

5. REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER - TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS 9 OCTOBER 2010

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Electoral Officer
Author:	Clare Sullivan, Electoral Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to report the outcome of the Triennial Elections for the Christchurch City Council of 9 October 2010.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

2. The following candidates were declared elected at the 2010 Christchurch City elections:

MAYOR PARKER, Bob (A Positive Future)

COUNCILLORS

Banks Peninsula Ward REID, Claudia (Independent - Working for Us)

Burwood/Pegasus Ward WILLIAMS, Chrissie (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)
LIVINGSTONE, Glenn (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)

Fendalton/Waimairi Ward GOUGH, Jamie (Independent Citizens)
BUCK, Sally (Experienced, Enthusiastic, Energetic Independent)

Hagley/Ferrymead Ward JOHANSON, Yani (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)
CARTER, Tim Maurice Philip (Independent)

Riccarton/Wigram Ward CHEN, Jimmy (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)
BROUGHTON, Helen (Independent Citizens)

Shirley/Papanui Ward KEOWN, Aaron (City Vision)
BUTTON, Ngaire (Independent Citizens)

Spreydon/Heathcote Ward WELLS, Sue (Independent)
CORBETT, Barry (Independent)

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Akaroa/Wairewa **(Akaroa Subdivision):**
HICKEY, Leigh } Elected
RICHARDSON, Pamela Joan (Independent) } unopposed

(Wairewa Subdivision):
MILLER, Stewart (Independent)
MORGAN, Bryan (Independent)

Burwood/Pegasus EAST, David (Independent)
SINTES, Tim (Independent)
BAKER, Tim (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)
GORMAN, Julie (The People's Choice: 2021)
STEWART, Linda (The People's Choice: Independent for 2021)

Fendalton/Waimairi CARTER, Val (Independent Citizens)
BURKE, Faimeh (Independent)
CARTWRIGHT, David (Independent Citizens)
COLLEY, Cheryl (Independent Citizens)
HALSTEAD, David

Hagley/Ferrymead	MCLEOD, Islay (The People's Choice: 2021) LOWE-JOHNSON, Brenda (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021) COX, David (Independent) TODD, Bob (The People's Choice) RYAN, Nathan
Lyttelton/Mount Herbert	SMITH, Paula (Independent) TURNER, Andrew (Independent) JOLLIFFE, Ann (Independent) AGAR, Jeremy TE PATU, Adrian
Riccarton/Wigram	MORA, Mike (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021) LALOLI, Peter (Independent Citizens) JOHNSON, Sam (Independent Citizens) KIRK, Judy (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021) GANDA, Ishwar (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)
Shirley/Papanui	CONDON, Kathy MENE, Chris COTTER, Pauline (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021) BUTTON, Anna (Independent Citizens) ENGLISH, Chris (Independent Citizens)
Spreydon/Heathcote	CLEARWATER, Phil (The People's Choice: 2021) SCANDRETT, Tim (The People's Choice: Independent for 2021) POTTER, Karolin (The People's Choice: 2021) THORLEY, Mike (Independent) MCMAHON, Paul (The People's Choice: Labour for 2021)

EXTRAORDINARY VACANCY – AKAROA/WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD

- As only two nominations were received for the three positions to be filled, Leigh Hickey and Pam Richardson were declared elected as Akaroa members of the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board, with effect from polling day.
- Nominations will be called shortly for the resulting extraordinary vacancy. If more than one nomination is received, an election will be held in February 2010.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

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 Enrolment Centre in Wellington. The Electoral Enrolment 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.

- As at 20 August 2010 (when the roll closed) the number of residential electors enrolled in each ward was:

Banks Peninsula Ward	-	7,003
Burwood/Pegasus Ward	-	42,586
Fendalton/Waimairi Ward	-	42,538
Hagley/Ferrymead Ward	-	39,104
Riccarton/Wigram Ward	-	42,143
Shirley/Papanui Ward	-	42,146
Spreydon/Heathcote Ward	-	40,079
		<u>255,599</u>

- This represents an increase of 4,426 in the number of electors on the residential electors' roll for the 2007 elections.

Ratepayer Electors

8. 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).
9. Persons and organisations in this category must make application for enrolment. If on the ratepayer roll then they are automatically sent voting documents. 1035 persons were enrolled as non-resident ratepayer electors for this year’s elections.

INFORMAL VOTES/BLANK VOTES

10. In some cases, votes cannot be counted because:
 - (a) The voter’s intention is unclear (classed as informal votes); or
 - (b) The voter has left the issue completely blank.
11. Separate records were kept of votes which fell into either of the two foregoing categories. These statistics disclose that there were few truly informal votes.
12. In all cases, votes were allowed where the voter’s intention was clear, notwithstanding that they had marked the voting document in a way which was different to that prescribed.

PROCESSING OF VOTING DOCUMENTS ON RECEIPT

13. I would like to thank the Council for allowing me to utilise the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 permitting the processing of the voting documents throughout the voting period. It provided considerable logistical advantages in terms of getting an early result out.
14. I also need to thank New Zealand Post Ltd for offering space at their distribution centre in Orchard Road for the processing centre following the earthquake and Electionz.com for all their work in setting up the processing centre in a very short period of time and in processing the votes in such a timely manner. I would also like to thank Datamail who had to shift the final stage of production from Christchurch to Wellington.

ROLL SCRUTINY, PRELIMINARY COUNT AND OFFICIAL COUNT

15. This year, I engaged the same independent election services provider (electionz.com) as the former Electoral Officer had used, to undertake the following processes:

Roll Scrutiny

- 15.1 This process involves marking electors’ names off the roll as the voting documents are returned, to ensure that no elector votes more than once (this could occur through, for instance, an elector exercising an ordinary vote and then also exercising a special vote). This part of the election process is carried out electronically, by “reading” the bar code shown on the returned voting document. This is done through the window of the return envelope, and the envelopes are not opened nor the voting documents extracted until after the roll scrutiny has been completed.

Preliminary and Official Counts

- 15.2. After the return envelopes had been put through the roll scrutiny process, they were then opened and the voting documents extracted. The votes cast were then recorded electronically.

15.3. A progress result (which included approximately 98 per cent of the votes) was released at 12.30pm on election day, with the final preliminary result being released at 7.53pm on election day. The declaration of the results of the official count was made on Thursday 14 October 2010.

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

SPECIAL VOTES

16. Special voting documents and accompanying special voting declarations were issued to 1,682 persons. This was an increase of 320 votes on 2007. Of these, 1,375 were completed and returned prior to the close of the voting period, with 1,194 being subsequently allowed and included in the official count. Special voting was available at 53 Hereford Street, the Shirley Service Centre and on Saturday 9 October at the Akaroa Service Centre.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY VOTING STATISTICS

	1989	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
Electors on Rolls	200,915	208,533	215,621	223,832	227,793	235,930	252,050	256,634
Voters	121,680	105,982	107,450	116,511	110,068	91,027	102,495	133,280
Percentage Voted	60.56%	50.82%	49.83%	52.05%	48.32%	38.6%	42.02%	52.58%

17. The percentage of electors returning voting documents again varied between wards, with a low of 48.64 per cent being recorded in the Hagley/Ferrymead Ward, compared with a high of 59.67 per cent in the Banks Peninsula Ward. The highest metropolitan ward was Fendalton/Waimairi with 54.32 per cent.

18. In early comparison with other metropolitan cities, Christchurch compares favourably. Dunedin's return was 52.49 per cent, Auckland's 50 per cent and Wellington 40 per cent.

19. Extensive national and local advertising was arranged through a variety of media, encouraging people to enrol and to vote for this year's elections.

20. A campaign encouraging citizens to participate and illustrating the importance of voting was put in place for this year's Christchurch elections, funded from the election budget. At this stage, as noted above, it appears that we have one of the highest turnouts for large metropolitan cities in New Zealand with 52.58 per cent (including special votes).

21. In addition to posters, newspaper articles, radio advertisements we also produced a pamphlet that was handed out to people in the major malls. Posters were also displayed at a number of medical centres and at doctor's surgeries at over 70 locations throughout the city

22. As Electoral Officer I took part in a number of interviews including local television, newspaper and radio which included an interview on Plains FM Samoan weekly programme Penina O Samoa. Information was also translated into several different languages. All the media releases were well picked up by local media.

COSTS

23. As many charges are not yet to hand, it will be some time yet before the final cost of the elections is known. Given the higher voter turnout there may be some increase in costs that are not yet known.

CONCLUSION

24. This year's elections will be closely scrutinised by a variety of agencies, including the Local Government Commission, the Department of Internal Affairs and Local Government New Zealand. It is probable that there will be some resulting changes in the relevant legislative provisions and administrative arrangements for future elections.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council receive this report.