

Mayor and Councillors
COUNCIL

14 MARCH 2019

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES ON VOTING PAPERS - 2019
LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks a decision from Council on the order in which candidate names are to be shown on the voting documents for the local body elections in October 2019.

DELEGATION

- 2 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Prior to the Local Electoral Act 2001, candidates' names were required to be listed on the voting documents in alphabetical order of surname.
- 4 In accordance with clause 31(1) of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (**Appendix 1**) Council may make a decision about the order in which candidates' names appear on voting documents. If Council does not wish to make a decision on this matter, legislation provides for a default position of alphabetical order of surname.
- 5 The order of candidates' names option must be included in the notice published by the Electoral Officer as soon as practicable after the close of nominations (16 August 2019). If the decision was made to have pseudo-random order the notice must include the date, time and place at which the order of the candidates' names will be arranged and any person is entitled to attend (Local Electoral Regulations 2001 sections 31(2) and 31(4)).
- 6 The choices for order on the voting paper are:
 - Alphabetical order by surname – this option is self-explanatory and is the option chosen by Council for the past five triennia.
 - Pseudo-random order – for this option candidates' names are placed in a container, mixed together and then drawn out. The candidates' names will then be placed on all voting documents in the order in which they were drawn. The draw must be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace.
 - True random order – for this option candidates' names for each election are shown in a different order on every voting paper, using software which permits the names of candidates to be printed in a different order on each voting document.

ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Issues

- 7 The Council has traditionally used alphabetical order in the triennial local body elections.
- 8 Technological developments for the printing of ballot papers has greatly improved for the production of random order voting papers, so there is no difference in the quality of printing of alphabetical or randomised voting papers.
- 9 Out of a total number of 118 Territorial Authorities, District Health Boards and Licensing Trusts in the 2016 election, 55 used random order, 54 alphabetical and 9 pseudo-random.
- 10 Below is a table detailing the order of candidates' names for the regional councils and District Heal Boards (DHBs) for the 2016 local body elections.

Territorial authority/DHB	Order of names 2016
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Random
Carterton District Council	Random
Hutt City Council	Random
Masterton District Council	Alphabetical
Porirua City Council	Random
Kapiti Coast District Council	Alphabetical
South Wairarapa District Council	Alphabetical
Upper Hutt City Council	Alphabetical
Wellington City Council	Random
Capital and Coast DHB	Random
Hutt Valley DHB	Random
Wairarapa DHB	Pseudo random

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy considerations

- 11 There are no policy considerations.

Legal considerations

- 12 There are no additional legal considerations.

Financial considerations

- 13 There are no financial considerations. Should random order be chosen by Council there is sufficient funding to meet this additional cost (approximately \$1000).

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 14 There are no tāngata whenua or Treaty of Waitangi considerations.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Significance policy

- 15 As this decision is legally mandated, and of a procedural nature it is deemed to have a low level of significance under Council policy.

Engagement planning

- 16 An engagement plan is not needed to implement this decision.

Publicity

- 17 Apart from the statutory notice required about the decision, it will be publicised through a media release and on the Council website and Facebook page. If the decision is to depart from the alphabetical order by surname option, efforts will be made to alert voters to the fact that their voting papers will appear different.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 18 That Council resolves that the names of the candidates for the Kapiti Coast District Council elections on 8 October 2016 are to be arranged on the voting papers in:
- a) Alphabetical order of surname, OR
 - b) Pseudo-random order, OR
 - c) True random order.

Report prepared by	Approved for submission	Approved for submission
Leyanne Belcher	Janice McDougall	Natasha Tod
Democracy Services Manager	Group Manager People and Partnerships	Group Manager Regulatory Services

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – extract from Local Electoral Regulations 2001

APPENDIX 1

Extract from Local Electoral Regulations 2001

31 Order of candidates' names on voting documents

- (1) The names under which each candidate is seeking election may be arranged on the voting document in alphabetical order or surname, pseudo-random order, or random order.
- (2) Before the electoral officer gives further public notice under section 65(1) of the Act, a local authority may determine, by a resolution, which order, as set out in sub clause (1), the candidates' names are to be arranged on the voting document.
- (3) If there is no applicable resolution, the candidates' names must be arranged in alphabetical order of surname.
- (4) If a local authority has determined that pseudo-random order is to be used, the electoral officer must state, in the notice given under section 65(1) of the Act, the date, time, and place at which the order of the candidates' names will be arranged and any person is entitled to attend.
- (5) In this regulation –

Pseudo-random order means an arrangement where-

- (a) the order of the names of the candidates is determined randomly; and
- (b) all voting documents use that order

Random order means an arrangement where the order of the names of the candidates is determined randomly or nearly randomly for each voting document by, for example, the process used to print each voting document.