidates are standing for that election.

You must write the number 1 for your vote to be counted. Do not write the same number more than once, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, and do not miss a number from your preferences, e.g., 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. If you make a mistake, your vote will only be valid up to when you made the error.

Q59: What is FPP and how do I vote in an FPP election?

A59: FPP stands for first past the post voting system and is used for the Manawātū-Whanganui (Horizons) Regional Council but it is not used for the Palmerston North City Council elections, except for the Māori ward poll question.

With FPP the candidate or poll question that gets the most votes wins.

You should mark your choice with a tick inside the circle. Do not vote for more than the number of candidates shown in the instructions on your voting document. Place only one tick for each referendum question.

ELECTION RESULTS

Q60: When will we know the results of the election?

A60: Progress results will be announced on the afternoon of election day, Saturday 11 October 2025.

Preliminary results will be announced on Sunday 12 October 2025, once all votes received at the council offices (up until 12 noon on election day) have been delivered to the electoral office in Auckland and processed.

The official results will be announced when special votes have been checked and included in the final result, expected by Friday 17 October 2025.

Q61: How will I find out the results?

A61: Candidates:

Progress and preliminary results will be advised as soon as practicable after the results are known, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October respectively. This may be by email or by phone.

Voters:

Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on the council's website (www.pncc.govt.nz) as soon as practicable once they are known, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October respectively.

Q62: What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

A62: Under legislation a candidate may challenge the official results through either a judicial recount or a judicial inquiry. A candidate will have to file an application in the District Court and pay an application fee of \$750.

A candidate may wish to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 to discuss this.

➔ MEMBERS

Q63: When do elected members take up their roles?

A63: Elected members take up office the day after the official results have been declared by public notice. However, members cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of the council. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the official results are published.

Q64: Who are elected members responsible to?

A64: Ultimately the elected members final responsibility is to the local community. The Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that council follows the law.

Q65: Would being an elected member take up much time?

A65: Being an elected member is a busy job that often involves meetings, events and speaking with community members outside of normal business hours. Flexibility and the ability to prioritise and manage time effectively are essential. This includes balancing a high volume of reading, paperwork and emails with a schedule of meetings and public commitments.

As a consequence, the mayor is considered a fulltime job and councillors are generally part time jobs.

Q66: Do elected members get paid and, if so, how much?

A66: The Remuneration Authority sets a remuneration pool. The newly elected council will decide how to apply the pool of funding. Some expenses are also reimbursed.

As an indication, the remuneration as of 1 July 2024 was:

Office	Annual Remuneration
Mayor	\$166,246
Deputy Mayor	\$64,024
Chair of Committee (5)	\$61,944
Deputy Chair of Committee (4)	\$58,833
Dep. Chair: Strategy & Finance; Dep. Chair of Risk & Assurance	\$60,907
Councillor (with no additional responsibilities)	\$56,759
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	\$49,619

Local Government Members (2024/25)
Determination 2024, Schedule of Remuneration-part 2

For further information refer to:
www.remauthority.govt.nz

Q67: How many elected members are there?

A67: The Palmerston North City Council will be made up of:

- ➔ mayor (elected 'at large')
- ➔ 15 councillors
 - 13 elected from 1 general ward
 - 2 elected from 1 Māori ward

The Manawatu-Whanganui (Horizons) Regional Council will be made up of 14 elected councillors (4 of whom will be elected from the Palmerston North General Constituency, and 1 from the Tonga Māori Constituency).

Refer [Q5](#) for more information.

➔ ELECTION SIGNS

Q68: What are the requirements for election signs?

A68: Rules relating to local election signs are found in legislation, bylaws and policies.

Local Electoral Act 2001:

All election material, including signs and hoardings, must show an authorisation statement (name and contact details of the candidate or the candidate's agent.) Not to do so is an electoral offence. Refer to the [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 113](#).

State Highway corridors:

Candidates must obtain permission from the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) if they wish to erect election signs on a state highway road reserve or visible from a state highway. Refer NZTA's [election signage requirements](#).

Local Authority:

Palmerston North City Council is responsible for regulating when, where and how signs can be displayed in the city. Council's [Signs and Use of Public Places Bylaw 2015](#) (amended 30 April 2018) contains restrictions on election signs during local elections.

The Council may recover the costs of removal or alteration. ([LGA 2002, s.163](#))

A summary of Council's bylaw is on the following page. Full information can be found on the Palmerston North City Council website www.pncc.govt.nz.

Q68: I have a complaint about the electoral signage. What should I do?

A68: If the signs don't have the required authorisation on them, call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

If the signs are located where they should not be, or have been pulled over or damaged, call the Council on 06 356 8199.

COUNCIL'S BYLAW CONCERNING ELECTION SIGNS:**Area**

No person may display on any land that is zoned Residential or Village in the District Plan an election sign that is greater than 0.6 m² in area.

No person may display on any land other than land zoned Residential or Village in the District Plan an election sign that is greater than 10 m².

Height

No person may display any freestanding election sign that is greater in height than 1.8 metres.

Number

No property or sign park may display more than one election sign per candidate.

No property or sign park may display more than one election sign per political party.

Illumination and Animation

No person may display in any place visible from a road an election sign that is animated or illuminated or made of any reflective material.

General

Use non-metallic stakes only to erect signs, and ensure you are aware of any services that may be underground before you dig.