

# 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTION

BRIEFING 26 February 2025

Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer



## COVERING

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- Māori Ward Poll
- Legislation changes
- Order of candidate names
- Chief executive's role
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## BACKGROUND

➤ Triennial election to occur **Saturday 11 October 2025**

➤ Elections for:

- Mayor
- 10 councillors
  - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3)
  - Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1)
  - Te Hiku General Ward (2)
  - Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4)
- 19 community board members
  - 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)

- 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)
  - Kaitāia Subdivision (3)
  - North Cape Subdivision (1)
  - Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision (1)

➤ Māori Ward Poll

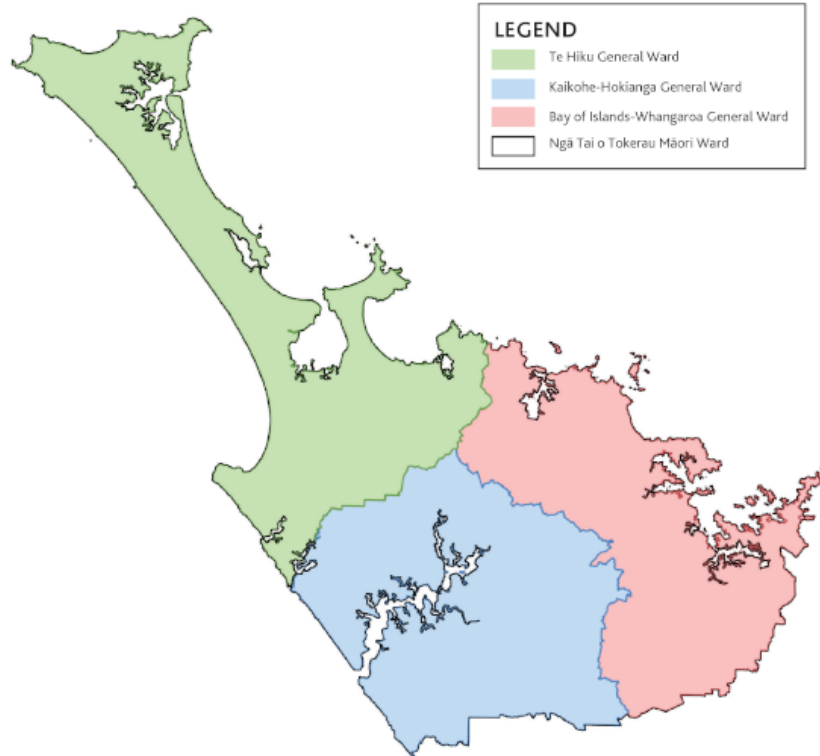
➤ STV (Single Transferable Voting) electoral system

➤ Approx 51,000 electors (+7.9% since 2022)

➤ Electoral officer Dale Ofsoske from Election Services

➤ Deputy electoral officer, Casey Gannon from FNDC

**2022 MĀORI AND GENERAL WARDS**



**2022 COMMUNITY BOARDS & SUBDIVISIONS**



## TIMETABLE

- Nominations open: Friday 4 July
- Pre-election period: Friday 11 July – Saturday 11 October
- Nominations close: noon Friday 1 August
- Election signs display period: Monday 11 August – midnight Friday 10 October
- Voting period: Tuesday 9 September – noon Saturday 11 October
- Appoint scrutineers: by noon Friday 10 October
- Progress results: Saturday 11 October PM
- Preliminary results: Sunday 12 October
- Final results: by Friday 17 October
- Members go out of office/take office: Saturday 18 October
- Return of election donations & expenses forms: mid-December

## ELECTORAL PRINCIPLES

- Representative and substantial electoral participation
- Fair and effective representation
- Reasonable and equal opportunity to:
  - nominate a candidate
  - accept a nomination
  - cast informed vote
- Public confidence in, and public understanding of, processes through:
  - regular election cycle
  - elections managed independently
  - protection of freedom of choice and secrecy of the vote
  - transparent electoral systems and voting methods
  - procedures that produce certainty in outcomes
- Local authorities and electoral officers must take into account principles in making decisions

## MĀORI WARD POLL

- Where local authority established Māori wards/constituencies
  - since 2020
  - without undertaking poll
  - not dis-establish by 6 September 2024
- Must undertake poll with 2025 local elections
- Poll binding for two elections (2028, 2031)
- Likely question:
  - I vote to keep the Māori ward; or
  - I vote to remove the Māori ward
- Poll must use FPP electoral system
- Council must remain neutral on matter – can only promote process
- NRC undertaking poll on Māori constituencies
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024

## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- Legislative changes 30 July 2024
  - longer voting pack delivery period (6 to 14 days)
  - longer voting period (22.5 to 32.5 days)
- Largely to reflect slow postal delivery service
- Means process starts earlier (4 July)
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024



## ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES

- Ability for local authorities to determine order candidate names on voting document
  - Alphabetical
  - Pseudo-Random
  - Random
- If no decision, defaults alphabetical
- Resolution, if required, by June 2025
- Resolved alphabetical in 2022



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ROLE

- Requirement under Local Government Act for chief executive to:
  - 'Facilitate and foster representative and substantial elector participation'
- Achieved through effective communications/education strategy to:
  - Increase number and diversity of candidates
  - Increase voter participation
  - Include information about the Council, what it does, its relevance to the community and importance of participation
- Council's communication campaign in development
- Council placing six vote boxes at service centres and six mobile vote boxes over voting period
- Reinforced by electoral principle: implement representative and substantial electoral participation

## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Pre-election period = 3 months before election day (11 July to 11 October)
- Certain protocols need observing, as elected members wearing two hats:
  - continue to govern and make decisions as elected members
  - as candidates campaigning for re-election
- Elected members to clearly differentiate between Council business and campaigning
- Council should not make any significant decisions in pre-election period
- Business as usual must continue

## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Council resources and technology provided to elected members
  - must only be used for Council purposes
  - must **not** be used for campaign purposes
  - examples include Council's mobile phones, computers, logo, website, Facebook page, communications, emails, premises, vehicles, copiers, use of support staff
- Council must not promote, or be seen to promote, prospects of any candidates, including current members in pre-election period
- Refer
  - FNDC Local Authority Elections 2025 Guidelines for Elected Members
  - LGNZ/Taituara Good Practice Guidance (reviewed by OAG and DIA)

## CANDIDATE REMINDERS

- Specific Council-owned sites for election hoardings
  - available from Monday 11 August
  - removed midnight Friday 10 October
- All advertising material to be authorized (by candidate or agent)
  - can show email or phone number (physical address now not required)
- Limit to campaign expenditure (based on population of area)
  - e.g. mayoral election if pop 60,000-80,000 = \$40,000
  - limit includes GST
  - expenditure to include both before and during applicable 3-month period
  - keep all receipts (produce if required)



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