

# Gemeente Wassenaar

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

### WHO CAN VOTE?

- Dutch citizens of Wassenaar
- Nationals of EU-member states and nationals of non-EU member states who are over 18 and who've been registered in Wassenaar for five consecutive years

### VOTE FOR WHAT?

Every four years the 21 members who make up the city council are elected by the people of Wassenaar. The city council then appoints, based on the number of representatives elected from each party, the aldermen, or deputy mayors, who make up the municipal executives.

City council meetings are public and a variety of issues are decided, including the city's budget. Municipal executive meetings are held in private and the two groups, both headed by the mayor, form a sort of "checks and balances" system. The mayor is appointed by the queen.

When you vote in city council elections in Wassenaar you're asked to vote for just one candidate, though your vote will be counted on two fronts: once for the political party your candidate represents and once for the candidate him- or herself. In other words, if the political party puts five candidates forward and you vote for candidate A, but candidate B actually gets more votes in that party, your vote will count for the political party (thus allowing them more council members), but your candidate will not necessarily be appointed to the council.

### HOW TO VOTE?

Voters will receive a letter in the mail with their personal 'stempas', or voting pass, attached. You'll not be allowed to vote without your stempas, and a valid identity paper.

### CAMPAIGNING AND ISSUES

Campaigning lies with the candidates and political parties. The municipality itself must remain neutral for obvious reasons.