

LOCAL AUTHORITY CANDIDATES SURVEY 2007

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

LOCAL AUTHORITY CANDIDATES SURVEY 2007

A survey of Local Authority election candidates
in the 2007 Local Authority elections
Prepared by Research and Evaluation Services
For Local Government Services
Department of Internal Affairs – *Te Tari Taiwhenua*
2008

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

LOCAL AUTHORITY CANDIDATES SURVEY 2007

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Where to obtain copies

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the *Local Authority Candidates Survey 2007* report. The report covers all local authority elections held in October 2007 including elections for city and district councils, community boards, regional councils, district health boards and licensing trusts. All the elections used either the first past the post (FPP) or single transferable voting (STV) electoral system.

This report has been published as a companion report to *Local Authority Election Statistics 2007*, and is the fourth survey in this series with previous reports on candidates being produced for the 1992, 2001 and 2004 local authority elections.

This report offers valuable insights into the local elections process to the general public, people with an interest in issues of local democracy, and decision-makers. The report reveals the reasons candidates stood for election, their previous political experiences and some of the characteristics of candidates such as age, gender and ethnicity. It also enables us to see correlations between these factors and a candidate's likelihood of being elected.

I would like to thank the candidates who returned their questionnaire; without their kind assistance this report would not have been possible.

Brendan Boyle
Secretary for Local Government

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SECTION 1: CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

2,389 candidates responded to the survey. Response rate was 67%, which is slightly higher than in the 2004 (58%) and 2001 (63%) surveys. Results presented in this section include the types of local authorities candidates stood for election on, how successful the candidates were, and if candidates had any previous involvement or experience in politics at the local government level.

Types of local authorities that candidates stood for election

Candidates were asked to name the elections they were standing for. Figure 1.1 compares the total number of candidates that stood for election with those who responded to the survey, for each type of election. It should be noted that candidates could stand in more than one election.

There were a total of 4,123 candidates that stood for election in 2007. Most candidates (and respondents) stood for election to council on a territorial authority (city or district council). More than 55% of the candidates, in each type of election, responded to the survey. A higher proportion of District Health Board (DHB) candidates responded to the survey compared with other elections, with almost 70% of DHB candidates represented.

Figure 1.1: Number of candidates standing for election and survey respondents

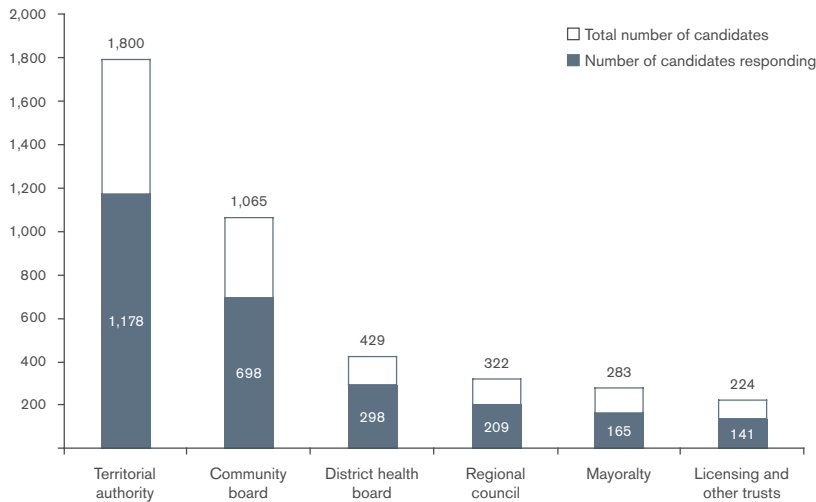


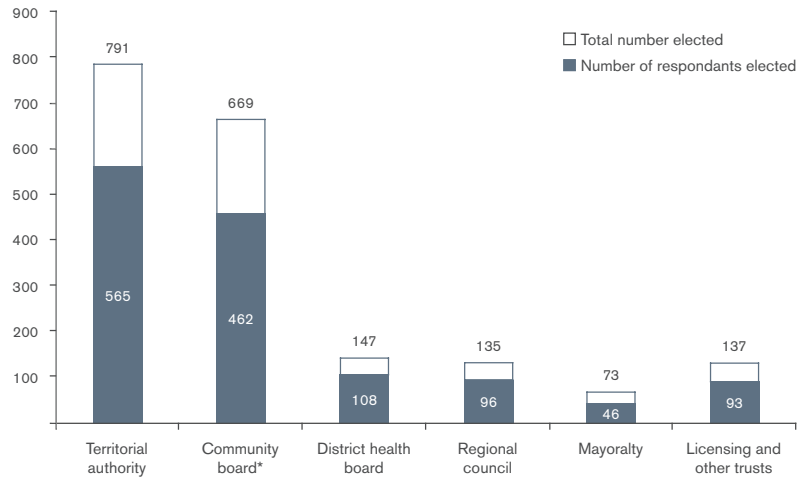
Figure 1.2 shows the total number of candidates that were elected and the numbers of survey respondents that were elected, by election type.

There were a total of 1,987 electable positions in local authority elections in 2007, however only 1,952 positions were filled. Not all positions were filled for Community Board (31 positions unfilled) and Licensing Trust elections (4 positions unfilled), as in a few elections fewer candidates stood for election than there were positions to fill. These positions will be filled in by-elections.

Survey respondents comprised a total of 1,369 of the electable positions, as some respondents were elected to more than one position.

Councillors comprise the largest number of respondents that were elected, with 565 responding to the survey. In all elections around two-thirds of elected candidates responded to the survey. The highest response rate was for the District Health Board elected members (73%) and the lowest for Mayors (63% of elected Mayors responded to the survey).

Figure 1.2: Elected candidates by election type and survey respondents



Note: * There were fewer people elected than positions available, as 31 positions were unfilled in Community Board and 4 positions in Trust elections

Figure 1.3 offers a comparison between the number of candidates that stood for each election and the numbers that were elected, in each of the different election types.

Figure 1.3: Number of candidates and elected members among survey respondents and non-respondents

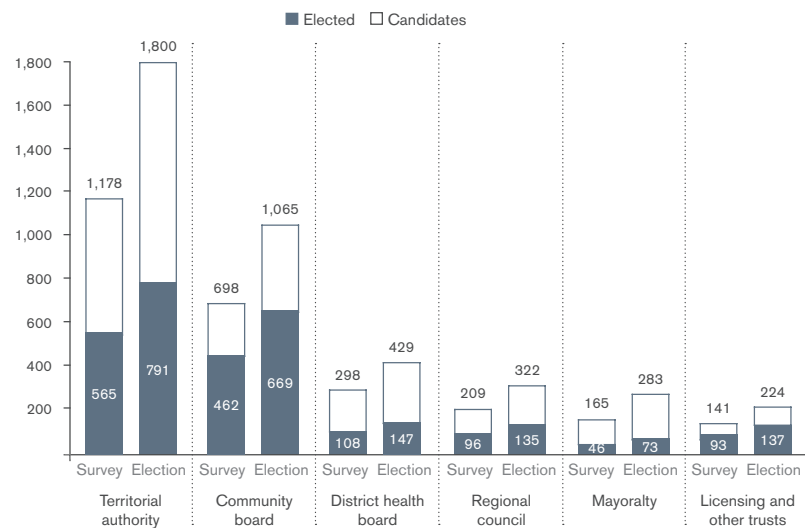


Table 1.1 shows the number and combination of roles that respondents stood for in 2007. Most respondents (88%) stood for only one election (shown in white, in Table 1.1). A further 11% stood for two different roles (shown in light grey, in Table 1.1) and 1% stood for three different roles (shown in dark grey, in Table 1.1). Only one respondent (less than 1%) stood for four different roles.

Table 1.1: Number and combination of elections survey respondents stood for – 2007

Elections	N	%	Elections	N	%
TA	953	40%	Trust Mayor	1	0%
CB	578	24%	Trust RC	1	0%
DHB	206	9%	CB CB	1	0%
RC	186	8%	Mayor CB	1	0%
Mayor	99	4%	TA DHB CB	5	0%
Trust	92	4%	TA Trust CB	4	0%
TA CB	84	4%	RC DHB Trust	2	0%
Mayor TA	50	2%	TA Trust DHB	2	0%
TA DHB	48	2%	TA CB CB	2	0%
TA Trust	20	1%	TA Mayor CB	2	0%
RC DHB	19	1%	TA Mayor DHB	2	0%
Trust CB	10	0%	RC Trust Trust	1	0%
DHB CB	6	0%	Mayor DHB Trust	1	0%
Mayor DHB	6	0%	TA Mayor Trust	1	0%
Trust Trust	2	0%	Mayor Trust CB	1	0%
TA TA	2	0%	Mayor TA DHB CB	1	0%
			Total respondents	2,389	100%

Elections where candidate was not an elector

Respondents were asked if they were standing in an election where they were not an elector, that is – not enrolled to vote in that election due to their living outside of the electorate.¹

Table 1.2 shows that most (90%) respondents were standing in an election where they were an elector. This proportion was just slightly lower than in the 1992, 2001 and 2004 elections.

Of the 10% of respondents who were not residing in the electorate for which they were standing, 4% were standing for a Territorial Authority, and 3% were standing for a Community Board.

Table 1.2: Elections where candidate was not an elector –1992, 2001, 2004 and 2007

Election where not an elector	1992	2001	2004	2007
None	92%	92%	93%	90%
Territorial Authority	5%	4%	4%	4%
Community Board	1%	1%	2%	3%
Regional Council	<1%	1%	1%	1%
District Health Board	N/A	2%	<1%	1%
Trust	N/A	<1%	<1%	1%
Mayoralty	N/A	<1%	0%	<1%

¹ "To be able to stand in local authority elections a candidate must be enrolled as a parliamentary elector". Source: Local Electoral Act 2001. They do not have to reside within the electorate or be a ratepayer in that electorate.

SECTION 2: EXPERIENCE OF CANDIDATES

This section looks at the previous experience of respondents and their involvement in the wider community.

Previous local authority experience

Respondents were asked if they had previously stood as a candidate in a local authority election, including bodies that no longer exist (eg. pest destruction boards, county councils). Almost two in every three respondents (63%) indicated they had previously stood for election. This is compared with 55% of respondents in both the 1992 and 2001 surveys and 62% in the 2004 survey.

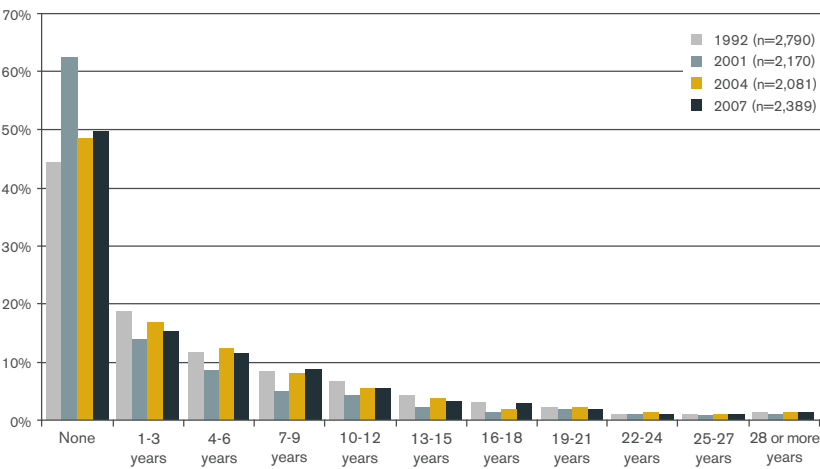
Of the 1,498 respondents that had previously stood for election to a local authority, more than two-thirds (69%) were sitting-members of a local authority going into the 2007 elections. Of these 1037 respondents, most (90%) were seeking re-election to the authority of which they were currently a member. The remaining ten percent of sitting-members were seeking election to an authority other than the one they were currently a member of.

Length of service

Candidates were asked how many years they had spent as a member of a local authority, including local authorities that no longer exist, such as pest destruction boards and county councils.

Almost one-half of all respondents (49%) had no previous local authority experience, at least as an elected member. This figure was consistent with the 2004 survey (48% in 2004).

Figure 2.1: Length of service – 1992, 2001, 2004 and 2007



The average length of service, including respondents with no local authority experience, was 4.6 years in 2007 compared with 4.6 years in 2004, 3.3 years in 2001 and 4.9 years in 1992. The average, excluding respondents with no local authority experience, was 9.1 years in 2007 compared with 8.8 years in 2004, 8.6 years in 2001 and 8.7 in 1992. The longest length of service recorded by a respondent in 2007 was 45 years experience. However, as Figure 2.1 shows, few respondents had served on local authorities for more than 20 years.

Previous political involvement

Candidates were asked to name their previous political involvement, other than at local authority level. Only a quarter of respondents felt they had no prior political involvement, other than possibly at the local authority level. This is significantly lower than in the previous surveys (49% in 2004, 54% in 2001 and 70% in 1992).

Table 2.1: Main areas of political involvement – 2007

Previous political involvement	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No previous experience	267	25%	342	26%	609	25%
Central government politics	206	19%	157	12%	363	15%
Local issue politics	358	33%	396	30%	754	32%
Business Association	256	24%	314	24%	570	24%
Trade unions	148	14%	118	9%	266	11%
Lobby groups	237	22%	213	16%	450	19%
Student politics	93	9%	75	6%	168	7%
Board of Trustees	367	34%	479	37%	846	35%
Other National political involvement	146	14%	144	11%	290	12%
Total respondents	1,077	***	1,312	***	2,389	***

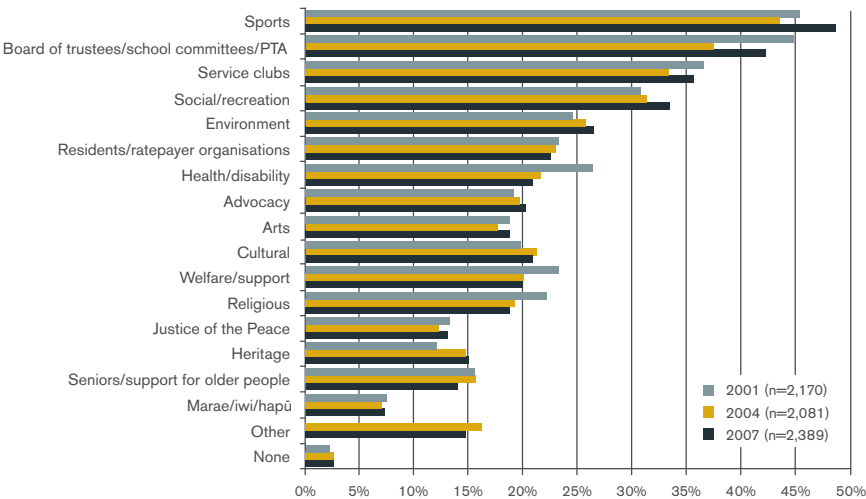
Note: *** Multiple responses; percentages do not add up to 100%

The most common areas of political involvement for candidates in 2007 were *Board of Trustees* (35%) and *Local issue politics* (32%).

Community involvement

Candidates were asked to name their main areas of involvement in the community (excluding involvement in political organisations, such as political parties). Respondents were given a list of 16 options. The results indicate a wide range of community involvement (Figure 2.2). The results are consistent with the 2004 and 2001 surveys.

Figure 2.2: Main areas of community involvement – 2001, 2004 and 2007



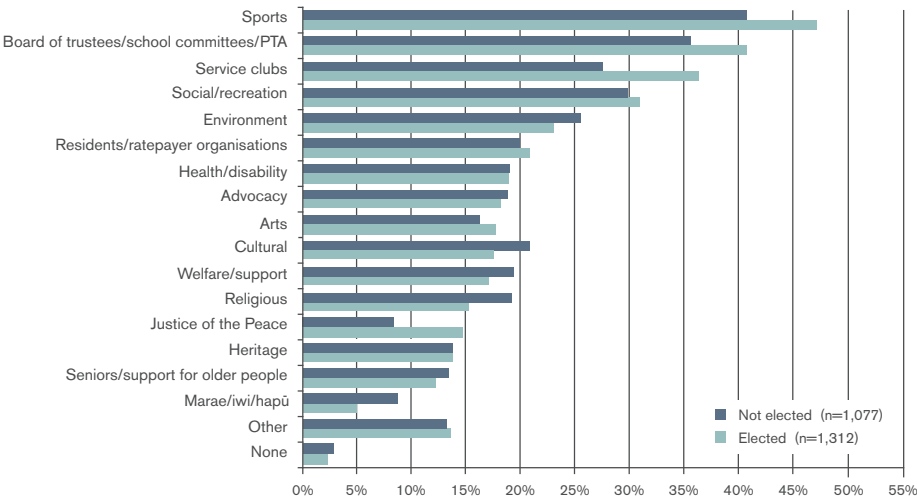
Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Almost all respondents reported some involvement in their community, with just 3% not mentioning any form of involvement. Similarly to the 2004 survey, the most frequently mentioned areas were sports (49% compared to 50% in 2004); *Board of Trustees* (42%, compared to 43% in 2004); and *service clubs* (35% compared to 38% in 2004).

The candidates who were elected were more likely to say they were involved in sports (52%), *Board of Trustees* (45%) and *service clubs* (40%) compared with those who were not elected (45%, 39% and 30% respectively).

Respondents who were not elected were more likely to mention being involved in *environment* (28%), *cultural* (23%) and *marae/iwi/hapū* (9%) compared with elected candidates (25%, 19% and 5% respectively).

Figure 2.3: Main areas of community involvement, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

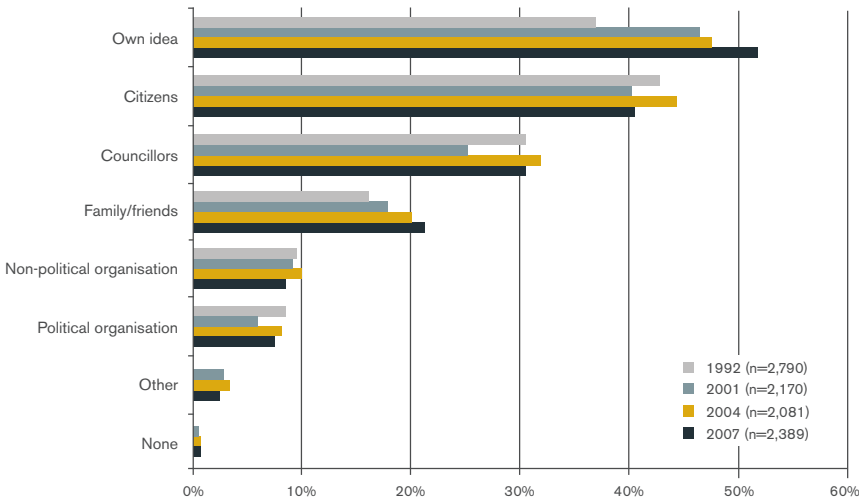
SECTION 3: CANDIDATES' REASONS FOR STANDING FOR ELECTION

This section examines the reasons candidates gave as to why they chose to stand for election to local authorities.

Decision to stand for election

Candidates were asked whose idea it was for them to stand for election. More than a half of respondents (54%) said it was their *own idea to stand*. Some 43% of respondents said they were *asked by interested citizens*. The reasons given by respondents in 2007 were relatively similar to those given in the previous surveys, but an increasing trend could be traced over all four surveys for an *asked by family/friends* and especially an *own idea* options.

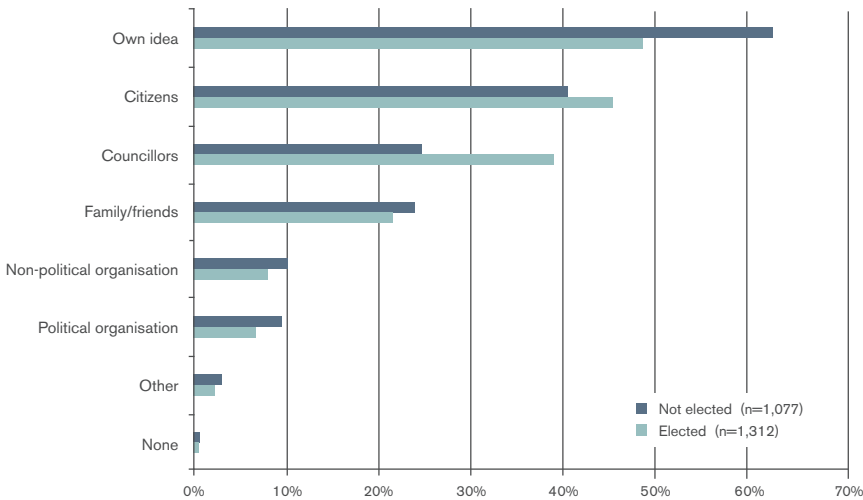
Figure 3.1: By whom candidates were asked to stand for election – 1992, 2001, 2004 and 2007



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Candidates who were not elected were most likely to say it was their *own idea to stand* (62%). Candidates who were elected were most likely (45%) to say they were *asked by interested citizens* to stand. A similar proportion (48%) of elected candidates also said that it was their *own idea* to stand.

Figure 3.2: By whom candidates were asked to stand for election, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007



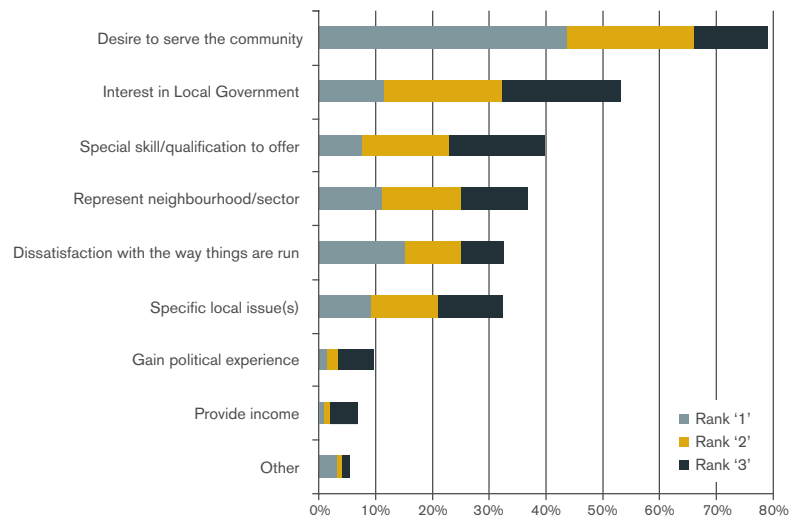
Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Main reasons for standing for election

Respondents were asked to rate the three main reasons for standing for election, from the eight options provided. They were also asked to select as many options as they felt applied. Respondents' answers to these questions in the 2007 survey were very close to those in the three previous surveys.

Among the main reasons for standing for election a *desire to serve the community* was most often ranked by respondents (79% total ranked, while 44% ranked it '1'). An *interest in Local Government* (53%) was the second most common reason ranked, but *dissatisfaction with the way things are run* was the second reason most often ranked '1' (15%).

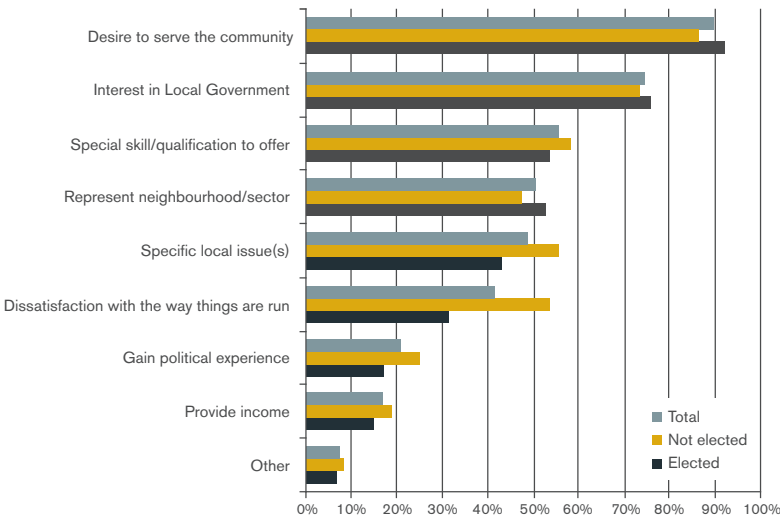
Figure 3.3: Main reasons for standing for election – 2007



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

When asked to select all of the reasons for standing for election, most respondents mentioned a *desire to serve the community* (88%), and an *interest in Local Government* (73%). More than one-half of respondents also mentioned that they had a *special skill/qualification to offer* (55%). Those who were elected were more likely to stand for election due to a *desire to serve the community* (91%), compared with those who were not elected (85%). Those who were not elected were more likely to state their *dissatisfaction with the way things are run* (53%) as a reason to stand, compared with those who were elected (31%).

Figure 3.4: Reasons for standing for election, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

SECTION 4: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CANDIDATES

This section looks at the personal characteristics of candidates, including their gender, age, occupation and income levels.

Gender

Overall, there were more male (68%) than female respondents (32%). The proportion of females was higher among elected than among non-elected respondents (35% compared to 28%). Women were slightly higher represented among survey respondents compared with all 2007 election candidates (32% compared to 30%). Compared with the New Zealand population aged 18 years and over, females were under-represented among both candidates, and respondents (Table 4.1). Proportions of women among all election candidates and among respondents in 2007 were similar to those in 2004 and 2001.

Table 4.1: Gender of respondents and candidates – 2007

Gender	Respondents						All Candidates				NZ*
	Not elected		Elected		Total		Elected		Total		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
Female	304	28%	454	35%	758	32%	617	32%	1,219	30%	52%
Male	773	72%	858	65%	1,631	68%	1,335	68%	2,904	70%	48%
Total	1,077	100%	1,312	100%	2,389	100%	1,952	100%	4,123	100%	100%

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Male respondents were more likely to be an employer of staff (22%) compared with female respondents (11%). Female respondents were more likely to be an employee (40% compared with 28% of male respondents). Female respondents were also more likely to be employed in a family business (6% compared with 3% of males). More than a quarter (26%) of male respondents were aged 65 and over compared with only 13% of female respondents in this age group.

Male and female respondents had similar levels of household income. Around 6% of male and 5% of female respondents lived in a household with an annual income of \$20,000 or less. At the other end of the scale, 27% of male and 26% of female respondents had household income of more than \$100,000.

Table 4.2: Elections, by gender of respondents – 2007

Authority	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Territorial authorities	349	46%	829	51%	1 178	49%
Community boards	245	32%	453	28%	698	29%
District health boards	133	18%	165	10%	298	12%
Regional councils	51	7%	158	10%	209	9%
Mayoralty	40	5%	125	8%	165	7%
Trusts	39	5%	102	6%	141	6%
Total respondents	758	***	1,631	***	2,389	***

Note: *** Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

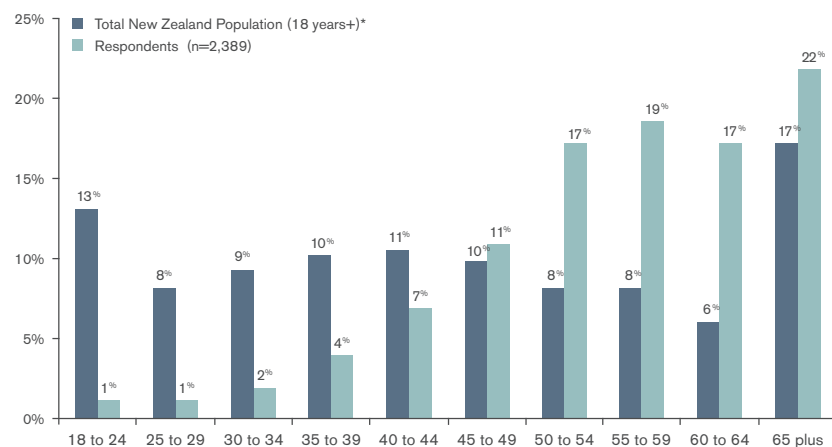
A higher proportion of female respondents (18%) stood for election to a DHB compared with male respondents (10%). Otherwise, the proportion of males and females standing for election to the various local authorities was relatively similar.

Although most respondents were likely to have previously stood for election to a local authority, males were slightly more likely to have previously stood (64%), compared with female respondents (61%). Of those who had previously stood for election to a local authority, a higher proportion of female respondents were previously elected (83%), compared with male respondents (79%). Among respondents with previous local authority experience, females had a lower average length of service on local authorities (8.0 years) compared with males (9.4 years). There is a continued disparity between females (8.0 years in 2004) and males (9.2 years in 2004).

Age

The majority of respondents (85%) were aged 45 years or over. This proportion was slightly higher than in the 2004 and 2001 surveys (both 83%). Compared with the national population, survey respondents were comparatively older than the rest of the population (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Age distribution of respondents and the national population – 2007

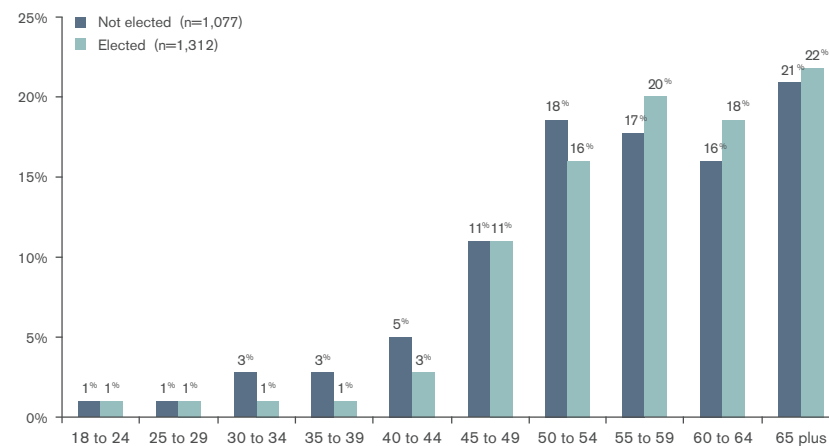


Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Few respondents (2%) were under the age of 30 years. Compared with the New Zealand population (aged 18 years and over), people under the age of 40 years were particularly under-represented among respondents.

Elected respondents tended to be slightly older than non-elected respondents, with 88% of elected respondents aged 45 years and over, compared to 83% of non-elected respondents.

Figure 4.2: Age distribution of candidates, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007



Place of birth

Same as in 2004 and 2001, most respondents in the 2007 survey were born in New Zealand (86% in all three surveys). This is compared with 72% of people nationally, who were born in New Zealand. In 2007, New Zealand born respondents were more likely to be elected (57%) than overseas born respondents (44% elected). This was different to the 2004 survey, when there were no notable differences in elected status of New Zealand born and overseas born respondents.

Table 4.3: Place of birth, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

NZ born?	Not elected		Elected		Total^		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	880	82%	1,152	89%	2,032	86%	72%
No	189	18%	149	11%	338	14%	28%
Total respondents	1,069	100%	1,301	100%	2,370	100%	100%

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand
^ Excludes 19 respondents that did not answer this question.

Māori Ancestry

Most respondents did not have any Māori ancestry (82%). This is compared with 72% of the population nationally who had no Māori ancestry. 13% of respondents reported having Māori ancestry, compared with 16% of the national population.

Table 4.4: Māori ancestry, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Māori ancestry	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	162	15%	139	11%	301	13%	16%
No	859	80%	1,108	84%	1,967	82%	72%
Don't know	13	1%	14	1%	27	1%	2%
Not stated	43	4%	51	4%	94	4%	10%
Total respondents	1,077	100%	1,312	100%	2,389	100%	100%

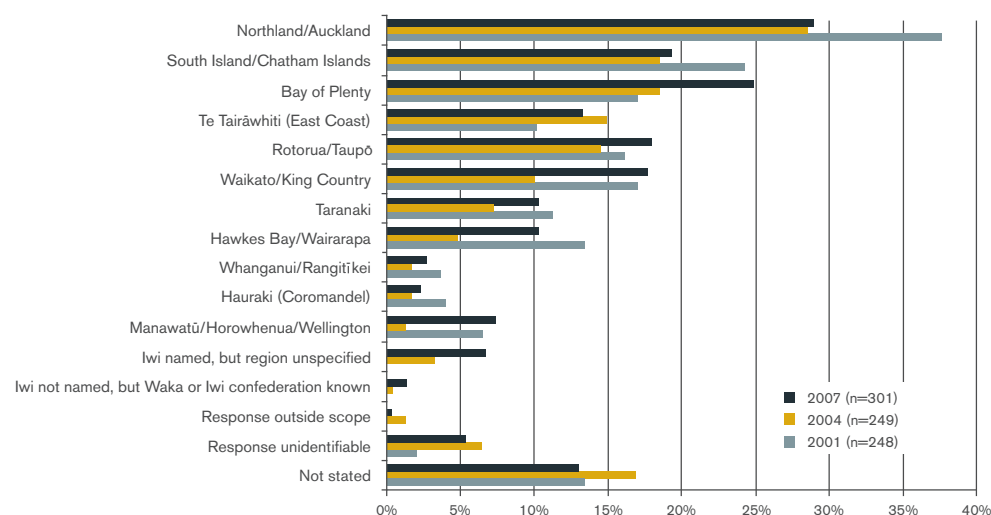
Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Fewer elected respondents reported having Māori ancestry (11%) compared with respondents who were not elected (15%), therefore respondents with no Māori ancestry were slightly more likely to be elected, than respondents of Māori descent. Survey results in regard to Māori ancestry of respondents have not changed notably between 2001, 2004 and 2007.

Iwi

The 301 respondents who indicated they are of Māori descent, were asked if they knew the name of their iwi, of which 87% recorded one or more iwi affiliation.

Figure 4.3: Iwi affiliation by region – 2001, 2004 and 2007



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

The highest proportion of respondents identified with Northland/Auckland-based iwi² (29%), followed by Bay of Plenty-based iwi (25%). In comparison with the 2004 results, a higher proportion of respondents in 2007 identified with Bay of Plenty-based iwi (25% in 2007, compared with 18% in 2004) and Waikato/King Country-based iwi (18% in 2007, compared with 10% in 2004).

² Iwi were grouped according to the Statistics New Zealand iwi regional/geographic groupings.

Ethnicity

Respondents were asked to identify the ethnic group(s) they belong to, they were allowed to tick as many options as they liked from the list provided (for more information refer to the questionnaire in Appendix A).

Table 4.5: Ethnicity of respondents – 2001, 2004 and 2007

Ethnic groups	2001		2004		2007	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
European	1,924	89%	1,837	88%	2,080	87%
Māori	196	9%	187	9%	237	10%
Pacific peoples	28	1%	32	2%	42	2%
Asian	26	1%	26	1%	36	2%
MELAA#	6	0%	7	0%	14	1%
Miscellaneous ^	61	3%	71	3%	73	3%
Did Not Answer	5	0%	46	2%	55	2%
Total respondents	2,170	***	2,081	***	2,389	***

Note: # Middle-eastern, Latin American, and African

^ contains responses where respondents gave generic responses such as 'Kiwi', 'New Zealander' etc

*** Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

The majority of respondents (87%) belonged to the European ethnic group. The proportion of respondents that identified with each of the ethnic groups was similar to the 2001 and 2004 surveys. Compared with the national population, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian ethnic groups were under-represented among respondents, particularly among elected respondents (Table 4.6). This tendency was similar to the 2004 and 2001 surveys.

Table 4.6: Ethnicity of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Ethnic groups	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
European	904	84%	1,176	90%	2,080	87%	66%
Māori	132	12%	105	8%	237	10%	14%
Pacific peoples	27	3%	15	1%	42	2%	7%
Asian	25	2%	11	1%	36	2%	9%
MELAA#	8	1%	6	0%	14	1%	1%
Miscellaneous ^	39	4%	34	3%	73	3%	11%
Object/Did Not Answer	28	3%	27	2%	55	2%	4%
Total respondents	1077	***	1,312	***	2,389	***	***

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Middle-eastern, Latin American, and African

^ contains responses where respondents gave generic responses such as 'Kiwi', 'New Zealander' etc

*** Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Employment

Almost a third of respondents (32%) were working as employees. This figure was comparatively lower than the national population (49%) aged 15 years and over. A relatively high proportion of respondents were self-employed (30%) compared with the national population (8%).

A smaller proportion of respondents identified themselves as employers (19%), and again, this figure was higher than the population as a whole (5%).

Proportion of respondents in the labour force (shown in light grey in Table 4.7) was high (86%) compared with the national population aged 15 years and over (66%).

Proportion of respondents in different employment groups have not changed notably since the 2004 survey.

Table 4.7: Job where worked most hours in, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Job worked most hours in	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Employee	380	35%	377	29%	757	32%	49%
Self-employed	330	31%	379	29%	709	30%	8%
Employer	169	16%	274	21%	443	19%	5%
Not in the Labour Force	124	12%	166	13%	290	12%	31%
Family business	31	3%	63	5%	94	4%	1%
Unemployed	20	2%	26	2%	46	2%	3%
Not given	23	2%	27	2%	50	2%	3%
Total respondents	1077	100%	1,312	100%	2,389	100%	100%

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Occupation

Manager was the most often indicated occupation among respondents (38%) followed by Professional (25%) and Retired (16%).

The proportion of Managers was higher among elected respondents (43%) compared with those not elected (33%). The proportion of respondents that were Professionals was slightly higher for respondents who were not elected (27%) than for those who were elected (23%).

Table 4.8: Occupation of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Occupation	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Managers	359	33%	558	43%	917	38%
Professionals	296	27%	301	23%	597	25%
Technicians and Trades Workers	69	6%	65	5%	134	6%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	29	3%	40	3%	69	3%
Sales and Service Workers	59	5%	54	4%	113	5%
Labourers	13	1%	13	1%	26	1%
Home duties	22	2%	30	2%	52	2%
Unemployed	14	1%	13	1%	27	1%
Student	16	1%	8	1%	24	1%
Retired	174	16%	212	16%	386	16%
Other	7	1%	5	0%	12	1%
Not given	19	2%	13	1%	32	1%
Total respondents	1077	100%	1,312	100%	2,389	100%

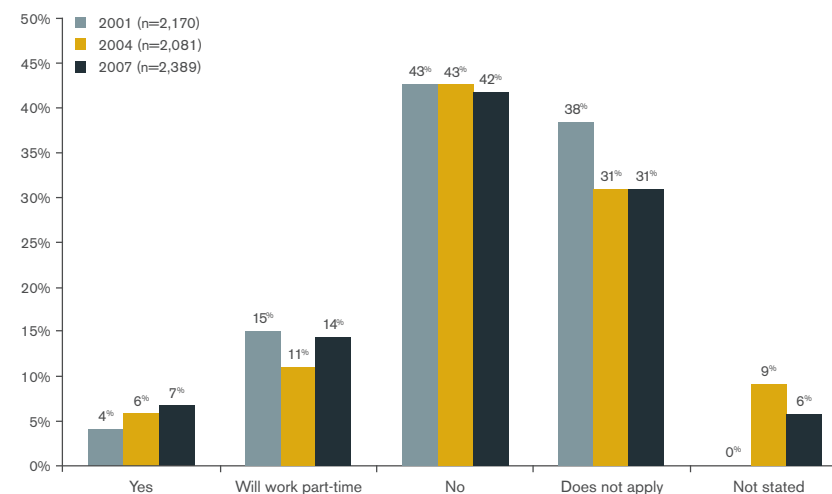
Likelihood of giving up job if elected

Respondents were asked if they were likely to give up their current employment if they were elected. As Figure 4.4 shows, 2007 results were similar to the 2001 and 2004 surveys.

For a large proportion of respondents (31%) this question did not apply to their situation because they are not in the Labour Force.

A small proportion of respondents (7%) said they would give up their present job if elected and a further 14% said they would work part-time.

Figure 4.4: Likelihood of giving up job if elected – 2001, 2004 and 2007



Mayoral candidates were the most likely to *give up their present job* if elected. This reflects the nature of the mayoralty for most territorial authorities, where the mayoralty is considered a full-time job.

A higher proportion of respondents who were not elected indicated that they are ready to give up their job (10%) or work part-time (19%) if elected, compared to elected respondents (4% and 11% respectively). Conversely, more elected respondents (47%) than not elected (37%) indicated that they will not give up their current job if elected. But as was mentioned above, this could be partially due to many questionnaires being completed after the results of election were known by respondents.

Table 4.9: Likelihood of giving up job if elected, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Give up job?	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	112	10%	49	4%	161	7%
Will work part-time	201	19%	139	11%	340	14%
No	396	37%	615	47%	1011	42%
Does not apply	306	28%	435	33%	741	31%
Not given	62	6%	74	6%	136	6%
Total respondents	1077	100%	1,312	100%	2,389	100%

Geographic location

The highest proportion of respondents reported living in a *main urban areas* (37%, same as in 2004), this was followed by *rural areas* (29%, compared to 31% in 2004) and then by *minor urban areas* (25%, compared to 23% in 2004).

When looking specifically at candidates who were elected, the overall trend reverses, with 33% being elected from *rural areas* (36% in 2004), followed by *main urban areas* (29%, same as in 2004) and *minor urban areas* (28%, compared to 27% in 2004).

Respondents who reside in rural areas and minor urban areas are over-represented amongst candidates, relative to the geographic spread of the national population. This is mostly due to the structure of local authorities, which have higher representation in rural areas compared to urban areas.

Table 4.10: Geographic location of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

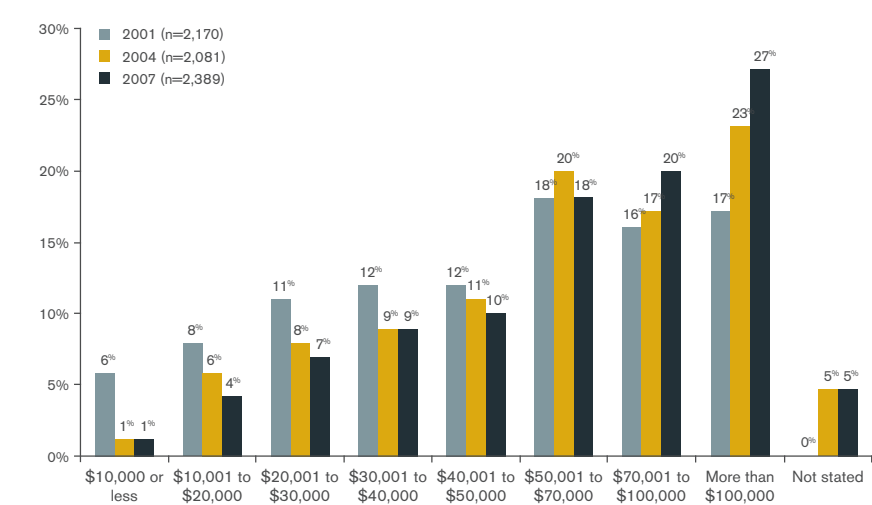
Area	Not elected		Elected		Total^		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Main urban area	470	46%	363	29%	833	37%	71%
Secondary Urban Area	102	10%	124	10%	226	10%	6%
Minor urban area	217	21%	348	28%	565	25%	8%
Rural area	238	23%	414	33%	652	29%	14%
Total respondents	1027	100%	1,249	100%	2,276	100%	100%

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand
^ Excludes 113 respondents that did not answer this question.

Household income

Almost two in three respondents (64%, compared to 59% in 2004) came from households with an annual income of \$50,000 or more, compared with 50% nationally. This result is likely to be closely linked to the occupation of the respondent.

Figure 4.5: Household income of respondents – 2001, 2004 and 2007



Elected respondents have higher levels of income than unelected respondents. 51% of elected respondents had household income of \$70,000 and above compared to 41% of not elected respondents.

Table 4.11: Household income of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2007

Total Household Income	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
\$0 to \$10,000 or loss	25	2%	7	1%	32	1%	3%
\$10,001 to \$20,000	63	6%	40	3%	103	4%	6%
\$20,001 to \$30,000	95	9%	75	6%	170	7%	11%
\$30,001 to \$40,000	100	9%	105	8%	205	9%	9%
\$40,001 to \$50,000	98	9%	132	10%	230	10%	8%
\$50,001 to \$70,000	190	18%	232	18%	422	18%	16%
\$70,001 to \$100,000	195	18%	281	21%	476	20%	16%
More than \$100,000	250	23%	387	29%	637	27%	19%
Did not answer	61	6%	53	4%	114	5%	14%
Total respondents	1077	100%	1,312	100%	2389	100%	100%

Note: * Source: Usually resident population, 2006 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Household composition

12% of respondents lived alone. However, the majority of respondents lived with a partner (75%), and 18% of respondents lived with a child or children aged between 5 to 15 years.

Table 4.12: Whom respondents live with – 2001, 2004 and 2007

Household occupants	2001		2004		2007	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Live alone	208	10%	208	10%	281	12%
Partner	1,809	83%	1,662	80%	1784	75%
Children under 5	113	5%	123	6%	105	4%
Children 5-15	480	22%	424	20%	419	18%
Dependants	74	3%	167	8%	71	3%
Other adults	291	13%	239	11%	246	10%
Others	39	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	-	-	32	2%	63	3%
Total respondents	2,170	***	2,081	***	2,389	***

Note: *** Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Over one-half of respondents (56%) live in a couple only household (Table 4.13). The next most common situation was couple with children households (14%).

In comparison with the 2004 survey, lower proportion of respondents live in a couple with child(ren) household (14% in 2007 compared to 23% in 2004).

Table 4.13: Composition of household – 2004 and 2007

Household composition	2004		2007	
	N	%	N	%
Live alone	208	10%	281	12%
Couple only	1,073	52%	1334	56%
Couple with child(ren)	471	23%	325	14%
Couple with others	118	6%	125	5%
Sole parent with child(ren)	93	4%	144	6%
Other multi-person household	86	4%	117	5%
Did not answer	32	2%	63	3%
Total respondents	2,081	100%	2,389	100%

COVERING LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX A: COVERING LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

Kia ora/Hello

Survey of Election Candidates, 2007

I am writing to invite you to participate in a survey of local authority election candidates.

Why have I been contacted?

This letter is being sent to all candidates who are participating in local government elections on 13 October 2007. This includes those standing for District Health Boards.

Why should I fill in this questionnaire?

Your participation in the survey is *not compulsory*, but will be greatly appreciated (it should take you about 15 minutes). We are seeking information about you, and your reasons for participating in this election, to build a national profile of candidates. This profile will demonstrate how candidates reflect the communities that they seek to represent. A high level of response will provide a more accurate and useful profile.

The survey results will be compared with Census information (which is why most of the questions resemble the Census questionnaire). This means we will compare the characteristics of candidates (such as age, ethnicity, sex) with those of the wider community. This information will be used to assess the changing characteristics of candidates.

But everyone will know all about me then, won't they?

The personal information that we collect about you in this survey will be stored, analysed and reported in a *strictly confidential* manner, and will not be released in a form that can identify you. Information will be summarised and presented separately for each characteristic— that is, details such as candidates' ages and income will be presented separately. For example, we would not say that a 50 to 54 year-old person earns \$20,000-\$30,000 annually, but rather that a certain proportion of candidates earn \$20,000-\$30,000 annually, and (separately) that a certain proportion of candidates are within the 50 to 54 year age range.

What happens to this information?

Your information, and that supplied by other candidates, will be analysed and published in a report titled *Local Government Candidates Survey: 2007*. This summarised information will not identify any candidate and will be put on the Department's website. The report will be made available to libraries, the general public, international agencies and any other interested parties.

This survey was conducted previously in 2004, 2001 and 1992. The 2004 report is on the DIA website at: [http://www.dia.govt.nz/Pubforms.nsf/URL/2004LocalGovernmentCandidatesurveyreport.pdf/\\$file/2004LocalGovernmentCandidatesurveyreport.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Pubforms.nsf/URL/2004LocalGovernmentCandidatesurveyreport.pdf/$file/2004LocalGovernmentCandidatesurveyreport.pdf)

What if I have any questions about this survey?

If you have any concerns or questions that have not been answered here, please do not hesitate to contact Sergei Koudrin (Senior Research Analyst):

Telephone: 04 494 5711

Fax: 04 495 7222

Email: sergei.koudrin@dia.govt.nz

Post: Research Services
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 805
WELLINGTON

When do I need to complete the survey by?

We know you will be very busy preparing and campaigning for election, but we would appreciate it if you would complete and return your questionnaire as soon as possible *before the election*, or very soon after.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid van Aalst

Acting Manager Research Services – Te Ropu Rangahau Kaupapa

LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS CANDIDATES SURVEY 2007

(including District Health Boards)

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) in the freepost envelope provided. Please note that for the purposes of this questionnaire, District Health Boards, Community Boards and Licensing Trusts are regarded as "local authorities".

All information collected for the survey is strictly confidential. The information will be presented in a way that protects the identity of all respondents (i.e. including you). No information about individual candidates will be made available to any third party.

Question 1: For which local authorities are you standing for election?

(give name, e.g. Wainuiomata Community Board, Waitomo District Council, West Coast District Health Board)

Community Board: _____

Licensing Trust: _____

District Health Board: _____

Regional Council: _____

District or City Council: _____

Mayoralty: _____

Other (please state): _____

Question 2: Have you previously stood as a candidate in a local authority election?

Include authorities that no longer exist, such as pest destruction boards and borough councils (please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No (go to Question 5)

If Yes, please tick all that apply:

- ☐ 1 Community Board
- ☐ 2 Licensing Trust
- ☐ 3 District Health Board
- ☐ 4 Regional Council
- ☐ 5 District or City Council
- ☐ 6 Mayoralty
- ☐ 7 Other (please state): _____

Question 3: Are you a sitting member of a local authority?

(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

Question 4: Please state, to the nearest year, the number of years you have spent as a member of local authorities; including local authorities that no longer exist:

_____ years

Note: if you sat on more than one authority at one time, do not count the same period twice; e.g. if you were elected to both a district council and a community board in 1998, this counts as three year's service, not six.

Question 5: Are standing for any local authorities, wards, or Regional Council, District Health Board for which you are not an elector?
(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Yes ☐ 2 No

Question 6: What are your main reasons for standing in the election?
In the first column tick all that apply and in the second column rank the three most important options from 1 to 3 (where "1" is the most important reason)

Tick all
that apply

Rate the
three most
important

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 1 | Yes A specific local issue or issues |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | An interest in local government affairs |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | To provide a regular or supplementary income |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | To represent a particular neighbourhood or community sector |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 | <input type="radio"/> 5 | Dissatisfaction with the way things are being run |
| <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | A desire to serve the community |
| <input type="radio"/> 7 | <input type="radio"/> 7 | Have a special skill/qualification or relevant specialist skills/experience to offer |
| <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | To gain political experience |
| <input type="radio"/> 9 | <input type="radio"/> 9 | Other (please specify): |

Question 7: When you decided to stand for a local authority, was it mainly your own idea or were you asked to stand by some person or organisation?
(tick all that apply)

- ☐ 1 Own idea
- ☐ 2 Asked by political organisation
- ☐ 3 Asked by sitting councillors or board members
- ☐ 4 Asked by family and/or friends
- ☐ 5 Asked by a non-political organisation
- ☐ 6 Asked by interested citizens
- ☐ 7 Other (please specify):

Question 8: Please describe any political involvement you have had, other than at local authority level?
(tick all that apply)

- ☐ 1 No previous political experience
 - ☐ 2 Central government politics
 - ☐ 3 Local issue politics
 - ☐ 4 Business association
 - ☐ 5 Trade unions
 - ☐ 6 Lobby groups
 - ☐ 7 Student politics
 - ☐ 8 Board of Trustees
 - ☐ 9 Other national political involvement (please specify): _____
- _____

Question 9: What, if any, have been your other main areas of involvement in the community?
(tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a Service clubs e.g. Lions, Rotary | <input type="checkbox"/> j Marae/iwi/hapū |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b Welfare/support | <input type="checkbox"/> k Health/disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> l Religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d Residents/ratepayers organisations | <input type="checkbox"/> m Social/recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e Boards of Trustees, school committees/PTA | <input type="checkbox"/> n Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> o Justice of the Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g Seniors/support for older people | <input type="checkbox"/> p Advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h Cultural | <input type="checkbox"/> q Heritage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i Other (please state): _____ | |
- _____

Question 10: Are you?
(please tick one):

- ☐ 1 Female ☐ 2 Male

Question 11: What age group are you in?

(please tick one):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 18 to 24 | <input type="radio"/> 6 45 to 49 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 25 to 29 | <input type="radio"/> 7 50 to 54 |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 30 to 34 | <input type="radio"/> 8 55 to 59 |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 35 to 39 | <input type="radio"/> 9 60 to 64 |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 40 to 44 | <input type="radio"/> 0 65 plus |

Question 12: Were you born in New Zealand?

(please tick one)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 Yes | <input type="radio"/> 2 No |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|

Question 13: Have you any New Zealand Māori ancestry?

(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Yes → go to Question 14
- ☐ 2 No → go to Question 15
- ☐ 3 Don't know → go to Question 14

Question 14: Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 No → go to Question 15
- ☐ 2 Yes → print the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi in the boxes below:

Iwi (tribe)	Region

Question 15: Which ethnic group(s) do you belong to?

(tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 New Zealand European | <input type="radio"/> 6 New Zealand Māori |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 Samoan | <input type="radio"/> 7 Cook Island Māori |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 Tongan | <input type="radio"/> 8 Niuean |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 Chinese | <input type="radio"/> 9 Indian |
| <input type="radio"/> 5 Other (such as <i>Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan</i> etc) please state: | |

Question 16: *In the job that you work the most hours in, are you:*
(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 A paid employee
- ☐ 2 An employer of other person(s) in my own business
- ☐ 3 Self-employed and NOT employing others
- ☐ 4 Working in a family business or family farm without pay
- ☐ 5 Not in paid employment
- ☐ 6 Unemployed

Question 17: *If currently in full-time employment, are you likely to be giving up your present job if elected?*
(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Yes
- ☐ 2 No
- ☐ 4 Will work part-time 4
- ☐ 5 Does not apply

Question 18: *From ALL sources of income, what was the TOTAL income for your HOUSEHOLD before tax in the past financial year?*
(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 \$10,000 or less
- ☐ 2 \$10,001 to \$20,000
- ☐ 3 \$20,001 to \$30,000
- ☐ 4 \$30,001 to \$40,000
- ☐ 5 \$40,001 to \$50,000
- ☐ 6 \$50,001 to \$70,000
- ☐ 7 \$70,001 to \$100,000
- ☐ 8 More than \$100,000

Question 19: *Do you live in a...?*
(please tick one)

- ☐ 1 Main urban area (30,000 or more people)
- ☐ 2 Minor urban area (1,000 - 10,000 people)
- ☐ 3 Secondary urban area (10,000 - 30,000 people)
- ☐ 4 Rural area (less than 1,000 people)
- ☐ 5 Not sure? (Please specify your locality): _____

Question 20: Who do you normally live with in your household?

(tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Live alone | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Partner/spouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Child/children under 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Child/children aged 5 to 15 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 People (other than children) who are dependent upon you and/or your partner/spouse for day-to-day care | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other (please specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Other adults | |

Question 21: How many people are normally resident in your household?

(Please give a single figure, not a range):

Question 22: Which occupational group best fits the work that you do?

(tick main occupation only)

- ☐ a Retired
- ☐ b Unemployed/Social Welfare Beneficiary
- ☐ c Student
- ☐ d Home duties (not in paid workforce)
- ☐ e Farm manager or owner
- ☐ f Executive /manager/senior public servant
- ☐ g Health Professional (e.g. nurse, dentist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, medical practitioner, radiographer) *Please specify:*
- ☐ h Professional (e.g. lawyer, accountant, scientist, teacher) *Please specify:*
- ☐ i Company board director
- ☐ j Clerical worker
- ☐ k Salesperson, or service worker and food outlet, hotel, security industry etc
- ☐ l Tradesperson or skilled manual worker
- ☐ m Semi-skilled manual worker
- ☐ n Labourer, agricultural worker, factory operator, cleaner etc
- ☐ o Other *(please state):*

Thank you very much for your participation in this survey, and good luck for the election! Or, if you have been elected unopposed, congratulations!



Te Tari Taiwhenua