

Summary of Candidate Responses to the Concerned Ratepayers Kapiti's Candidates Questionnaire: **Mayoral Candidates**
 Current Councillor Voting Records on Key Issues: **Mayoral Candidates**

We asked candidates 15 questions. Ten questions are "Yes" or "No" questions (with candidates then able to explain their reasons).

Their "Yes" or "No" answers to these 10 questions are summarised below. See our dedicated webpage for their rationale for their answers.

For the full results and candidate responses, visit our dedicated webpage at: <https://concernedratepayerskapiti.org/candidates-for-the-2025-local-body-elections/>

A blank space means the candidate did not answer the question. A blank column means that the candidate did not provide an answer to our questionnaire.

Affiliation (if any) Current councillor?	Martin Halliday Independent Yes	Dean Harris We Love Kapiti No	Kim Hobson Independent No	Janet Holborow Independent Yes	Liz Koh Independent Yes	Rob McCann No
Affordability and Financial Management						
The Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024–2034 outlines average rates increases totalling 115% over 10 years. If (re)elected, would you support these planned increases? If not: What level of average annual increases would you consider acceptable instead?	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer but states that "we are at the current rates ceiling."	No. Average rates increases should be no more than 3% per annum on average.		Not really possible to set a figure as financial challenges change each year. Ideally rates should be no more than local Government cost index, but this may require service cuts.	Open to setting rates at a different level to that stated in the LTP. The level of rates rise to be considered year by year.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer. Stated that setting an arbitrary figure is not sensible, but will put a stop to frivolous spending.
The LTP plans to spend an average of \$3.1 million per year on "economic development" over the next decade, mostly funded by residential rates. Would you support continuing this level of spending?	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but provided a detailed answer in support of the Council's current approach in this area.	No. Would re-assess this initiative if elected.		Level of spending probably too high, but also need to support local businesses.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but provided a detailed answer in support of the Council's current approach in this area.	Current budget is unrealistic and should be scaled back.
Funding to the Toi Mahara gallery increased from \$218,600 in 2022/23 to \$671,300 in 2025/26—a 207% rise. Would you support this level of funding continuing over the next three years?	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer. Notes most districts support an art gallery at the cost to the community. Wants more external grants funding.	No. Considers the level of funding in 2022/23 (\$218,600) more appropriate, with CPI adjustments thereafter.		There is no intention for this funding to be ongoing, and Council is supporting the gallery to become more financially sustainable	Supports providing on-going financial support to the Gallery, but with the aim that the level of Council funding will reduce over time.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but outlines some of the background to the current situation which led to "unacceptable" higher rates.
KCDC plans to reduce its debt from a peak of \$345 million (in 2030) to \$262 million by 2034, largely funded through higher rates. Do you support this debt reduction strategy?	Appreciates the ideas behind the current debt reduction strategy, but thinks its too aggressive.	No.		Yes.	Yes.	Prudent to reduce debt, but need to keep rates affordable, a balance not being achieved.
The Government is exploring the possibility of capping local authority rate increases. Do you support the idea of capping rate increases?	Supports a ceiling on rates, but raises concerns with what a Government proposal might be.	Yes.		No.	No.	No.
Past Council Voting Record - for Current Councillors Only						
Rates increase of 17% in 2024/25 and total rates increase of 115% over 10 years (vote at a Council Committee meeting, May 2024)	✗	N/A		✓	✓	N/A
Rates increase of 12% in 2024/25 and total rates increase of 89% over 10 years (vote at a Council Committee meeting, May 2024)	✓	N/A		✗	✗	N/A
Adoption of final Long Term Plan, with a 115% rates increase included (Council meeting vote, June 2024)	✗	N/A		✓	✓	N/A
Average Rates increase of 6.9% for 2025/26	Abstained	N/A		✓	✓	N/A

Transparency	Martin Halliday	Dean Harris	Kim Hobson	Janet Holborow	Liz Koh	Rob McCann	
Do you believe KCDC currently engages well with the community on key plans like the LTP?	Considers the Council has improved considerably but suggests a number of ways that engagement could be improved.	No. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals on how the Council could improve its engagement with the community.			No. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals on how the Council could improve its engagement with the community.	The detailed answer includes a number of proposals on how the Council could improve its engagement with the community.	
Are you satisfied with the Council's recent consultation process on the revised flood hazard maps?	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but the detailed answer supports the Council's current approach in this area.	No.			Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but the detailed answer supports the Council's current approach in this area.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but the detailed answer outlines how the process needs to be improved.	
If (re)elected, would you introduce new measures to increase Council transparency and public participation?		Yes. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.			Yes. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.	The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.	
Governance and Accountability	Some non-elected individuals currently have voting rights on KCDC committees. In other councils, non-elected individuals attend in an advisory role only. Do you support continuing voting rights for non-elected committee members?	While did not answer "yes" or "no" directly, the detailed answer supports the Council's current approach.	No. While community views should be sought in decision-making, only elected members should be able to vote.		The current arrangements will be reviewed in the next Council term. Has no fixed view at this stage on what the arrangements should be.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer. However, should look at iwi representation on Council committees in light of the Māori ward.	
KCDC established a Māori ward without a referendum, which was later mandated by central government. The Government has since required Councils to hold a referendum on the establishment of Māori wards. Do you believe this decision should have been put to a local referendum regardless?	While did not answer "yes" or "no" directly, the detailed answer does not support the Government's requirement to hold a referendum.	Did not provide a "yes" or no" answer. Instead, stated would honour the result of the referendum.			No.	"The establishment of a Māori ward should follow the same process as the creation of other wards, as outlined in the council's representation review".	
Past Council Voting Record - for Current Councillors Only	Adoption of a Māori Ward (November 2023)	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	N/A