

# How do I put my nomination in?



**If you are interested in standing for election you just need to meet the following requirements and complete the nomination process.**

## **What are the requirements?**

To be eligible to stand for election you do not need any special qualifications. You must be a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the electoral roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and have lived at your current address for at least one month. You do not need to live in the area you want to stand for election in.

You can stand for any of the following:

- Your local council
- Your regional council, or
- Your local community board
- Your local district health board.

The law prevents you from standing for both a regional council and a territorial council, or a regional council and a community board position. However, you can stand for election for both a local council and a community board at the same

time but if you are elected to both you must vacate your position on the community board.

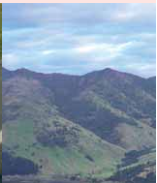
And, if you wish, you can stand for mayor and for council. (This is subject to a legislative amendment to address an anomaly in the Local Electoral Act 2001 so please check on the requirements when you are preparing your nomination.)

You may stand for election if you are an employee of a council. However, if you are elected to a position on the council for which you work you must resign your position as an employee of that council before taking up your position as a councillor.

If you are employed you may need to talk to your employer about your intentions to stand for election. In some instances you may need to take leave from work while you campaign.

## **What is the process?**

You will need to, obtain a nomination form from your local council, get one person to nominate you (you can nominate yourself) and another to





second your nomination form and send it to your local council. These people must be over 18 years old and enrolled to vote in the area you wish to stand in. When you send in the nomination form you will need to pay a \$200 (incl GST) deposit.

The deposit may be refunded depending on how many votes you receive in the election and the particular type of election. The deposit is refunded if the number of votes you receive is greater than 25 percent of the lowest successful candidate for that particular election (for First Past the Post elections), or greater than 25 percent of the final quota as determined in the last iteration (for Single Transferable Vote elections).

When you submit your nomination forms you can also provide the electoral officer with a recent photograph of yourself and a 150 word profile statement. These will be published in a booklet and sent out with the voting paper documents. After that, all you need to do is convince people to vote for you. It's over to you to campaign in the community.

Nominations will open on Friday 23 July 2004 and close at noon on Friday 20 August 2004. Nomination forms will be available from your local council's electoral office. Your council will also be able to provide you with detailed candidate information booklets from June 2004 when they are available.

### **Will a criminal conviction affect my being an elected member?**

A criminal conviction will not usually affect your nomination. The only exception to this is that people currently serving a prison term of three years or more cannot stand.

If you are elected and then subsequently convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for two years or more, you automatically lose office. However, if you are planning to stand for a district health board position, there are additional restrictions (see clause 17, schedule 2, New Zealand Public Health & Disability Act 2000).

