



The Council is holding elections for the Mayor and 14 Councillors across 6 wards. There are also elections for the Hastings District Rural Community Board, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council; and the Hawke's Bay District Health Board.

Please visit our website at:

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz

for further information or contact the

Electoral Officer on: 06 871 5069



Napier City Council elections are for the Mayor and 12 Councillors (6 across 4 wards and 6 at large)

Visit our website

www.napier.govt.nz

for information about the elections and Council Services

Electoral Officer, Henry Hatton
(06) 834 4131



Wanganui District Council is holding elections for the Mayor and 12 councillors at large. Voters will be electing seven members for the Wanganui Rural Community Board (The Rural Community is divided into 3 subdivisions) and two members for the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council. Elections will also be held for seven members of the Whanganui District Health Board. A candidate information booklet will be posted with the voting papers. For further information contact:

Electoral Officer: Noeline Moosman (06) 349 0001
www.wanganui.govt.nz



Elections will be held for Mayor and 15 Councillors across 5 wards.

For information about the elections or Council services contact:

Electoral Officer, John Annabell

06 356 8199

or visit our website at:

www.pncc.govt.nz

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social science classroom activities brought to you by District and City Councils throughout New Zealand

Curriculum Strands and Achievement Objectives

Social Sciences: Identity, Culture & Organisation

- Learning how our society functions and how our system of local government is organised and affects our lives.
- Understand that participating, contributing and being actively involved in our communities is a right and a responsibility that gives us a greater sense of belonging.

Links to English. Best Suited to Levels 3-5

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Develop the idea that most people in New Zealand live in cities and towns. Do the students know how many people live in their town or city? How could they find this out?
- Speculate on why people mostly choose to live together in larger communities. Can students list both the advantages and disadvantages? **eg**
 - *being close to family and friends*
 - *crowded roads and traffic noise ...*
- Have students list the rules that they have at school and at home. Share. Can they offer good reasons as to why we have these rules? Does their home and school work better because of these?
- Do students know of any rules or laws in their local community that helps it function better? **eg**
 - *dogs must be walked on a leash*
 - *using parking meters in the streets*
 - *bikes must use a cycle track ...*
- How do they think these rules help people to live together in the local community? What could happen if our local community didn't have these rules?

- Introduce the idea of personal rights and community rights. Can they say how the skateboard example shows the difference between the two?
- Challenge students to think of further actual (or possible) examples where the individual rights of people in the community are balanced against the rights of the whole community.

WHAT DO COUNCILS DO?

- Can students think of ways that their local community organises itself to help everyone in the community? **eg**
 - *how do we get rid of all the rubbish that our community makes?*
 - *who makes sure our tap water is safe to drink?*
 - *who cuts the grass in our streets and keeps our parks and reserves tidy?*



PERSONAL & COMMUNITY RIGHTS

- Debate the following statement: 'We should be able to ride skateboards in our town where ever we want to'. Do they think that all people living in the community would agree with this? Can they suggest what a community could do to please both skateboarders and community members?



- Speculate on consequences if no-one looked after these tasks for the community.
- Do they know that our local city or district council carries out all these tasks?
- Tell students that our local councils provide services and amenities for our communities. Can they explain the difference between a service and an amenity? **eg**
 - *a service is what we need to make our community function properly and safely*
 - *an amenity is something that a council provides and looks after that makes our community more enjoyable and a more interesting place to live in.*
- Introduce the following group task:

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE OUR SAY

Each group are a town planning team who have been given the task of listing all the services and amenities they think a town/city that is going to be built should have. Put services and amenities into separate lists.

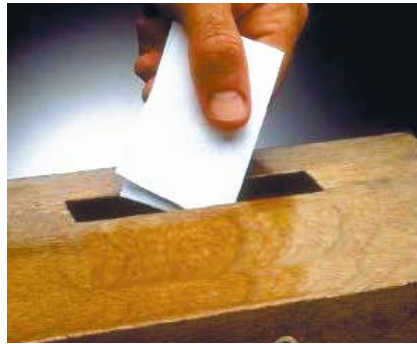
- Have each group present their list and justify their choices. Can they say how these amenities and services will improve the quality of community life?

OUR LOCAL COUNCIL

- Have students conduct online research at their local council website to find out what services and amenities are provided by their local council. Challenge them to list these into appropriate categories such as: health and safety; recreation; culture; environment; promotion ... (www.lgnz.co.nz/lg-sector/maps/ > select your local council link. How do these compare with their list?
- Have students prepare and run surveys at school, home, and community to find:
 - *who uses these amenities and services and how often are they used?*
 - *other services that people would like to have. Why?*
 - *what groups and age groups benefit from these services and amenities?*Publish results on the school website.
- Invite a council representative to talk to the class and help provide information on:
 - *benefits to the local community*
 - *how they are managed and/or run*
 - *how many jobs they provide*
 - *the cost to run/maintain.*

WHO CHOOSES OUR COUNCIL

- Did the students know that councillors who are elected to a local council are local community members who will make decisions affecting the local community and the services and amenities they will have? To find out who can vote in a local body election, have students visit: www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lgip.nsf
- Have students find out how many people in their household can vote in the local body election. Total up the number of votes in the class by household.
- What is their understanding of 'a postal vote'? Did they know that every voter is...



... sent out voting papers and returns these by free post to the council office, and that all votes are counted on 9 October and the winners are announced?

- Tell students that in New Zealand, on average only 45% of adults vote in the local government elections. Are they surprised that less than half of the voters in their community take part?
- Identify situations where all of their class takes part in making decisions that will affect the whole class such as voting for a class council or planning a class festival. Why is it good for everyone in the class to be involved and have a say?
- Can they say why it would be much better for their local community if every voter took part in electing their councillors.
- Introduce the idea that there might be some ways that they could help encourage the voters in their households to take part. Brainstorm and list ideas.



www.kidsvoting.org.nz

KIDS VOTING 2010 is the nationwide free programme based on the social sciences curriculum where you and your class can take part in the local government elections. Students vote for real candidates on a real ballot paper, and compare the results from the Kids election with the results of the real election. Many teachers run a local body election with their class in conjunction with each election and Kids Voting is perfect for involving your class with local issues and learn how local democracy works.



**Committed to community
consultation and participation**

For election information
check our website:
www.kapiticoast.govt.nz
or email:
kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz



Hutt City has a vibrant and diverse population of around 100,000. In October we will elect a Mayor and 12 councillors. There are also elections to 3 community boards (Eastbourne, Petone, and Wainuiomata) and the Hutt Valley District Health Board and Hutt Mana Charitable Trust.

For more information on the election, visit our website at: www.huttcity.govt.nz/elections
Hutt City Council Private Bag 31912
Phone: 04 570 6666 Fax: 04 569 4290
email: contact@huttcity.govt.nz



www.icc.govt.nz

The website with all the info
you need to know about:
Invercargill
The local community
The upcoming election



Hamilton City Council elections are for the Mayor and 12 Councillors across 2 wards.

For information about the elections contact:
Anthony Dick, Electoral Officer
Ph: 07 838 6883
or visit our website at:
www.hamilton.co.nz