



Media Release

Friday 16 September 2016

Voting opens in 2016 local council elections

Selwyn voters will be able to cast their votes in the 2016 local council elections from today (Friday 16 September).

Voting papers are being mailed to registered voters from Friday 16 September. Most Selwyn residents will receive their papers next week, with all papers expected to be delivered by Friday 23 September. People who have not received their papers by then should contact the Council (phone 347 2800 or 318 8338) so that special voting papers can be sent out. Special voting papers can also be collected from the Council's Rolleston Headquarters or from Darfield, Leeston or Lincoln Library and Service Centres during opening hours.

Voting papers must be received by the council before midday on Election Day, Saturday 8 October 2016.

The voting papers will use the First Past the Post (FPP) voting system for local Council elections. For the FPP system voters are required to put a tick alongside the candidate(s) they wish to vote for.

In your voting pack, you will also receive your District Health Board papers which will use the STV voting system to elect its members. For these elections voters rank the candidates they want to vote for in order of preference (ie 1, 2, 3, 4, etc). Voting papers contain clear instructions on how to vote.

"People should read their papers carefully before casting their vote to ensure they are using the right voting method," says Douglas Marshall, Selwyn Electoral Officer.

While 35,126 eligible Selwyn voters have enrolled to vote and will be receiving their voting papers, many eligible voters are not enrolled.

"Although electoral rolls have now closed, people can still enrol to vote. However, they will need to request special voting papers," Mr Marshall says.

"Voting closes at midday on Saturday 8 October. I would encourage anyone who has not yet registered to do so and cast a special vote. It's their opportunity to have a say on how Selwyn is run over the next three years."

Enrolment forms and information are available from www.selwyn.govt.nz/elections.

In 2013 Selwyn recorded a 43 percent turnout at local elections – slightly above the national figure of 41 percent. Local Government New Zealand's Vote 2016 campaign

aims to lift nationwide voter turnout in local elections to more than 50 per cent – a first since the 1980s. The national Vote2016 campaign focuses on the value local government provides to communities across the country, with a strong focus on inspiring more New Zealanders to vote.

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