

## Frequently Asked Questions Relating to the 2025 Local Government Elections

### General information for voters

**Q1. When is the next Local Government election?**

**A** Election Day is **Saturday 11 October 2025**. The elections are by **postal vote** and voting closes at midday on that day.  
Voting papers will be delivered from Tuesday 9 to Monday 22 September. The voting period starts from 9 September.

**Q2. What electoral system will be used?**

**A** The **First Past the Post (FPP)** electoral system will be used for the Ashburton District Council, Braided Rivers Community Trust, and Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) elections.  
Under FPP, electors vote by indicating their preferred candidate(s) with a tick. Voters must not tick more than the number of places to be filled. The candidate that receives the most votes is declared the winner, regardless of the proportion of votes that the candidate obtained.

**Q3. What are the Election Issues?**

**A** Elections will be held by postal vote in October for the following issues:

**Ashburton District Council (ADC)**

- (a) Election of the Mayor *(4 candidates)*
- (b) Election of Councillors as follows:
  - Ashburton Ward 5 councillors *(9 candidates)*
  - Western Ward 2 councillors *(3 candidates)*
  - Eastern Ward 2 councillors *(2 candidates)* **Election not required**
- (c) Election of 5 Methven Community Board Members *(5 candidates)*  
**Election not required**

**Braided Rivers Community Trust (BRCT)**

Election of 6 trustees, elected at large to represent the Trust.  
*(9 candidates)*

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### Canterbury Regional Council (ECan)

Election of 2 councillors to represent the Mid Canterbury / Ōpakihi Constituency. ([4 candidates](#))

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| <b>Q4. Why is there no longer an election for the Eastern Ward or the Methven Community Board?</b> | <b>A</b> | <p>For both the Eastern Ward and the Methven Community Board, the number of candidates standing was equal to the number of vacancies and those candidates have been elected unopposed.</p> <p>For the Eastern Ward, <i>Phillip Everest</i> and <i>Richard Wilson</i> are declared elected, and for the Methven Community Board, <i>Faye Barrand</i>, <i>Megan Fitzgerald</i>, <i>Robin Jenkinson</i>, <i>Richie Owen</i> and <i>Simon Wareing</i> are declared elected.</p>   |
| <hr/>  |          |   |
| <b>Q5. Who are the candidates in this election and how can I get in touch with them?</b>           | <b>A</b> | <p>Council's web site has a full list of the <a href="#">candidates nominated</a> and their contact details.</p>  |
| <hr/>  |          |   |
| <b>Q6. How will I find more information about the candidates?</b>                                  | <b>A</b> | <p>Council has invited candidates to make a short video about themselves to help voters learn more<br/>– You can <a href="#">view the videos here</a></p> <p>Council is also hosting two meet-the-candidate meetings –</p> <p><b>Wednesday 20 August</b> – 7pm<br/>Mt Hutt Memorial Hall, Main St, Methven</p> <p><b>Wednesday 27 August</b> – 7pm<br/><a href="#">Ashburton College Auditorium, Walnut Ave, Ashburton</a></p> <p>A candidate information booklet will be included with voting documents, including a photo and short profile statement. This is optional for candidates; however most are included in the booklet.</p> |
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<b>Q7. How will candidates' names appear on the voting paper?</b>	<b>A</b>	Ashburton District Council, Braided Rivers Community Trust and Environment Canterbury have decided to use <b>fully random order</b> for listing their candidates in 2025. Each candidate's name is printed randomly on each voting paper, i.e. every voting paper will have the candidates listed in a different random order.
<b>Q8. Where can I see my ward boundary to know what issues I am able to vote for?</b>	<b>A</b>	<p>On Council's web site, click on the <a href="#">Ashburton District ward boundary maps</a> for the Ashburton District Council, Methven Community Board and Braided Rivers Community Trust elections. Using the online maps you can zoom in and out on the boundaries.</p> <p>Alternatively, to check which ward you are in, simply enter your property address. The ward, and (if applicable) community board and community trust areas in which your property is located will be displayed.</p>
<b>Q9. Where can I check to see if I'm enrolled to vote in the election?</b>	<b>A</b>	<p>The Final Electoral Roll for the Ashburton District is available for public inspection at the following locations from Tuesday 9 September 2025 until election day on Saturday 11 October 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Te Whare Whakare / Ashburton District Council (Customer Services and Library) – 2 Baring Sq East, Ashburton</li><li>• Café Mayfield, 1992 Arundel Rakaia Gorge Rd, Mayfield</li><li>• Methven i-Hub, 160 Main Street, Methven</li><li>• Rakaia Mobil – 50 Bridge Street, Rakaia</li></ul>
<b>Q10. What if my name doesn't appear on the Electoral Roll?</b>	<b>A</b>	<p>You will need to contact the Electoral Commission and update your details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Online at <a href="http://www.vote.nz">www.vote.nz</a></li><li>• By texting your name and address to <b>3676</b> to get a form sent to you</li></ul>

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- By calling **0800 36 76 56** to ask for a form to be sent to you
- By email request to [enquiries@elections.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@elections.govt.nz)

To have received voting papers in the mail for this election, your details would have had to be correct on the Roll by Friday 1 August.

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**Q11. What happens if I missed the deadline of 1 August 2025 to have my Roll details updated?**

**A**

You can update your details with the Electoral Commission at any time, but for this election changes made after 1 August will mean your name won't appear on the Final Electoral Roll. If you are enrolled by Friday 10 October you could make a **Special Vote**.

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**Q12. Who can make a Special Vote?**

**A**

Special voting documents are available to electors:

- whose names do not appear on the final electoral roll, but who qualify as electors
- who did not receive a voting paper previously posted to them
- who spoil or damage a voting paper previously posted to them.

Special voting documents will be available from the Deputy Electoral Officer during office hours from Tuesday 9 September to 12 noon on Saturday 11 October 2025, at Ashburton District Council, Te Whare Whakatare, 2 Baring Square East, Ashburton.

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**Q13. How are Special Votes completed**

**A**

Voting papers will be issued to qualifying electors for the issues they are eligible to vote in. These electors will also be required to complete a Statutory Declaration. This is a legal requirement and a protection for electors against possible duplicate voting.

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## General information for voters

Electors will be provided with envelopes to return their completed voting papers, along with the Declaration, to the Electoral Officer.

After voting closes, special vote declarations are forwarded to the Registrar of Electors for verification that the elector is eligible and has enrolled as a parliamentary elector.

Special voting documents should not be collected by candidates or their assistants for distribution to electors.

If time allows, special voting documents can be mailed out to electors but they must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer by noon on election day – Saturday 11 October.

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**Q14. *I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?***

**A**

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

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**Q15. *Do candidates need to be on the Māori electoral roll or of Māori descent if standing for election in a Māori Ward or Constituency?***

**A**

No. To be eligible they must be a New Zealand citizen and their name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

A number of local authorities established Māori wards or constituencies for at least the 2022 and 2025 elections. Ashburton District Council has not resolved to introduce a Māori Ward for the 2025 triennial election.

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**Q16. *When will voting papers be delivered to electors?***

**A**

Electors who are on the Final Electoral Roll for this election will start receiving their voting papers from Tuesday 9 September and voting can start immediately. All voting papers should be delivered by 22 September.

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## General information for voters

### **Q17. How do I return my completed voting paper?**

- A** **Post** completed voting paper into any NZ Post or DX Mail postbox **by Tuesday 7 October 2025**
- or
- **Drop** your completed voting paper into any of the **orange ballot bins** at the following locations:
    - **Te Whare Whakaterere / Ashburton District Council**  
(Customer Services and Library) 2 Baring Sq East, Ashburton
    - **EA Networks Centre**  
20 River Terrace, Ashburton
    - **FreshChoice Tinwald**  
124 McMurdo Street, Ashburton
    - **Methven Four Square**  
33/37 McMillan Street, Methven
    - **Rakaia Mobil**  
50 Bridge Street, Rakaia

### **Q18. What qualifications and experience is needed to be a candidate?**

- A** Candidates must be a New Zealand citizen and be a parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand.
- They don't need any formal qualifications. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a desire to serve their community.
- Other requirements:*
- Nominated by two electors in the area they are standing for.
  - Candidates or their spouse/partner must not have concerns or interests in contracts over \$25,000 with the Council.
  - If an employee of the Council they must resign before taking up the position as an elected member.

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**Q19. Do candidates need to be resident in the city, district or region they are standing for?**

**A**

No. Candidates don't need to reside in the district, ward or community board area that they are standing for, but they must be on the Parliamentary electoral roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and provide proof that they are a New Zealand citizen.

**Q20. What does 'at large', 'ward' and 'constituency' mean?**

**A**

Candidates who are standing 'at large', are standing for the whole council area rather than from its wards. **Ashburton District Council has three wards**, so candidates putting themselves forward for councillor are standing for one of those wards.

For candidates standing for a regional council, the term 'constituency' is used rather than 'ward'.

**Q21. What is the role of a councillor?**

**A**

Councillors in Ashburton will:

- Participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole district;
- Participate in setting a budget and rates;
- Develop policy across a wide range of activities and services;
- Review and develop bylaws for the district
- Advocate on a wide range of issues;
- Co-ordinate and form partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies;
- Represent the district at functions as required;
- Participate in the appointment and performance review of the Chief Executive Officer;
- Act on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework.

**Q22. How long is the term of an elected member?**

**A**

Three years.

## General information for voters

### **Q23. Do elected members get paid?**

**A** Pay and allowances are determined by the Government's Remuneration Authority. The pay rates for elected members vary according to population size and other factors.

Click on the links to see the [Local Government Members Determination 2025-26](#) which sets out the remuneration for all councils, effective from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, and the [Elected Members' Allowances & Expenses Policy](#).

### **Q24. When will election results be known?**

**A** **Voting closes at midday on Saturday 11 October.** Progress and preliminary results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on Saturday 11 October 2025.

The official results will be announced when the final count is complete and special votes have been checked which will be approximately 16 – 19 October 2025.

All results will be posted on Council's website.

### **Q25. How will I find out?**

#### **Candidates**

**A** Will be advised as soon as possible after progress and preliminary results are known. This may be by email or phone.

#### **The Voters**

**A** Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on Council's website as soon as possible after noon on Saturday 11 October 2025.

### **Q26. When do elected members take up their roles?**

**A** Elected members take up office the day after the official result has been declared by public notice. However, they cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of council. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known.



## General information for voters

**Q27. Who are elected members responsible to?**

**A** 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 councils follow the law.

**Q28. How many elected members are there?**

**A** Ashburton District Council has 10 elected members, including the Mayor.  
  
The Methven Community Board has 5 elected members. The Board elects its Chair and Deputy Chair at the first meeting.

**Q29. Who is running the election for Ashburton District Council?**

**A** **electionz.com**  
  
3/3 Pukaki Road, Yaldhurst, Christchurch 8042  
**P** +64 3 377 3530

**A** **Anthony Morton (Electoral Officer)**  
**P** +64 3 377 3530 **M** 021 326 021  
**E** [amorton@electionz.com](mailto:amorton@electionz.com) | **W** [www.electionz.com](http://www.electionz.com)

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