

# Mayoral race

There is something very alarming about regional council members offering Whangarei District Council ratepayers' money in deputy mayoral or chairman's salaries to compensate mayoral candidates for stepping aside.

What is going on here?

We have a candidate admitting he had never even considered standing for public office until business interests said they had chosen him because he was "suitable" to them.

Then we have regional councillors Bain and Jensen offering councillor Cocurullo the deputy mayoralty "or any position" on behalf of this candidate - who says it wasn't at his request? The same offer was made to Warren Slater, who now talks about business people wanting a "mayoral puppet to pull strings in their favour".

This is very wrong. We have business interests in league with regional councillors essentially offering district council ratepayer funded salaries to acquire votes for their "suitable" candidate by reducing the competition.

That stinks to high heaven.

Whangarei  
Leader  
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