

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 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.

	Paul Baggott Independent	Glen Cooper Independent	Dave Freeman	Martin Halliday Independent	Chris Harwood We Love Kapiti	Murray Lobb	Euon Murrell Independent	Glen Olsen Independent	Bernie Randall Independent	Mark Souness Independent	Fiona Vining
Affiliation (if any)	Independent	Independent		Independent	We Love Kapiti		Independent	Independent	Independent	Independent	
Current councillor?	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	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?	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.	Supports lowering debt, but not through the current approach. Would reduce debt burden by restricting new borrowing.			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.
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	✘	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
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
Average Rates increase of 6.9% for 2025/26	N/A	✘	N/A	Abstained	N/A		N/A	N/A			N/A



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Affiliation (if any) Current councillor?											
Transparency											
Do you believe KCDC currently engages well with the community on key plans like the LTP?	"There seems to be, but they could always do better"	It's a mixed record. There have been some good examples of good engagement and some bad ones.	"I feel that they engage in it [public engagement] but just go ahead and do as they like anyway"	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.	No. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals on how the Council could improve its engagement with the community.			Council does well within the limits set by legislation. The answer then suggests some options for improvement.
Are you satisfied with the Council's recent consultation process on the revised flood hazard maps?	"Aspects of it were OK". Better acknowledgement of submissions is needed.	No.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer. See full answer for details of the response.	Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but the detailed answer supports the Council's current approach in this area.	No.		Heard that communication was poor, and many residents felt blind-sided	No.			Yes.
If (re)elected, would you introduce new measures to increase Council transparency and public participation?	Yes. Stated that he would question the justification for any lack of transparency or public participation.		Did not provide a "yes" or "no" answer, but stated that there seems to be little transparency at the moment.		Yes. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.		Yes. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.	Yes. The detailed answer includes a number of proposals for improvement.			Yes. The detailed answer includes a proposal 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?	Stated that it would depend on circumstances but in, general, believes in elected democracy.		No. Non-elected attendees should provide advice, but only elected people should vote.	While did not answer "yes" or "no" directly, the detailed answer supports the Council's current approach.	No. Non-elected attendees should provide advice, but only elected people should vote.		No. Non-elected attendees should provide advice, but only elected people should vote.	No. Non-elected attendees should provide advice, but only elected people should vote.			No.
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?	No.		Did not answer the specific question, but supports the Māori ward.	While did not answer "yes" or "no" directly, the detailed answer does not support the Government's requirement to hold a referendum.	Yes.		Yes.	Yes.			No.
Past Council Voting Record - for Current Councillors Only											
Adoption of a Māori Ward (November 2023)		✗	N/A	✓	N/A		N/A	N/A			N/A