

14 October 2025

Warwick Lampp
Electionz.com

Subject: Request for Aggregate Special Vote Reconciliation Data – Taupo District

Dear Mr. Lampp,

I am writing in my capacity as an elected Councillor to formally request aggregate data relating to the reconciliation of Special Votes cast during the recent 2025 local election for the in the Taupo District and broken down by individual wards (*Taupo, Turangi-Tongariro, Taupo East Rural, Mangakino-Pouakani & Maori*). Specifically, I am seeking:

- The **total number** of Special Votes issued and received within my district, by individual ward;
- The **number of instances** where a Special Vote was recorded that superseded or invalidated a previously submitted ordinary vote, by individual ward.

This is anonymised, statistical information. It does not seek voter identities, addresses, or any private data. My intent is to understand whether vote override patterns exist that may be relevant to public confidence in the election system.

Statutory Function and Public Accountability

While your role is delivered under contract via *Electionz.com*, you are appointed as Electoral Officer under Section 12 of the Local Electoral Act 2001. That section establishes the Electoral Officer as a statutory authority charged with administering the local electoral process. Although the Act does not explicitly impose public disclosure obligations in every instance, the fact that you are exercising a public function created by statute places your role within the realm of legitimate public scrutiny.

It is a well-established principle in public law that private contractors exercising statutory functions on behalf of local authorities may be expected to adhere to the same standards of transparency and accountability as the public entities they serve. In this context, a refusal to disclose basic, anonymised statistical data - such as how many Special Votes were used to override ordinary votes - may be lawful, but it is not consistent with the democratic values that underpin the electoral process.

Clarification Request

You have stated that this information is “not publicly available, nor discoverable” and is “not provided to the Council”. You also claim that you are the final authority for appeal. I request that you now clarify:

1. The legal basis upon which you claim this data is exempt from public or elected official access;
2. Whether any portion of the reconciliation process or its findings are reported to the Council, Chief Executive, or relevant oversight body, whether formally or informally; and
3. Whether *Electionz* or your office has a formal policy regarding disclosure of anonymised statistical electoral data to elected representatives.

If the data cannot be provided through your office directly, I will be requesting access to the electoral services contract through the Council under LGOIMA to determine what accountability provisions are in place for third-party providers executing public functions.

Summary

To be clear: this request does not allege misconduct or imply wrongdoing. But refusal to release anonymised aggregate data about electoral reconciliation processes does not serve democratic legitimacy. As a Councillor, it is my role to understand and, when necessary, question the systems in place to ensure they serve the public interest fully and transparently.

I ask you to reconsider your position, and either release the data or state your grounds for continued refusal with clarity and reference to applicable law or policy.

Yours sincerely,



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