



# Stand for the Auckland you lovee

What you need to know

**TO STAND FOR COUNCIL**

BECOME A CANDIDATE

Local Elections  
**2019**

**Auckland  
Council**

Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



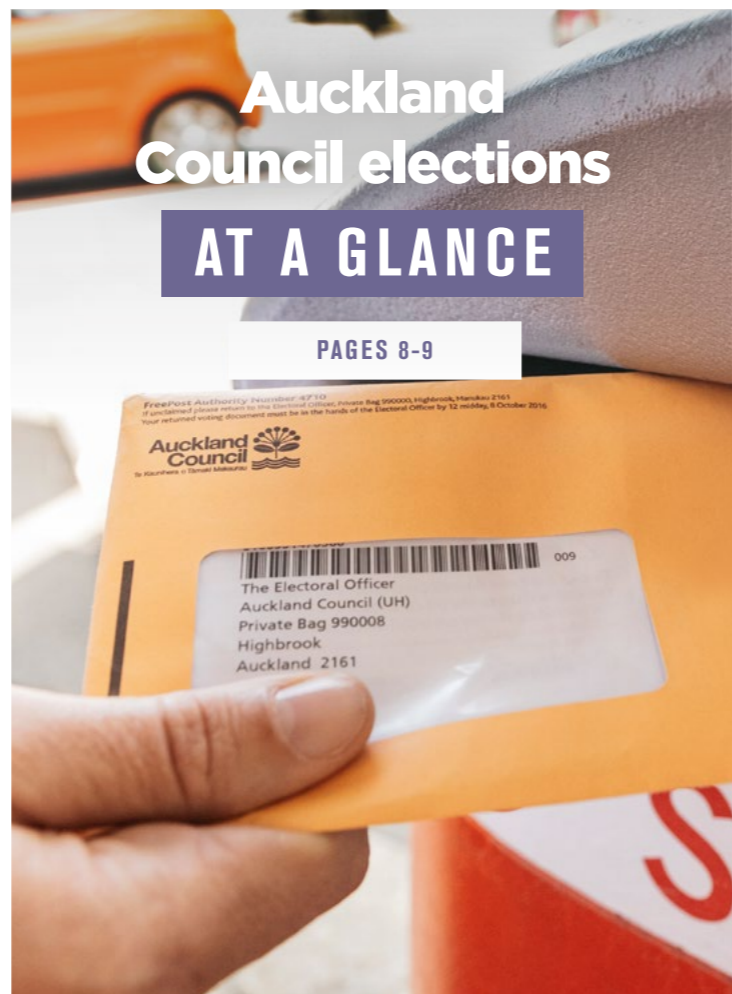


**LEAD THE CITY YOU LOVE**



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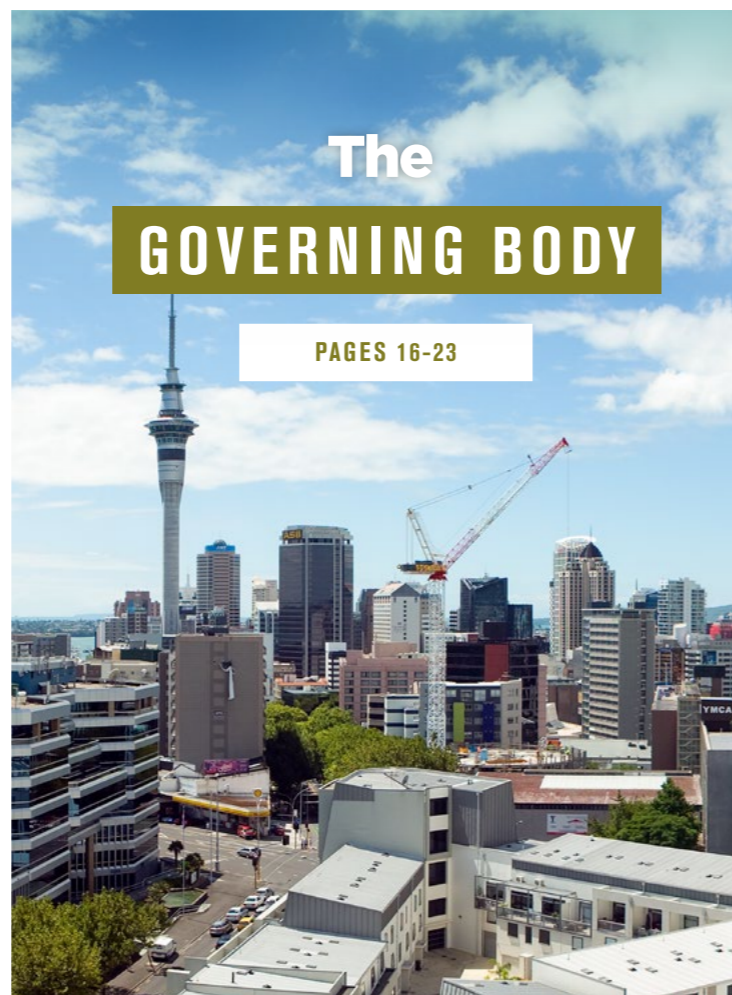
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# Overview of

# OUR AUCKLAND

## Political decision-making at Auckland Council is shared between the governing body and the local boards.

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### Quick facts at a glance

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Auckland Council has two decision-making parts: the governing body and the local boards.

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### Governing body (see page 16 for more detail)

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The governing body is made up of the mayor and 20 councillors. There are 13 wards in Auckland. Councillors are elected by voters in each ward. The governing body focuses on the big-picture issues that affect the whole Auckland region. The mayor is elected by all Auckland voters.

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### Local boards (see page 24 for more detail)

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Auckland's 21 local boards represent their individual areas. Each local board has between five and nine members, elected by voters from the area they represent. Local boards have a key advocacy role in regional decisions and policies. They make decisions on local issues, such as playgrounds and sporting facilities, and help build strong communities.

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### Mayor

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Workload: full time (a significant professional and personal commitment, involving a substantial amount of work after hours and on weekends)  
Salary: \$279,562

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### Deputy mayor

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Workload: full time (40 hours or more a week)  
Salary: \$157,518

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### Councillor

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Workload: full time (40 hours or more a week)  
Salary: \$109,750

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### Local board chair

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Workload: full time (40 hours or more a week)  
Salary: \$55,123 - \$98,477

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### Local board member

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Workload: part time (12-24 hours a week)  
Salary: \$24,103 - \$44,852

Note: the remuneration figures above are for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. Payments for elected members are set by the Remuneration Authority, an independent body, and vary according to roles and areas. The figures above will change after the elections when a new remuneration system will be introduced by the Remuneration Authority.

# Auckland Council elections

## AT A GLANCE

FreePost Authority Number 4710  
If unclaimed please return to the Electoral Officer, Private Bag 990000, Highbrook, Manukau 2161  
Your returned voting document must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer by 12 midday, 8 October 2016



The Electoral Officer  
Auckland Council (UH)  
Private Bag 990008  
Highbrook  
Auckland 2161

### Important dates

19 July 2019: nominations open for candidates  
16 August 2019: nominations close at midday  
20 September 2019: postal voting starts  
12 October 2019: voting closes at midday

### Frequently asked questions

#### Who can stand for Auckland Council?

New Zealand citizens aged over 18 and enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll can stand.

#### Do I have what it takes?

The responsibilities for elected members vary according to the role but, at all levels, holding public office requires a serious commitment. If you're thinking of standing for office, it's worth taking the time now to think about how you might balance the requirements of the role with your responsibilities outside of public life.

Standing for public office is a career choice. With all jobs, it's important to ensure the skills a candidate brings to the role are a good match to what's required. An effective elected member will bring a broad range of skills to the role and have a keen understanding of the impact of their decision-making responsibilities (see page 10 for more details).

#### How do I stand?

You need to complete a nomination form and get two people to nominate you. These people must be over 18 and enrolled to vote in the area you wish to stand in. You also need to provide a deposit of \$200. This may be refunded, depending on how many votes you receive.

#### I want to stand, what should I do next?

First, go to [voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz) and make sure you have all the information you need. Attend a meeting of your local board or the governing body to see what is involved – go to [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/meetings](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/meetings) for schedules and agendas. You can watch some of the meetings of the governing body online at [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/councillive](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/councillive).

It is good to start talking early to people in your community to find out what is important to them. There are a number of ways you may choose to stand for office:

- as an independent, candidates will be standing in their own name, without the support of a political party or group
- part of a 'ticket'
- with the backing of a political party.

Candidates who stand with the backing of a political party or as part of a 'ticket' will campaign collectively, with common views on key issues and policies. Campaigning this way means costs can be shared. And if standing for council isn't for you but you still want to make a difference, start a conversation with your community to put forward people you think would make great candidates.

#### How do I get people to vote for me?

One of the main reasons eligible voters give for not voting is a lack of knowledge about the candidates and their views. A successful campaign ensures local residents know the position you, as a candidate, hold on key issues within the community. Campaigning doesn't have to cost a lot of money. Social media channels like Facebook and Twitter can be run at little or no cost and give you the chance to communicate who you are and what you stand for. Getting out into the community by door knocking, addressing public meetings and talking to the public in shopping malls or weekend markets is a good way to connect with voters. Interview opportunities on the radio or in the local newspaper or magazine are another way for you to share your views.

Paid advertising – in newspapers or on billboards – is another option. There are regulations around campaigning, including what can be spent and how and when signage can be displayed. The Local Electoral Act 2001, which is available online at [legislation.govt.nz](http://legislation.govt.nz), includes full details on what is and isn't allowed. Auckland Council's candidate booklet outlines the relevant legal requirements for candidates.



## Being an

# ELECTED MEMBER

Being an Auckland Council elected member – whether as part of the governing body or a local board – is an opportunity for you to govern the largest city in the country and be part of the largest council in Australasia.

There are no special qualifications required to stand for council. Elected members come from all backgrounds and walks of life, bringing different skills and experience to the role.

Auckland Council's elected members are civic leaders. They make decisions that help shape the development of the Auckland region and help build strong local communities.

In addition to representing the interests of Aucklanders and complying with a code of conduct, a successful elected member may also have the following skills and qualities.

### Decision-making and strategic thinking

Elected members draw on a range of sources when making decisions – community views, experience and advice from staff. They are able to balance conflicting opinions while putting aside personal bias. They understand what Auckland needs and the connections between local, regional, national and global perspectives. They consider the financial costs and the potential long-term effects of issues and opportunities.

### Communication and engagement

Elected members need to be able to relate to and empathise with a wide range of people from many different cultures and disciplines, including community members and council employees. Auckland Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi, as well as its broader statutory obligations to Māori, so some knowledge of tikanga Māori will be helpful when considering these obligations.

Formal consultation and informal community engagement are important parts of Auckland Council's decision-making. Elected members need to be able to listen to people and understand their points of view, then feed these views into council decision-making.

# Being an ELECTED MEMBER

**“It’s a real sense of achievement when you can make things happen for your community. I feel we have made a real difference.”**

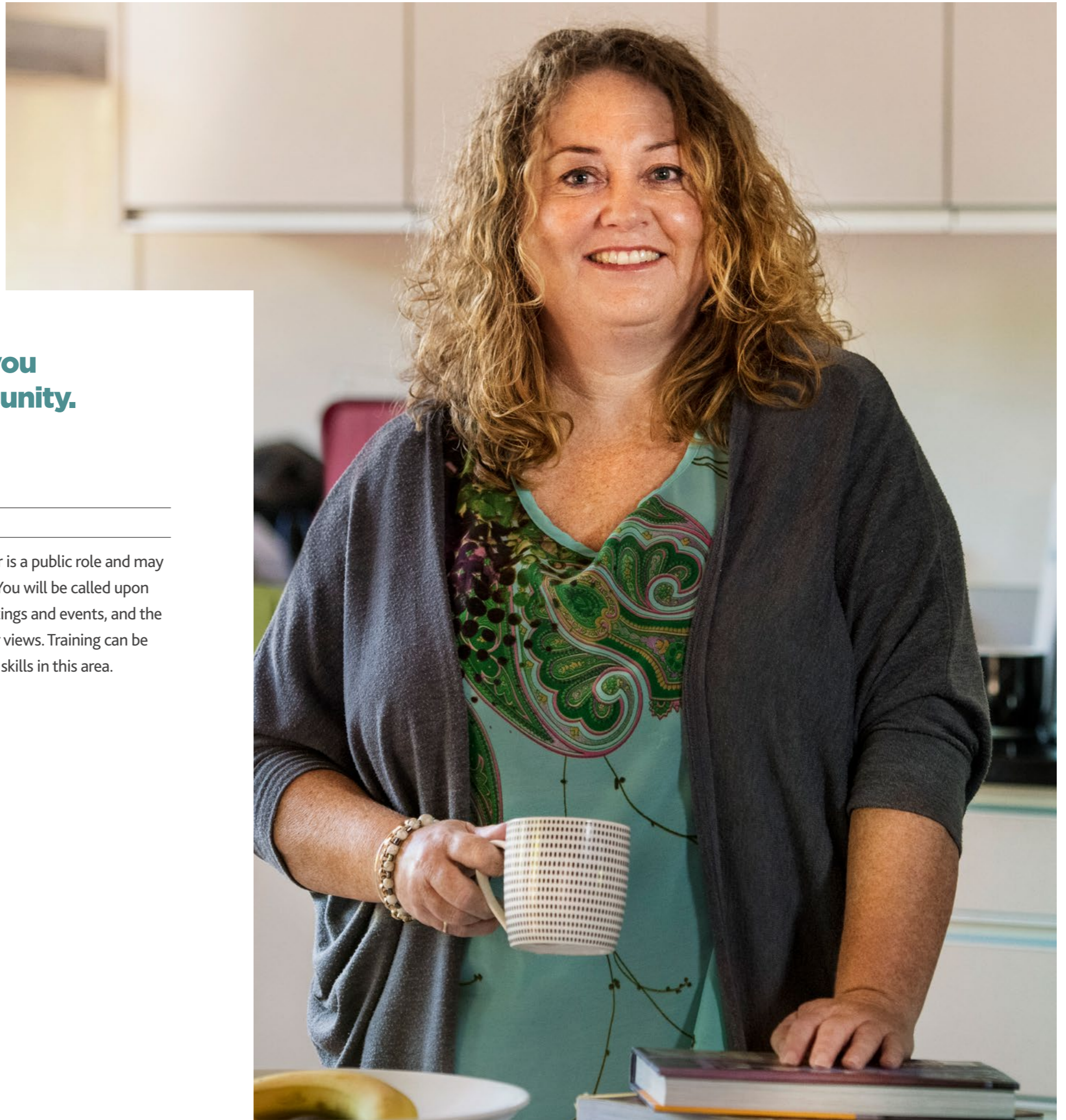
*- Auckland Council local board member*

## Relationship building and collaboration

Delivering outstanding service to Aucklanders is very much a team effort. Elected members must be able to build and maintain productive relationships and networks, and be willing to listen to ideas as well as share them. It is also necessary to balance conflicting opinions of different individuals, communities and organisations. Elected members need to be fair and open-minded, to help deal with any criticism and questioning from the public.

## Public profile

Being an elected member is a public role and may put you in the spotlight. You will be called upon to speak publicly at meetings and events, and the media may seek out your views. Training can be provided to help develop skills in this area.



# The MAYOR




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## The mayor

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The mayor leads Auckland Council and chairs the governing body (see page 16).

Auckland's mayor is responsible for:

- promoting a vision for Auckland
- providing leadership to achieve the vision
- leading the development of council plans, policies and budgets
- ensuring effective engagement between Auckland Council and the people of Auckland.

The mayor is also responsible for appointing the deputy mayor, establishing committees of the governing body and appointing the chairperson of each of these committees.

The mayoral office supports the mayor by providing planning, policy and consultation support, and dealing with day-to-day communication, correspondence, management of the mayor's diary and media relations.

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# The GOVERNING BODY



**The most culturally diverse region in New Zealand, with more than 170 different ethnic groups.**

## About the governing body

The governing body, which comprises 20 councillors and the mayor, makes decisions affecting Auckland as a whole.

It focuses on the big picture and on Auckland-wide strategic decisions.

Its responsibilities include:

- controlling the council's regulatory activities, such as the Auckland Unitary Plan, consenting and bylaws
- allocating non-regulatory decision-making powers to local boards or the governing body
- adopting policies and plans that shape Auckland and determine what council spends, such as the Auckland Plan, Long-term Plan, Annual Plan and Unitary Plan
- hearing submissions from the public on regional plans and policies
- engaging with mana whenua (Māori with Auckland tribal affiliations) and mataawaka (Māori who live in Auckland and are not within a mana whenua group)
- negotiating agreements with local boards
- considering the views of local boards before making a decision that affects the communities in the local board area or the responsibilities of the local board
- complying with the financial requirements of the Local Government Act (including the Annual Plan, the Long-term Plan and financial policies)
- appointing the chief executive of Auckland Council
- emergency management
- monitoring and reviewing the performance of council
- governance of council-controlled organisations, including appointing directors, setting direction and monitoring performance.

Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with Auckland's local government structure and the role of councillors, and should be aware of important community issues in the ward in which they are standing for election.

Attending a meeting of the governing body and one or more of its committees would be a good idea. These meetings are also webcast live on [councillive.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](https://councillive.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

To find out more, go to [voteauckland.co.nz](https://voteauckland.co.nz).



## Governing body structure and roles

Auckland has 13 wards:

- Albany
- Albert-Eden-Roskill
- Franklin
- Howick
- Manukau
- Manurewa-Papakura
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
- North Shore
- Orākei
- Rodney
- Waitākere
- Waitemātā and Gulf
- Whau.

Note: ward names correct at the time of going to press but subject to change following the outcome of the current representation review.

Candidates stand for election in a ward, and each ward elects one or two councillors, depending on population size. Although councillors are elected in a ward and need to understand the communities and issues in their wards, their primary responsibility is to take an Auckland-wide view and make decisions affecting Auckland as a whole.

Councillors will remain in touch with their ward by attending local events and meetings, including local board meetings. They may be lobbied to vote on regional issues in the interests of the ward and must balance the obligation to represent the ward with their responsibility to act in the best interests of the whole region.



# The

# GOVERNING BODY

Love  
Auckland



## Support

Each councillor has a council support advisor assigned to help with calendar management, constituent enquiries and other council business. In addition, councillors have access to support and specialist advice from employees throughout the council organisation.

## Technology

Each councillor has their own office and is provided with equipment that is linked to the council network. Training is provided.

Elected members' technology requirements are regularly reviewed and the technology updated.

## Training

Comprehensive training is provided at induction and you will need to set aside time for this so that you understand your governance role.

This will require your attendance at a full day session on 24 October 2019. Ongoing professional development opportunities are provided throughout the term. You can also attend seminars with national and international leaders and experts in local government.

## How much time is involved?

Being a councillor is considered a full-time job. The full governing body has regular monthly meetings, plus other meetings as required. Councillors may also be members of committees and forums, which usually meet monthly.

In the current council term, a councillor who is a member of half of the committees of the governing body would have a monthly governing body meeting schedule of:

- one meeting of the governing body
- four meetings of committees of the whole
- eight meetings of other committees or forums.

# The

# GOVERNING BODY

There are times when a greater-than-normal commitment is required, such as hearings for plans and bylaws, where you will need to spend full days to hear submissions.

Councillors are sometimes also expected to attend hearings conducted by local boards in their ward areas.

In addition, councillors will have to attend meetings and workshops with local boards, council employees and external parties as required for individual projects. They will devote time to reading plans, reports and agendas, and other preparation.

Councillors also engage with the public, including attending events and public meetings, and liaising with residents and community groups.

Councillors work alongside the chairperson and members of local boards in their ward to address issues raised by their constituents.

The role involves a mix of day time and evening work, as well as weekend commitments.



# Local board MEMBERS

**“It’s exciting and challenging. We are involved in pretty much everything – parks, events, facilities, and policy and planning issues.”**

*- Auckland Council local board member*

## About local boards

Auckland’s 21 local boards have a significant and wide-ranging role. Local boards make decisions on local matters, provide local leadership and contribute to building strong local communities. Local boards are fully accountable for the decisions they make at local level.

Local boards:

- help make local government accessible to Aucklanders
- make governance decisions on local activities, issues and services
- develop and adopt local board plans every three years, to reflect the aspirations and priorities of local communities
- prioritise expenditure in local board budgets and monitor delivery of projects and spending against budget
- work with mana whenua (Māori with tribal affiliations in the local board’s area) and mataawaka (Māori who live in Auckland and are not within a mana whenua group)

- develop annual local board agreements, which are agreements with the governing body on local funding and service levels for each financial year
- engage with their communities and express views and preferences on region-wide strategies, plans and bylaws to the governing body on their behalf
- develop relationships with key stakeholders including community organisations, sports and recreation organisations and special interest groups
- propose local bylaws and local targeted rates
- work with council-controlled organisations on services they provide in the local board area.

No special knowledge is needed to be a local board member. However, candidates should be aware of the communities and issues in their local board area and are encouraged to attend at least one local board meeting to become familiar with how boards work before considering standing for office.

To find out how to stand for your local board in the 2019 elections, visit [votauckland.co.nz](http://votauckland.co.nz).

# Local board MEMBERS




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## Local board structure and roles

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### Chairperson

Each local board elects one of its members to be chairperson.

The role of local board chair requires a lot of extra work. It is typically a full-time position involving civic leadership, and is the most high-profile role in the local board.

The chairperson oversees the local board's activities and takes on additional tasks, such as fronting media enquiries and representing the local board at a regional level.

The chairperson is also responsible for leading and maintaining conduct at local board meetings.

### Other roles

Each local board also elects a deputy chairperson. The chair and deputy chairperson make up the leadership team for the local board, with the deputy chairperson acting as chair in the absence of, or as agreed with, the chairperson.

Other local board members may also take on responsibility for leading a particular project and representing the local board at community meetings and events.

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## Support

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Local boards have access to a local office and are supported by a dedicated local board services team that generally includes:

- a PA/liaison, who is the first point of contact for the local board and community
- a democracy advisor, who prepares agendas and minutes of meetings
- a local board engagement advisor, who works across two or three local boards to support local board community engagement
- local board advisors, who help the local board get policy and technical advice

- a relationship manager, who leads the team and provides strategic advice to ensure local boards operate effectively in their governance role.

Local boards also have access to support and specialist advice from council employees on specific matters, and access to a dedicated communications team.

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# Local board MEMBERS

## 4000 local parks and reserves, coastal areas, playgrounds, beaches and 224 sports fields maintained.

### Technology

A great deal of information provided to local board members is via electronic means, and increasingly this is how the community will contact you. Elected members' technology requirements are regularly reviewed and the technology updated.

Local board members are provided with equipment that is linked to the council network, and training is provided.

### Training

Comprehensive training is provided at induction and you will need to set aside time for this so that you understand your governance role. This will require your attendance at a full day session on 24 October 2019.

Ongoing professional development opportunities are provided throughout the term. You can also attend seminars with national and international leaders and experts in local government.

### How much time is involved?

Hours can vary greatly depending on the level of commitment to the job. A local board chair can work 40 hours per week, while a local board member may work 12 to 24 hours per week. The role involves a mix of day time and night time commitments. Annual business such as plan development and hearings mean the job may be busier at certain times of the year.

The workload of a local board member typically includes:

- monthly or twice-monthly business meetings with all members. (A local board member cannot miss more than four business meetings in succession without accepted apologies)
- weekly local board workshop meetings with all members (usually held during the day)
- two to six workshops per month, usually during the day, where members from several local boards discuss common issues
- meetings with council employees or external parties as required for work on individual projects or issues
- public hearings and related deliberation, held yearly as part of the Annual Plan process and as required for other consultation
- approximately five to 15 hours of preparation per week, including reading emails, plans, reports and agendas
- engaging with the public, including attending events and public meetings, and liaising with residents and community groups
- monthly professional development sessions.



[VOTEAUCKLAND.CO.NZ](http://VOTEAUCKLAND.CO.NZ)





Auckland Council:  
**[voteauckland.co.nz](http://voteauckland.co.nz)**

Local Government New Zealand:  
**[lgnz.co.nz](http://lgnz.co.nz)**

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**Stand for the Auckland you love; what you need to know to stand for council.**