

REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

1. TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS - 10 OCTOBER 1998

RR 8675

1. SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

I wish to report that at the elections held on 10 October 1998 the following candidates were declared elected:

MAYOR	MOORE, Garry (Christchurch 2021 – The Positive Choice)
COUNCILLORS	
Burwood Ward	EVANS, Carole (True Independent) SHERIFF, Gail (True Independent)
Fendalton Ward	STEWART, Barbara (Citizens) WRIGHT, Ron (Citizens)
Ferrymead Ward	BAKER, Erin (Independent for Christchurch 2021) MANNING, Charles (Labour for Christchurch 2021)
Hagley Ward	CRIGHTON, Anna (Labour for Christchurch 2021) O’ROURKE, Denis (Independent for Christchurch 2021)
Heathcote Ward	WELLS, Sue (Citizens) HOWELL, Ian (Citizens)
Papanui Ward	CONDON, Graham (Independent for Christchurch 2021) THOMPSON, Sally (Independent for Christchurch 2021)
Pegasus Ward	CLOSE, David (Labour for Christchurch 2021) JAMES, Alister (Labour for Christchurch 2021)
Riccarton Ward	AUSTIN, Paddy (Independent for Christchurch 2021) BUIST, David (Citizens)
Shirley Ward	FAHEY, Morgan (Independent City Wide – City Pride Party) BOOTH, Robin (Independent)
Spreydon Ward	ANDERTON, Carole (Alliance) CORBETT, Barry (Citizens)
Waimairi Ward	HARROW, Pat (Citizens) BUCK, Sally (Making Your Views Matter)
Wigram Ward	GANDA, Ishwar (Labour for Christchurch 2021) KEAST, Lesley (Labour for Christchurch 2021)

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COMMUNITY BOARDS**Burwood/Pegasus Community Board**

Burwood	DOBBIE, David (Labour for Christchurch 2021) ROWLANDS, Don (Labour for Christchurch 2021) BURT, Glenda (Independent)
Pegasus	KELLAWAY, Caroline Margaret (Labour for Christchurch 2021) WILLIAMS, Chrissie (Labour for Christchurch 2021) LEA, Andy (Labour for Christchurch 2021)

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board

Fendalton	NUTTALL, Keith (Citizens) CARTER, Val (Citizens) BRADLEY, Diana (Independent for Christchurch 2021)
Waimairi	BUCK, Sally (Making Your Views Matter) KU, Yiyi (Independent for Christchurch 2021) WALL, Mike (Citizens)

Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board

Hagley	McROSTIE, Liz (Labour for Christchurch 2021) TODD, Bob (Labour for Christchurch 2021) O'BRIEN, Aaron (Labour for Christchurch 2021)
Ferrymead	FREEMAN, John (Labour for Christchurch 2021) RUTLAND, Linda (Labour for Christchurch 2021) McCULLOUGH, Derek (Independent for Christchurch 2021)

Riccarton/Wigram Community Board

Riccarton	BROUGHTON, Helen (Citizens) WILKIE, Alison (Labour for Christchurch 2021) BENNETT, Neville (Independent for Christchurch 2021)
Wigram	MORA, Mike (Labour for Christchurch 2021) CORBETT, Mary (Independent) SHEARING, Bob (Citizens)

Shirley/Papanui Community Board

Shirley	CARROLL, Anne (Labour for Christchurch 2021) BOOTH, Robin (Independent) WRIGHT, Steve (Labour for Christchurch 2021)
Papanui	PALMER, Yvonne (Independent) BARRY, Myra (Independent for Christchurch 2021) HILLS, Dennis (Independent for Christchurch 2021)

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Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

- Spreydon** ANDERTON, Carole (Alliance)
 CLEARWATER, Phil (Alliance)
 MAUNSELL, Elizabeth (Alliance)
- Heathcote** ALPERS, Oscar (Participation and Progress)
 GILL, Sonia (Citizens)
 CARTER, Lynda (Alliance)

2. VACANCIES AND CANDIDATES

Attached as Appendix A is the official declaration showing the number of votes received by each candidate.

Elections were also held for two members to represent each of the four Christchurch constituencies of the Canterbury Regional Council:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Christchurch North | Christchurch South |
| Christchurch East | Christchurch West |

This year's Christchurch City elections were the second largest in New Zealand, as the following statistics show:

	Christchurch	Auckland
Number of electors on rolls	223,832	235,025
Number of voting papers returned	116,511	120,389
Percentage of electors who voted	52.05%	51.2%

3. ELECTORAL ROLLS

3.1 Residential Electors

The residential electoral rolls used for local authority elections are drawn from the Parliamentary rolls, utilising data supplied to each local authority by the Electoral Roll Centre in Wellington. The Electoral Roll Centre undertook a national campaign earlier this year to ensure that the rolls were as up to date as possible for the local body elections, sending individual letters to each elector to ensure that their details were correct, and encouraging the enrolment of other persons not previously enrolled.

While no roll is ever 100% perfect, this ensured that the final roll was as accurate as possible. This was reflected in the small percentage of voting papers returned "gone no address".

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As at 28 August 1998, the number of residential electors enrolled in each ward was:

Burwood Ward	-	19,669
Fendalton Ward	-	19,428
Ferrymead Ward	-	19,519
Hagley Ward	-	16,782
Heathcote Ward	-	19,644
Papanui Ward	-	19,599
Pegasus Ward	-	16,521
Riccarton Ward	-	19,194
Shirley Ward	-	17,872
Spreydon Ward	-	17,998
Waimairi Ward	-	18,671
Wigram Ward	-	18,754

		223,651
		=====

This represents an increase of 8,030 in the number of electors on the roll for the 1995 elections.

3.2 Ratepayer Electors

The franchise also extends to:

- persons owning property in the city, but residing elsewhere;
- corporate bodies (who are entitled to appoint a “nominal occupier”);
- persons living within the city who own other city property in other communities elsewhere to their place of residence (electors in this category being entitled to claim additional Community Board votes only).

Persons and organisations in this category are not automatically sent voting papers. Instead, they must make application for enrolment on the relevant ratepayer electoral roll. Only 181 persons were enrolled as ratepayer electors for this year's elections. Of these 148 electors (or 82%) voted.

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A different mailhouse was engaged to carry out the production of the voting packs for this year's Christchurch City Elections. A lot of work went into the design of the A3 voting paper employed and the accompanying voting guide, which was printed in five languages, including English.

The redesigned voting paper appears to have been well received, and attracted several favourable comments.

Because of increased competition in the marketplace, the price per voting pack was below that paid for the 1995 voting packs.

5. INFORMAL VOTES/UNEXERCISED VOTES

A vote for any particular issue is deemed to be informal if:

1. the voter's intention is not clear.
2. the issue has been left completely blank.

Historically, many electors have always chosen to limit their votes to those issues in which they are interested, or where they know the candidates.

A breakdown of the informal votes recorded for each issue is set out below with the comparative 1995 percentages shown in brackets:

Issue	No. of Informal Votes	Informals as a Percentage of Voting Papers Returned (1995 figures shown in brackets)	
Mayor	1,805	1.55%	(1.92%)
City Council	6,070	5.23%	(5.33%)
Community Boards	8,825	7.62%	(9.17%)
Regional Council	11,751	10.14%	(10.95%)

In all cases, votes have been allowed where the voter's intention is clear, notwithstanding that they have marked the voting paper in a different way to that prescribed.

6. PROCESSING OF VOTING PAPERS ON RECEIPT

I would like to sincerely thank the Council for allowing me to take advantage of the new legislation permitting the processing of voting papers on receipt as from and including the second Wednesday of the polling period. The resulting financial and logistical advantages proved to be enormous. Apart from the fact that I was able to announce the preliminary result for all issues just after 7.00 pm, there will also be a significant reduction in the total cost of the election.

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7. PRELIMINARY COUNT AND OFFICIAL COUNT

7.1 Preliminary Count

Because of the Council's decision to take advantage of the new legislation, election staff were able to commence the processing of the voting papers from the second Wednesday of the polling period, involving opening the envelopes, checking for informal votes and then assembling the voting papers in batches of 25 with an accompanying cover sheet, ready for counting following the close of the poll at 12 noon on election day.

My decision to revert to a manual count for this year's elections proved to be justified, with all counting being completed by late afternoon on polling day. I was thus able to release the preliminary results for all issues shortly after 7.00 pm.

7.2 Official Count

The official count started on Monday 12 October, and was finished on Friday 16 October, with the declaration of the results of the official count being made in the Christchurch Press on Wednesday 21 October 1998.

The official count involved:

- a recount of all the ordinary voting papers.
- an examination of the declarations accompanying the 998 returned special voting papers to ascertain whether or not the special votes in question could be allowed. Many of these declarations were required to be referred to the Co-ordinating Registrar of Parliamentary Electors to establish whether or not the special voter had made application to enrol on the Parliamentary Roll after the close of the roll on 28 August, but before polling day.

All the candidates who were successful in the preliminary count were declared elected as a result of the official count.

8. SPECIAL VOTERS

Special voting papers were issued to 1473 persons. Of these, 998 voting papers were completed and returned prior to the close of the poll with 640 voting papers being subsequently allowed and included in the official count.

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9. **VOTING STATISTICS**

	1989	1992	1995	1998
Voters	121,680	105,982	107,450	116,511
Electors on Rolls	200,915	208,533	215,621	223,832
Percentage Voted	60.6%	50.8%	49.8%	52.05%

The percentage of electors returning voting papers varied considerably between wards, with a low of 38% being recorded in the Hagley Ward, compared with a high of 58% in the Waimairi Ward.

10. **COSTS**

As charges are still coming to hand, it will be some time yet before the final cost of the elections is known. However, because of the substantial savings achieved through the processing of voting papers on receipt, the final cost is expected to be well below the original estimate of \$684,500. As in previous years, the cost will be offset by a contribution from the Canterbury Regional Council.

11. **COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION**

The two Justices of the Peace who were appointed to observe the processing on receipt of the returned voting papers have both signed certificates confirming that they were satisfied that the relevant sections of the new legislation were complied with in full.

12. **DISTRICT COURT RECOUNT:
HEATHCOTE WARD, SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY BOARD**

An unsuccessful candidate has lodged an application with the District Court for a recount of the votes cast for Community Board candidates in the Heathcote Ward. Should the application be granted, the recount will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of section 43 of the Local Elections and Polls Act 1976.

13. **THE FUTURE**

It is probable that the present ward boundaries will be revised prior to the next elections in 2001, either because of the mooted amalgamation with Banks Peninsula or as a result of the statutory review of the basis of election required to be carried out in the year 2000.

M K Robertson
RETURNING OFFICER

20 October 1998