

2025 Local Government Elections

Clutha District Council

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer

9 July 2025



Clutha
District Council



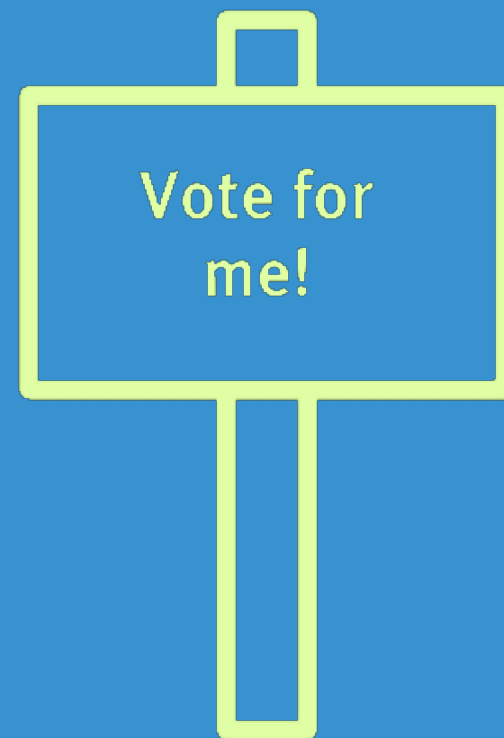
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Agenda

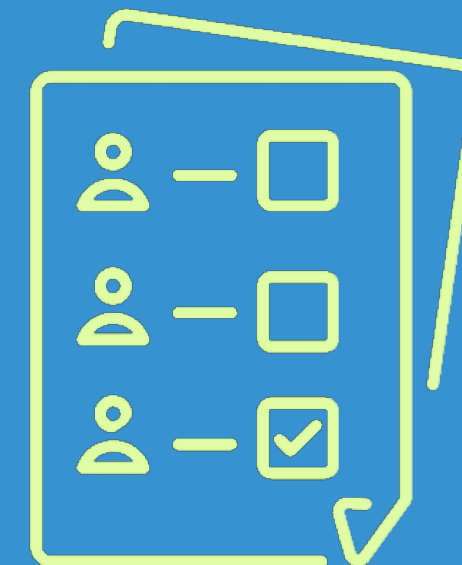
How do I become a candidate?



What do I need to know about campaigning?



How does the voting work?



or



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Key terms

Some terms:

- CDC: Clutha District Council
- CLT: Clutha Licensing Trust
- MLT: Maitai Licensing Trust
- GDHI: Gore & Districts Health Incorporated
- ORC: Otago Regional Council
- Elector: a person who is eligible to vote, and who is enrolled
- Electoral roll: list of electors, who are either on the Māori or general roll

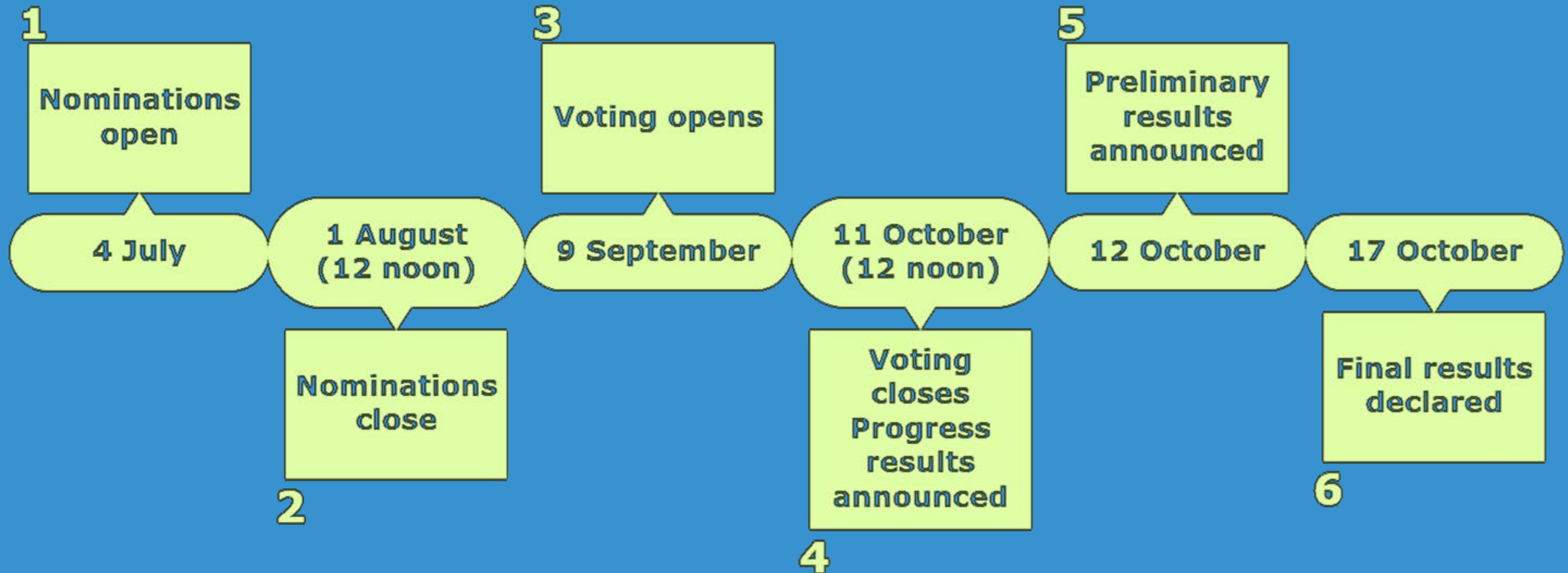


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Key election dates



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Electoral information

CDC:

- Population of around 18,750 people, and approx. 12,700 electors
- Candidates listed in alphabetical order

CLT:

- Approx. 11,400 electors in Clutha district
- Candidates listed in alphabetical order

MLT:

- Approx. 1,300 electors in Clutha district



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Electoral information

GDHI:

- Approx. 2,500 electors in Clutha district

ORC:

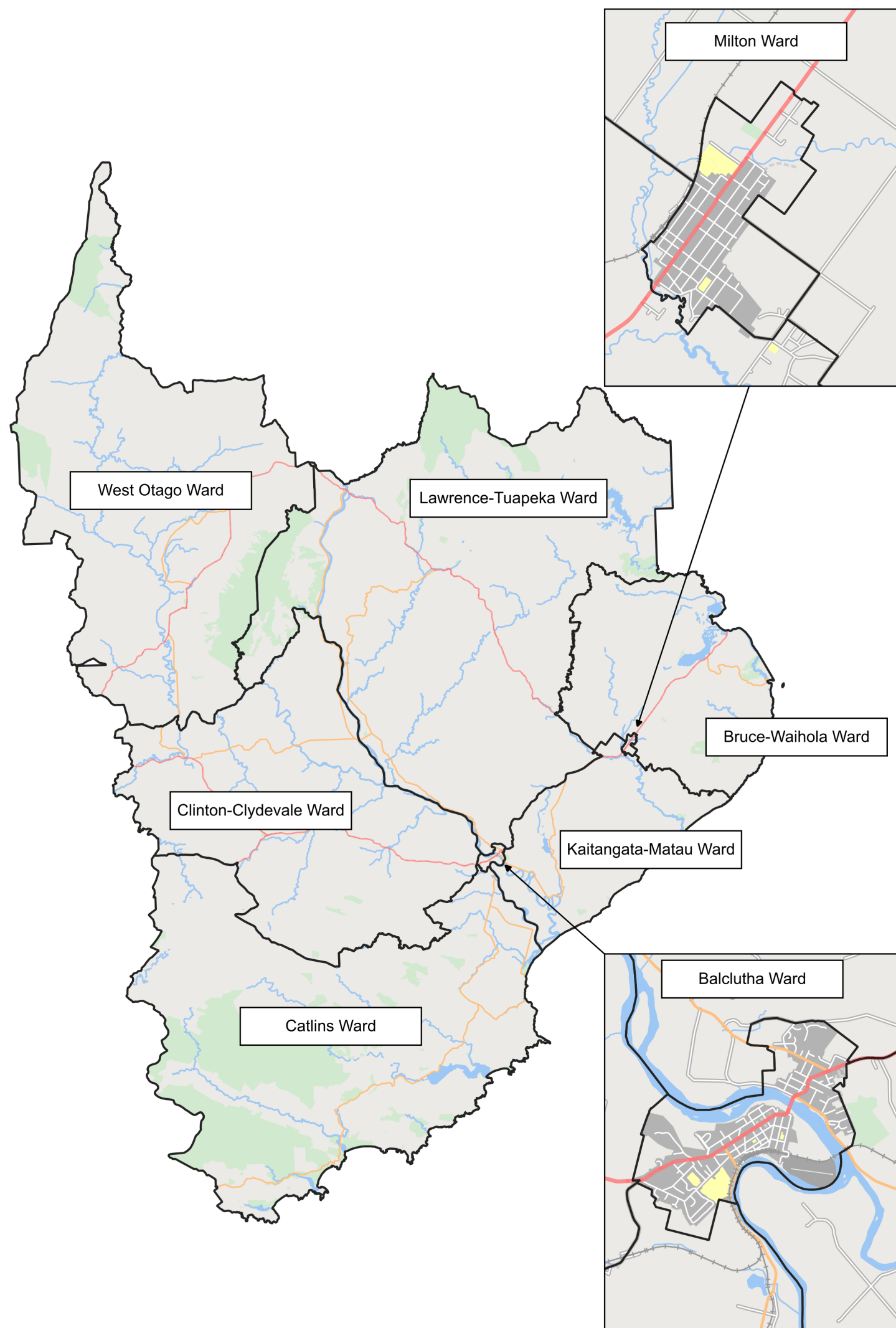
- Approx. 12,700 electors in Clutha district
- Molyneux Constituency
- Candidates listed in random order

Clutha Health Trust – NO ELECTION in 2025, even though info is included in the handbook



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Elections required

Wards

- 1 mayor
- 9 councillors:
 - 2 from the Balclutha Ward
 - 1 from the Bruce-Waihola Ward
 - 1 from the Catlins Ward
 - 1 from the Clinton -Clydevale Ward
 - 1 from the Kaitangata -Matau Ward
 - 1 from the Lawrence-Tuapeka Ward
 - 1 from the Milton Ward
 - 1 from the West Otago Ward



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Elections required

Community boards



- 12 community board members
 - 6 from the Lawrence -Tuapeka community
 - 6 from the West Otago community



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Remuneration

2025/26 Determination made by the Remuneration Authority

- Mayor - \$134,162

Estimated based on reduction of Councillors to 9 for the next Triennium

- Deputy Mayor - \$52,015
- Committee Chairperson - \$50,238
- Exec. Committee Members - \$44,919
- Councillors - \$41,373

Community Board Remuneration

- Lawrence-Tuapeka: Chairperson \$6,715, Member \$3,357
- West Otago: Chairperson \$7,959, Member \$3,890



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Allowances

- Vehicle-kilometre allowance - \$1.04 per km up to 14,000 km then reduced rate
- Time-travel allowance - \$41.30 per hr after the first hr
- ICT allowance – e.g. computer/tablet allowance \$400, plus others
- Childcare allowance – payable for qualifying childcare while on Council business
- Home security system allowance – based on risk assessment up to \$4.5k for install and \$1K operating cost



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Elections required

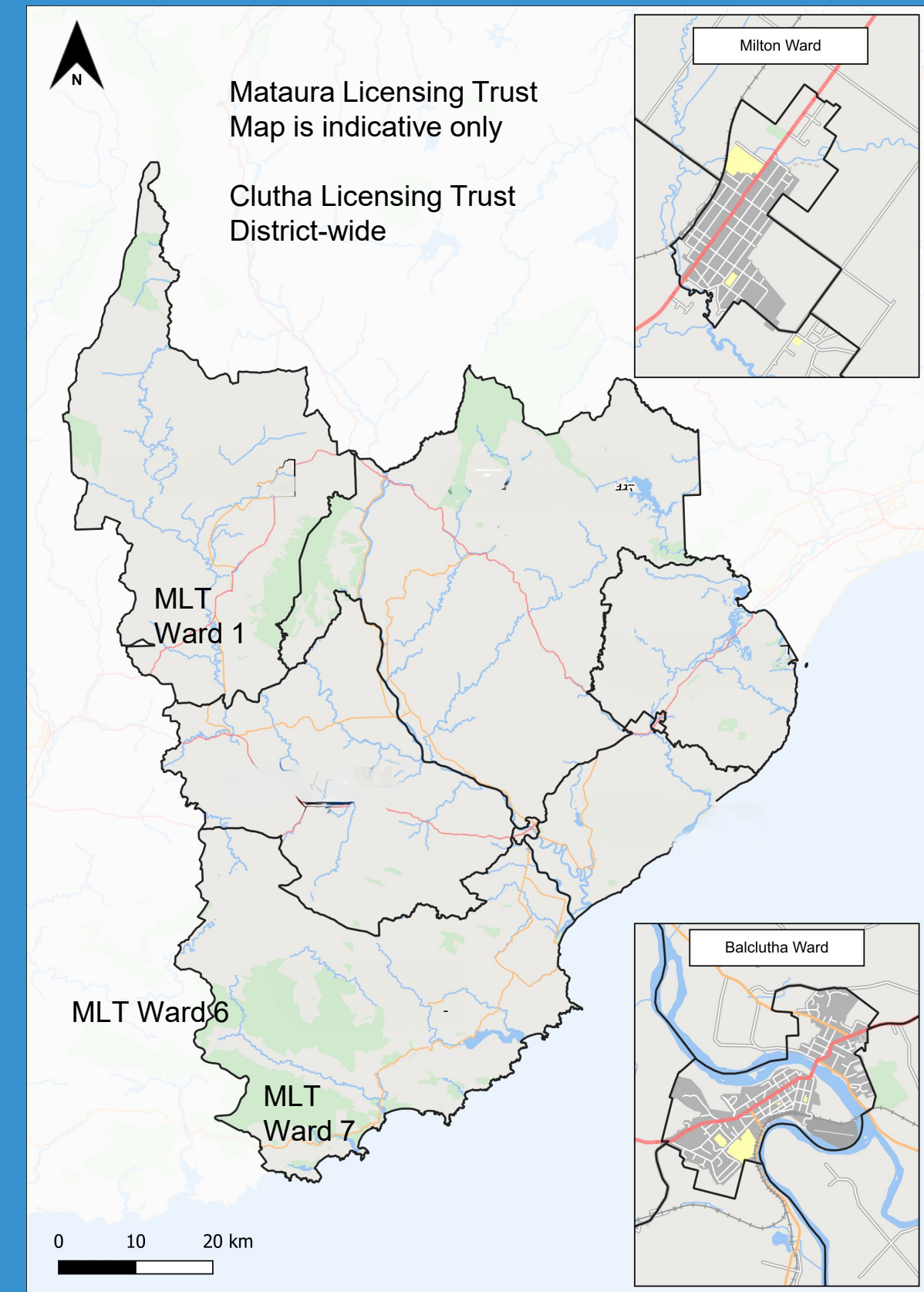
Trusts

Clutha Licensing Trust Members

- 5 members elected partly from Clutha District

Mataura Licensing Trust Members

- 3 members elected partly from Clutha District
 - 1 from Ward 1 (Tapanui)
 - 1 from Ward 6 (Wyndham)
 - 1 from Ward 7 (Tokanui)



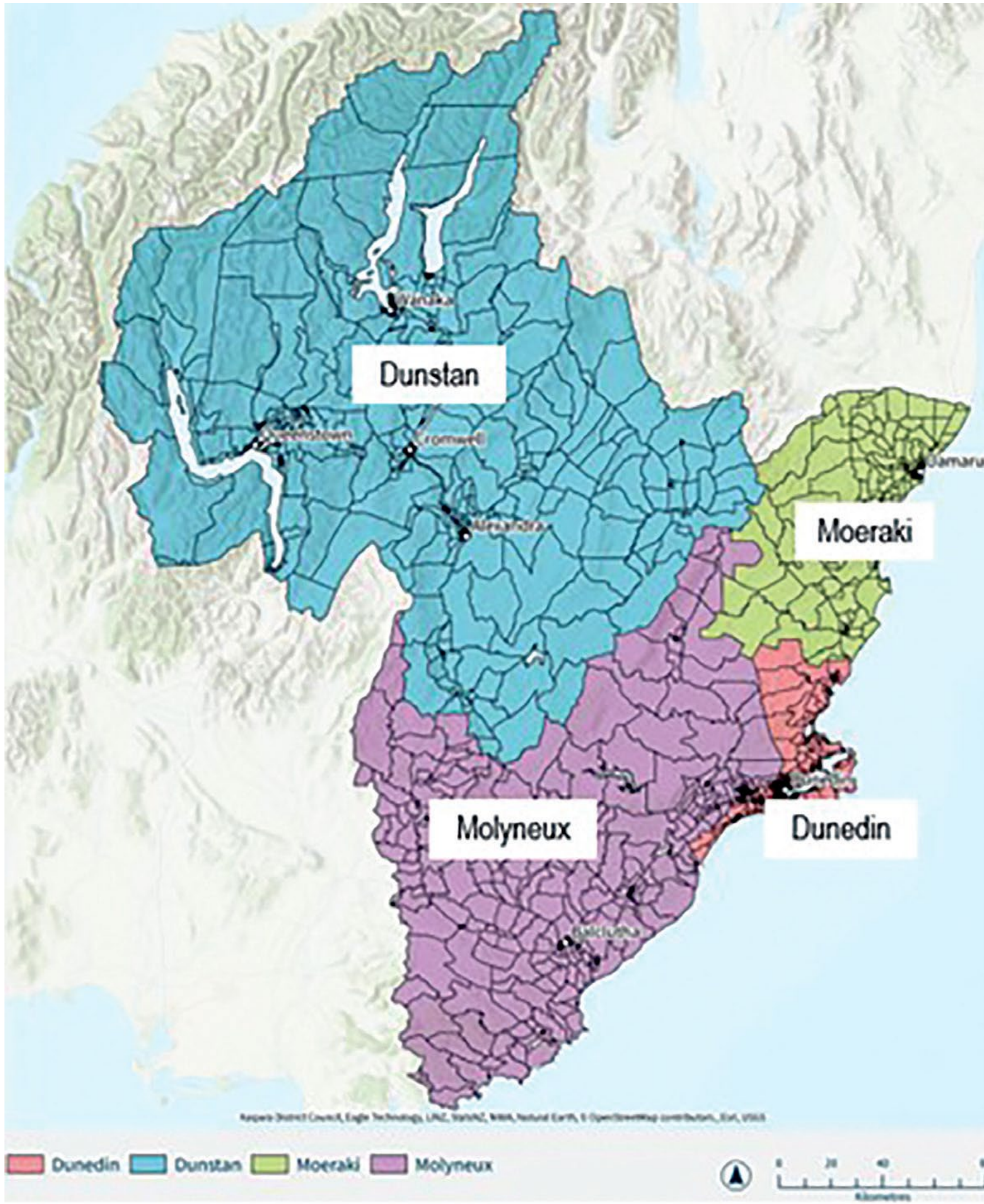
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Elections required

Otago Regional Council

- 12 regional councillors
- 2 from the Molyneux Constituency



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Electoral systems

- CDC, CLT, MLT and GDHI is using the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system
- Vote by ticking candidate names
- Candidates with highest number of votes wins
- Don't vote for more candidates than the number of positions

Sample FPP Voting Document

 Tick the circle next to **one (1)** candidate you want to vote for.

☐	Candidate A	 201
☒	Candidate B	 202
☐	Candidate C	 203
☐	Candidate D	 204
☐	Candidate E	 205
		 206

Candidate names are listed alphabetically.



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Electoral systems

- ORC is using the Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system
- Form of preferential voting
- Vote by ranking candidate names in order of preference (i.e. 1,2,3)
- Quota system determines number of votes needed
- Rank as many or as few as you like

Example STV Voting Document

- Start by writing the number** in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected.
- Write the number next to your second most preferred candidate.
- You must select a number candidate, and please do not repeat or miss out numbers.
- Continue!** You can write as many preferences, or as few as you like, up to .

1	Candidate A
4	Candidate B
3	Candidate C
6	Candidate D
5	Candidate E
2	Candidate F
7	Candidate G
8	Candidate H

Candidate names are listed randomly.



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Candidate eligibility

To be a candidate, you must be:

- A NZ citizen
- 18 or over
- Enrolled on the parliamentary roll in New Zealand
- Nominated by two people from area and roll standing
 - i.e. if you're standing for the Milton Ward, your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled on electoral roll in the Milton Ward area
 - or, if you're standing for the West Otago Community Board , your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled in the West Otago Community area



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Candidate eligibility

- Can stand for multiple positions (mayor, council and community board)
 - If elected to more than one position, candidate take higher position
 - Can't stand for more than one ward
 - Can't stand for both the Clutha District Council and the Otago Regional Council
- Elected members (or spouses) cannot have contracts with council over \$25,000 (incl GST) in one financial year without approval
- If a council employee is elected to mayor or council, they must resign
- Can't nominate yourself

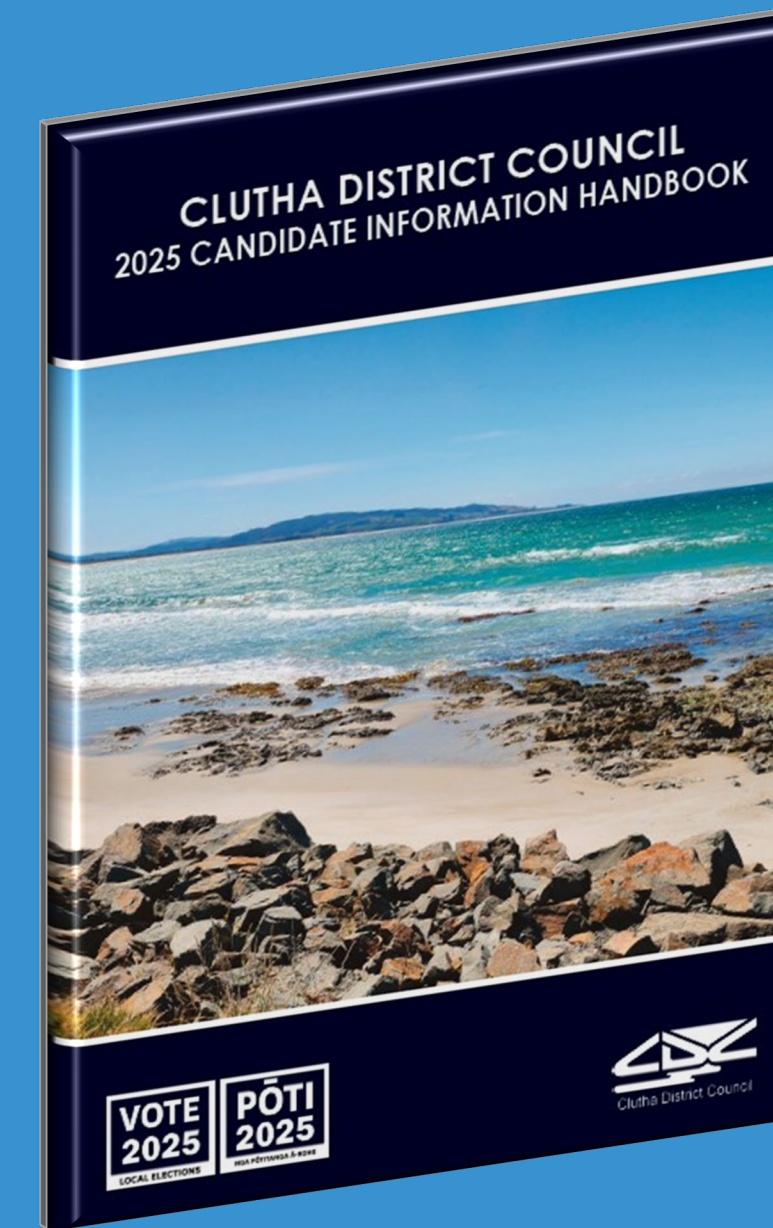


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Nomination process

- First off – obtain a copy of the candidate information handbook
- Download a PDF from council's website, or request a hardcopy
- Contains everything you need to know about being a candidate
 - Nomination criteria, election sign rules, campaigning guidelines etc



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Nomination process

- Nominations opened on Friday 4 July
- Three ways to submit your nomination:
 1. Online (easiest way) at esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/CL
or for CLT at esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/CLT
 2. Download an editable PDF from www.cluthadc.govt.nz
 3. Complete a hardcopy form and drop off in person (see handbook or council website for 7 locations)

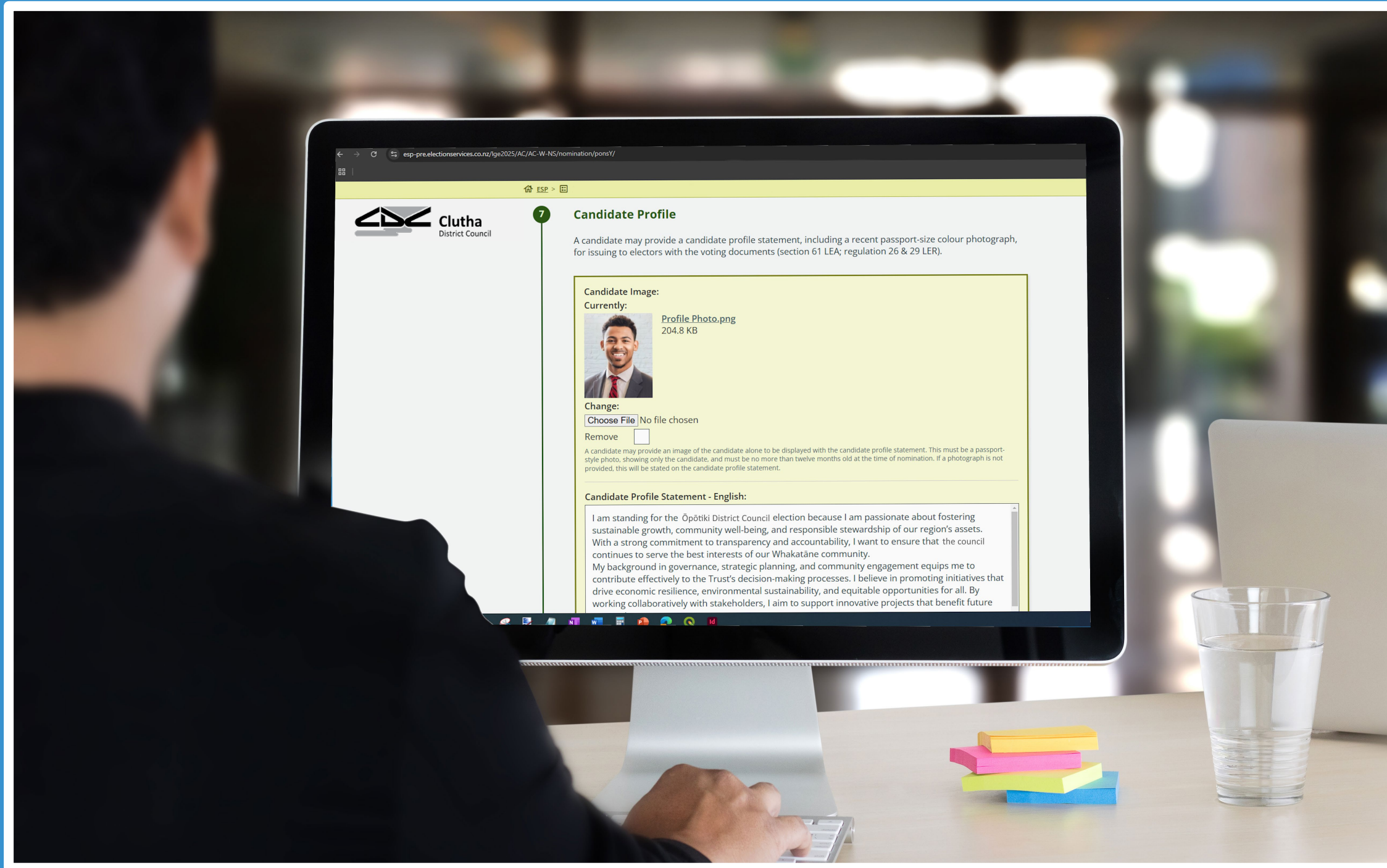


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Nomination process



Online nominations portal:

- No printing, handwriting, scanning etc
- Enter your statement electronically
- Upload your photo
- Instantly confirm your nominators are eligible



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Nomination process

Each nomination requires:

- \$200 (including GST) deposit (for each position standing for)
- 150-word candidate profile statement (English, Māori or both)
- Recent passport-size colour photo
- Evidence of NZ citizenship
- Candidates can declare an affiliation
 - Can be group, organisation or independent
 - Unacceptable affiliations (slogan, indecent, slanderous)



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Nomination process

Required to include:

- Statement on principal place of residence
 - This is automatic and not counted in your 150 words
- List any other positions you're standing for
- Nominations close 12 noon, 1 August
 - Sharp – don't leave to last minute
 - What if you need to fix an issue? Will you have time?



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Nomination process

Sample District Council
Mayor
Electing the Mayor



Firstname SURNAME

Communities for Progress

My principal place of residence is in the Sample District Council area.

I am also standing for the Sample Māori Ward.

As a lifelong resident in our community, I understand the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. I've served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and volunteered with local and regional non-profits, giving me firsthand experience in collaborative

- This candidate is standing for mayor
- They have supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is in the area they're standing for
- They have supplied a photo
- They have supplied a statement



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Nomination process

Sample District Council
Mayor
Electing the Mayor

No photo
provided

Firstname SURNAME

My principal place of residence is not in the Sample District Council area.

No statement provided.

- This candidate is also standing for mayor
- They have not supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is not in the area they're standing for
- They have not supplied a photo
- They have not supplied a statement



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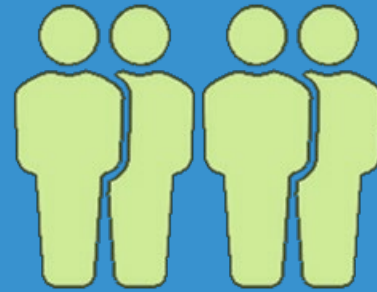
Voter eligibility

If you're on the general or Māori electoral roll, you can vote for six issues:

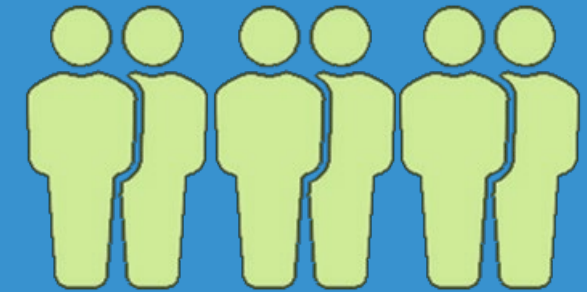
The mayor



1 or 2 ward councillors



6 community board members*

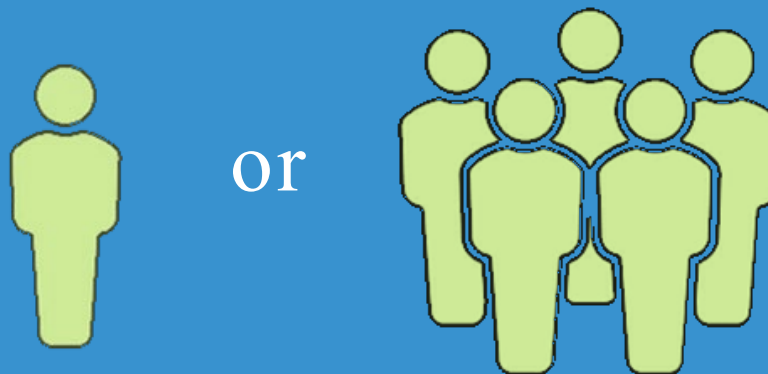


*if you reside in a community board area

2 constituency councillors



1 or 5 licensing trust members*



*if you reside in a licensing trust area

1 Gore & Districts Health Inc member*



*if you reside in the Gore & Districts Health Inc area

Campaigning

- Campaigning can occur anytime (from now)
- CDC has an election signs policy
 - Signs can go up 2 months before election day (11 August 2025)
 - Must remove them by midnight on 10 October 2025
 - Good idea to read the full policy at www.cluthadcgovt.nz
 - If signs in other council areas, check respective council's policy
- All election advertisements must show contact details of authorising person
 - Signs, notices, pamphlets, webpages, vehicles etc
 - Excludes posts, tweets, messages- just put it once on your main page



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Campaigning

Social media great way to campaign

- Instant, far -reaching, free
- Promote yourself and policies – state policies, run polls, encourage people to vote, key dates etc
- Fake news not acceptable

Council's media channels off-limits

- Must be politically neutral, monitored

Cyber-security – keep safe

- Computers can be hacked
- Be mindful of election offences



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Donations

Yes, you can receive donations to spend on your campaign, noting:

- All donations must be recorded and declared after the election
- How much and who it came from, unless 'anonymous'
- 'Anonymous' donation can't be over \$1,500
- There's no limit on donations but there is a limit of how much you can spend



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Campaign spend

How much can you spend on your campaign? Depends on which position you stand for.

	Population	Limit
Mayor	18,720	\$14,000

Ward	Population	Limit
Balclutha	4,340	\$3,500
Bruce-Waihola	2,120	\$3,500
Catlins	1,960	\$3,500
Clinton-Clydevale	1,980	\$3,500
Kaitangata -Matau	2,180	\$3,500
Lawrence-Tuapeka	2,000	\$3,500
Milton	2,040	\$3,500
West Otago	2,100	\$3,500

Community Board	Population	Limit
Lawrence-Tuapeka	1,270	\$3,500
West Otago	2,230	\$3,500



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Campaign spend

- Expenditure limits include GST
- Can't add limits together if campaigning for multiple seats
- Electoral expenses and donations return required by 11 December (enforced)
- Completed forms available for public inspection (7 years)
- Care to ensure accurate (declaration)



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Voting

- Voting period 9 September to 12 noon, 11 October
- Voting packs delivered to electors 9 – 22 September
- Able to campaign up to and including election day
- Special votes available at certain locations – check council website or handbook
- During the voting period, a voting return schedule will be available on council's website
- Candidates not to collect votes from electors
- Voters can post back their votes or hand -deliver to one of seven council locations
- Voting closes 12 noon, Saturday 11 October (sharp)



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Results

- Progress results on election day afternoon (est 90% votes)
 - Do NOT assume progress results are final – outcomes may change!
- All candidates contacted, media advised
- Preliminary results on Sunday (includes all votes counted except special votes)
- All results available on Council website
- Final results expected by Friday 17 October
- Take office day after public notice (18 October)
- Can act after sworn in at first meeting



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Resources

- Candidate Information Handbook
- Electoral legislation
 - Local Electoral Act 2001
 - Local Electoral Regulations 2001
 - www.legislation.govt.nz
- Pre-election Report
- Attend a council meeting
- Read agendas and minutes available online
- Talk to a council staff member



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Contact us

Electoral Officer

Dale Ofsoske

Independent Election Services

Ground Floor, 167 Victoria Street West, Auckland (entrance off Dock Street)

Phone: 0800 922 822

Email: dale@electionservices.co.nz

Deputy Electoral Officer for CDC

Jules Witt

Clutha District Council

1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha

PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

Phone - 03 419 0200

Email – jules.witt@cluthadc.govt.nz

Website - www.cluthadc.govt.nz



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