



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.

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Affiliation (if any) Current councillor?	Paul Baggott Independent No	Glen Cooper Independent Yes	Dave Freeman	Martin Halliday Independent Yes	Chris Harwood We Love Kapiti No	Murray Lobb	Euon Murrell Independent No	Glen Olsen Independent No	Bernie Randall Independent No	Mark Souness Independent No	Fiona Vining
<b>Affordability and Financial Management</b>											
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. Rates increases at no more than CPI.	No. Did not provide an percentage figure for an acceptable level of rates increase.	No. Rates increases "have to be similar to the CPI".	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.	No. Did not provide an percentage figure for an acceptable level of rates increase.	No. Did not provide an percentage figure for an acceptable level of rates increase.				It depends. Would not support reducing rates increases in a way that is not sustainable.
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?	"I do not yet know all the details to make an informed comment"	No.	Unable to provide a response as has not investigated this issue.	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.	Stated that not convinced the current level of spending is delivering value	Stated that did not support the current level of spending without evident results				Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer. Wants to know if a cost: benefit analysis shows this spending is beneficial.
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?	Answer states this level of spending seems excessive but would need to know the details before can comment.	No. Detailed answer did not suggest an alternative level of funding.	Unable to provide a response as has not investigated this issue.	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. Detailed answer did not suggest an alternative level of funding.	Supports investing in community facilities like galleries but wants to explore other sources of funding.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer but stated the increase in taxpayer funding was unsustainable				Yes.
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?	Does not support reducing debt by increasing rates. Would look to other debt reduction strategies instead.	No.	Debt reduction is important, this can be done by finding savings in the current system	Appreciates the ideas behind the current debt reduction strategy, but thinks its too aggressive.	No.	Supports lowering debt, but not solely through rates increases. Need to manage capital spending carefully.					No. Council should not focus on significant debt reduction until the results of the three water reform is known.
The Government is exploring the possibility of capping local authority rate increases. Do you support the idea of capping rate increases?	Yes. Also need to look further afield for rates reform	Yes.	Agrees that rates capping needs to happen to rein Councils in	Supports a ceiling on rates, but raises concerns with what a Government proposal might be.	Yes, with the proviso that a cap needs to be carefully designed to avoid unintended effects.	Support in principle, provided capping allows for capital and infrastructure, and for emergencies.	No.				No.
<b>Past Council Voting Record - for Current Councillors Only</b>											
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	✗	N/A	N/A	N/A	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	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	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	✗	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A
Average Rates increase of 6.9% for 2025/26	N/A	✗	N/A	Abstained	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A

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