

S O L G M

NZ SOCIETY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS



CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

For the Management of Local Authority
Elections and Polls

Part 13 Scrutineers

Produced by the
SOLGM Electoral Working Party

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Introduction

- 13.1 Scrutineers may be appointed by candidates at elections, or by electors in respect of polls, to observe the conduct of the election or poll concerned. Appointment of scrutineers can be seen to assist the achievement of the principle of public confidence in, and public understanding of, local electoral processes.
- 13.2 To promote awareness and understanding of the role, including the rights and responsibilities of scrutineers, the Electoral Working Party has prepared a model scrutineers handbook. This handbook is attached. It is recommended that electoral officers prepare a scrutineers handbook, based on the attached model, for circulation to candidates and (prospective) scrutineers.

Objective

To provide clear guidance for electoral officers, candidates and scrutineers as to the rights and obligations under the Local Electoral Act 2001 of scrutineers and also the expected conduct of scrutineers in undertaking their role.

Legislative requirements

- 13.3 The key provisions relating to scrutineers are:

Local Electoral Act 2001

Section 66	Scrutineers at election
Section 67	Scrutineers at poll
Section 68	General rules affecting scrutineers
Section 81	Scrutineers' presence at processing prohibited before close of voting
Section 83	Scrutiny of roll
Section 84	Counting of votes
Section 90	Application for recount
Section 91	Scrutineers at recount
Section 123	Offences in respect of official documents
Section 129	Infringement of secrecy
Section 130	Disclosing voting or state of election or poll

Local Electoral Regulations 2001

Postal voting and FPP (STV)

- Regulation 55 (100) Dealing with returned envelopes
- Regulation 58 (103) Counting votes
- Regulation 60 (104A) Performance standard for checking systems
- Regulation 61A (105A) Preliminary results of elections

NOTE: Similar Regulations also apply for booth voting using FPP and STV, and must be followed if this voting method is adopted.

- Regulation 137 Declaration of scrutineers

Recommended practices

- 13.4 It is important that candidates are aware of what is expected of their scrutineers and that scrutineers also understand what is required of them.
- 13.5 A handbook for scrutineers at local elections and polls has been produced by the SOLGM Electoral Working Party. An updated version of the handbook is included as Appendix A to this Part of the Code.

1 Recommended good practice is that the Handbook for Scrutineers prepared by the SOLGM Electoral Working Party be adopted by electoral officers and made available to scrutineers, candidates and electoral staff.