



NEW ZEALAND  
**RED CROSS**  
RIPEKA WHERO AOTEAROA

2026 National Council Elections

# Nomination guidelines for candidates

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# Introduction

**Thank you for your interest in serving as a New Zealand Red Cross National Council member to represent your area for the July 2026 to June 2027 year.**

National Council is our highest decision-making body. As an elected area representative member of National Council, you would help govern the organisation through activities such as electing new National Board members.

We are looking for people who can bring a commitment to strong governance and leadership, underpinned by a genuine commitment to the Red Cross's humanitarian Fundamental Principles.

It will be important that you have confidence in your availability to review governance documents and elect representatives, and are able to attend our National Council Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 7 November (or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf).

Robust governance is essential to maintaining the trust of our communities, partners and the public. It supports New Zealand Red Cross to fulfil our mission to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity and enhancing community resilience.

This guide will help you through the nomination process for this role.

## ***Need support?***

If you need help at any stage in the nomination or election processes, our Membership and Volunteering team is here to assist you.

Email [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz)  
or call 0800 RED CROSS (0800 733 27677) and select option 4.

# Key dates for 2026/27

## **Monday, 15 June 2026**

Nominations open.

## **Wednesday, 15 July 2026**

Nominations close at 11:59pm.

## **Monday, 17 August 2026**

All candidate nominations processing complete.

Candidates are announced, and online voting opens.

## **Monday, 31 August 2026**

Voting closes.

## **Tuesday, 15 September 2026**

Election results announced, and new National Council members officially begin their service for the 2026/27 term.

## **October 2026**

National Council members receive an electronic package of papers (a hard copy can be requested) of documents for decisions that you will be voting on at the November National Council Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Office of the Secretary General will also contact you to make travel or proxy voting arrangements for the AGM.

## **Friday, 6 November 2026**

Dinner for National Council members in Wellington.

## **Saturday, 7 November 2026**

National Council Annual General Meeting in Wellington.

## **November 2026 to mid-September 2027**

On occasion, a special meeting of the National Council may be required.

Any special general meetings, if needed, will be announced separately and held online.

# Preparing to submit your nomination

## Step 1: Make sure you're eligible

You can stand as a candidate if:

- **You are over 18 years old.**
- **You are a registered member of New Zealand Red Cross.** All our current volunteers will already also be registered as members. Not sure if you're a member? Ask our team (*details on page 2*).
- **You're a member in good standing.** This means:
  - there are no internal disciplinary matters that might affect your candidacy, and
  - you either already have a Police Vetting check or a Ministry of Justice check issued on or after 15 September 2024, or you will be able to pass the formal Ministry of Justice vetting check required for this role.
- **You don't hold other roles or have conflicts of interest that affect your candidacy.**
  - Current employees of New Zealand Red Cross and people who have been employed with us in the last six months are not eligible to stand in these elections. This six-month cooldown does not apply to international delegates who have returned from overseas deployment.
  - Please consider if you have any personal or professional conflicts of interest with this role. If you are a political candidate standing in this year's election, or have other conflicts of interest such as a commercial relationship with us you may not be eligible to stand in this election.
  - Red Cross area council members and branch officials are welcome to stand for National Council and, if elected, hold this role alongside their other Red Cross roles.
  - People who have been National Council members in the past are also eligible, but will need to go through this year's nomination process.

## Step 2: Self-reflection

Before you decide to put yourself forward for nomination, we encourage you to reflect on whether this opportunity aligns with your personal and professional strengths, and your own longterm goals and motivation.

Completing the self-assessment (*see Annex 1*) will help you reflect on your readiness and identify your next steps.

Please also take the time to go through the role description and responsibilities.

[Link to the role and responsibilities description for National Council members](#)

## Step 3: Identify and contact two Red Cross members to support your nomination

You'll need the support of two current Red Cross members from your area (*see map in Annex 2*) for your nomination. These might be:

- fellow volunteers on your current volunteer team,
- other Red Cross volunteers you know,
- fellow members of your local Red Cross branch, or
- someone on your area council.

Please touch base with these nominators to confirm they're happy to vouch for you and support your candidacy. You'll need their first and last names, role at Red Cross, and contact details (phone, email, or both) for the next step.

**Important note: Red Cross employees can't participate in our elections processes, and therefore cannot serve as nominators.**

In a role where you don't often meet other members and volunteers? Joined Red Cross recently? Need help contacting a fellow member you've met before? Our team (*details on page 2*) can connect you with other members who may support your candidacy.

## **Step 5: Fill in our online nomination form**

With all the steps above completed, proceed to filling in our online nomination form. This form will ask you for your details and to confirm information from the steps above, and to answer questions about your experience and motivation for this role.

[Link to our 2026 National Council Elections online nomination form](#)

## **Step 6: Email us supplemental information**

Please email [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz) a headshot-style photograph of you that is:

- Taken in landscape view (i.e. taken horizontally, so the picture is wider than it is tall)
- Has a light or white background
- Is from approximately the mid-chest up and includes some space above your head
- Is of high resolution (a minimum of 300 DPI – pictures taken on most current generation mobile phones and attached directly to an email will be usable.)

We'll create a short candidate introduction for Red Cross members voting in this year's National Council Elections that uses this photo, along with information from your nomination form about experience and motivation. These bios and photos will appear on our communications channels such as our website.

If you have recently submitted a photograph like this for another role (such as area councillor) and are happy for us to continue using this, you may skip this step.

# Checklist

## I have:

- Read the eligibility criteria and confirmed I'm eligible for this role.
- Reflected on my own strengths and goals, and how these relate to the role.
- Confirmed that two other Red Cross members are happy to vouch for me and be listed as supporting my nomination.
- Filled in the online nomination form.
- Emailed in a photograph (if we don't already have one for you) to the team at [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz).

## What happens next

Once you submit your nomination form and (if required) email us your photo, we will assign a case manager from our Area Support Team to review your nomination. They will check to make sure we have all the information required, and will reach out to you if we need to clarify details or ask for anything else.

After all nominations are processed, we will hold elections via secret online ballot. Red Cross members and volunteers in your area will vote for eligible candidates to represent them at National Council.

On Tuesday, 15 September 2026 election results will be announced, and new National Council members will officially begin their service for the 2026/27 term.

# Annex 1

## Self assessment

**This will help you assess your personal and professional suitability for the role of National Council member.**

Under each of the headings below please select the number that most accurately describes where you currently see yourself. When choosing a number, consider your skills and capability in the skillset area described.

- 1 represents no confidence or capability,
- 3 represents some confidence or capability, and
- 5 represents high confidence or capability.

After completing the self-assessment checklist, calculate your final score and refer to the table below for the recommended next steps.

**Between 18 and 30 years old?** We don't expect you to have a lot of formal experience, and we're excited to support your learning and development! Reach out to [youth@redcross.org.nz](mailto:youth@redcross.org.nz) - we're happy to answer questions and help you decide if this role is a good fit for you.

**Statement 1:** I hold myself accountable, exercise sound judgment, and act with integrity.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 2:** I consistently act in accordance with humanitarian principles and impartiality.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 3:** I am confident interpreting and discussing financial reports and risk matters.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 4:** I have experience reviewing past performance and using that learning to shape future strategy.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 5:** I understand and embrace the New Zealand Red Cross Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 6:** I embrace and promote diversity, inclusion, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 7:** I have read and understand the [New Zealand Red Cross Strategy 2030 \(PDF, 3.4MB\)](#) and the [New Zealand Red Cross Youth Engagement Strategy \(PDF, 11MB\)](#).

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 8:** I understand the [roles and responsibilities of a National Council member](#).

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

**Statement 9:** I am committed and available to prepare for and attend the National Council Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 7 November 2026 and understand I will be contacted to join any special National Council meetings if called prior to new National Council delegates being elected in 2027.

1	2	3	4	5
Not accurate				Highly accurate

## Self-Assessment Scoring

Score	Recommended next steps	Actions
9 - 18	Consider focusing on these areas for growth and development, with the aim of applying at a later point in the future when you're ready.	Take some time for further growth and preparation.
19 - 35	Think about your aptitudes and competencies before exploring this opportunity further. Take a thoughtful approach before making your decision to put your nomination forward.	Email <a href="mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz">membership@redcross.org.nz</a> to request a chat with someone who will help you learn more about the role, what leadership development opportunities we have available, and how these might align with your strengths and goals.
36 - 45	Feel confident in putting your nomination forward/ accepting the opportunity to be considered for co-option.	Submit your nomination form. If you have any questions, connect with <a href="mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz">membership@redcross.org.nz</a> .

# Annex 2

## Map of our areas

To help manage our people and activities, New Zealand Red Cross has seven geographic areas across the country.

Unsure which area you belong to? Email [membership@redcross.org.nz](mailto:membership@redcross.org.nz).

