

Southfest responses on selection criteria for elected representatives

“what selection criteria would you suggest for MLAs?”

#1

- Be honest
- Earn trust
- Put people before the party
- Look at the big picture: not just the “now”
- Don’t let personal religious views intrude into political functions

#2

MLAs to have an understanding of community development principles and support these in the field.

#3

Accept the responsibility of your decisions

#4

Take **serious** action on climate change. Put it **before** the economy: there is no economy without climate action **now**.

#5

Should be more productive for the country’s internal issues rather than involving and spending money on outside country issues which do not belong to us.

#6

Not corrupt

#7

- Transparency
- Honesty
- Truthfulness
- More consultation with the public to get feedback from the community
- More electronic community voting on public policy options

#8

Teach civics

#9

Work for/on the needs of families

#10

- Justify your decision: is it fact or ideology?
 - Belief is not always reality
 - Can you justify, prove and back up your statement

#11

Better coverage and representation (information for citizens and voters)

#12

Listen...but don't be afraid to make the hard decisions

#13

- Educated
- Informed
- Articulate
- Self-aware
- Consultative

#14

- Be community minded
- Deal in facts
- Ideology is not policy
- Be a true public servant

#15

Able to listen to the people and advocate for what they hear

#16

Have a plan and communicate it.

#17

Committed to giving power to the people (empowering)

#18

- Better visibility of what they achieve
- Equal attention to all suburbs
- Fewer apartments
- More care of the lake

#19

Someone who is focussed on the interests of the community and who is not motivated by greed.

#20

- Be **present** in the community
- Understand the needs of the whole community (not tokenistic)

#21

Stand for the electorate, not for the party

#22

Can listen

#23

Commitment to take **formal** responsibility for the whole community

#24

- Be honest
- Try to do what they said they would do
- Come up with better things for our kids to do

#25

- don't be a dropkick

#26

- explain why they voted the way they did on particular issues to a range of community forums
 - to provide accountability to voters e.g. at annual reporting meetings along the lines of the shareholder meetings of listed companies

#27

All of the above

#28

Honesty

#29

- represent people, not themselves
- civility
- put self-interest to one side
- do what they promised to do

#30

Be open-minded

#31

Gentlemanly men and ladylike women

#32

- honesty
- track record

#33

Sincerity

#34

Community minded: no self-interest#36

#35

Able to communicate by email (more broadly, not just ?indecipherable?)

#36

Include all the community

#37

Work hard for the whole community not just certain sectors

#38

Be positive rather than negative

#39

- a good listener
- someone who's honest
- someone who cares
- someone who has our best interests
- someone who will take action
- someone who believes in climate change
- someone who's fair

#40

Transparency: no secrets and no "under the table"

#41

Willing to **act** to address the needs of vulnerable people

#42

Evidence-based decision-making

#43

Pass an exam for qualification of government and ethics...

#44

How would you listen and implement community needs

#45

Transparency with communities and local decision-making

#46

- honesty
- deliverance on promises

#47

- increase in benefits
- no delay in elective surgery
- good business for all (take interests of ?indecipherable?)

#48

- compassion towards the homeless and animals

#49

- vote consistently with the majority of community views
- not own personal views or interests or religious beliefs

#50

Yes!

#51

Mantras are not policy

#52

Be inclusive of the whole community in all decisions

#53

- honest
- authentic
- passion for whom they are representing
- relevant skills

#54

- integrity
- be **in** the community
- agree with differences of opinion

#55

Honesty

#56

- high ethical standards
- commitment to accountability
- honesty in communication with the public

#57

- Open and transparent: look up a dictionary and practice
- Community engagement
- Community over party interest

#58

Responsible

#59

Honesty

#60

A good leader and someone who cares about the environment and the people

#61

Open minded: able to listen to all points of view and make decisions that meet the needs of the whole community

#62

Be good listeners

#63

Be more like Tara Cheyne (she gets it) – need for active ??? and consider development

#64

- Able to listen to the public
- Female preferably: women would do a better job because they listen and negotiate

#65

Better listening skills – hear the people

#66

- Don't be afraid to **talk** to people
- Good communication and listening skills

#67

- Show leadership
- Don't shirk difficult issues
- Debate civilly

#68

- Ethical
- Focussed on the public's interest
- A good communicator
- Integrity

#69

Think big about the causes of problems and focus on prevention

Common Themes:

- Underpinning a number of the comments, a yearning for leadership on the big issues and wicked problems
- Honesty was the most frequent quality proposed: honesty in messaging, in what politicians say to the public, in their behaviour, in delivery on promises...
- Closely followed by transparency, a capacity to listen and a readiness to put people before party or personal interests; civility also featured in several responses

People want strong leadership on the big issues, honesty in messaging, closely followed by transparency, a capacity to listen and a readiness to put people before party or personal interests; civility also featured.