



Make a stand in 2004



a guide to representing your community

What is local government?

What does a councillor do?

What is the nomination process?

What is the election process?



Kia ora

Welcome to local government. I'm pleased that you have shown interest in becoming an elected member. Elected members include councillors, mayors and community board members, all of whom make a significant difference to their community.

Councils exist to provide for the well-being of their communities and must lead, nurture and respond to community views. They need to fully represent their communities and operate effectively and efficiently. The key principle for local democracy is that the power of decision-making should rest as close as possible to the communities that those decisions affect.

Local Government New Zealand believes that local democracy is about:

- having the right mix of people, elected locally, to best represent each community
- ensuring services are provided to the community in the best way possible
- taking a collective approach to meeting community needs
- creating a sense of local identity and place.

Elected members come from all walks of life and we want to ensure that this diversity continues so councils and community boards are representative of New Zealand communities.

All you need to be an elected member, apart from being a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the electoral roll, is a willingness to participate and a commitment to serve your local community. Elected members take an oath to faithfully, impartially and according to their best skill and judgement, execute and perform their duties in the interests of the community, city, district or region.

The role of a councillor can be very demanding at times, but it is also very rewarding. We are pleased that you are considering standing for election and hope this publication gives you valuable information to help you on your way. If you would like more information please check out our website at www.lgnz.co.nz.

Good luck.

Yours sincerely

Basil Morrison

President

Local Government New Zealand



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te pūtakehi matakōkiri