

Memo

To: DHB BOARD

From: Chris Fleming, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 18 February 2010

Re: BOARD ELECTIONS

I have met recently with Mark Low, Electoral Officer from the Timaru District Council met with me to go over the upcoming election.

The election for Local Authorities, District Health Boards and others is scheduled for 9 October 2010. Attached is the 2010 election timetable.

I have also attached two papers which require board decisions. The issues cover:

- Order of Candidate Names
- Early Processing of Votes

The papers are relatively self explanatory, without a board decision there is a default position, the Board are therefore provided the opportunity to either accept the default or opt for one of the alternative available options.

Recommendation

That the Board:

- **Receives** this report
- **Advices** the options selected for Early Processing of Votes, and Order of Candidate Names

Chris Fleming

**FOR THE MEETING OF
SOUTH CANTERBURY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD**

**Prepared by Mark Low
 Electoral Officer**

2010 South Canterbury District Health Board Elections - Order of Candidate Names

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on the order in which the candidates' names are to be shown on the voting documents for the 2010 South Canterbury District Health Board Elections.

Background

Clause 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 allows the Board to resolve whether the names of candidates are to be arranged on voting documents in:

- alphabetical order of surname; or
- pseudo-random order; or
- random order.

Where a resolution is not made approving one of these options, the Local Electoral Regulations require that candidates' names are in alphabetical order of surname.

Options

The Board has three options to decide from:

Option 1 – Alphabetical Order of Surname

This is simply listing candidates' names alphabetically by surname.

Option 2 – Pseudo-Random Order (i.e. one randomised order for all voting documents)
Candidates' surnames are randomly selected and the order selected is the order appearing in all voting documents relevant to that issue. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing out of a container.

If a local authority has determined that pseudo-random order is to be used, the Electoral Officer must state, in the public notice required to be given, the date, time and place at which the order of the candidates' names will be arranged. Any person is then entitled to attend while the arrangement is in progress.

Option 3 – Random Order (i.e. all voting documents have a different order)

This is where all candidate surnames are randomly selected by using computer software and the order of surnames is different on each voting document.

Historically, the Board resolved for random order in 2007 to be used on voting documents.

Conclusion

The Board may make one of three choices as outlined. Where no resolution is made, alphabetical order of surnames will be used.

Recommendation

That the Board considers the above report and resolves accordingly.

**FOR THE MEETING OF
SOUTH CANTERBURY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD**

**Prepared by Mark Low
 Electoral Officer**

**2010 South Canterbury District Health Board Elections - Early Processing of
Votes**

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the early processing of returned voting documents for the 2010 Local Authority Elections, to be held on Saturday 9 October 2010.

Background

Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 permits a local authority to resolve to process (but not count) returned voting papers during the voting period. Should a resolution not be made under this section, then the Local Electoral regulations require processing after the close of voting.

Early processing of returned voting papers is now standard elections practice and ensures an earlier and more accurate result can be achieved. In effect, it enables the time-consuming task of extracting and checking of voting papers is undertaken progressively over the voting period (under strict security and under the supervision of a Justice of the Peace).

Options

The Board has two options available:

- 1) Resolve to adopt the early processing of voting documents for the 2010 Local Authority Elections (i.e. during the voting period)
- 2) Resolve not to adopt the early processing of voting documents for the 2010 Local Authority Elections (i.e. all voting documents are processed after the close of voting)

Should the Board resolve not to allow early processing of voting documents then the result of the election will not be available until much later. There is also the possibility of higher costs being incurred by our election service provider as more staff may be required for processing on Saturday 9 October.

Conclusion

Early processing of voting documents has been carried out successfully for all recent elections and polls. It enables the Electoral Officer to provide the election results to candidates in a timely and cost efficient manner. The Board is required to adopt a resolution under Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to enable this to occur for the 2010 Local Authority Elections. It is the preference of the Electoral Officer for early processing to occur.

Recommendation

That the Board resolves that the returned voting documents for the 2010 South Canterbury District Health Board Elections are to be processed during the voting period pursuant to Section 79 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.