

Candidate Profile Statements

Every candidate for election to the Wellington Regional Council may choose to submit a candidate profile statement (CPS) with their nomination paper.

A CPS is an opportunity for you to let voters know more about you and the issues you support.

Sections 61 – 62 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and regulations 26 – 29 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 set out the requirements relating to CPSs. These requirements are summarised below.

Candidate profile statement conditions

Must submit CPS to Electoral Officer together with Nomination Paper and Deposit

Your CPS must be submitted to the Electoral Officer together with the Nomination Paper and Deposit.

Content of information in CPS

Your CPS must be confined to information:

- Concerning you (this includes any group or organisation to which you have claimed affiliation in the nomination paper or status as an “Independent” and your contact details)
- Concerning your policies and intentions if elected.

Number of words in CPS is limited

- If in English, must not exceed 150 words (see Appendix 2 of the Candidate Handbook for a description of how words will be counted)
- If in Māori, must not exceed 150 words
- If in Māori and English, must not exceed 150 words in each of the languages used in the candidate profile statement i.e. a total of 300 words. The information contained in both languages must be substantially consistent with each other
- If in any other language or combination of languages, must not exceed 150 words or their equivalent if symbols are used rather than words including any translation of those words. Please see the Candidate Handbook for translation image requirements.

Where your profile statement is in a language other than English or Māori, then you must provide a translation of the statement into English or Māori for verification of content. The translation will not be published with the candidate profile statement. Refer to the Candidate Handbook for information on the required format and the contact details of a translator.

Format of CPS

Candidate profiles will be printed with minimal formatting. Paragraphs will be permitted but there will be no line space between paragraphs. This is to ensure each candidate's profile statement is accorded approximately the same amount of space in the candidate booklet. There must be no: bolding; bullet points; line spaces between paragraphs; italics; underlining or pictures. Any bullet points used will be changed into lists, with each item separated by a semi-colon.

An electronic copy of your candidate profile statement in MS Word format is preferred.

CPS may include a recent photograph

A candidate profile statement may include a photograph of you alone which:

- Must be approximately 50mm by 40mm (passport size)
- Is recent (as a general guide, has been taken within 12 months of the date of your nomination)
- Can be supplied electronically as a JPEG scanned at 600 dpi.

Please note that photographs will be printed in colour in the profile booklet.

Duties, powers and responsibilities of electoral officers in respect of candidate profile statements

1. Where the Electoral Officer is not satisfied that your CPS complies with section 61(2) or (3) of the Local Electoral Act 2001, he or she must return the statement to you and specify:
 - The concerns and reasons for them
 - As long as the CPS was received before the close of nominations, the period within which an amended CPS may be resubmitted. This cannot be less than 3 days from the date the CPS is returned.
2. You will be treated as having failed to provide a CPS if you:
 - Fail to submit an amended CPS within the period specified by the Electoral Officer
 - Submit an amended CPS, which in the Electoral Officer's opinion, still fails to comply with section 61(2) or (3) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.
3. It is important to note that the Electoral Officer:
 - Is not required to verify or investigate any information in a CPS
 - May include in or with any CPS a disclaimer concerning the accuracy of the information in the statement
 - Is not liable in respect of any statement in or omitted from a CPS, or the work of a prudently selected translator, or the exercise of the powers and functions conferred on the Electoral Officer under section 61 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Distribution of candidate profile statements

Section 62 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and regulation 29 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 require the Electoral Officer to send with the voting documents, all CPSs that comply with section 61 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to electors.

After the close of nominations, a local authority may display CPSs in any manner it considers to be appropriate, e.g. at its offices and on its website.

Your CPS will be published on Greater Wellington Regional Council's website after the close of nominations.

Any failure by an electoral officer to comply with section 62 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 will not invalidate the election.

Section 13 of the Candidate Handbook provides detailed information on candidate profile statements.