

MAYORAL CANDIDATES ANSWER THE KEY QUESTIONS

Capital put seven questions to the eight mayoral candidates and sought support/oppose answers. Candidates were advised that long explanations and qualifications to their answers would be edited. Many answers have been trimmed for length.

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	JO COUGHLAN	ANDY FOSTER	KEITH JOHNSON	NICK LEGGETT	JUSTIN LESTER	JOHNNY OVERTON	HELENE RITCHIE	NICOLA YOUNG
The building of a second tunnel through Mount Victoria	Support. And double-tunnel The Terrace as well.	I expect a second tunnel to be part of a package of transport and urban-design improvements.	Support, as part of negotiated multi-interest/multi-modal Transport Accord.	Support as part of an integrated transport package between the Terrace tunnel and the airport.	Support.	I want an integrated, secure and environmentally friendly transport system.	Not relevant. This is a central government project.	Support. It's at least 60 years overdue.
Council investment in the proposed extension to the runway at Wellington International Airport? *	Support. City funding must be reflected in the airport's ownership structure.	Support, subject to other funding and retaining ownership of the runway extension.	I absolutely oppose.	Support. Needs a funding scenario that works for ratepayers and taxpayers.	Support, subject to resource consent funding, and commitment from airlines.	Oppose.	Oppose. I have proposed a ratepayer referendum on the runway.	Oppose. If Infratil is not prepared to fund in line with its shareholding, suggests the economic case is not robust.
Council spending on upgrading the Basin Reserve as a sporting venue for international and domestic cricket and other sports?	Support. We need to look at options and include double tunnelling.	Work is already underway.	Support.	Any upgrade of the Basin should be considered in line with any roading improvements.	Oppose.	Oppose.	Support.	Support. Need to widen its use, to justify the cost.
Extending the Island Bay cycleway to other parts of the city?	I support sensible cycleways and the harbour-side iconic cycleway.	We have learned lessons from the Island Bay design and process. Mistakes won't be repeated.	I support the recently agreed 'New-Look Cycling Programme'.	Support, so long as local communities are able to direct their design and layout.	Support the Council's cycling initiatives. The designs will vary.	I'm for returning the Island Bay parade to how it was.	Support. Extend safe cycleways through the city.	Support. The focus should be on the CBD, where cycling numbers and accidents are highest.
As Mayor, will you commit to a) supporting a freeze on rates, or b) limiting rates rises to no more than 2% per year?	Support. We need fair and reasonable rates and a value-for-money council.	b) We should be between 2 and 3%. That means not having a lot of expensive wish-list projects.	a) Support. b) Rates should increase at no more than the rate of inflation, with parity of rates between residential and business ratepayers.	a) No to the freeze on rates. b) No to a limit of 2%. A 5.5% residential rate increase this year is too high.	b) 3% is an appropriate and realistic figure, without having to cut services such as libraries or pools.	Support a freeze by less spending on grandiose projects, exorbitant salaries and public relations campaigns.	a) Oppose. b) Possibly – depends on city's budget essentials. Other mayoral candidates have huge spending priorities.	Freeze rates at inflation by cutting waste; Council must focus on its core business.
A merger of the Wellington and Porirua City Councils (assuming that this is subject to ratepayer approval)?	Oppose unless new info comes to light.	A distraction – there are a lot more important things to focus on.	Subject to referenda with majorities in each TLA, yes – otherwise No.	Yes – as long as it was supported by a majority vote of citizens.	Oppose.	Oppose.	Not at present.	Oppose. But support extending joint service delivery to provide the efficiencies of amalgamation.
The conversion of Frank Kitts Park into a Chinese Garden?	Support unless we can find a better site	Only part of the park would be converted and only if the Chinese community raises the money.	Not keen. I like the existing layout but it is not a biggie.	I support but I am not convinced that site is the best.	Support, but not moving or altering the amphitheatre at Frank Kitts Park.	Oppose.	Oppose. Maybe in the Botanic Garden, or elsewhere on the waterfront.	Oppose, along with Frank Kitts park upgrade – this is over 90% of this year's general rates increase.

Support Oppose Other

Full answers available at www.capitalmag.co.nz

* (according to the plan by WIAL Ltd)