

Voting in the Local Body Elections

Fact Sheet

Elections 2022 |



Voting in the local body elections means you get to have your say about who will represent you in matters related to council activities – the things that make a difference to the lives of our people.

Local body elections in the Far North are done by postal vote, but we also have ballot boxes in each of our service centres leading up to the last day of voting. We will also have our elections van out and about in the district so our people in more remote communities have an opportunity to cast their vote.

Do I have to vote?

No, you don't have to vote, but we do encourage you to vote so you have a say in who represents you.

You don't have to vote for all candidates or for all elections. But your vote is important because the people elected will be responsible for making decisions about what happens in your community for the next three years.

How do I find out more about the candidates?

- there may be candidate meetings being held if you wish to go and hear what policies the different candidates are advocating for
- there is a candidate profile booklet that comes with the voting document in which there is a photo and a statement from each candidate. This information will also be available on our council's website (www.fndc.govt.nz) after nominations close (expected 19 August 2022)
- candidates may have their own website, social media page(s), advertise in local newspapers or send out information to letterboxes in your area
- local media are likely to cover information about the election.

How do I vote?

You will receive a voting document through the mail. Once completed, pop it in the return envelope and post it before Tuesday 4th October to ensure it arrives in time to be counted. If you live in a rural postal zone, you can simply place it in your mailbox and raise the flag to let NZ Post know there is mail to be collected.

I can't get to a post box in time – what are my options?

You can go to any FNDC service centre and place your voting document in the orange ballot box. On Saturday 8th October, this option will only be available in Te Ahu, Kaikohe HQ and JBC service centres until voting closes at midday.

There will also be a mobile ballot box at various times during the voting period for our more remote communities. Refer to our website to find out when and at what time we will be near you. Look out for this van.



This voting paper looks different – why can't I just tick anymore?

Council adopted a new method of voting - Single Transferable Voting for the 2022 and 2025 elections.

Instead of placing a tick against your preferred candidate, you now rank your preferred candidates in order of preference (1 being your preferred candidate, 2 being the next preference etc).

You start by writing the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number 2 next to your second most preferred candidate and so on 3, 4, 5 etc.

You can write as many preferences or as few as you like up to however many candidates are standing for that election. You must write the number 1 for your vote to be counted.

Do not write the same number more than once e.g. 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, and do not miss a number from your preferences e.g. 1, 2, 4, 5.



We have a separate fact sheet on STV if you want more information.

Why has the voting method changed?

Although the new voting method is more complex, one of the key benefits is that those elected will have a higher proportion of support from the district.

Council decided to move away from First Past the Post and try Single Transferable Voting for at least the 2022 and 2025 elections.

Why am I only seeing some of the candidates on the voting paper?

Who you are able to vote for as a councillor is dependent on the parliamentary electoral roll that you are enrolled on. If you are on the General roll, you will be eligible to vote for candidates standing for councillor in your general ward (Te Hiku or Bay of Islands-Whangaroa or Kaikohe-Hokianga). If you are on the Māori roll, you will be eligible to vote for candidates standing for councillor in the Māori ward (Ngā Tai o Tokerau).

Everyone is eligible to vote for the Mayor and community board member/s standing in their community board subdivision.

Occasionally, we may also find ourselves in the situation where there are only 2 candidates for 2 positions (seats). Because there is no competition, those candidates win the seat by default, and therefore an election is not required – so they don't appear on your voting document.

Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward or community board?

You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live and which electoral roll you are on.

For example, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in another ward because you are not an elector of that other ward.

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general ward as a councillor if you are on the Māori Electoral Roll and voting in the Māori ward election.

My voting papers got damaged or I made a mistake – can I still vote?

Yes – make it clear on the voting paper what your preferences are. If your intention is clear (even if you have to use twink or cross things out) then your vote can be counted.

If, on the other hand, the voting document is damaged beyond repair (i.e. the dog ate it and there is not much left of the document), a special vote pack can be issued to you. The last date for posting a

special vote pack to you is Monday 3 October. Call 0800 922 822 before Friday 30 September.

After Monday 3 October, you will need to head into your nearest FNDC service centre or talk to the team in the elections van about casting a special vote.

I didn't receive my voting papers but I know I am enrolled.... Can I still vote?

Yes - you will need to cast a special vote. Up until Friday 30th September, call 0800 922 822 to be issued a special voting pack.

After Monday 3rd October, you can go to Te Ahu, Kaikohe HQ and JBC service centres to cast your special vote.

I didn't receive my voting papers but I think I am enrolled.... Can I still vote?

If you are not enrolled or not enrolled correctly on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll, you will need to complete an enrolment form for this.

You can pick one up at any New Zealand Post agency, or you can enrol online at www.vote.nz or ring 0800 36 76 56 or send your name and address to Freetext 3676.

This form needs to be with the Registrar of Electors before close of business Friday 7 October 2022. You will then need to cast a special vote (refer to previous point on how to do this).

I have lost the return envelope ...

You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Freepost number on it. (You will not need to put a stamp on the envelope if you write the Freepost number on the envelope and post it in New Zealand.)

Freepost number 4710
The Electoral Office Far North District Council
PO Box 5135 Victoria Street West Auckland 1142

Note that the above locations are dependent on any covid restrictions that may be in place at the time.

There is a lot of useful information regarding the 2022 elections on our website – including a video explaining the new Māori ward, a cheeky look at how STV works and lots more.

We update it regularly, so check us out at www.fndc.govt.nz/Your-council/Local-Elections-2022

