

DUNSTAN CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL – INFORMATION SHEET

To be read in conjunction with 2016 Otago Regional Council Candidate Information Handbook

Nominations must be in the hands of the Electoral Officer/Official before 12 noon, Monday 24 April 2017

INTRODUCTION

This by-election covers the extraordinary vacancy for one Dunstan Constituency member. The extraordinary vacancy has arisen from the recent death of Cr Maggie Lawton.

A full candidate information handbook was produced for the 2016 local body elections. A base description of the role of a member, the remuneration levels, meeting frequency etc are available from the handbook, along with general information about candidate eligibility, campaigning requirements, election offences etc. A copy of that handbook is available from council offices, on council websites (Central Otago District Council www.codc.govt.nz, Queenstown Lakes District Council www.qldc.govt.nz, Otago Regional Council www.orc.govt.nz and Dunedin City Council www.dunedin.govt.nz) or by request from the Electoral Officer.

ELECTORAL OFFICER DETAILS

The Electoral Officer for this election is **Pam Jordan**. Pam is based at the Dunedin City Council and can be contacted on **03 474 3428** or email pam.jordan@dcc.govt.nz. The Deputy Electoral Officer, **Sandy Graham**, is also at the Dunedin City Council and can be contacted at **03 474 3429** or email sandy.graham@dcc.govt.nz. The respective Electoral Officers for the Central Otago District Council (**Kara Leckie**, kara.leckie@codc.govt.nz, **03 440 0611**) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (**Jane Robertson**, jane.robertson@qldc.govt.nz, **03 4410499**) are also able to provide electoral information/nomination forms and receive nominations.

SUMMARISED BY-ELECTION TIMETABLE

Monday, 27 March 2017	Public notice of by-election NOMINATIONS OPEN PRELIMINARY ROLL OPEN FOR INSPECTION
Monday, 24 April 2017	NOMINATIONS CLOSE (NOON) PRELIMINARY ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSES (5PM)
As soon as possible after Monday, 24 April 2017	Public notice of day of by-election IF ELECTION REQUIRED
Monday, 29 May 2017	DELIVERY OF VOTING DOCUMENTS COMMENCES Progressive roll scrutiny Early processing period starts Special voting period starts
Monday, 19 June 2017	Last day to appoint scrutineers (noon)
Tuesday, 20 June 2017	ELECTION DAY Voting closes (noon) – counting commences Preliminary results available as soon as practicable
By Tuesday, 27 June 2017	Official declaration
By Tuesday, 27 June 2017	Public notice of declaration of results
By Monday, 21 August 2017	Return of electoral donations and expenses forms

CANDIDATE PROFILE STATEMENT AND PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

The Local Electoral Act allows for candidate profile statements to be provided by each candidate with the nomination paper. If an election is required these are then collated by the Electoral Officer and forwarded to electors in a sheet or booklet with the voting papers. Refer also to the notes in the Candidate Information Handbook.

Candidate profile statements are limited to 150 words and should be provided electronically via email as a MS Word document.

Candidate profile statements are governed by Sections 61 and 62 of the Act. Profiles must be provided in hard copy or electronically at the same time as the nomination document but should also be emailed to the Electoral Officer at elections@dcc.govt.nz.

Candidate photos

Candidates may also submit a photograph for inclusion with the candidate profile statement in the sheet to accompany the voting

papers. Photos must be recent (taken within the last six months), be submitted in JPEG format and be provided in electronic or hard copy format at the same time as the candidate profile statement (and nomination paper), but should also be emailed to the Electoral Officer with the profile statement.

Note: the onus is on the candidate to ensure that all nomination documents including the profile and photo, along with the election deposit of \$200, are submitted to the Electoral Officer by 12 noon on Monday, 24 April 2017.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

Full eligibility criteria for this by-election are detailed on the reverse of the nomination form. In summary, candidates do not need to reside within the Dunstan Constituency area but must be a New Zealand citizen and enrolled as a parliamentary elector somewhere in New Zealand and be nominated by two electors within the Dunstan Constituency.

CAMPAIGNING

Full details on the limitations associated with campaigning for this by-election are listed in the handbook. All candidates should refer to the handbook to familiarise themselves with those restrictions. The following is a summary of the main criteria to be aware of:

- 1 Campaigning can commence at any time but election signs must not be erected earlier than two months before polling day and must be removed by the close of the day before polling day (refer to CODC and QLDC policies).
- 2 No election material can contain any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate and calculated to influence the vote of any elector or include an imitation voting paper which has the names of the candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contains such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.

ELECTION ADVERTISING

Election advertising, using any media, must identify the person under whose authority they have been produced, as per Section 113 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

This means that for hoardings, posters and advertisements etc, each candidate must have a sentence at the bottom saying that it is authorised by the candidate (or their agent), ie "Authorised by Bill Citizen, 20 Main Street, Samptown". Please note that the address listed must be a physical address, ie it cannot be a PO Box or rural delivery number.

ELECTION HOARDINGS

Further details on the election signage requirements are listed on the respective council websites. Any candidate intending to use election hoardings as part of their campaign strategy is encouraged to contact the CODC and QLDC Planning Departments.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE LIMIT

At the end of the election period, all candidates are required to submit to the Electoral Officer a summary of donations received and expenditure made on campaigning for the by-election. For this by-election the total election expenses must not exceed \$30,000 (inclusive of GST).

LODGE MENT OF NOMINATION FORMS

Completed nomination forms for this by-election must be lodged with the Electoral Officer, Pam Jordan, at the Dunedin City Council office, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin before midday on Monday, 24 April 2017.

Along with the nomination form, each candidate must also:

- Pay the \$200 (inclusive of GST) election deposit
- Submit the candidate profile statement of up to 150 words to be used for this by-election
- Submit the photo to be used for this by-election.

Nomination forms may also lodged at the offices of the Central Otago District Council and Queenstown Lakes District Council.