

DEBBIE DAVIS

Rates

We acknowledge that Regional Council rate increases have been amongst the lowest in our region, however, local government rates are increasing in excess of CPI. Ratepayers are in a cost-of-living crisis. Growth cannot be an excuse as it is simply a factor you will have to deal with.

How will you manage Rates increases?

1. Join rates subcommittee to ensure forecasts from 2026 - 2029 of rate reductions
2. Join Audit & Risk committee to ensure forecasts from 2026 - 2029 of rates reductions
3. To ensure forecasts are upheld, therefore if I am appointed I will jump on the above committees to challenge projections if changes.

Comments (200 words max):

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Debt

Debt has been the easy option for local government entities to resort to in order to hold rates down in the face of inflation, growth, and a need to be re-elected. Councils such as Hamilton and others have had rating downgrades pointing to a failure by Councils to prudently manage their finances.

How will you deal with debt?

1. Joint audit & risk committee to ensure debt management is status quo
2. Review & challenge investment portfolio
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):

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Amalgamation

The amalgamation of some or all of Waikato Councils has been an issue the Chamber has been canvassing for some years. Auckland has been amalgamated, and the net result is seen as positive for their community with little diminution of democracy.

"For the 2025/2026 rating year, Auckland Council has announced a total rates increase of 5.8%, equating to approximately \$223 per year for the average residential property."

What is your considered position on Amalgamation?

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For amalgamation



Against amalgamation

If in favour of change, how would you implement it?

1. Only against at this time as I don't have sufficient information to make an informed comparison.
- 2.
- 3.

Comments (200 words max):