



# UNDERSTANDING LOCAL BODY POLITICS IN

**TAURANGA | NEW ZEALAND**



**DEVELOPED BY LOBBY FOR GOOD  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH VOICES ACTION**

[WWW.YOUTHVOICESACTION.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.YOUTHVOICESACTION.ORG.NZ)

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# WHAT IS LOCAL BODY POLITICS (LBP)?



1.

## What is Local Body Politics (LBP)?

*LBP refers to the \*governance and administration of a city or district by elected representatives. These people are in charge of making important decisions that directly the community.*

## What is Governance\*?

Governance is how a group of people, make decisions and run things. Like being the leaders of a big team.

## So what do they even do? Well here's a Simple Breakdown:

**Decision-Making:** Governance is about making rules and decisions that help everyone in the community live better. Think of it like setting the rules for a game so everyone knows how to play.

**Leadership:** Leaders in governance, like mayors and councillors, are chosen to make sure these rules are fair and followed. They're like the team captains who guide everyone and make important choices.

**Organisation:** It involves organising resources (like money and services) to solve problems and make improvements, similar to how a team manager would organise equipment and practice sessions to help the team succeed.

**Responsibility:** People in these "governance" roles are responsible for listening to the community's needs and making decisions that benefit everyone, much like how a good captain (of your favourite sports team) would listen to their teammates to make the best plays.

## Why should you care?

**Good governance helps ensure that:**



**Communities are safe:** By having rules and services like police and fire departments.

**Things run smoothly:** Like making sure the roads are in good shape and the water is clean.

**Everyone's voice is heard:** So that all members of the community, including young people, can share their ideas and concerns.



**KEY**

-  WARD BOUNDARIES
-  TE AWANUI WARD  
*COVERS ALL OF THE WARDS*

# WHAT ARE ELECTORATES?



## 2.

### What Are Electorates?

**Definition:** Electorates are geographical areas represented by a member of the council. In local body politics, often called wards.

**Purpose:** They ensure that different parts of Tauranga have a voice in the council. Each electorate has its unique needs and priorities.

**Map of Electorates:** Highlighting different wards in Tauranga and their respective councillors.

**Te Awanui Ward:** Covers the entire area. The person chosen to represent the Te Awanui Ward (the Māori Ward) will make sure Māori communities are heard and treated fairly. This Māori ward councillor will focus on sharing the views and hopes of people with Māori heritage. But, they'll also represent everyone in the city.

**For more information visit [www.votelocal.co.nz/](http://www.votelocal.co.nz/)**

# HOW DOES TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL WORK



## THE COMMUNITY

ELECTS 1 MAYOR & 9 WARD COUNCILLORS



VOTES IN

VOTES IN

### COUNCILLORS

Represent the community's needs and participate in decision-making



### MAYOR



APPOINTS DEPUTY MAYOR\*

### CEO

Manages Council operations and ensures services are delivered and decisions are implemented



APPOINTS EXTERNAL CEO

Leader and spokesperson for Council, guides plans and budgets, appoints Deputy Mayor and committees to make fair and good decisions

OVERSEES

STAFF & delivers Council services and projects

\*The Deputy Mayor does the same job as the other councillors but takes over if the Mayor is away or unable to do their job

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## Role of the Council

**Representation:** Councillors are elected to represent the interests of those who live in those wards (called constituents).

**Decision-Making:** The council makes decisions on local policies, budgets, and services.

**Services Provided:** Councils manage local infrastructure (roads, water supply), recreational facilities (parks, sports grounds), and community services (libraries, community centres) They also often help to fund events and other initiatives that the community want to see happen.

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## How does Tauranga City Council work?

The community votes for 1 Mayor and 9 ward Councillors.

**Mayor:** Elected citywide and leads the council.

**Councillors:** Elected from different wards. Each ward has a certain number of councillors based on its population size.

# STV VOTING (SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE) HOW DOES IT WORK?



## HYPOTHETICAL CITY COUNCIL DOWNTOWN WARD ELECTION OF THREE (3) COUNCILLORS

Rank candidates in order of preference ... '1' '2' '3' etc

Number  
Here

<b>BROWN, Sandy</b>	3
<b>JONES, Sam</b>	1
<b>OWENS, Harry</b>	5
<b>SMITH, Ngaire</b>	2
<b>WATSON, Alice</b>	4

5.

**Number the Candidates:** Instead of ticking a box, you will rank the candidates by putting numbers next to their names.

Put a "1" next to the candidate you like the most.

Put a "2" next to your second favourite candidate.

Continue numbering your choices in order of preference (3, 4, 5, etc.).

You can vote for as many or as few candidates as you like.

### What Do the Numbers Mean?

"1": This is your top choice, the candidate you want to win the most.

**Other Numbers:** These show your backup choices in order. For example, "2" is your second favourite, "3" is your third, and so on.

If your top choice doesn't get enough votes to win, your vote can still count towards your next choice.

If your top choice has more than enough votes to win, some of your vote can help your next choice.

### Important Things to Remember:

You must have a "1" for your vote to count.

The numbers must be in order (1, 2, 3, etc.) with no repeats.

If you make a mistake, your vote is valid up to where the mistake happened. For example, if you rank 1, 2, 3, and then skip to 5, only 1, 2, and 3 will count.

# HOW IS THE CITY COUNCIL FUNDED?



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## How is the City Council Funded?

Ever wonder where the city council gets its money and how it impacts you?

### Here's a quick rundown:

- **Rates:** Unlike the central government, which relies on income and sales taxes, your city council primarily gets its money from rates.
- **Grants and Subsidies:** They receive grants and subsidies, including their share of road taxes and development contributions.

### The city council also makes money through:

- **Regulatory Fees:** These include things like parking fines.

- **Selling Services:** When you pay to use public swimming pools or other services, that money goes to the council.

- **Investments:** They earn interest from investing funds into other things.

For bigger projects, like building new infrastructure, councils often need to borrow money. They usually do this through the Local Government Funding Agency, which offers lower interest rates than regular banks.

Understanding this helps you see how city projects get funded and why certain fees exist. Plus, knowing this can empower you to be more involved in local decisions that affect your community.



# HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFECTS YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE



## 7.

### How Local Government Affects Your Life Every Day

Local government plays a big role in your daily life. Here's how:

- **Clean Water:** That fresh water from your tap? Local government ensures it's there.
- **Public Spaces:** Want to hang out at the park or swim at the local pool? Council ensures these spaces, trees and gardens are maintained.
- **Parking:** They manage parking spaces, so you have a place to leave your car when you're out.
- **Libraries and Amenities:** Whether you're borrowing a book or playing sport at the QE2 Youth Centre, local government makes it possible.
- **Street Lighting:** Walking your dog at night? They keep the streets well-lit and safe.

- **Rubbish and Recycling:** They handle your rubbish and recycling, keeping your neighbourhood clean.

#### Local government also:

- **Plans Your Area:** They shape how your community develops and manage the environment.
- **Sets Local Rules:** They create and enforce laws that keep the community running smoothly.
- **Supports Community Initiatives:** From tackling homelessness to reducing crime and creating jobs, they're involved in making your area better and safer.
- **Emergency Planning:** They prepare for emergencies to keep you safe during disasters.

Local government is behind many things that make your life easier and your community better.

## Benefits of Participation

# WHY YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD GET INVOLVED



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### Why Young People Should Get Involved

**Future Impact:** Decisions made today will shape Tauranga's future. Your involvement ensures your voice is heard and the city has things you want to see here.

**Representation:** Young people have unique perspectives and priorities. Engaging in politics ensures these are considered when council is making decisions.

**Skill Development:** Getting involved builds valuable skills like leadership, public speaking, and critical thinking.

**Community Improvement:** Active participation helps create a community that reflects your values and needs.

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### How to Get Involved

Want to make a real impact on your community?

**Here's how you can get involved with local government:**

**Voting:** Have you registered to vote? It's super easy—just visit [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz). Voting is the simplest and most powerful way to influence local politics. Make sure you're registered and vote in local elections to have your say on issues that affect you.

**Attend Meetings:** Did you know council meetings are open to the public? Attending these meetings keeps you informed and gives you a chance to voice your opinions on local matters.

**Join or Form Groups:** Get together with friends or join local advocacy groups to focus on issues that matter to you, like skate parks, swimming pools, parks, events, and the environment.

**Use your Voice:** Passionate about making a difference? Consider running for the council. Young voices are crucial in shaping the future of our communities.

**Getting involved is easier than you think, and your participation can lead to real change in your community!**





# TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A MORE INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND VIBRANT TAURANGA.

## ABOUT US

Youth Voices Action is a local charity in the Bay of Plenty providing rangatahi safe spaces to share ideas, collaborate with other organisations, address issues and create solutions. Together with our partners we create a supportive community where young people can learn and grow. Our initiatives aim to educate, inspire, and activate young individuals to take an active role in shaping their communities.

Lobby for Good is a social enterprise dedicated to empowering communities by promoting civic engagement and understanding of political processes. Our goal is to help people of all ages become more active and informed participants in their local and central governments.

## OUR PARTNERSHIP

This guide has been developed as a collaborative effort between Lobby for Good and Youth Voices Action. We share a common vision of a more engaged and informed community. By combining our resources and expertise, we aim to make local body politics in Tauranga accessible and interesting to everyone, especially young people.

## WHY WE DO THIS

**Promote Understanding:** We want everyone to understand how local governance works and why it matters.

**Encourage Participation:** We believe that more engaged citizens lead to better communities.

**Support Youth Engagement:** We are committed to empowering young people to take an active role in politics, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs addressed.

## GET IN TOUCH



**Youth Voices Action**

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**Lobby for Good**

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