GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING A 'MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT'

Easy access to information about all candidates is key to a fair and transparent elections process.

The main purpose of organising an event is to give voters the opportunity to meet and hear from candidates. This helps voters get to know who the candidates are and see where they stand on issues that affect our district and daily lives. This means, Tasman voters can make well-informed decisions when voting in this year's local elections.

KEY ELECTION DATES

Nomination Period – Friday 4 July through to 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025

Voting Period – Tuesday 9 September through to 12 noon on Saturday 11 October 2025

Who can run an event?

There are no specific rules around *who* can organise and run a meet the candidates event. Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations, iwi, marae, youth councils and many more individuals and groups throughout Te tai o Aorere can take the initiative to give the community the chance to meet its candidates.

Note: Tasman District Council does not run any 'meet the candidate events' itself.

GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING A

'MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT'

When should an event take place?

The best time for a meet the candidates event is from 2 August – 8 September, between the close of nominations and the start of the voting period.

If you run an event before the nomination period ends, you run the risk of excluding candidates who have not yet confirmed their candidacy. On the other hand, if an event takes place after the voting period begins, voters may have already posted their votes.

Once nominations are confirmed, go to **the Elections page on our website** to find the publicly available contact details of candidates.

Whatever day of the week your event takes place, consider having it at an appropriate time of day to give the biggest number of voters the opportunity to attend.

Health and safety

It is up to you to decide where to hold your event, but keep in mind how accessible the location and the venue will be for voters. For example, whether the venue is wheelchair accessible.

Be aware of the size of your venue and its maximum capacity, and make sure you do not exceed the numbers recommended. The nature of political debate means you should always be prepared for strong opinions and the possibility of confrontation.

To minimise risk of an incident, make sure your host or moderator can control and steer the conversation in a safe direction if things get heated or off track and reminds the audience beforehand about what is expected in terms of behaviour.

VOTE 2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

tasman district council | Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere

GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING A 'MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT'

Fairness and political neutrality

To ensure political neutrality at a "meet the candidates" event, we recommend that you invite all candidates running within the ward or community board area, so they all have the same opportunity to meet voters. It is central to a fair elections process to make sure that no candidate is given a greater advantage over another.

To keep things fair throughout an event, hosts should try to give all candidates equal opportunity to answer questions and make statements. It can also help to steer candidates away from asking each other questions because these can sometimes be personal, unrelated and move debate away from the current topic of discussion.

Content

For ideas about what to ask candidates, have a look at the Tasman District Council pre-election report. This is an informative, user-friendly overview of the key issues facing Te tai o Aorere in the next three years and will be published on the Council's website in June, no later than two weeks before nominations open.

It is up to you whether you give candidates questions in advance, keeping in mind that debate is often richer when candidates are well prepared.

Let us know

If you have confirmed an event, you can advertise it without cost on the Tasman District Council website. Email us at elections@tasman.govt.nz to let us know about your event.

Once we have received your email, we will then include it on our website.

VOTE 2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

tasman district council | Te Kaunihera o te tai o Aorere