



Concerned Ratepayers Kapiti

Being proactive to create positive communities

Summary of Candidate Responses to the Concerned Ratepayers Kapiti's Candidates Questionnaire: Otaki Ward

Current Councillor Voting Records on Key Issues: Otaki Ward

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.

| | Heniti Buick | Cam Butler | Brent Frogley | Rob Kofoed | Shelley Warwick |
|--|--------------|-------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| Affiliation (if any) | | Independent | We Love Kapiti | | |
| Current councillor? | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| 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? | | | No. Average rates increases should be no more than 3% per annum on average. | | |
| 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. Will assess the spending in this area, if elected. | | |
| 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? | | | No. Considers the level of funding in 2022/23 (\$218,600) more appropriate, with CPI adjustments thereafter. | | |
| 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? | | | No. While debt needs to be managed, KCDC does not have a debt crisis. | | |
| The Government is exploring the possibility of capping local authority rate increases. Do you support the idea of capping rate increases? | | | Yes. | | |
| 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 | ✗ | ✓ |
| 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 | ✓ | ✗ |
| Adoption of final Long Term Plan, with a 115% rates increase included (Council meeting vote, June 2024) | | | N/A | ✓ | ✓ |
| Average Rates increase of 6.9% for 2025/26 | | | N/A | ✓ | ✓ |

| | Heniti Buick | Cam Butler | Brent Frogley | Rob Kofoed | Shelley Warwick |
|--|--------------|------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| Transparency | | | | | |
| Do you believe KCDC currently engages well with the community on key plans like the LTP? | | | No. 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? | | | No. | | |
| 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. | | |
| 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? | | | No. Only the persons elected by residents should have the right to vote in these meetings. | | |
| 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? | | | Yes. | | |
| Past Council Voting Record - for Current Councillors Only | | | | | |
| Adoption of a Māori Ward (November 2023) | | | N/A | | |