



Media Release

Thursday 29 September 2016

Don't run out of time - vote now!

Selwyn District Council is encouraging local residents to vote soon in the local elections before voting closes at 12 noon on Saturday 8 October.

Voting packs have been sent to enrolled voters. As at Wednesday 28 September, voting papers from 21.5% of eligible voters had been returned, slightly above the 2013 figure of 20.5% at the same stage of voting.

By ward, Malvern and Ellesmere have had a significantly higher proportion of voting papers returned to date than Springs or Selwyn Central wards.

"The last day for people to post their voting papers is Wednesday 5 October – if papers are posted after this date they may not be received in time to be counted. From Thursday 6 October until the morning of Saturday 8 October you can still vote but will need to return your voting papers to a ballot box to ensure your papers are received by 12 noon on Saturday 8 October when voting closes," says Selwyn Electoral Officer Douglas Marshall.

Voting ballot boxes are located at Darfield, Lincoln and Leeston Library and Service Centres, and at the Council Headquarters in Rolleston. Voting papers can be returned at these facilities between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, and to libraries on Saturday from 9.30am up to 12 noon. Lincoln Library is also open late until 7pm on Thursday.

The Council's Rolleston Headquarters will also be open from 9am – 12 noon on Saturday 8 October for voters to drop their papers off (normal service centre functions won't be available).

In Selwyn, people will be voting for the roles of Mayor, local ward Councillors and if they live in the Malvern ward, Malvern Community Board members. Selwyn residents will also be voting for one Environment Canterbury Councillor to represent the mid Canterbury Area, and for seven Canterbury District Health Board members who are elected at large from across Canterbury. Voting papers include candidate profile information to help people decide who they want to vote for and instructions on how to vote.

"It's important to vote in the local elections as this allows you to have a say in how services you use every day are delivered – including roads, water, parks, libraries, swimming pools and health services provided by the Canterbury District Health Board," says Mr Marshall.

Anyone who is eligible to vote but has not received their voting papers can still enrol to vote but they will need to cast a special vote. To vote you will need to visit the Council's Rolleston Headquarters or Darfield, Leeston or Lincoln Library and Service Centre before 12 noon on Saturday 8 October.

Selwyn District Council is part of Local Government New Zealand's Vote2016 campaign, which aims to lift voter turnout in local elections to more than 50 per cent for the first time since the 1980s.

The latest voting return statistics for Selwyn can be viewed online at
www.electionz.com/2016lgereturns/2016_returns

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