

VOTE
2022

LOCAL ELECTIONS

FAQs

Triennial elections

8 October 2022

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



Northland
REGIONAL COUNCIL



Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

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Frequently Asked Questions

Northland Regional Council elections

General Information

Q1. What is a regional council?

A A regional council is one type of local authority and generally looks after region-wide issues rather than local issues.

It is different from a territorial authority (which is either a city or district council), but there are no differences in the way that they generally operate.

Q2. What do regional councils do?

A Regional councils' responsibilities include:

- managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters
- developing regional policy statements and issuing of consents
- managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control
- regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness
- regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services
- harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

Q3. How many regional councils are there?

A 11.

Q4. When is the next Northland Regional Council election?

A Election day is Saturday 8 October 2022 with voting closing at 12 noon. The voting period starts on Friday 16 September 2022.

Q5. Who is running the election?

A The Northland Regional Council's electoral officer has overall responsibility for the election,

but the conduct of the election is undertaken by each constituent territorial authority's electoral officer.

The constituent territorial authorities are:

- Far North District Council
- Kaipara District Council
- Whangārei District Council.

Q6. Who is the council's electoral officer and electoral liaison person?

A Council's electoral officer is:
Dale Ofsoske, Independent Election Services Ltd
Electoral Office: Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
Phone: or 0800 922 822
Email: dale.ofsoske@electionservices.co.nz

Council's electoral liaison person is:
Christine Taylor, Governance Support Team Leader
Northland Regional Council
36 Water Street, Whangārei
Phone: 09 470 1224
Email: christinet@nrc.govt.nz

Q7. What type of electoral system is used?

A The FPP (first past the post) electoral system is used for the Northland Regional Council and one of its constituent territorial authorities (Whangārei District Council). The STV (single transferable voting) electoral system is used for two of its constituent territorial authorities (Far North District Council and Kaipara District Council).

For a more detailed explanation of these electoral systems, refer Q59 and Q60.

Q8. What elections can we vote for?

A Electors will be able to vote for the councillors representing the constituency in which they live.

Following the decision to establish Māori constituencies in 2021, Northland Regional

Council undertook a representation arrangements review (review of constituencies, boundaries, number of elected members etc).

As a result of this, the current arrangements have been reviewed and changed to the following*:

| Constituency | Councillors |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Far North General | 1 |
| Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General | 1 |
| Kaipara General | 1 |
| Mid North General | 1 |
| Coastal Central General | 1 |
| Whangārei Central General | 1 |
| Coastal South General | 1 |
| Te Raki Māori | 2 |

* subject to determination by the Local Government Commission, expected by 10 April 2022.

In addition, most electors will be voting for the respective territorial authority elections (mayor, councillors etc). There are no longer elections held for district health boards.

- attends and speaks at local functions, sometimes opening them
- declares a state of civil defence emergency in the region if the need arises.

- A The role of the chairperson and councillors is:
- participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole region
 - develop policy across a wide range of activities and services
 - represent the region at functions as required
 - review and develop bylaws for the region
 - advocate on a wide range of issues
 - coordinate and form partnerships with other spheres of government and other agencies
 - participate in the appointment and performance review of the chief executive
 - act on all these matters within a legislative and regulatory framework
 - set a budget and rates
 - monitor the performance of the council organisation.

Q9. What is the difference between Māori and general constituencies?

- A Māori constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the Māori electoral roll. Similarly general constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the general electoral roll.

Q10. What is the role of the chairperson and councillors?

- A The chairperson is a councillor and is elected by the councillors following the election.

The role of the chairperson is:

- presides at council meetings
- attends and participates at meetings of committees and working parties
- reads agenda and other materials before meetings
- leads the council and co-ordinates council political activity
- speaks on behalf of the council
- represents the council on related organisations, where appointed
- attends and participates at conferences and seminars
- attends to complaints and enquiries from members of the public
- presides at civic ceremonies
- hosts visiting groups, including overseas delegations

Candidates

Q11. I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

- A You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

When lodging your nomination, proof of citizenship will be required (copy of passport, birth certificate, citizenship certificate).

You will need to have two electors enrolled on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll in the area you are standing for to nominate you – e.g. if you stand for the Coastal Central General Constituency, the nominators will need to be two electors enrolled on the general electoral roll for that constituency. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which they are standing but will need to disclose that fact in their candidate profile statement.)

Nominations open on Friday 15 July 2022. If you would like a nomination paper and candidate information handbook sent out, please contact the electoral office closer to this date. Nomination papers will also be available on the council's website (www.nrc.govt.nz) from 15 July 2022.

A candidate information booklet will be available in April 2022.

Candidate campaigning can commence any time prior to the election (no time restriction), but any expenditure made, within or outside the three-month applicable period before election day, must be accounted for.

Q12. How much will it cost me to stand?

A You will need to pay a nomination deposit of \$200 GST inclusive. This deposit applies to each election you stand for.

Your nomination deposit can be paid by electronic bank transfer, EFTPOS, credit card or cash. Cheques will not be accepted.

If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate (for FPP elections) or more than 25% of the final quota as determined by the last iteration (for STV elections) you will receive your nomination deposit back.

Q13. What qualifications and experience do I need?

A Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a will/desire to serve the community.

All (or some) of the following capabilities will be useful in the elected member role:

- quality decision-making
 - political acumen
 - leadership
 - cultural awareness
 - strategic thinking
 - knowledge and understanding of the Northland Regional Council and local government
 - communication and engagement
 - relationship building and collaboration.
-

Q14. Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?

A No, not for the Northland Regional Council elections.

Q15. How long is the term of the elected member?

A Three years.

Q16. Do I need to be resident in the area I am standing for?

A No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and be a New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony). You will however need to disclose whether or not you reside in the area you are standing for in the candidate profile statement.

The two people who nominate you must be on the relevant Parliamentary Electoral Roll within the area you are standing for.

Q17. Do I need to be on the Māori electoral roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in the Māori constituency?

A No. To be eligible you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

You will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear on the Māori electoral roll within the area of election for which you are standing.

Equally, if you are on the Māori electoral roll you can stand in a general constituency, and will need to be nominated by two electors whose names appear in the general electoral roll within the area of election for which you are standing.

Q18. How many positions can I stand for?

A You can stand for only one constituency of the Northland Regional Council.

You cannot stand for both the Northland Regional Council and one of its constituent territorial authorities (Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council or Whangārei District Council).

Q19. Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A Only if it is withdrawn before the close of nominations. You cannot withdraw voluntarily after nominations have closed. If you decide to opt out, your name will still appear on the voting document. If you do change your mind and decide not to run for election after you

have been nominated, let the electoral officer know who will talk through the issues with you.

However, if you become incapacitated with serious illness or injury and unlikely to be able to perform the functions and duties if elected to office, an application to withdraw your nomination on those grounds can be made. Verification from a doctor or a lawyer about your situation will be required. See the electoral officer if you need more information about this process.

Q20. What is a candidate profile statement?

- A You may provide a candidate profile statement when you lodge your nomination. This is a statement of up to 150 words containing information about yourself and your policies and intentions if elected to office. The profile statement will be included in the voting packs that all electors receive.

Your candidate statement can be submitted in both Māori and English, but the information contained in each language must be substantially consistent with the information contained in the other language. Each language has to be within a 150-word limit.

In addition, your candidate profile statement must state whether or not your principal place of residence is in the area you are seeking election, e.g., 'My principal place of residence is in the Kaipara General Constituency', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Kaipara General Constituency'. This is not part of the 150-word limit.

Your profile statement must be true and accurate. The electoral officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in your statement.

Your profile can include a recent passport size colour photograph.

See section 61 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 for more information.

Q21. How much can I spend on my campaign?

- A There is a limit on what you can spend on your campaign and it relates to the population of the area you are standing for.

The maximum amount that can be spent by a candidate cannot exceed the limits set out below:

| Local government area population | Expenditure limit |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to 4,999 | \$3,500 |
| 5,000 – 9,999 | \$7,000 |
| 10,000 – 19,999 | \$14,000 |
| 20,000 – 39,999 | \$20,000 |
| 40,000 – 59,999 | \$30,000 |
| 60,000 – 79,999 | \$40,000 |
| 80,000 – 99,999 | \$50,000 |
| 100,000 – 149,999 | \$55,000 |
| 150,000 – 249,999 | \$60,000 |
| 250,000 – 1,000,000 | \$70,000 |
| 1,000,000 or more | \$100,000* |

* plus 50 cents for each elector.

As an indication, the population (estimated as at 30 June 2020) for each constituency and respective expenditure limits are:

| Constituency | Population | Limit |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Far North General | 21,500 | \$20,000 |
| Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General | 21,100 | \$20,000 |
| Kaipara General | 19,900 | \$14,000 |
| Mid North General | 20,300 | \$20,000 |
| Coastal Central General | 20,800 | \$20,000 |
| Whangārei General | 22,300 | \$20,000 |
| Coastal South General | 21,000 | \$20,000 |
| Te Raki Māori | 47,610 | \$30,000 |

Please note that any expenditure made by a candidate for an election campaign is funded by the candidate and is not refundable by the council to the candidate.

All candidates are required to lodge an electoral donations and expenses return within 55 days after the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected (by 7 December 2022).

If a candidate is outside New Zealand on this day, the return must be filed within 76 days after election result day.

If a return is not submitted within the required time period, the non-return will be advised to the New Zealand Police for enforcement.

The return needs to be received before a candidate nomination deposit is refunded if appropriate.

Q22. Can I raise campaign funds from donations and can I claim expenses?

A Yes, you can raise funds and claim expenses from your campaign. There is very specific legislation about donations and expenses which you need to abide by.

See the electoral officer if you need more information.

Q23. When is the campaign period?

A Election campaigning can start at any time and continue up to and including election day.

Q24. Can people already elected onto council use council resources to campaign?

A No, elected members cannot use council resources for their campaigns.

Q25. Are there any rules about using social media?

A Yes. Councils have policies or guidelines for web and social media use related to campaigning. They will not permit council social media pages to be used by anyone (candidates or members of the public) for electioneering or campaigning in the three months before election day. Councils monitor their websites and take down any campaign related posts.

Q26. Can I help people vote or collect their voting documents to send in?

A No, candidates or their assistants should not collect voting documents from electors. Each elector should post or deliver their own voting document to the electoral officer.

It is an offence (carrying a fine of up to \$5,000 if convicted) to interfere in any way with an elector with the intention of influencing or advising the elector as to how he or she should vote. Candidates and their assistants should be mindful of this particularly if campaigning occurs in facilities such as rest homes or hospitals.

Q27. When do nominations close?

A Nominations close at 12 noon Friday 12 August 2022.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not to leave lodging their nomination until the last day, as to do so may mean having to queue and should there be an error with the nomination, little time to have it corrected.

Enrolment

Q28. Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A The preliminary electoral roll is compiled by each constituent territorial authority and will be available for public inspection for a one-month period from Friday 15 July 2022 to Friday 12 August 2022.

The preliminary electoral roll for each constituent territorial authority will be available for inspection at:

- Northland Regional Council offices, 36 Water Street, Whangārei
- each constituent territorial authority office
- each constituent territorial authority library.

The availability of above locations is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions in place. Should any COVID-19 restrictions be in place, refer to the council's website.

Q29. How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

- A Is this your main place of residence?
- Yes
Have you lived at your current address for more than one month?
 - Yes
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at your current address in the Northland Regional Council area?
 - Yes

You will automatically appear on the relevant constituent territorial authority electoral roll that is used for these elections.

Or

- A Is this your main place of residence?
- Yes
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the Northland Regional Council area?
 - No or Don't Know

You need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can either:

- enrol online at www.vote.nz
- ring 0800 36 76 56
- send your name and address to Freetext 3676
- download a form at www.vote.nz
- pick a form up at your local New Zealand Post agency.

A Is this your main place of residence?

- No
Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in another region?
- Yes

If you own a property in this region and it is not your main residence you may be able to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector on the relevant constituent territorial authority's electoral roll. (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice in Q35 below).

Q30. I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

A You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.

Q31. I am a New Zealand Māori; do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?

A Not necessarily. If you are enrolling for the first time you can decide whether you want to go on the Parliamentary Māori Electoral Roll or the Parliamentary General Electoral Roll by signing the appropriate panel on the parliamentary elector enrolment form.

However, if you have already made that choice you will have to wait until the next Māori Option period to change, which occurs following the next census, likely in 2023.

If a person is enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the Māori constituency councillors. If a person is enrolled on the General Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the respective general constituency councillor.

Q32. How do I know whether I am enrolled?

A The Electoral Commission will be undertaking a roll update campaign at the beginning of July

2022 for the Parliamentary Electoral Roll which forms the basis of the electoral roll for the Northland Regional Council elections. If you do not receive a letter in the post during early July 2022 the chances are you are not enrolled, or your details are incorrect. You will then need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form.

You can check to see if you are enrolled at www.vote.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Q33. I turn 18 on election day. Can I vote?

A Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled which you can do provisionally from the age of 17 and it automatically changes when you turn 18.

You will also need to apply for a special vote during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon, Saturday 8 October 2022).

For special vote availability, see Q50.

Q34. We own a business in the Northland Regional Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Northland Regional Council area – do we get a say in the Northland Regional Council elections?

A Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled on the relevant constituent territorial authority's electoral roll.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available from each constituent territorial authority's website:

- Far North District Council
www.fndc.govt.nz
- Kaipara District Council
www.kaipara.govt.nz
- Whangārei District Council
www.wdc.govt.nz
- Or by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

The non-resident ratepayer enrolment form should be returned to the relevant constituent territorial authority's electoral officer by 12 August 2022 and no later than 7 October 2022 in order to vote.

If it is after Friday 12 August 2022, a special voting document will need to be requested and

will be issued on 16 September 2022, the start of the voting period.

For special vote availability, see Q50.

Q35. I own a property in the Northland Regional Council area, but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the ratepayer electoral roll?

A Is your name on the rates notice?
➤ Yes

You may be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available from each constituent territorial authority's website:

- Far North District Council
www.fndc.govt.nz
- Kaipara District Council
www.kaipara.govt.nz
- Whangārei District Council
www.wdc.govt.nz
- Or by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

This should be returned to the electoral officer or an electoral official by 12 August 2022 and no later than 7 October 2022 in order to vote.

If it is after Friday 12 August 2022, a special voting document will need to be requested and will be issued on 16 September 2022, the start of the voting period.

If it is easier, you can call at a special voting venue during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022) and complete the ratepayer enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time.

For special vote availability, see Q50.

In no case does this allow you to have two votes at an election.

A Is your name on the rates notice?
➤ No

You may not be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Voting

Q36. Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?

A All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Friday 16 September 2022 and Wednesday 21 September 2022.

There is no online voting option available.

Q37. I got my voting document but my partner didn't receive theirs.

A Is it before Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ Yes

Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Wednesday 21 September 2022. If your voting document is not received, then please call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

A Is it after Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ Yes

You will need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

A Is it after Wednesday 21 September 2022 and I believe I am not correctly registered on electoral roll?
➤ No

You will need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form. These are available 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.

You will also need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

Q38. I didn't get my voting document, so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two voting documents. Which one should I use?

A Use the original one and destroy the special vote.

Q39. I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) and have Power of Attorney for that person. Can I vote for that person?

A No – Power of Attorney does not apply to voting for that person.

Q40. I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) who does not live here. What should I do with the voting document?

A If they are overseas, you could post it to the person or destroy it if that is not practicable.

If they are for an elderly parent who is incapable of voting, please destroy it by ripping/cutting it up. You cannot vote on their behalf unless instructed by them.

Q41. I received a voting document that does not belong to me and I don't know this person or where this person has gone.

A Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.

Q42. What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?

A It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode to mark the electoral roll that you have returned your vote so we can ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.

Q43. How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?

A Returned envelopes containing a voting document cannot be opened until there is a JP present. The JP is required to sign off that the processes used by the electoral officer meet the legal requirements.

Note that the voter's name is not shown on the voting document.

When the envelope is opened the only thing the electoral office is looking for is that the vote for each election is valid.

This means that for FPP elections we are making sure that the voter's intention is clear and the voter has not ticked or marked more than the number of candidates than there are vacancies.

For STV elections we make sure that no preference numbers are used more than once or omitted (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5) and that there is always a number 1 marked against a candidate's name. It should be like this: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc. in numerical order up to as many preferences as the voter wishes to vote for.

Q44. Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates.

A No, you don't have to vote, but we do encourage you to vote and exercise your democratic right.

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.

To help you get to know about the candidates:

- there may be candidate meetings being held in your community 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 the council's website (www.nrc.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.
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Q45. Do I have to post my voting document back?

A You can post it but make sure you have it in the mail by Tuesday 4 October 2022 to make sure it gets back to us in time (by 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022).

However, you can also hand deliver your voting document to a ballot box during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2022 to 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2022).

For ballot box locations see Q50.

Q46. I have lost my return envelope.

A 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
Northland Regional Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Q47. I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote.

A You will need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

Q48. I didn't receive my voting document; how do I obtain a special vote?

A Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?
➤ Yes

You will need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

A Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll for the address you want to vote for?
➤ No/Don't Know

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 need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

Q49. I spoiled my voting documents/I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?

A If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear, then do so.

If necessary, we can issue you with a special voting document (for special vote availability, see Q50), but this will take time and require you to complete a declaration.

Q50. Where can I have a special vote?

A Special votes can be obtained from the following constituent territorial authority offices:

Far North District Council

- Council's Main Office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe
- Kaitāia Service Centre, Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitāia
- Kerikeri Service Centre, 60 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri

Kaipara District Council

- Council's Main Office, 42 Hokianga Road, Dargaville
- Mangawhai Service Centre, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Moleswoth Drive, Mangawhai

Whangārei District Council

- Customer Services, Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue, Whangārei
- Ruakākā Service Centre, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā.

The availability of above locations is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions in place. Should any COVID-19 restrictions be in place, refer to the council's website.

You can also call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q51. I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.

A You will need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q50.

This will be issued on the 16 September 2022, the start of the voting period.

Q52. Do I have to vote for all the candidates for any election? If I don't vote for all the candidates or all the elections on my voting document, will all my votes be informal?

A Under FPP you can vote for as many candidates as you want to but not more than the number of positions available on the voting document. So, if you are electing one councillor then you can vote for only one candidate. Remember, for FPP you tick the candidate you want to elect.

With STV you can vote for all or as many candidates as you wish but these must be in order of your preference and no number can be repeated. Remember for STV, you rank the candidates you want to elect from number 1 onwards.

You can decide not to vote for one or more of the different elections on your voting document. This does not invalidate votes for other elections on your voting document.

Q53. Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different constituency or other election?

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

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

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general constituency if you are on the Māori electoral roll and voting for the Māori constituency.

Q54. My partner's document and mine are different and there are more/less things to vote for. Why is the list of candidates different?

A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q55. I have received two voting documents.

A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q56. Do all the staff working on the election know who I voted for?

A No, your vote remains secret under the required separate roll scrutiny and vote counting procedures.

Q57. Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

A Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote.

If authorised by a voter who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter.

Q58. What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

A They are delivered to the Whangārei District Court and kept for 21 days so that the court can access them should there be any application for a recount or petition for inquiry.

After 21 days, the court is responsible for destroying them.

Q59. What is FPP and how do I vote in an FPP election?

A FPP stands for first past the post voting system and is used for the Northland Regional Council and the Whangārei District Council elections.

The candidate or candidates that gets the most votes wins.

You should mark those you want to vote for with a tick in the circle. Do not vote for more than the number of candidates shown in the instructions.

Q60. What is STV and how do I vote in and STV election?

A STV stands for single transferable voting and is used for the Far North District Council and the Kaipara District Council elections.

STV is a preferential system of voting where you can rank as few or as many candidates as you like. It is a single vote which can be transferred between candidates to ensure the vote contributes to the election of at least one candidate and is not wasted. If a popular candidate does not need all the votes he or she receives, a proportion is transferred to the voter's next preference. On the other hand, if a candidate is not popular and receives few votes, those votes are transferred to a voter's next preference.

For more information about STV, go to www.stv.govt.nz

To exercise a STV vote, 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.

the final results, expected to be Thursday 13 October 2022.

Election Results

Q61. When will we know the results of the election?

A Progress results will be announced as soon as practicable on the afternoon of Saturday 8 October 2022.

Preliminary results will be announced on the morning of Sunday 9 October 2022, once all votes received at constituent territorial authority offices (up until 12 noon on election day) have been delivered to the electoral office in Auckland and processed.

The official results will be announced when special votes have been checked and included in

Q62. How will I find out?

Candidates:

A Progress and preliminary results will be advised by email as soon as practicable after the results are known, on the afternoon of Saturday 8 October 2022 and on Sunday 9 October 2022 respectively.

Voters:

A Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on the council's website (www.nrc.govt.nz) as soon as practicable once known, on the afternoon of Saturday 8 October 2022 and on Sunday 9 October 2022 respectively.

Q63. What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

A Under legislation a candidate can challenge the declaration of results through either a judicial recount or a judicial inquiry. A candidate will have to provide reasons for the challenge and a deposit of \$750 with the application to the Whangārei District Court.

A candidate may wish to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 to discuss this.

Members

Q64. When do elected members take up their roles?

A Elected members take up office the day after the official result has been declared by public notice. However, members cannot act until they have sworn the oath of office which is usually at the first meeting of the council. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known.

Q65. Who are elected members responsible to?

A Ultimately the elected members final responsibility is to the local community. The

Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that Council follows the law.

Q66. Do elected members get paid and if so, how much?

A A remuneration pool is set by the Remuneration Authority. The newly elected council will decide how to apply the pool of funding. Some expenses are also reimbursed*.

As an indication, the current remuneration is:

| Office | Annual remuneration |
|---|---------------------|
| Chairperson | \$126,500 |
| Deputy Chairperson | \$79,181 |
| Councillor (with additional responsibilities) | \$71,681 |
| Councillor (Minimum Allowable Remuneration) | \$53,710 |

* For further information refer www.remauthority.govt.nz

Q67. Would being an elected member take up much time?

A Being an elected member is a busy job that often involves meetings, events and speaking with community members outside of normal business hours. Flexibility and the ability to prioritise and manage time effectively are essential. This includes balancing a high volume of reading, paperwork and emails with a schedule of meetings and public commitments.

As a consequence, the chair is considered a fulltime job and councillor positions are generally part time jobs.

Q68. How many elected members are there?

A There are 9 councillors, elected from 8 constituencies.

The chairperson is a councillor and is elected by the councillors following the election.

Election Signs

Q69. What are the requirements for election signs?

A Election signs are referenced in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and constituent territorial

authority election signs policies or bylaws – both of which must be complied with.

Local Electoral Act 2001:

All election material, including signs and hoardings, must show an authorisation statement (name and physical address of the candidate or the candidate's agent). Not to do so is an electoral offence.

Refer section 113 Local Electoral Act 2001.

For constituent territorial authority's election signs policies or bylaws:

Refer to the relevant constituent territorial authority website:

- Far North District Council
www.fndc.govt.nz
- Kaipara District Council
www.kaipara.govt.nz
- Whangārei District Council
www.wdc.govt.nz

Election Sign Complaints

Q70. I have a complaint about the electoral signage.

The signs don't have the required authorisation on them:

A You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

The signs are bigger than they should be or have been pulled over or damaged:

A You will need to call the relevant constituent territorial authority.