

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Make your voice count this election

Who do you want to represent you on the council? That's what Far North residents will be asked in October when local elections take place by postal vote across Aotearoa.

Your vote is your voice – don't miss the chance to be heard in 2025. To make your voice count you must be enrolled. Then before 11 July, you need to check your enrolment details are correct. This will ensure you receive your voting papers in the mail in time to vote before Saturday 11 October.

Local elections determine who will represent you when decisions are made that impact the infrastructure, public services and facilities your community relies on. Take your rightful place and speak up for future generations. Whāia tō rangatiratanga – exercise your rights. Vote local!

By participating in your local elections you help build a stronger, more connected Far North.



Local elections are held every three years by postal vote. Don't miss the chance for your voice to be heard in this year's local elections.

Voting in two local elections



Prepare now. Check your enrolment details at vote.nz.

If you live in one council area but own a property in another, did you know you might be able to vote in two local elections? You'll only be eligible to do this if you sign up to the Non-resident Ratepayer Roll.

How does this work? When you enrol to vote in a general election, you vote once to decide who should be in government. For this, you will be on a Residential Electoral Roll based on your address. However, when you vote in a local election, you may qualify to vote in a second area as a non-resident ratepayer if you own a property there too (like a holiday home, rental, or business).

To do this, you need to fill out a non-resident ratepayer enrolment form and send it to the council where your extra property is located. You won't be enrolled automatically – you need to reapply before every local election. But if you have enrolled before, you will be sent a confirmation form between 1 March and 30 April 2025. The deadline to be on the Non-resident Ratepayer Roll is Friday 1 August 2025.

Only one non-resident vote is allowed per property, even if multiple people own the property or business. The person who registers on the Non-resident Ratepayer Roll must live outside the area and be enrolled to vote in national elections to qualify.

Decide future of Māori wards



All voters can have a say on Māori wards in the Māori Ward Poll.

The future of Māori representation at a district and regional level will be decided at the local elections this year. When Far North residents and ratepayers vote for who will represent them locally, they'll also be asked to vote in a binding poll about Māori wards and constituencies.

The Māori Ward Poll will ask voters to choose between two simple questions:

- "I vote to keep the Māori ward / constituency."
- "I vote to remove the Māori ward / constituency."

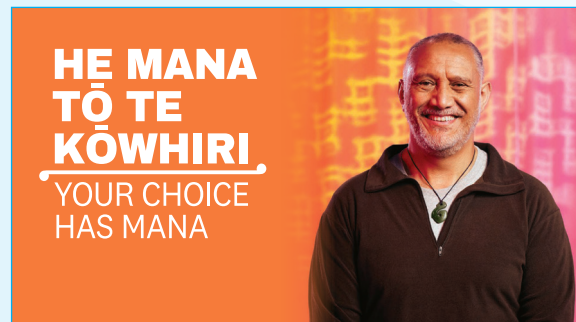
These questions apply to the Far North District Māori Ward and the Northland Regional Council Māori Constituency.

The result of the poll will determine whether this ward and constituency remain in place or are removed. The outcome of this vote will take effect from the 2028 local elections, with the decision being binding for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

Māori wards and constituencies are elected by voters registered on the Māori electoral roll to ensure that Māori are represented in local decision making.

The Far North Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward covers the entire district and has four councillors.

General roll or Māori roll?



The Māori Electoral Option lets Māori choose which roll to be on.

You can choose whether to enrol on the Māori roll or the general roll, if you are of Māori descent. The roll you choose will affect who you can vote for at local elections.

At elections, people on the general roll vote for a candidate in their general electorate, while those on the Māori roll vote in a Māori electorate.

Voters of Māori descent can decide which roll they want to be on when enrolling for the first time. Those already enrolled can switch rolls at any time, except in the three months before a general or local election.

The deadline for switching between rolls before the local election this year is **midnight 10 July**.

Your roll choice determines which electorate you vote in and who you can vote for in both parliamentary and local elections. It also plays a role in determining the number and boundaries of Māori electorates in Parliament, which are reviewed ahead of each general election. A higher number of voters on the Māori roll could increase the number of Māori seats, while fewer enrolments could reduce them.

While every area has both general and Māori electorates, each person can only vote in one electorate.

Stay informed about your district with a monthly email summary of news and updates delivered directly to your inbox. **Scan the QR code** to subscribe to our newsletter or **click the link** on our news stories webpage at fndc.govt.nz

