# 2019 Local Body Elections – Christchurch City Council

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# Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on the 2019 Triennial Local Government elections held on Saturday 12 October 2019.

This report contains statistical information from the Christchurch City elections, promotional and communication activity undertaken and a summary of information relating to the 2019 local government elections in New Zealand.

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## Legislation

Local authority elections are conducted under the following legislation:

- Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act)
- Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (the Regulations)
- Local Government Act 2002
- New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000
- Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968.

Local government elections are held by postal vote. Voting documents are posted to all electors on the final electoral roll.

## **Electoral Systems and Voting**

Two electoral systems were available for the 2019 local government elections, First Past the Post (FPP) and Single Transferable Voting (STV).

For 2019, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury used FPP for all elections. The Canterbury District Health Board used STV.

The Council resolved pursuant to regulation 31 of the Regulations that the names of candidates will appear on voting papers in random order. This requires that candidate names will appear in different orders on each separate voting paper.

## Candidates

There were 143 candidates for the 54 positions for the Christchurch City Council. This is an increase of 23 candidates from 2016.

An election was held for all positions, excluding for two members representing the Mt Herbert Community Subdivision of the Banks Peninsula Community Board.

Only one nomination was received for the two positions representing the Mt Herbert Community Subdivision. The candidate for the Mt Herbert Community Subdivision was declared elected by public notice on 21 August 2019. A by-election will be held on 18 February 2020 for to fill the vacant position representing the community subdivision.

The 2016 elections, held with the same Council representation, had 116 candidates for 54 positions. Eleven of these positions were filled without an election as the number of nominations received was not more than the available vacancies.

# Electoral Rolls

#### **Residential electors**

The Electoral Commission provides the residential electoral rolls used for the local authority elections from the parliamentary electoral rolls. The Electoral Commission undertook a national enrolment/re-enrolment campaign during the local body elections. Council staff worked in partnership with the Electoral Commission throughout the election period to support enrolment activity and in promotion of the Christchurch elections.

On 16 August 2019, the date the electoral roll closed, the number of electors in Christchurch city was 248,429. The number of electors enrolled by ward is detailed below:

Banks Peninsula	6,967
Burwood	17,937
Cashmere	15,804
Central	13,682
Coastal	15,447
Fendalton	16,799
Halswell	20,009
Harewood	15,764
Healthcote	18,392
Hornby	14,838
Innes	15,569
Linwood	15,843
Papanui	16,034
Riccarton	13,723
Spreydon	15,728
Waimairi	15,893
	248,429

This is an increase of 7,410 on the 241,019 electors on the final roll for the 2016 elections.

Residential electors not on the final electoral roll used for the elections were able to enrol with the Electoral Commission up until 5pm on Friday 11 October and cast a special vote.

#### Non-resident ratepayer electors

Along with the residential roll, electors who own a property in a different area to the area they reside are entitled to enrol on the non-resident ratepayer roll and eligible to vote in some elections.

The ratepayer elector qualification entitles a ratepayer, or a nominated representative for a ratepayer (person or organisation) to cast a vote in some elections within the local authority election. Enrolment as a ratepayer elector is by application, and must be updated prior to each triennial election.

As at 16 August 2019 there were 367 electors or nominees registered on the non-resident ratepayer roll.

Ratepayer electors not on the roll as at 16 August were able to enrol and request special voting documents up until the close of voting.

All persons enrolled on the ratepayer elector roll for the 2016 election were sent a letter advising of the requirement to re-enrol as a ratepayer elector, with information to be returned to do so. All Council ratepayers received an insert with information on the ratepayer electoral roll and how to get further information with rates notices sent out in the first quarter of 2019.

The Council took part in part of the SOLGM (New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers) ratepayer roll enrolment campaign for the 2019. This included national newspaper advertising, brochures and posters, a free phone enquiry service and provision of a ratepayer roll insert.

## Roll Scrutiny, processing of votes and results

An independent election service provider, electionz.com, was engaged to provide election services to the Electoral Officer and the Council. This included the role of Deputy Electoral Officer, service provision and vote processing and counting.

#### Roll scrutiny and processing of voting documents during voting period

Section 80 of the Act allows for an Electoral Officer to decide to undertake the processing of votes before the close of voting. Early processing involves the opening and extracting of voting documents, roll scrutiny by checking for informal or duplicate votes, and the electronic capture of valid votes.

No tallying of voting was undertaken until after the close of voting. Vote processing is undertaken with strict security measures. Justices of the Peace observed all early processing and verified that all functions were undertaken correctly in full compliance of the Act and Regulations.

#### Results

Progress results for the elections were published at approximately 3pm on Saturday 12 October. These results included all votes processed up until the close of voting, but not votes being transported to the processing centre or special votes. <u>2019 Progress results</u>

An attempt was made to make contact with all candidates prior to the release of the results. Progress results [insert link]

Preliminary results for the elections were published at approximately 7am on Sunday 13 October. These included all votes received and counted, but not all special votes. Preliminary results <u>2019 Preliminary results</u>

The official results were released on Thursday 17 October and official declaration published on Saturday 19 October. Official results 2019 Official results

All candidates successful in the progress and preliminary counts were declared elected as a result of the final results.

# Voting

Local government elections are held by postal voting. Voting documents were posted to all electors on the final electoral roll from 20 September 2019.

Voting documents included the elections for Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and the Canterbury District Health Board.

#### Special voting

Special voting documents were available on request to any person not enrolled on the final electoral roll as at 16 August, who did not receive voting documents or was not able to use the voting documents they received. Electors are required to complete a statutory declaration when casting a special vote.

Special voting documents were available from the following eight locations, Monday to Friday, from Friday 20 September until Friday 11 October:

- Christchurch City Council Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street
- Akaroa Service Centre, 78 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa
- Beckenham Service Centre, 66 Colombo Street, Beckenham
- Fendalton Service Centre, 4 Jeffreys Road, Fendalton
- Linwood Service Centre, Eastgate Mall, first floor, Corner Buckleys Road and Linwood Avenue
- Lyttelton Service Centre, 18 Canterbury Street, Lyttelton
- Te Hāpua Halswell Service Centre, 342 Halswell Road, Halswell
- Shirley Service Centre, 36 Marshland Road, Shirley

On Saturday 12 October, special voting documents were available from the Christchurch City Council Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, from 9am until the close of voting at noon.

Special voting documents were also available by emailing or phoning the Electoral Office and posted out to electors on request.

For 2019 a process was put in place with the Operations Support Manager Christchurch Men's Prison, to enable remand prisoners at Christchurch Men's Prison and Christchurch Women's Prison to request special voting documents if they wished. Forty five special voting documents were issued to remand prisoners.

Special votes were issued to 2256 electors. Of the special votes completed and returned before the close of voting 82% were allowed and included in the official count.

In 2016, 795 special votes were issued, with 579 (73%) allowed and included in the official count. The 2019 figure is an increase of 1,461 special votes issued.

#### Unpublished electoral roll

The Electoral Commission advised in May 2019 that there were 2,249 persons registered on the unpublished roll in the Christchurch City Council area. Provisions in the Electoral Act 1993 and the Local Electoral Act 2001 mean that these electors do not receive ordinary voting documents, they

receive a letter from the Electoral Commission advising them of the requirement to cast a special vote and how to request special voting documents.

Of the 2,256 special voting documents issued, 635 were issued to electors who indicated they were on the unpublished roll.

In 2016, of the 795 special voting documents issued, there were 311 special voting documents issued to electors who indicated they were on the unpublished roll.

#### **Voting Returns**

The voter return for the elections was 41.13%, being 102,233 votes, excluding special votes.

Ward	Percentage	Returns	2016	% Increase
Banks Peninsula	52.69%	3,725	45.92%	6.77%
Burwood	40.89%	7,336	36.25%	4.64%
Cashmere	48.85%	7,720	45.15%	3.07%
Central	33.43%	4,579	30.30%	3.13%
Coastal	42.13%	6,509	39.33%	2.08%
Fendalton	47.57%	7,992	42.10%	5.47%
Halswell	44.58%	8,920	42.22%	2.36%
Harewood	44.23%	6,974	42.37%	1.86%
Healthcote	44.65%	8,213	42.81%	1.84%
Hornby	37.54%	5,572	36.15%	1.39%
Innes	36.33%	5,657	33.94%	2.39%
Linwood	33.23%	5,266	33.07%	0.16%
Papanui	39.50%	6,335	37.90%	1.60%
Riccarton	35.30%	4,846	32.49%	2.81%
Spreydon	37.63%	5,919	35.28%	2.08%
Waimairi	41.56%	6,605	39.09%	2.47%

The cumulative totals by ward are detailed below:

In 2016, the voter return was 38.34%, being 92,488 votes excluding special votes.

Voter returns statistics for 2019 elections are available at: <a href="https://www.electionz.com/LGE2019Returns/ELT60CH19\_Returns.htm">https://www.electionz.com/LGE2019Returns/ELT60CH19\_Returns.htm</a>

#### Informal and blank votes

In some instances votes cannot be counted. Informal votes are when the voter's intention is unclear. Blank votes are when the voter has left the issue completely blank.

Records are kept of informal and blank votes. Across the elections there were 589 informal votes and 10,561 blank votes.

In cases where the voter's intention was clear on a voting paper, even though the voting document may have been marked in a way which was different to instruction, the vote was allowed.

# New Zealand 2019 local government elections voter turnout

The average voter turnout across New Zealand for the 2019 local government election was 41.7%.

Below is information, compiled by LGNZ (Local Government New Zealand), on local government election voting statistics for the last four triennial elections. This information is available at: <u>https://www.lgnz.co.nz/vote2019/voters/final-voter-turnout-2019/</u>

	2010	2013	2016	2019	% Change
National voter turnout %	49.0%	41.3%	42.0%	41.7%	-0.3

Voter turnout %	2010	2013	2016	2019	% Change
Metro	45.0%	38.0%	39.3%	38.2%	-1.2
Provincial	50.0%	47.0%	45.7%	46.7%	1.0
Rural	54.0%	50.0%	49.8%	56.9%	7.1
Regional	47.0%	43.0%	44.0%	Not available	

Voter turnout % - Metro	2010	2013	2016	2019	% Change
Auckland*	51.0%	34.9%	38.5%	35.3%	-3.2
Christchurch City	52.2%	42.9%	38.3%	41.1%	2.8%
Dunedin City	53.0%	43.1%	45.2%	45.6%	0.4%
Hamilton City	37.8%	38.3%	33.6%	39.4%	5.8%
Hutt City Council	40.4%	36.6%	37.8%	42.1%	4.3%
Nelson City*	52.2%	52.2%	52.1%	51.9%	-0.2%
Palmerston North City	43.2%	38.7%	39.1%	37.4%	-1.7%
Porirua City	39.1%	36.6%	38.0%	41.0%	3.0%
Tauranga City	43.8%	37.8%	38.0%	40.3%	2.3%
Upper Hutt City	44.3%	40.8%	41.0%	43.2%	2.2%
Wellington City	40.0%	41.5%	45.6%	39.9%	-5.7%
Total	45.0%	38.0%	39.3%	38.2%	-1. %

\* Unitary councils

The national average voter turnout dropped from 42% in 2016 to 41.7% in 2019. This was an overall reduction of 0.3%. Turnout increased in rural and provincial areas, with the turnout percentage for in Auckland reducing by 3.2% and Wellington reducing by 5.7%. Christchurch by comparison increased by 2.8%.

A number of changing national trends have been identified with the significant increase in the number of special votes issued and in voting papers hand delivered to ballot boxes rather than posted.

# Promotion of Christchurch local elections Introduction

Planning for the promotion of the 2019 elections took into account amendments to legislation made in March 2019:

- Local Government Act 2002, a new section adding to the responsibilities of a chief executive: 42(2)(ad) facilitating and fostering representative and substantial elector participation in elections and pools held under the Local Electoral Act 2001;
- Local Electoral Act 2001, the additional of a new principle to implement the following: 4(1)(aa) fair and effective representation for individuals and communities:

The Council organisation was proactive in both the promotion of opportunities for potential candidates, electors to enrol and the promotion of voter turnout. This was complemented by activity undertaken by Council staff and supported by partner organisations.

To improve turnout and the number of candidates at the local elections, the Council put real voters front and centre in its campaign. The formal awareness campaign began in June 2019, with a mixture of outdoor, print, digital advertising and social media. Examples of the campaign creative visuals included with this report.

The campaign broadly targeted every eligible voter across Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, with a focus on youth aged 18 to 29, Māori, Pacific Islanders, and other ethnic minority groups, who research suggests were under represented in the 2016 elections. The aim of the campaign was to spark people into action using short messages delivered by real people, ones picked to represent and connect with the primary target audience. It also targeted people who haven't voted before, and who may not be enrolled. It provided a prompt people to enrol and vote.

The campaign aimed to:

- Prompt people to enrol and vote.
- Increase voter turnout of youth and ethnic groups, including Māori and Pacific communities.
- Achieve higher voter turnout than the 38.3 per cent achieved in 2016, with a target of 42 per cent or above. The final turnout figure was 41.3%.
- Attract candidates to stand. This was a success, with 143 nominations in 2019, compared with 116 in 2016. All 16 Council positions, and all but one of the community board positions (Mt Herbert), were contested.

Promotion was successful with an increase in the number of candidates and voter turnout recognised. Engagement undertaken and provision of information was received positively. Partnership relationships and new initiatives have created further opportunities to increase participation.

## Campaign

The campaign was rolled out in four phases:

#### 'Enrol' phase

During this phase which ran across June to mid-August, the focus was on encouraging people to enrol. The campaign featured across multiple channels including specific messaging at University of

Canterbury and Ara. The Council worked closely with the Electoral Commission to give them a presence in our libraries and at events.

Video content created for social media and advertising.

'Stand' phase

During this phase of the campaign there was a focus on encouraging people to stand as a candidate in the elections.

Two candidate information evenings were held on 25 June and 4 July and drew 50 attendees. This was an increase of over 20 attendees from 2016.

Detailed information for candidates was promoted on the website in the form of LGNZ video modules that provided information for candidates thinking of standing.

A comprehensive candidate information booklet was available to candidates and interested parties online and from the electoral officer. The booklet was provided to community groups as a resource for election matters.

Video content created for social media and advertising.

'Get ready to vote' phase

During this phase the focus was on encouraging people to learn about their candidates in their local area. This included promotion of the Celect App and information available on the website.

'Vote' phase

During this phase the focus was on encouraging people to vote. The Council supported social media promotions developed nationally.

#### Promotion activity

The Council worked closely with the Electoral Commission, who attended multiple events and activities to help people enrol and raise awareness about the upcoming elections. This included distribution of enrolment packs and information to libraries and service centres.

Along with usual Council activity supporting democracy and participation, there was an increased presence at events and meetings. The electoral officer, electoral staff and the Electoral Commission attended a number of community networking groups and meetings to talk about the elections, standing enrolling and voting. Information and promotional material was shared with groups to support their own engagement.

Events attended to encourage participation, enrolment and promotion of the elections included The Big Chill at Linwood Park, Canta Market Day at University of Canterbury and ESOL group sessions. Further detail is provided later in this report.

#### **Pre-election Report**

Traditionally a simple financial statement, the 2019 pre-election report was expanded to provide a useful and engaging snapshot of the issues currently facing Christchurch. It was available online, with printed copies available from libraries, service centres, the Electoral Office and on request.

#### Celect mobile app

The Council's free Celect mobile app was introduced in 2016, and refreshed for 2019. It allows people to browse candidates in the 2019 Christchurch local elections, identify the ward they live in, and find out when and how to vote, and to access results of the election. This year's version includes candidates for Environment Canterbury and Canterbury District Health Board.

Through Celect people are able to shortlist candidates to find and sort them easily when it comes time to vote. The app also has the ability to send notifications about important election and voting dates.

In 2019 there were 1,770 new downloads of the app.

Candidate profile statements and photos were made available on the app in early September.

Newsline coverage over the election period.

https://newsline.ccc.govt.nz/news-search/?q=elections

#### Partnerships

Council worked with the Electoral Commission, supporting enrolment and promotion of information about the local government elections. This work was undertaken on a national and local basis. In Christchurch specific election engagement was included with enrolment activity, with the Electoral Commission community teams attending regular Council activity in the community. The Electoral Commission provided the Council with ballot boxes which were used throughout Council facilities.

For the 2019 elections SOLGM and LGNZ worked together on a national campaign, Vote 2019 <u>https://www.lgnz.co.nz/vote2019/</u> working with councils, electoral officers and service providers on the promotion, activity and processes associated with the elections. The Council entered into a partnership agreement with LGNZ using information and videos, with particular focus on candidate information.

Council took part in the SOLGM national ratepayer enrolment campaign. This included the distribution of ratepayer enrolment flyers with all rates bills, a free phone enquiry service and a national advertising campaign including brochures, posters and newspaper advertising.

#### Information about the elections

The elections webpage <u>www.ccc.govt.nz/elections</u> was used as a key for information about the elections, for voters, the public and candidates. Contact details for the electoral officer and Council were well promoted on this site and through Council networks.

Information on the website and promoted externally was regularly updated to reflect election activity, the phases of the campaign and the electoral timetable.

Detailed information for candidates, including a candidate information booklet was published on the website. Candidates were regularly referred to this information. Candidate requests for information were published on the webpage on a regular basis.

Information sheets and flyers about the elections were shared with internal and external networks electronically and in hard copy. A specific flyer was developed for promotion of voting and special voting and locations. This flyer was provided to the Electoral Commission, distributed at events and widely throughout the election period.

Library and service centres were provided with promotional information updated throughout the campaign phases, posters, take away information and digital screens.

#### Accessibility

Access to information and services associated with the elections was promoted across the city.

Enrolment information sheets in ten languages were distributed to libraries and service centres and made available at meetings and events.

Rates mail outs in the first quarter of 2019 included 150,000 'What's a Community Board' and 'Non-resident ratepayer' flyers'.

Candidate profile information and photos, was made available on the website in html format and on the Celect app in early September, more than two weeks earlier than in previous years.

Special votes were issued from eight locations across the city and Banks Peninsula, an increase from four locations in 2016. Locations were advertised as being accessible.

Special voting documents were made available and issued on request to remand prisoners at Christchurch Men's Prison and Christchurch Women's Prison.

Ballot boxes were located in all libraries and Service Centres and this was widely promoted. Posters and supporting information was provided to increase the visibility of these within the facilities. On election day a ballot box was available outside Civic offices for part of the morning.

Information was provided to community groups, on the website, in flyers and information sheets promoting that people not able to complete a postal vote independently due to disability are invited to contact the Electoral Officer for assistance. Candidate profile booklets were provided in larger text on request. There were a number of queries received regarding these services, with several people requesting assistance and larger print candidate profile booklets provided on request to a number of community groups and seven electors.

#### Marketing and communications figures

April – June 2 x Newsline releases 2 x The Press advertisements 1 x placement in the Starter & Strategies Teachers Magazine Rec & Sport Centres and Libraries digital screens

July

2x Newsline releases
1 x Candidate Information Booklet
1 x Large format static billboard
10 x Bus side panels
2 x The Press advertisements
2 x The Star advertisements
2 x Akaroa Mail advertisements
1 x Canta Magazine advertisement
103 x 15 second radio spots
Google display advertising
1 x Instagram Influencer content
Rec & Sport Centres and Libraries digital screens

August

3 x Newsline releases 10 x Bus side panels 1 x Press ad 1 x The Star ad 1 x Canta Magazine advertisement University of Canterbury digital screen advertising Ara Institute digital screen advertising Google display advertising Rec & Sport Centres and Libraries digital screens Pre-election Report distribution

September and early October 6 x Newsline releases (including final results) 1 x large format billboard 10 x Bus side panels 2 x small format billboard 2 x Street posters per week for 4 weeks 3 x The Press advertisements 1 x The Star advertisements 1 x Akaroa Mail advertisements 1 x Canta Magazine advertisement University of Canterbury digital screen advertising Ara Institute digital screen advertising 236 x 15 second radio spots Newstalk ZB 'What's On' page takeover and social posts Google display advertising Rec & Sport Centres and Libraries digital screens Stuff Native App Link - to promote Celect 1 x Instagram Influencer content

# Social media figures (no cost)

Date	Post Type	Engagement	Reach
1/7/19	Newsline story	31 likes/comments/shares	7108 people
		50 link clicks	
2/7/19	Video	13 likes/comments/shares	5741 people
		1,000 video views	
18/7/19	Photo	17 likes/comments/shares	7964 people
26/7/19	Photo	38 likes/comments/shares	9539 people
1/8/19	Photo	26 likes/comments/shares	7991 people
2/8/19	Pre-election report	38 likes/comments/shares	8668 people
		84 link clicks	
7/8/19	Photo	21 likes/comments/shares	7898 people
12/8/19	Newsline story	11 likes/comments/shares	6224 people
		38 link clicks	
16/8/19	Newsline story	35 likes/comments/shares	6729 people
		186 link clicks	
Totals	9 posts	230 likes/comments/shares	67,862 people
		358 link clicks	
		1000 video views	

# Community events and meetings attended included:

Event	Month	Attendee
Pacific Leaders Breakfast	Мау	Electoral officer
Philippines Independence Day	June	Electoral Commission
Candidate Information	June and July	Electoral officer
Sessions		
The Big Chill – Linwood	July	Electoral Commission
CANTA market day -	July	Electoral Commission and
Canterbury University		Electoral officer
2 x ESOL groups at Te Hapua	July	Electoral officer
Greater Linwood Forum	August	Electoral officer
Rowley Community	August	Electoral officer
Networking Meeting		
Lyttelton Harbour Forum	August	Electoral officer
English conversational class	August	Electoral officer
Addington Wellbeing Group	August	Electoral officer
Disability Advisory Group	August	Electoral officer
Hagley College staff meeting	September	Electoral officer and Council
		staff
Christchurch Multicultural	September	Electoral officer and Council
Council meeting		staff
Ara – Next Step Centre for	September	Electoral Commission and
Woman/Te Poutama Wahine		Electoral officer
Wainoni/Avonside	September	Electoral staff
Community Services Trust		

#### Internal channels

Information was made available throughout a number of Council internal channels, to inform staff and current elected members and to encourage information to be shared externally.

Information and regular updates provided to the Customer Services Contact Centre and Library team. The Electoral officer and staff working on elections attended meetings and made presentations to internal groups and provided information on request.

Regular updates were included in Community Board newsletters and Chief Executive Updates.

Election protocols on were distributed to all elected members and staff. These guidelines took into account the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) publication Good practice for managing public communications by local authorities as they related to the pre-election period.

#### Promotional costs

The promotional budget for the 2019 elections ultimately came to \$92,249. Activity related to promotion of local elections was also undertaken by Council staff, with costs met from operational budgets.

The promotional budget allocated for the 2016 elections campaign was approximately \$90,181. This coincided with major changes to the Council wards, Community Board boundaries, the total number of elected members and names of wards and community boards. Much of this budget was focused on ensuring people were aware of those changes.

For the two previous elections, the overall promotional budgets are as below: 2013 - \$87,184 2010 - \$70,586

For 2019 promotional costs were as below:

Christchurch City Council 2019 Local Elections Campaign	Costs
Outdoor advertising (billboards, bus panels, posters)	\$20,364
Print advertising	\$12,447
Radio advertising	\$10,932
Online advertising	\$25,256
Equip candidate pack via LGNZ	\$2,500
Campaign development and photoshoot	\$6,530
Printing costs (approx.)	\$1000
Last push additional advertising	\$13,220
Total campaign cost	\$92,249

# For 2016 promotional costs were as below:

Christchurch City Council 2016 Local Elections Campaign	Costs
Staffed enrolment roadshows/activations	\$7,190
Out of home advertising	\$3,703
Print advertising	\$21,705
Radio advertising	\$12,054
Online and social media advertising	\$38,849
Campaign development: video production and photoshoot	\$6,680
Additional printing costs	Unknown
Total campaign cost	\$90,181

# Campaign Creative (visuals)









# Who's standing in your area?

Find out on Celect.

Free from your app store. ccc.govt.nz/elections



Christchurch City Council Colabera #12:30 ⊘ Need to decide who to vote for in next weekend's local elections? We hav an app to help you out! Download Celect from the app store. Browse and shortlist your favourite candidates before you post or deliver your vote. Apple devices: apple co/2lyWq6... See more



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Christchurch City Council 2019 elections



# Last days to get voting papers in

09 Oct 2019

People yet to vote in Christchurch's local body elections will need to drop off their voting papers by noon on Saturday if they want their vote counted.

Completed voting papers can be left in the ballot boxes at any of Christchurch City Council's service centres or libraries, or on the ground floor of the Civic Offices in Hereford Street.

"It's too late to post your voting papers back so if you want to ensure your vote is received before voting closes at noon on Saturday you will need to hand deliver it," says Christchurch City Council Electoral Officer Jo Daly.

"There are ballot boxes at all Council service centres and libraries as well as at the Civic Offices so there are plenty of places where you can drop your voting papers off.

On Saturday the Civic Offices will be open between 9am and noon so people can drop off votes or be issued with a special voting papers.

"I really urge people to vote because this is the one chance you get every three years to



Voters have until noon on Saturday to drop off their voting papers.