**Ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe 2025** - Local body elections 2025

Mayoral Candidates

**Alex Baker
Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward **Affiliation:** Independent
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward.
I love Wellington, it’s an amazing place to live. I’m raising a family here and in 30 years will still be working and living here. I am committed to Wellington.
I’m a qualified accountant with public and private sector leadership experience in financial management, sustainability and city infrastructure. These are critical areas of expertise for any leader seeking to resolve the challenges facing Wellington.
As Mayor, I will support Council to deliver the positive, sustainable outcomes Wellingtonians want, while applying the strong, pragmatic financial management we need. I have the skills, energy and motivation to make sure Wellington is a place people want to, and can afford, to live.
My priorities: a council that acts to make Wellington more affordable, delivers effective transport infrastructure, supports business and job growth, and is environmentally responsible.
Choose a Mayor focused on working with Wellingtonians to keep building our vibrant, inclusive and innovative city.

**Scott Caldwell**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Affiliation:** The Scoot Foundation
My principal place of residence is not in the Wellington City Council area.
I believe in Wellington, but it’s time for a shakeup. We need fresh vision and a no-nonsense approach to revitalise the city.
I was born in the kind of faceless NZ suburb you see all around the country. Until the age of 10, I had never experienced a proper walkable, compact city.
The feeling that a city could be enjoyable for everyone to live in is something that has stuck with me ever since, and it will be the driving force behind my mayoralty.
Cities should be liveable and enjoyable but, for too long, Wellington has been held hostage to ideology and nostalgia. More importantly, we’ve become afraid of growth and change.
I stand for more affordable housing, better infrastructure, thriving local businesses, and real rates relief for all Wellingtonians - and I’m up for the challenge if you are. Vote Scoot! #1.

**Diane Calvert**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward **Affiliation:** Not Affiliated
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward.
I’m standing to be your next Mayor of Wellington and ask for your #1 vote. The city is facing one of its most challenging periods, and it needs experienced leadership that understands how the Council works and the complexity of the issues.
As a current city councillor, I have the knowledge, connections and proven record as a strategic thinker, successful community champion and advocate for smarter investment and lower rates. I’m ready to lead a reset at the Council that will prioritise our core services - infrastructure, waste and community amenities; reduce spending to affordable levels; support business investment; and restore public trust in Council.
I want to put money back in your pockets so you can decide where it goes, not the Council.
I’m not aligned with any political group and will work collaboratively across the Council, community and other partners to deliver the results Wellingtonians want.
[www.dianecalvert.nz](http://www.dianecalvert.nz)

**Ray Chung**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward **Affiliation:** INDEPENDENT TOGETHER - Vote For IT
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward.
I’m a Wellingtonian, who is committed to the economic and cultural future of our city. Genuine personal engagement, listening to people, and financial management that benefits ratepayers are what I bring to council and will bring as Mayor. I’ve had a proven international sales career in telecommunications, responsible for multi-million-dollar budgets and teams. Since elected in 2022, I’ve spoken with thousands of residents across the city. Many have no confidence in the council and want change. The bureaucracy has lost sight of who they work for, and ratepayers feel they’re treated like cash-cows, with rates beyond what many can afford. I’ll focus on reaching zero rate increases by prioritising core infrastructure, asset management, access for all and ensuring the protection of pools, libraries, parks and community facilities. I’ll end wasteful spending and eliminate unnecessary, unaffordable projects. With the right team of people, we can make Wellington affordable for everyone. [www.voteforit.nz](http://www.voteforit.nz)

**Rob Goulden**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward **Affiliation:** My Vision for the City 2050
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward.
ED JP MBA
Wellington needs strong new leadership from a Mayor who knows the issues the City faces.
I will listen to Wellingtonians and be a champion for the City.
Grow the city economy by facilitating the things we are good at: Film Industry, Arts, Culture and Entertainment Capital, developing Wellington as an IT Hub, Tourism & Education centre with the Universities and a new best in the world Medical Training Facility.
Work collegially and develop a team approach. Focus on priorities, core business and infrastructure on projects we can afford. Cut wasteful spending.
Make some robust decisions around water and Council Housing.
Work with Central Government and private sector to attract investment in our City.
All expenditure properly scrutinised, do things smarter.
Reduce debt and rates to an affordable level. No more closed-door Council meetings.
Report quarterly on progress. Working together and bring back the vibe, confidence and investment.

**Josh Harford**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Affiliation:** Aotearoa New Zealand Silly Hat Party
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area.
I’m Josh. Your local highly serious Silly Hat Party candidate. I represent a nationwide movement to bring relentless positivity and serious, silly ideas for the future and beyond, but I need your help, and your vote.
I pledge to you that as mayor, I will erect large sails at the ends of Wellington to redirect wind to Upper Hutt where it belongs. I will erect a giant umbrella to keep the rain off and I will look into getting rid of bad weather entirely. I will take action on our water infrastructure, by fashioning fish ponds in every pothole, and will transform Courtney Place into a lazy river with all the right accoutrements. I will also mandate optimism within the Wellington City Council.
I’m asking for your vote so we can stop the jesting and finally start Joshing around. Together, we can build a Highly Serious Future for Wellington.

**Kelvin Hastie**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward **Affiliation:** Independent
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Wharangi/Onslow-Western General Ward.
I’m Kelvin Hastie, and I’m standing for Mayor of Wellington to bring visionary, community-led leadership to our city. With a Design degree in Construction and global experience in infrastructure, IT, Virtual Reality, and Digital Twins, I bring technical expertise to build a smarter, more resilient Wellington.
My career bridges innovation and creativity. As a musician, arts promoter, and former venue operator, I understand the role of culture in creating vibrant, connected communities.
I also led the creation of New Zealand’s first predator-free suburb in Crofton Downs - proving what’s possible when residents unite around shared goals.
Wellington needs leadership that listens, collaborates, and delivers. I’ve worked at grassroots and national levels to turn vision into action, from environmental initiatives to civic projects.
Together, we can restore trust, embrace sustainable growth, and unlock the full potential of our capital. Let’s shape a Wellington that works for everyone - creative, connected, and future-ready.

**Andrew Little**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Affiliation:** Labour
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area.
I'm Andrew Little, asking for your #1 vote for Mayor.
As a former MP, senior Cabinet Minister, lawyer, and union leader, I have experience in leading large, complex organisations. I believe in Wellington and have what it takes to get our city back to its best.
My promise to you is serious leadership and real change.
That means getting a firmer grip on council spending to keep rates down. Investing in our swimming pools and libraries, not closing them. Protecting our assets, not selling them.
It means making the council more transparent and accountable, with community feedback front and centre when decisions are made.
It means making our city affordable by accelerating housing development and making public transport cheaper and more reliable.
I'm practical, I treat people with respect and I’ll get on with the job. If elected, I'll be a Mayor for all of Wellington.
Vote Andrew Little #1.

**Donald McDonald**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Paekawakawa/Southern General Ward **Affiliation:** Mcdone waiting 2coming terms Passover
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Paekawakawa/Southern General Ward.
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**William Pennywize**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Affiliation:** Pennywize the Rewilding Clown
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area.
Kia ora
Pennywize the Rewilding Clown needs your support to help bring back the wild to Windy Wellington.
If you want a Pōneke where kiwi, pūkeko and kereru have become a backyard nuisance then Pennywize is your clown.
If you want a Pōneke where we've Made the Basin Swamp Again, where moa and tuna transport us in a new PT system and where hokioi menace us from the skies then Pennywize is the clown for you.
Support Pennywize and support Pōneke.
Mauri ora

**Joan Shi**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Takapū/Northern General Ward **Affiliation:** Independent
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Takapū/Northern General Ward.
I am an immigrant and single mother of two lovely children who call Wellington home. My children and I have enjoyed 13 wonderful years living in this city. As Wellington is the hometown of my children, I have a genuine passion for making Wellington a better place.
I understand how difficult it can be to be heard. As a working mother, I have honed problem-solving skills, learned to manage stress, and made things work. When things are beyond my expertise, I know how to ask for help and listen.
My focus: prioritise council spending towards core infrastructure and essential services for the community, especially repairing leaking pipes, providing better and affordable public transportation and nurturing a business-friendly environment.
If my life journey resonates with you, please vote for me. I am more than happy to represent you and am committed to making myself available for our community.

**Karl Tiefenbacher**
**Standing for:** Mayor **Also standing for:** Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward **Affiliation:** Independent
My principal place of residence is in the Wellington City Council area. I am also standing for Motukairangi/Eastern General Ward.
I am a lifelong Wellingtonian who, following a successful 18-year career in the financial markets, established my own business (Kaffee Eis) which I have run and expanded successfully over the last 20 years.
I am driven by the desire to see Wellington regain its positivity and to create an environment where Wellingtonians cannot only survive but can also thrive.
As your Mayor, I will rebuild confidence and pride in our city by; Changing the councils culture to one of accountability that ensures value for every dollar spent and respects ratepayers’ views; Works closely with businesses to drive employment opportunities; Brings back the vibrancy by attracting more events and is transparent with everything it does.
I have the determination, business and financial acumen to rebuild confidence and pride in our city by ensuring the council delivers the basics well and earns our trust.
Wellington - It’s Time to Re-imagine Our Future!