

FACT SHEET  
KAUA'I COUNTY ELECTIONS

***KAUA'I COUNTY ELECTIONS***

**COUNTY ELECTIVE OFFICES**

**Mayor**

The Mayor serves as the chief executive officer of the County, exercising direct supervision over all County departments and coordinating all administrative activities.

The Mayor serves a 4-year term, which begins at twelve o'clock meridian on the first working day in December following election, and is limited to two (2) consecutive 4-year terms.

Prospective candidates for Mayor must be at least 30 years of age and be a resident elector of Kaua'i County for at least three (3) years immediately prior to election.

**County Council**

The legislative power of the County is vested in and exercised by the County Council, which is composed of seven (7) members who are elected at-large (i.e., each councilmember represents the entire island of Kaua'i rather than only a specific district or area).

Members of the County Council serve 2-year terms, which begin at twelve o'clock meridian on the first working day in December following election, and are limited to four (4) consecutive 2-year terms.

Prospective candidates for County Council must be qualified voters of Kaua'i County for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the election.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

The Prosecuting Attorney serves as the head of the judicial branch of County government and serves a 4-year term, which begins at twelve o'clock meridian on the first working day in December following election. There is no limit on the number of terms a prosecuting attorney may serve.

Prospective candidates for prosecuting attorney must be licensed to practice and be in good standing before the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i, practiced law in Hawai'i for at least three (3) years, and be a duly qualified elector of the County of Kaua'i for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the election.

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**NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS**

Elections for Mayor, County Council, and Prosecuting Attorney are conducted via nonpartisan elections. In nonpartisan elections, a candidate is not required to be a member of a political party in order to run for office. Additionally, no political party designation appears next to a candidate's name on the ballot, even if a candidate belongs to a political party.

**ELECTION TO OFFICE**

**Mayor**

If there is only one (1) candidate for Mayor, the lone candidate shall be deemed elected in the Primary Election and there will be no Mayor's race in the General Election.

If there is more than one (1) candidate, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the Primary Election will be placed on the General Election ballot. At the General Election, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

**County Council**

In the Primary Election, two (2) candidates for each vacant at-large council office receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on the ballot for the General Election.

At the General Election, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each vacant council seat shall be elected.

Note: Because the County Council is elected at-large, each voter is eligible to vote for not more than seven (7) council candidates (voters may vote for less than 7 candidates). Voting for more than 7 council candidates is referred to as over-voting and will void all votes cast in the council contest.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

If there is only 1 candidate for Prosecuting Attorney, the lone candidate shall be deemed elected in the Primary Election and there will be no Prosecuting Attorney's race in the General Election.

If there is more than one (1) candidate, the two (2) candidates receiving the

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highest number of votes in the Primary Election will be placed on the General Election ballot.

At the General Election, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

**TIE VOTE**

**County Council**

In the event of a tie vote for the last remaining at-large council office in the Primary Election, the candidates receiving the same number of votes shall be placed on the ballot for the General Election.

In the event of a tie vote for the last remaining at-large council office in the General Election, the winner shall be determined by a method of chance as determined by the County Clerk.

**Mayor and Prosecuting Attorney**

In the event of a tie vote in the Primary or General Election, the winner shall be determined by a method of chance as determined by the County Clerk.

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Disclaimer

This Fact Sheet is for information purposes only and is not the authority on elections conducted in the County of Kaua'i. Consult the County Charter, County Code, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Hawai'i Administrative Rules and other sources for more detailed and complete requirements.

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