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Report to the
Far North District Council
regarding the

2025 Triennial Election

From the
Electoral Officer

11 February 2025



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Outline

The 2025 triennial local government elections will occur on Saturday 11 October 2025. An update on preliminary matters relating to the election is provided to Council, including consideration of the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

Background

The 2025 triennial elections for local authorities are due to occur on Saturday 11 October 2025 and are required to be undertaken according to the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and, to a limited extent, the Local Government Act 2002.

Certain pre-election information and tasks are outlined in this report for Council's information and attention.

The Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provides for Council to resolve the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents (alphabetical, pseudo-random or random order). If no decision is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

Narrative

Representation Review Council undertook a voluntary representation arrangements review in 2024 to address several representation issues:

- the ability to appoint councillors from either a general or a Māori ward onto a respective community board;
- whether the Māori ward be divided into more than one ward;
- the name of the Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision.

The review was undertaken under the Local Electoral Act 2001, and the outcome applicable for the 2025 local elections.

Informal preliminary public consultation was undertaken in February/March 2024 with 161 responses. Council briefings were held on 9 and 22 April 2024 and on 9 May 2024, an Initial Proposal was resolved:

- the mayor elected 'at large'
- 10 councillors elected from four wards
 - Nga Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1)
 - Te Hiku General Ward (2)
- 19 community board members elected from three subdivided community boards
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board (7)
 - Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision (1)

- Kerikeri Subdivision (2)
- Paihia Subdivision (1)
- Russell-Ōpua Subdivision (1)
- Waipapa Subdivision (1)
- Whangaroa Subdivision (1)
- and two appointed members, one councillor from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward and one councillor from the Nga Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward
- Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (6)
 - Kaikohe Subdivision (3)
 - North Hokianga Subdivision (1)
 - South Hokianga Subdivision (2)
 - and two appointed members, from either the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward or the Nga Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward
- Te Hiku Community Board (6)
 - Doubtless Bay Subdivision (1)
 - Kaitāia Subdivision (3)
 - North Cape Subdivision (1)
 - Karikari-Awanui Subdivision (1)
 - and two appointed members, from either the Te Hiku General Ward or the Nga Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward.

86 submissions were subsequently received to the Initial Proposal and five submitters were heard at a hearing held on 9 July 2024.

After consideration of the submissions, Council resolved on 8 August 2024 to amend the Initial Proposal (reverting the name of Karikari-Awanui Subdivision back to Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision) to become the Final Proposal.

The Final Proposal was publicly notified on 12 August 2024 and no objections or appeals were received. However, as one ward and several community board subdivisions fell outside of the statutory +/-10% rule, the matter was referred to the Local Government Commission for determination.

The Local Government Commission subsequently upheld the Council's Final Proposal on 14 October 2024.

Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies Polls

Where a local authority has established Māori wards or Māori constituencies since 2020 without undertaking a poll, legislation now requires a poll to be undertaken in conjunction with the 2025 local elections (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024).

Separate polls will therefore be required for the Council and for the Northland Regional Council.

The outcome of the polls will be binding for two triennial elections (2028 and 2031).

The question will be simple and easy to understand:

‘I vote to keep the Māori ward/constituency’ or

‘I vote to remove the Māori ward/constituency’.

2025 Elections

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- the mayor elected ‘at large’
- 10 councillors elected from four wards
 - Nga Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1)
 - Te Hiku General Ward (2)
- 19 community board members elected from three subdivided community boards
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board (7)
 - Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision (1)
 - Kerikeri Subdivision (2)
 - Paihia Subdivision (1)
 - Russell-Ōpua Subdivision (1)
 - Waipapa Subdivision (1)
 - Whangaroa Subdivision (1)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (6)
 - Kaikohe Subdivision (3)
 - North Hokianga Subdivision (1)
 - South Hokianga Subdivision (2)
 - Te Hiku Community Board (6)
 - Doubtless Bay Subdivision (1)

- Kaitiāia Subdivision (3)
- North Cape Subdivision (1)
- Karikari-Awanui Subdivision (1)
- Far North District Council Māori Ward Poll
- Northland Regional Council members (either 1 member from the Far North General Constituency, or 1 member from the Bay of Islands -Whangaroa General Constituency, or 2 members from the Te Raki Māori Constituency)
- Northland Regional Council Māori Constituency Poll.

Electoral System	<p>Council confirmed the STV (Single Transferable Voting) electoral system) in August 2023 for the 2025 local elections.</p> <p>The Northland Regional Council confirmed the FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system for their 2025 local elections.</p>
Legislative Changes	<p>The Local Electoral Regulations 2001 were amended on 30 July 2024 to allow a greater period for the delivery of voting mailers (from six days to 14 days) and a longer voting period (from 22.5 days to 32.5 days).</p> <p>Although election day remains the second Saturday in October every three-years (11 October 2025), the commencement of the electoral process now starts earlier with nominations opening on Friday 4 July 2025.</p>
2025 Election Timetable	<p>With an election date of Saturday 11 October 2025, the following key functions and dates will apply:</p> <p>Nominations open/roll open Friday 4 July 2025</p> <p>Nominations close/roll closes Noon, Friday 1 August 2025</p> <p>Delivery of voting mailers Tuesday 9 to Monday 22 September 2025</p> <p>Close of voting Noon, Saturday 11 October 2025</p> <p>A more detailed timetable is attached (Appendix 1).</p>
2025 Election Fact Sheet	<p>A 2025 Election Fact Sheet summarising the key functions of the election (Appendix 2) is also attached.</p>

Compilation of non-resident Ratepayer Roll

The compilation of the 2025 non-resident Ratepayer Roll is required to commence in early-mid 2025. This will include:

- an insert detailing the qualifications and procedures for enrolment as a non-resident ratepayer elector to be included with a 2025 rates instalment notice by the end of August 2025 (**Appendix 3**);
- a confirmation letter issued to all current non-resident ratepayer electors in March/April 2025;
- a national advertising campaign on the qualifications and procedures for enrolment as a non-resident ratepayer elector during May 2025.

Council can undertake additional promotion of the ratepayer roll if it wishes - such as contacting (letter/email etc) all current or potential non-resident ratepayer electors encouraging their enrolment and participation in the electoral process.

Order of Candidate Names

Regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provides the opportunity for Council to choose the order of candidate names appearing on the voting documents from three options – alphabetical, pseudo-random (names drawn randomly with all voting documents printed in this order) or random order (names randomly drawn by computer with each voting document different).

Council may determine which order the names of candidates are to appear on the voting documents, but if no decision is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

Council adopted the alphabetical order of names for the 2022 triennial elections as did the Northland Regional Council for their 2022 triennial elections.

For Council's information, Auckland Council has undertaken analysis on the effect on the order of candidate names, and research showed no observable effect of candidate order on actual election outcomes.

Alphabetical Order

Alphabetical order is simply listing candidate surnames alphabetically and is the order traditionally used in local and Parliamentary elections.

Comments regarding alphabetical order are:

- voters are easily able to find names of candidates for whom they wish to vote. Some candidates and voters over the years have argued that alphabetical order may tend to favour candidates with names in the first part of the alphabet, but in practice this is generally not the case – most voters tend to look for name recognition, regardless of where in the alphabet the surname lies;

- the order of candidate names on the voting document matches the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Pseudo-Random Order

Pseudo-random order is where candidate surnames are randomly selected, and the same order is used on all voting documents for that position. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing names out of a container.

Comments regarding pseudo-random order are:

- the candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there may be many candidates;
- the order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Random Order

Random order is where all candidate surnames are randomly selected and are listed in a different order on every voting document. The names are randomly selected by computer so that the order is different.

Random order enables names to be listed in a completely unique order on each voting document.

Comments regarding random order are:

- the candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there are many candidates;
- the order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

There is no price differential in printing costs between the three orders of candidate names.

Number of Electors

The number of electors for the 2025 triennial elections is expected to be 51,000 (as at 31 January 2025 this was 49,884). This compares to 47,244 electors for the 2022 triennial election or + 7.9% growth.

Pre-Election Report

Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 requires each local authority to prepare a pre-election report, whose purpose is to provide information to promote public discussion about

the issues facing the local authority. The pre-election report is prepared by the Chief Executive, must contain financial and major project information, and should be completed by the end of June 2025.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

Council resolves for the 2025 triennial election, to adopt *either*:

- (i) the alphabetical order of candidate names; *or*
- (ii) the pseudo-random order of candidate names; *or*
- (iii) the random order of candidate names

as permitted under regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

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Election Services

APPENDIX 1



TE KAUNIHERA O TE HIKU O TE IKA
FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL



TIMETABLE | WĀTAKA

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
11 OCTOBER 2025



May 2025	National ratepayer roll qualifications and procedures campaign [Sec 39, LEA]
Monday 9 June 2025	Electoral Commission's enrolment update campaign commences
Wednesday 2 July 2025	Public notice of election, calling for nominations, roll open for inspection [Sec 42, 52, 53, LEA]
Friday 4 July 2025	Nominations open / roll open for inspection
Friday 1 August 2025	Nominations close (12 noon) / roll closes [Sec 5, 42, 55 LEA, Reg 21, LER]
Wednesday 6 August 2025	Public notice of day of election, candidates' names [Sec 65, LEA]
Friday 5 September 2025	Electoral officer certifies final electoral roll [Sec 51, LEA, Reg 22, LER]
Tuesday 9 September – Monday 22 September 2025	Delivery of voting documents [Reg 51, LER]
Tuesday 9 September – Saturday 11 October 2025	Progressive roll scrutiny [Sec 83, LEA] Special voting period (12 noon) [Sec 5 LEA, Reg 35, LER] Early processing period (12 noon) [Sec 80, LEA]
by Friday 10 October 2025	Appointment of scrutineers (12 noon) [Sec 68, LEA]
Saturday 11 October 2025	Election day [Sec 10, LEA] Close of voting (12 noon) [Sec 84, LEA] Progress and preliminary results available as soon as practicable after close of voting [Sec 85, LEA]
Monday 14 October – Friday 17 October 2025	Official count [Sec 84, LEA]
Friday 17 October – Saturday 18 October 2025	Declaration of result/public notice of declaration [Sec 86, LEA]
mid/late December 2025	Return of electoral donations & expenses form [Sec 112A, LEA]

LEA = Local Electoral Act 2001 LER = Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (incorporating 30 July 2024 changes)

APPENDIX 2



FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL



FACT SHEET | PEPA MEKA

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
11 OCTOBER 2025



➔ WHAT DOES COUNCIL DO?

The District Council meets regularly to make many decisions that impact the day-to-day lives of people in the Far North District. The Council governs a wide range of local services including roads, water systems, rubbish collection, libraries, parks, community centres, dog registration, community and economic development and district planning.

➔ BACKGROUND

Local government triennial elections are being held by postal vote on Saturday 11 October 2025 and will be undertaken by Election Services, under contract to Far North District Council.

The single transferable voting (STV) electoral system will be used for the Far North District Council elections, and the first past the post (FPP) electoral system will be used for the Northland Regional Council elections.

➔ 2025 KEY DATES

Nominations open	Friday 4 July
Nominations close	noon, Friday 1 August
Delivery of voting packs	from Tuesday 9 September
Close of voting	noon, Saturday 11 October
Official results announced	Friday 17 October

➔ WHO IS BEING ELECTED?

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- ➔ Mayor (elected 'at large')
- ➔ Councillors (10)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1)
 - Te Hiku General Ward (2)
 - Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4)
- ➔ Community Board Members (19):
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board (7):
 - Kerikeri Subdivision (2)
 - Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision (1)
 - Paihia Subdivision (1)
 - Russell-Ōpua Subdivision (1)
 - Waipapa Subdivision (1)
 - Whangaroa Subdivision (1)

- Te Hiku Community Board (6):
 - Doubtless Bay Subdivision (1)
 - Kaitāia Subdivision (3)
 - North Cape Subdivision (1)
 - Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision (1)
- Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (6):
 - Kaikohe Subdivision (3)
 - North Hokianga Subdivision (1)
 - South Hokianga Subdivision (2)
- ➔ Northland Regional Council Members: either:
 - 1 member from the Far North General Constituency, or
 - 1 member from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency; or
 - 2 members from the Te Raki Māori Constituency

Electors will also be able to vote on two polls — whether to retain or disestablish the Māori ward for the Far North District Council, and whether to retain or disestablish the Māori constituency for the Northland Regional Council. The outcome of these binding polls will apply to the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

➔ HOW CAN I BE NOMINATED?

Nominations for these positions open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at noon on Friday 1 August 2025.

For online nominations go to: www.esp.electionservices.co.nz.

Printed nomination papers and a candidate handbook will also be available during this period from:

- ➔ Council's main office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe;
- ➔ Kaitāia Service Centre, Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitāia;
- ➔ Kāeo Service Centre, Leigh Street, Kāeo;
- ➔ Kerikeri Service Centre, John Butler Centre, 60 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri;
- ➔ Kawakawa Service Centre, Gillies Street, Kawakawa;
- ➔ Rawene Service Centre, 11 Parnell Street, Rawene;
- ➔ or download and print at: www.fndc.govt.nz.

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate **must** be:

- ➔ a New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony); **and**
- ➔ enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); **and**
- ➔ nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for.

A candidate information handbook is available in May 2025.

➔ WHO CAN VOTE?

Those eligible to vote are all resident electors and non-resident ratepayer electors whose names appear on the electoral roll when it closes on Friday 1 August 2025. The Preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public inspection between Friday 4 July 2025 and Friday 1 August 2025 at the locations overpage.

Resident Roll: All parliamentary electors, including those on the Māori Electoral Roll, are automatically enrolled on the Resident Roll, at the address where they live. Any alterations to the Resident Roll (e.g. change of address details, including new postal addresses) should be made by:

- ➔ completing the appropriate form (available from the Electoral Commission or Council service centres and libraries);
- ➔ phoning 0800 36 76 56;
- ➔ accessing the Electoral Commission website: www.vote.nz.

Ratepayer Roll: If a person is on the parliamentary roll in one area and pays rates on a property in another area, this person may be eligible to be enrolled on the non-resident ratepayer roll. A firm, company, corporation or society paying rates on a property may nominate one of its members or officers as a ratepayer elector (provided the nominated person resides outside the area). Ratepayer Roll enrolment forms are available at www.fndc.govt.nz or www.ratepayer.co.nz or by phoning 0800 922 822.

All electors will be able to vote for the mayor and the respective community board. Those electors on the general electoral roll will be able to vote for the respective general ward councillors and those on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote for the Māori ward councillors.

➔ HOW TO VOTE?

Voting packs will be posted to all those who have enrolled from Tuesday 9 September 2025.

The voting period is just under five weeks (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025). Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the electoral officer using the orange prepaid envelope sent with their voting document.

Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025 at all council offices (shown overpage).

On Saturday 11 October 2025, the issuing of special voting documents and the receiving of completed voting documents will be available at Council's Kaitāia, Kerikeri and Kaikohe offices only.

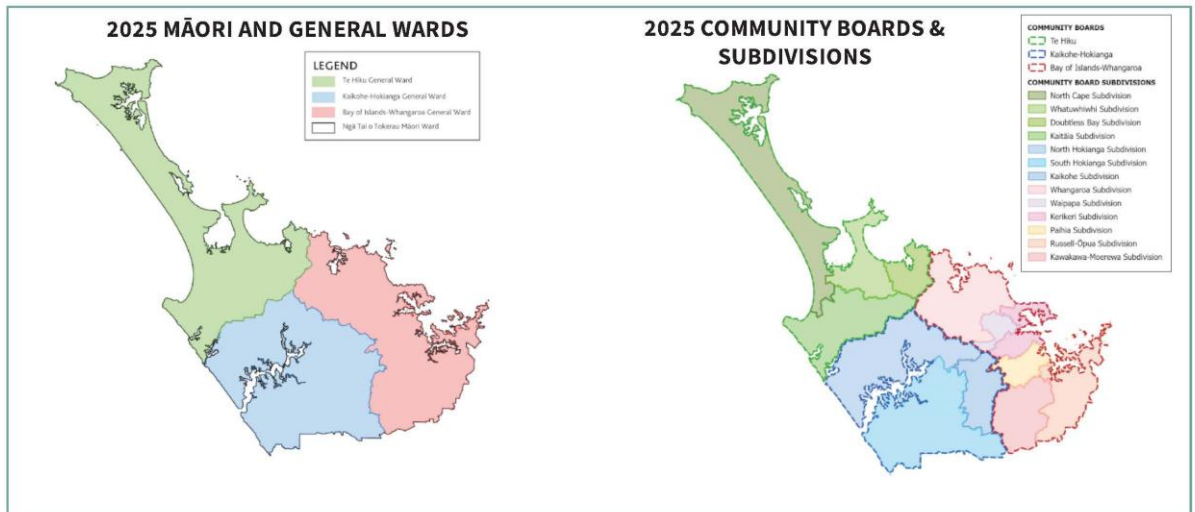
In addition, votes can also be hand-delivered to a vote box at specific locations found on www.fndc.govt.nz.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official by noon, Saturday 11 October 2025.

➔ RESULTS

Progress results will be known early afternoon on election day, and preliminary results will be known on Sunday, 12 October 2025.

Final results will be known by Friday 17 October 2025, and all results will be accessible on Council's website: www.fndc.govt.nz



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APPENDIX 3



**WHEREVER
YOU PAY
RATES
YOU CAN
VOTE.**

Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area?

You may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections in October 2025

You may like to vote in this election. Voting is a way to have your say on what happens in your local community. This information is designed to help you. It notes who you can contact to enrol, and ways you might qualify to vote.

There are two types of electors...

Residential Electors – If you are registered to vote on the electoral roll, you are automatically enrolled to vote in local authority elections. You will receive a voting document so that you can vote by post.

Ratepayer Electors – You may also be eligible to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector in a council district if both of these apply:

- you are on the district valuation roll and pay rates in the council district
- the address where you are registered as a Parliamentary elector is outside that council district.

Your eligibility to enrol or be nominated as a ratepayer elector may also depend on your individual circumstances as determined by criteria in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and its regulations.

Enrol now – the Ratepayer Electoral Roll closes on 1 August 2025

An organisation can nominate one of its members or officers to vote on its behalf

If a firm, company, trust, corporation, society partners, joint tenants and tenants in common collectively pay rates on a property in a council district, one of the group may be nominated to be the ratepayer elector. The person nominating and the nominated person must be registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses outside the council district where the property is located.

You can only enrol once

You can only enrol, or be nominated to enrol, once in a council district, no matter how many properties you own in that council district. Council district includes: a city, district and regional council area; a community board area if established; the area of Auckland Council and the local boards.

New Ratepayer Electors

If you think you may be eligible to enrol or to nominate someone as a ratepayer elector, get an Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors from the local council where you pay your rates. The Electoral Officer will be able to help you with your application.

If you want further information, please scan the QR code below.



votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/ratepayer-roll/



**WHEREVER
YOU PAY
RATES
YOU CAN
VOTE.**

Enrol now – the Ratepayer Electoral Roll closes on 1 August 2025