

# Information for the Wairarapa General Constituency by-election

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## Introduction

This by-election covers an extraordinary vacancy for one Councillor representing the Wairarapa General Constituency of the Wellington Regional Council (known as “Greater Wellington”). The extraordinary vacancy has arisen from the recent death of Adrienne Staples.

A full candidate handbook was produced for Greater Wellington’s 2025 triennial local elections. A base description of the role of a Councillor, along with general information about candidate eligibility, campaigning requirements, election offences, etc., is listed in the handbook. A copy of the handbook is available on the Greater Wellington website at [www.gw.govt.nz/by-election-2026](http://www.gw.govt.nz/by-election-2026), with a hardcopy available on request by contacting [elections@gw.govt.nz](mailto:elections@gw.govt.nz) or 0800 496 734.

This information sheet lists details specific to this by-election.

## Electoral Officer details

The Electoral Officer for this by-election is Warwick Lampp. Warwick is based in Tauranga and works for election management company electionz.com Ltd. The Electoral Officer can be contacted by phone 0800 666 048 or email [iro@electionz.com](mailto:iro@electionz.com).

The Deputy Electoral Officer for this by-election is Anthony Morton. Anthony also works for electionz.com. The Deputy Electoral Officer can be contacted by phone 0800 666 048 or email [iro@electionz.com](mailto:iro@electionz.com).

**Nominations must be in the hands of the  
Electoral Officer before 12 noon, Thursday  
11 June 2026**

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## Meeting arrangements

Council meetings are usually held in the Taumata Kōrero - Council Chambers at our Wellington office at 100 Cuba Street on a Thursday, on a generally six-weekly basis. Council meetings typically start at 10.00 am and last approximately three hours, and are often followed by a workshop. In addition to the main Council meetings there are committee meetings, generally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, that Councillors are expected to attend. Meeting agendas are distributed electronically three working days before each meeting and all Councillors are expected to have read and made necessary enquiries to understand agenda items ahead of each meeting. Depending on the complexity of the agenda items, that can be a time-consuming task.

The current schedule of meetings is available at [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz).

## Remuneration

The current base salary for a Greater Wellington Councillor is \$74,164 per annum. Salaries are paid fortnightly.

## Candidate eligibility

Full eligibility criteria for this by-election is detailed on the reverse of the candidate nomination form. In summary, a candidate does not need to reside within the area of the Wairarapa General Constituency, but must be a New Zealand citizen and enrolled as a parliamentary elector somewhere in New Zealand and be nominated by two electors of the Wairarapa General Constituency.

## **Candidate withdrawals**

A candidate can withdraw their nomination by application to the Electoral Officer up to the close of nominations i.e. 12 noon, Thursday, 11 June 2026.

A candidate cannot strategically or politically withdraw their nomination once nominations have closed. A candidate may only withdraw after the close of nominations for medical reasons, i.e. incapacity.

A medical certificate confirming incapacity must be provided for a withdrawal notice

lodged after the close of nominations. An application can be made by a candidate or an agent on their behalf, and must be signed by a Solicitor or Justice of the Peace.

Any candidate (or agent) considering withdrawal should discuss this with the Electoral Officer as soon as possible.

## **Term of office**

The successful candidate at this by-election will hold office for the remainder of the Council's 2025-28 triennium, i.e. until the conclusion of the next triennial election in October 2028.

## Summarised by-election timetable

Thursday 14 May 2026	Public Notice of By-election (Greater Wellington website) NOMINATIONS OPEN PRELIMINARY ROLL OPEN FOR INSPECTION
Thursday 11 June 2026	NOMINATIONS CLOSE (NOON), PRELIMINARY ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSURES
ASAP after 11 June 2026	Public notice of confirmed candidate(s) and whether election required (Greater Wellington website).
<b>IF ELECTION REQUIRED</b>	
Monday 20 July 2026	DELIVERY OF VOTING DOCUMENTS COMMENCES Progressive roll scrutiny Early processing period starts Special voting period starts
Friday 21 August 2026	ELECTION DAY Voting closes 12 noon – counting then commences A progress result will be released as soon as practicable after the close of voting, anticipated to be approximately 2.00pm. A preliminary result will be released as soon as practicable thereafter.
Monday 24 August 2026 (estimated)	Official declaration of election result Public notice of official declaration of election result (Greater Wellington website)
By Monday 19 October 2026 (estimated)	Return of electoral expense and donation forms (55 days after official declaration of election result)

## Candidate profile statement and photo requirements

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) allows for a candidate profile statement (CPS) to be provided by each candidate with the nomination form. If an election is required these are then collated by the Electoral Officer and forwarded to electors in a sheet or booklet with the voting papers. Refer also to the notes listed in Appendix 1 of the candidate handbook.

A candidate profile statement is limited to 150 words and must be provided electronically via email as a MS Word document that has been spell checked.

Candidate profile statements are governed by Sections 61 and 62 of the LEA. Profiles must be provided at the same time as the nomination form and must be emailed to [elections@gw.govt.nz](mailto:elections@gw.govt.nz).

## Candidate photos

A candidate may also submit a photograph for inclusion with the candidate profile statement in the sheet to accompany the voting papers. The photo must be recent (taken within the last 12 months), be submitted in JPEG format and be provided at the same time as the candidate profile statement (and nomination form) by email to [elections@gw.govt.nz](mailto:elections@gw.govt.nz).

Note: The onus is on the candidate to ensure that all nomination documents, including the profile and photo are submitted to the Electoral Officer before 12 noon on Thursday 11 June 2026.

## Campaigning

Full details on the limitations associated with campaigning are listed in the handbook. All candidates should refer to the handbook to familiarise themselves with those restrictions. The following is a summary of the main criteria to be aware of:

1. Campaigning can commence anytime but must cease by the close of voting, i.e. 12 noon on Friday 21 August 2026.
2. No election material can contain any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and calculated to influence the vote of any elector, or include an imitation voting paper which has the names of the candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contains such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.
3. Candidates cannot use any Greater Wellington resources as part of their campaigning material, e.g. Greater Wellington logos or images created by Greater Wellington.

## Election advertising

Election advertising, using any media, must identify the person under whose authority they have been produced, as per sections 113-115 of the LEA.

This means that for posters, adverts, signs, billboards, flyers, vehicle signage, websites, Facebook pages, etc., each advertising item must include a statement saying that it is authorised by the candidate or their agent and include contact details (see options below). This authorisation statement must be included on every item of campaigning material.

## Contact detail options

The contact details component of the candidate or their agent in the authorisation statement can be met by providing one or more of the following:

- a residential or business address; or
- an email address; or
- a post office box number; or
- a phone number; or

a link to a page on an Internet site (if the page contains one or more of the above).

The requirement to list the authorising party remains. There must be a reasonable expectation that anyone wishing to discuss the advertising can do so with the candidate or their agent from the contact details listed in the authorisation statement.

Inclusion of local authority details is not permitted in the authorisation contact details.

### **Election hoardings**

Refer to the 'Election Signs' section of the candidate handbook for details about candidate election signage.

### **Campaigning expenditure limits**

At the end of the by-election period, all candidates are required to submit to the Electoral Officer a summary of donations received and expenditure made on campaigning. For this by-election the total election expenses incurred for a candidate must not exceed \$30,000 (inclusive of GST).

### **Lodgement of nomination forms**

Nominations open on Thursday 14 May 2026 and close at **12 noon on Thursday 11 June 2026**.

Each candidate must be nominated on the official nomination paper available during normal business hours from Greater Wellington's office at 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, or by

- Emailing a request to [elections@gw.govt.nz](mailto:elections@gw.govt.nz)
- Downloading from Greater Wellington's website at [www.gw.govt.nz/by-election-2026](http://www.gw.govt.nz/by-election-2026)
- Phoning the toll free number 0800 496 734 (during normal office hours).

**Completed nomination forms for this by-election must be lodged with the Electoral Officer before 12noon on Thursday 11 June 2026.** See the nomination form for delivery options.

Along with the nomination form, each candidate must also:

- Submit evidence of NZ citizenship
- Pay the \$200 (inclusive of GST) election deposit
- Submit the candidate profile statement of up to 150 words to be used for this by-election
- Submit the photo to be used for this by-election.

Nomination documents must either be emailed to [elections@gw.govt.nz](mailto:elections@gw.govt.nz), or delivered to the Electoral Officer, Greater Wellington, 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011.