Candidate Workshop
5.30pm Tuesday 9 July 2013
Introductions

Presenters
- Judy Campbell, Chief Executive
- Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer
- Nona Aston, Councillor
- Jim Green, Chief Executive Tairawhiti District Health
- David Scott, Chair Tairawhiti District Health Board
Workshop programme

• Council structure & organisation overview
• Role of local government
• The electoral process
• What if you are elected?
• Taiawhiti District Health presentation
Elections overview

• General electoral information
• Legislative changes
• Key election dates
• Elections required
• Electoral systems
• Electoral rolls
• Candidate qualifications
Elections overview (cont’d)

- Nomination process
- Campaigning
- Candidate expenditure
- Scrutineers
- Results
- Resources
General electoral information

- Gisborne District has approximately 31,500 electors
- Elections held by postal vote
- Election day Saturday 12 October 2013
- Two electoral systems used – FPP and STV
- Order of candidate names alphabetical
- Elections required to be conducted independently of council
Key legislative changes

• Local Electoral Act 2001 changes
• operative 29 June 2013
• limits size of anonymous donations (up to $1,500)
• new definitions of anonymous, donations, contribution, contributor
• increased disclosure, reporting and recording obligations
• all nomination material to be lodged together
Key legislative changes (cont’d)

• candidate’s principal place of residence statement
• required to state all positions standing for
• unable to withdraw nomination after close of nominations unless incapacitated
• provides for adjournment of election
• additional week between close of nominations and start of voting period
Key legislative changes (cont’d)

• candidate profiles available after close of nominations
• all elected members take office at same time
• candidate election expenditure and donations return on council’s website and made available (including copies provided)
Key election dates

19 July  Nominations open
16 August  Nominations close
20-23 September  Voting documents posted
12 October  Election day, preliminary results after noon
17 October  Declaration of results
21 October  Public notice of declaration
22 October  Elected members come into office
Elections required

- Gisborne District Council
  - mayor elected at large
- 13 councillors elected from 5 wards
  - Gisborne [9]
  - Matakaoa-Waiapu [1]
  - Taruheru-Patutahi [1]
  - Tawhiti-Uawa [1]
  - Waipaoa [1]
- Tairawhiti District Health Board
  - 7 members elected at large
Map of Gisborne District
Electoral systems

• Two electoral systems used
• First past the post (FPP)
  – vote by ticking candidate names
  – candidates with highest number votes wins
  – used for Gisborne District Council
• Single Transferable Voting (STV)
  – form of preferential voting
  – vote by ranking candidate names in order of preference (eg 1, 2, 3)
  – used for Tairawhiti District Health
Electoral roll

- Two electoral rolls available
- Resident electoral roll (approx. 31,500 electors)
  - New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
  - aged 18 or over
  - resided continuously in New Zealand for one year or more
  - resided at an address for one month or more
- Ratepayer electoral roll (approx. 30 electors)
  - for non-resident electors
  - updated every three years
  - by application, not automatic
Candidate qualifications

- **Candidates for council**
  - a New Zealand citizen
  - over the age of 18
  - enrolled on any parliamentary electoral roll
- **Can stand for multiple positions**
  - mayor, council and dhb
  - if elected to mayor and council take mayoral position
- **Elected members (or spouses) with contracts with council over $25,000 if elected require prior approval from the Office of the Auditor-General**
Candidate qualifications (cont’d)

• Any council employee elected as mayor or councillor must resign as employee before taking up position
• Candidates for Tairawhiti District Health
  - as for Council
  - not disqualified under clause 17, schedule 2, NZPHDA
  - can stand for only one DHB anywhere in NZ
Nomination process

• Nominations open Friday 19 July 2013
• Nomination papers available from:
  - Gisborne District Council, 15 Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne
  - Te Puia Springs Service Centre, Te Puia
  - phoning 0800 922 822
  - www.gdc.govt.nz
• Cannot nominate yourself
• Need to be nominated by two electors from area (eg ward) standing
Nomination process (cont’d)

• Each nomination requires:
  - nomination paper
  - $200 (inc GST) deposit
  - 150 word candidate profile statement
  - recent passport-size photo

• Nomination deposit refunded
  - if poll > 25% lowest successful candidate (FPP)
  - If poll > 25% final quota (STV)

• Candidates able to have affiliation or can be independent
Nomination process (cont’d)

• Unacceptable affiliations
  - might cause offence
  - likely to confuse or mislead electors
  - is an election slogan

• Nominations close noon, Friday 16 August 2013

• Now also required to include:
  - statement on principal place of residence
  - statement on all positions standing for
Campaigning

• Campaigning can occur anytime
• Election signs permitted on private property and on 7 council-owned designated sites - 6 weeks before election day (31 August)
• Election signs must be removed by midnight 11 October
• Election signs must show details of authorising person
• Policy on election signs in candidate information handbook
Campaigning (cont’d)

- Candidates or their agents must not collect voting documents from electors
- Be mindful of election offences
- Local Government Online website
  - [www.vote.co.nz](http://www.vote.co.nz)
  - Provides voters with information on candidates and a central portal for election results across the country
  - Gives candidates the opportunity to engage with the community and promote issues
Candidate expenditure

- All positions have candidate election expenditure limits based on population size of area
  - Mayor: $30,000
  - Gisborne Ward: $20,000
  - All other wards: $3,500
  - Tairawhiti District Health: $30,000
Candidate expenditure (cont’d)

- Candidates to retain receipts for all election-related expenditure
- Applicable period three months before election day (12 July)
- Expenditure to be GST inclusive
- Electoral expenses and electoral donation form must be completed and returned by 13 December 2013
- Forms available for public inspection
- Care to ensure accurate (declaration)
Scrutineers

- Candidates may appoint scrutineers
- Can observe
  - roll scrutiny process (during voting period)
  - counting of votes (after close of voting)
- Must be aged over 18 years
- Scrutineer appointment before noon 11 October
- Vote processing centre based in Auckland
Results

• Voting closes noon, 12 October 2013
• Progress results 1-2pm (95% votes)
• All candidates emailed, media advised
• Preliminary results (100% votes counted) later in evening
• All results available on www.gdc.govt.nz
• Final results available 17 October
Resources

• Candidate Information Handbook
• LG NZ: Making a Stand Made Easy
• Electoral legislation (www.legislation.govt.nz)
• Attend a council meeting
• Read agendas and minutes (www.gdc.govt.nz)
• Talk to a council staff member
Contact us

- **Electoral officer**
  - Dale Ofososke
  - Level 10, 45 Queen Street, Auckland
  - phone: 0800 922 822
  - email: dale.ofososke@electionservices.co.nz

- **Electoral official**
  - Eileen Cronin
  - Gisborne District Council
  - 15 Fitzherbert Street, Gisborne
  - phone 06 867 2049
  - email: eileen.cronin@gdc.govt.nz