

# Pathway to Parliament: a handbook for Cook Islands Women

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## Extract: Section 2

### English Version

#### Political Party or Independent?

Your next big decision will be whether you wish to represent a political party or stand as an independent. There are advantages and disadvantages for both. As a party member you will be required to act within the rules of the party, agree with the policies of the party and support the decisions of the party leader. Sometimes you may not agree with the rules or the decisions but as a party member you will be expected to always support the party.

There are only two major political parties in the Cook Islands at present: the Cook Islands Party (CIP) and the Cook Islands Democratic Party (CIDP). Each party operates under a constitution or set of rules that complies with the Cook Islands Electoral Act. The rules set out the objectives of the party, (which are the reasons the party exists), as well as the rules for membership, the behaviour of members and for making all of the decisions the party needs to make.

As we know there is a history of “party-hopping” in Cook Islands parliament, or party members changing sides because they have not agreed with their own party on a matter of debate or for their own private reasons. It is an act of bad faith for a person to hop from party to party, it is unsettling for the party, can reduce the number of seats that a party needs to stay in government and can be damaging to that person’s own reputation. So when you make the decision to become a party member, think of it as similar to a marriage: a long term arrangement in which faithfulness is one of the key ingredients to making it successful.

The reasons that you decide to go **with a party** should include:

- because you know what the party stands for and you believe in their principles;
- you know the political history of the party and the decisions that they have made in the past while in government and you agree with them;
- you understand and agree with the party’s rules and you are prepared to comply with them; and
- you have support in your constituency from party members who will help you in your bid to be selected as a candidate and who will help you with your campaign.

The reasons that you choose to stand **as an independent** should include:

- you find that you cannot agree with either party’s objectives, principles, decision making or behaviour;
- you do not wish to be constrained by party policy or subject to the methods of party decision-making;
- you do not meet the eligibility to stand for a party and your only option is go independent

- you have good support from your family, friends and community in your constituency that gives you faith that you can run a good campaign and gain enough votes to win.

## And now for the legalities: are you eligible to stand?

To stand for election you **must be currently enrolled in the Cook Islands** in keeping with the Electoral Act.

Your name will appear on the **main roll** for the constituency that you are registered in. If you have moved since registering or changed your name, you must update your details with the Chief Registrar of Electors or the Registrar of Elector appointed for your constituency.

### You **must not**:

- have been officially made bankrupt under Cook Islands law and still not be discharged from bankruptcy;
- have been convicted of any of the crimes specified under the Crimes Act 1969 against the administration of law and justice:  
judicial corruption, bribery of a judicial officer, bribery and corruption of a Minister of the Crown, corruption and bribery of member of Parliament or corruption and bribery of a law enforcement officer ,corruption and bribery of an official, perjury, making false oaths, fabricating evidence, conspiring to bring false accusations, conspiring to defeat justice or corrupting juries and witnesses;
- have been convicted of any crimes under the Crimes Act 1969 against the state: treason, inciting to mutiny, communicating secrets, sabotage, seditious conspiracy, seditious statements, publication of seditious documents, use of apparatus for making seditious documents or statements; as well as murder, slavery or human trafficking, privacy and kidnapping; **and** a period of five years has **not** passed since conviction of the offence
- be a Crown servant or a judicial officer;
- be an elected Local Government office holder in the Outer Islands;
- be an elected Local Government office holder in Rarotonga.

Being sure that you are eligible for nomination is very important as it is an offence under the Electoral Act to accept nomination as a candidate if you know that you are not eligible. It is also an offence for an elector to nominate a person as a candidate that **they know is not eligible**, or where that elector knows that **she is not eligible to nominate someone**.

## Calling of an election

There is a process laid out in the Electoral Act that you must be aware of if you wish to become a candidate.

It is the **Queen's Representative** that gives official notice of the date for the general election in the Cook Islands Gazette and to the Chief Electoral Officer. This is done within five days after dissolving the last sitting of parliament.

Within five days of receiving **that** notice, the Chief Electoral Officer advises the public of the date of the general election, **the place in each constituency and last day when candidate nominations can be lodged** with the Returning Officer, the date that the main rolls will

close, the date that the supplementary rolls will open and the last day on which any objections can be made regarding any of the names on the main and supplementary rolls.

The main roll is maintained continuously for each constituency throughout the year. It will be closed within seven (7) days of the Queen's representative publishing the date of the general election in the Cook Islands Gazette.

Supplementary rolls are compiled for each constituency **when they are required for an election or a by-election**. Supplementary rolls will open on the day after the main rolls are closed and then close 14 days later.

### *Important Dates*

Last day of parliament

10 days later Public Notice of the Election

12 days later the main roll closes - 23 April 2014

10 days later nominations final day closes at 12pm - 5 May 2014

15 days after main roll closes supplementary rolls close - 7 May 2014

### **Maori Version**

#### **Pātī- Porotiki mē `e Tū-Anake -Independent?**

Ko tā`au takainga ma`ata i tēia nei ka rave, koia `oki ko te `iki me ka `inangaro koe i te mono i tēta`i pātī –porotiki me kore ko te aere `okota`i koia `oki "Independent". Te vai ra te au tū-kau i tē te tū-katau no ngā tua roa ai. Mē `e mema pārimani koe, ka anoano `ia koe i te rave i tā`au au rave`anga na roto rāi i te papa-ture tei `akataka`ia `e te pātī, kia āru koe i te au `akano`ono`o`anga a te pātī ma te turu i te tangata-`aka`aere o te pātī.

I tēta`i au taime, kāre pa`a koe e `āriki i te tuku`anga ture a te pātī, `ināra, no te mea `oki ē, `e mema koe no te pātī ka anoano `ia koe kia turu i te pātī.

`E rua rāi ngā pātī porotiki tumu tikāi i te Kūki `Airani nei: ko te Cook Islands Party (CIP) `ē te Cook Islands Democratic Party (CIDP). Ko tēia ngā pātī te `akatere `ia nei ki raro ake i tēta`i `akapapa`angā ture tei `akakeu `ia na roto i te `akano`ono`o`anga o te Cook Islands Act. Kua `akano`o `ia te au ture ki runga i te tāpura ā te pātī, ( koia te tumu i ora ai te pātī), `ē pērā te au ture no te au mema, te tū-tākinga o te au mema, `ē pērā katoa te au tuku`angā-tika tā te pātī ka rave.

Kua kite `oki tātou ē, te vai nei te tua-taito o te "rererere-pātī" i roto i te pārimani Kūki `Airani, mē kore te tū tau i pātī a te au mema-pātī, no te mea, kāre rātou i `āriki ki tō rātou ua`orāi pātī no runga i tēta`i au manako tei `uri`uri `ia me kore no tēta`i atu au tumu kē o rātou rāi. Kāre i reira tēia e tau ana ki te pātī, no te mea ka riro tēia i te `akaiti mai i tō rātou no`o`anga ka inangaro `ia kia no`o ki roto i te kavamani. Ka riro katoa rāi `oki tēia i te tākinokino i te tūranga o taua tangatā ra. No reira me te umuumu nei koe kia riro mai `e mema pārimani, `akamanako koe i tēia kua `aiteite rāi ki te `akaipoipo: `e tūranga roa tēia, `e ko te tiratiratū `ē te kauraro tēta`i ngā tāviri pu`apinga ka anoano `ia kia tere ki mua te `akakoro`anga.

Te au tumu i manako ei koe kia piri atu ki **tēta`i pātī**:

o kua kite koe i teia pātī e tū nei `ē te `irinaki nei koe i tāna au `akano`ono`o`anga ;

- kua kite koe i te tūranga porotiki o te pātī `ē pērā katoa tāna au `akano`ono`o`anga i topa, i tōna tuatau i roto i te kavamani `ē pērā katoa kua `āriki koe i te reira;
- kua mārama `ē te `āriki nei koe i te papa-ture a te pātī `ē kua papa koe no te turu i te reira
- `e au turu tō`ou i roto i tō`ou matakeinanga mei ko mai i te au mema o te pātī te ka tauturu mai `iā koe i roto i tā`au `oro`anga campaign.

**Te au tumu i `iki ei koe no te tū Anake (Independent):**

- te kite nei koe `e kāre koe e `āriki ana i te au tāpura, te tūranga, te au `akano`ono`o`anga a te ngā pātī;
- kāre koe e inangaro ana kia piri atu ki roto i te tū `aka`aere`anga taukore ā te pātī `ē tā rātou `akatere`anga no te tuku`anga tika.
- kāre i taea `e koe te tūranga tā te pātī i anoano kia tū koe, no reira ko te rāvenga `ua rai ko te `aere tū Anake (Independent)
- e au turu meitaki tō`ou mei ko mai i tō`ou kōpū-tangata, au taeake, matakeinanga i roto i tō`ou vaka. No reira te irinaki nei koe e `oro`anga meitaki tēia nā`au `ē ka rauka, kā rava tā`au vōti no te `autū.

## **Te Au tika`anga ture: `E tika`anga ainei tō`ou kia tū koe?**

No te tū `ē te piri atu ki roto i te `iki`anga, **kua oti koe `ē kia rētita `ia koe i te Kūki `Airani nei** `ē kia tau ki te `akapapa`anga Electoral Act.

Kia ira mai tō`ou ingoa ki runga i te `akapapa`anga ma`ata (main roll) o te tu`anga `iki`anga tei rētita `ia koe ki roto. Mei te tuātau i rētita āi koe, `e kua tau tō`ou ngā`i no`o`anga me kore tō`ou ingoa, ka anoano `ia koe kia `akatano mai i te reira i ko i te Chief Registrar tei `iki`ia no tō`ou tu`anga `iki`anga.

**`Auraka koe:**

- a) `e kua `akaputa`ua `ia (bankrupt) i raro ake i te ture Kūki `Airani ma te kore i tākore `ia ake mei roto i tēia `akaputa`ua`anga;
- b) `e kua `akaūtunga `ia no tēta`i au ūtunga i `akataka`ia i raro ake i te papa ture Crimes Act 1969 `ē pērā i te tūranga `akano`ono`o`anga o te ture `ē te `akavā`anga: mei te raverave`anga `anga`anga taukore `ē te pikika`a ki te au tangata tei `iki`ia no te ture, mei te au Minita o te Korōna, te mema Pārimani, tō te ture `ē te vai atūra. Auraka katoa kia `apai atu i tēta`i au `aka`apa`anga pikipikika`a no te parāni i te `akakino i te tu`anga `akavā`anga `ē tei kitemata.
- c) `e kua `akaūtunga`ia i raro ake i te papa ture Crimes Act 1969 o te `enua: no tēta`i uātu tu`anga taukore `ē te kino no te `akatupu i tēta`i au rave`anga pikika`a, au tātā`anga, te au kōto`eanga taukore, te tāmata`anga tangata, te keiā `ē te `akatuika`anga tangata, `ē kāre i pou ake te rima mata`iti no tēia ūtunga.
- d) `ēi tāvini no te Korona mē kore `e mema no te ture;
- e) `ēi tangata mou tao`anga tei `iki`ia i roto i te tu`anga Kavamani o te pā-`enua;
- f) `ēi tangata mou tao`anga tei `iki`ia i roto i te tu`anga Kavamani o Rarotonga nei.

`Akapāpū meitaki ē kua tano `ē kua tau koe no te `iki`anga no te mea ka `a`ati koe i te ture me `āriki koe kia `iki`ia koe. Kā apa katoa te tangata kā `iki`iā koe me kua kite `a ia **e kare koe i tau, i tano kia `iki`ia.**

## **Kāpiki`anga no te `iki`anga**

Tē vai nei te `akapapa`anga no te `iki`anga i roto i te Electoral Act kia kite koe mē te inangaro nei koe kia `iki`ia koe.

Kā riro `oki`e na te ngāteitei o te Kauono o te Ariki Va`ine e `ōronga mai i tetuku`angā karere na roto i te Cook Islands Gazette `ē pērā katoa ki te Chief Electoral Officer. Ka tukuna mai teia `e rima rā i muri ake i te `uipā`anga `openga a te pārimani.

I roto i ngā rā `e rima i te tae mai `anga o **tērā** karere, ka `akakite mai te Chief Electoral Officer i te rā no te `iki`anga te ka anoano`ia, **te ngā`i i roto i te tu`anga `iki`anga `ē te rā `openga ka anoano `ia te ingoa o te au tangata ka `iki`ia** ki ko i te Returning Officer, te rā kā piri ei te `akapapa`anga metua, te rā ka `akamata atu ei te au `akapapa`anga tāpiri-atu, `ē te rā `openga ka anoano `ia tēta`i `uātu au pāto`i`anga no te au ingoa i runga i ngā `akapapa`anga metua `ē te tāpiri-atu.

Ko te `akapapa`anga metua kā vai rāi te reira ki roto i tōna a`o tu`anga-`iki`anga no te katoa`anga o te mata`iti. Ka tōpiri `ia atu te `akapapa`anga-metua i roto i ngā rā `e `itu (70 tei `akataka `ia mai `e te Kauono o te Ariki Va`ine no te `iki`anga i roto i te Cook Islands Gazette.

Ko te `akapapa`anga tāpiri-atu ka `akapapa `ia rāi te reira no tōna rai tu`anga-`iki`anga **no te tuātau ka anoano `ia no te `iki`anga me kore no te by-election.** Ka `akatu`era `ia te `akapapa`anga tāpiri-atu i te rā i muri ake i te tōpiri`anga o te `akapapa`anga-metua `ē ka tōpiri `ia te reira `e 14 rā a muri mai.

### **Au Rā kia ma`ara `ia**

Te Rā `openga o te pārimani

10 rā i muri mai Karere no te Iki`anga

12 rā i muri mai ka tōpiri `ia te `akapapa`anga tāpiri-atu (23 April 2014)

10 rā i muri mai, koia te rā `openga, ka tōpiri `ia te `iki`anga i te ora 12pm avatea. (5 May 2014)

15 rā i muri ake i te tōpiri`anga o te `akapapa`anga-metua, kua tōpiri `ia te `akapapa`anga tāpiri-atu (7 May 2014)

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