

Local Elections 2016

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY**



Selwyn District Council

**Candidate Information Meeting
30 June 2016**

Local Government (definition):
*enabling democratic local decision-making
and action by, and on behalf of communities*

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Key dates - 2016

- Nominations open: 15 July
- Nominations close: noon on 12 August
- Voting documents posted: 16 September
- Election day: 8 October (voting closes at noon)
- Preliminary results: 8 October (late afternoon)
- Declaration of results: 13 to 19 October
- Return election expense forms: mid-December



Nomination process

You will need to:

- Be a NZ citizen over the age of 18 and be enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll
- Complete a nomination form
- Get two people to nominate you:
 - These people must be over 18 years old and enrolled to vote in the area you wish to stand in
- Send your nomination form to your Council with a \$200 (incl GST) deposit
- You may include a 150 word profile and policy statement and a recent photograph of yourself

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Standing for election

- You can stand for:
 - Your local council (mayor, councillor, community board member)
 - Your regional council
 - Your local district health board (DHB)*
 - Election for both a local council and a local or community board
 - If you are elected to both you must vacate your position on the community board

*Provisions will vary for DHBs, for more information go to www.moh.govt.nz or contact your local DHB.

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Standing for election

- You can stand for:
 - A district health board and a regional council or a territorial authority (including a community board).
 - Mayor and for council (if elected as mayor the position of councillor is filled by the next highest polling candidate)

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Standing for election

- You cannot stand for:
 - You cannot stand for election in more than one ward or constituency
 - You cannot stand for election on more than one subdivision of a local or community board area
 - Both a regional council and a territorial council, or a regional council and a community board position, at the same election and in the same region

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What Council does

- Manages Council's infrastructure assets such as its roading, water, stormwater and wastewater networks
- Manages Council's commercial and property portfolio
- Manages district planning and regulatory matters
- Provides services to the community, including recreational activities
- Undertakes corporate functions, such as financial reporting, rates processing and records management

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What about Selwyn?

- How is the Council structured?
 - Council
 - Malvern Community Board
 - Community/Township Advisory committees
 - Ratepayer Associations
 - Hall/Community Centre committees
 - Reserve committees
 - Rural water supply committees

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What about Selwyn?

- Council:
 - 11 members – elected from wards
 - Represent the District as a whole
 - Strategic role but also needs to advocate for ratepayers
 - Makes policy and strategy decisions
- The Mayor - elected from the District – is a political leader
- Council employs one individual only, being the Chief Executive on a five-year contract
- The Chief Executive is responsible for the employment of all other staff

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What about Selwyn?

- Malvern Community Board
 - Individuals can stand in one of two subdivisions (Tawera or Hawkins)
 - The Board is a legal entity separate to Council
 - Focus on representation and consultation
 - Delegations provided by Council

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What about Selwyn?

- Structure of Council (and Board) meetings
 - Meetings are held fortnightly (Council) or monthly Board
 - Operate under standing orders
 - Meetings must be notified and open to the public although there are exceptions
 - Follow pre-circulated agenda
- Council operates a number of subcommittees
- Operates some workshops and portfolio meetings for technical background information

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Skills, Capabilities & Qualities

- You don't need any special qualifications. However, the following will be helpful if you are elected:
 - Quality decision-making
 - Strategic thinking
 - Political acumen
 - Leadership
 - Cultural awareness
 - Knowledge and understanding of local government
 - Communication and engagement
 - Relationship building and collaboration
 - Integrity and trust

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Life as an elected member

- What to expect:
 - A Councillor's main role is to determine policy
 - Community advocacy
 - A requirement to attend meetings in your community on behalf of the Council or Board
 - Weekly time commitment
 - ✓ Councillor
 - ✓ Community Board member

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Roles of elected members

- Being a member of the governing body:
 - Making decisions
 - Employing the Chief Executive
- Being a representative of the community:
 - Investigate and identify issues of concern to your community
 - Represent the interests of your local ward/ constituency, or the district as a whole
- You must enjoy reading



What about Selwyn?

- The Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members are paid a salary
- Base remuneration after the election:
 - ✓ Mayor \$116,331
 - ✓ Councillor \$ 34,986
 - ✓ Deputy Mayor \$ 40,115
- District Plan Review is \$100 per day
- Malvern Community Board base remuneration after the election:
 - ✓ Chairperson \$16,830
 - ✓ Board member \$8,415

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Life as an elected member

- Council supplies a computer and cellphone to each Councillor
- Internet connection tailored to need
- Council has an approved policy on reimbursement which includes mileage and expenses
- Mileage for Council-related business (74c/km) as a taxable allowance

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Settling into the role

- Councils run in-house induction courses
- Regional workshops for newly elected members will be run by LGNZ in November 2016
- A variety of Professional Development Programme workshops will be held throughout 2017/18

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The rewards...

- Providing service to the Community
- A chance to learn new skills
- An ability to use your expertise for the good of the community