



MĀORI CONSTITUENCY POLL



UNDERSTANDING THE POLL

What is this poll about?

In the 2025 local elections, you'll be asked to vote on whether the Northland Regional Council should keep or remove its Māori constituency.

This is your chance to have your say on the future of Māori constituency seats and how the regional council represents the people of Te Taitokerau.

What is a Māori constituency?

Māori constituencies are specific electoral areas designed to provide for Māori representation on regional councils in New Zealand. They are similar to Māori electorates in Parliament. People on the Māori electoral roll vote for candidates in these constituencies.

- Northland Regional Council currently has one Māori constituency – Te Raki Māori.
- It has existed since the 2022 elections, with two councillors elected by voters on the Māori roll.
- Voters on the Māori roll do not vote on the general roll.

Why is this poll happening now?

In 2020, Northland Regional Council voted to introduce Māori seats to better reflect the region's population—over one-third of Northlanders are Māori.

In 2024, the Government changed the law to require a binding public poll on whether Māori constituencies should continue.

This means your vote will decide whether Māori seats remain part of the council structure.

What are the options in the poll?

You will be asked to choose one of the following:

» I vote to keep the Māori constituency

Māori seats will continue, and voters on the Māori roll will elect councillors to represent them.

» I vote to remove the Māori constituency

Māori seats will be removed from 2028 onwards, and all councillors will be elected from general constituencies.

The outcome will be decided by a simple majority vote.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Who can vote in the poll?

Everyone who is enrolled to vote in the 2025 local elections can vote in the poll — Māori and non-Māori, regardless of which electoral roll you're on.

How do I vote?

Voting is by postal ballot. You'll receive your voting papers (including the poll question) in the mail from 9 September.

If you don't receive your papers by 22 September, contact the Electoral Officer:

📞 09 973 9212 or 0800 922 822

✉️ dale@electionservices.co.nz

What happens after the poll?

If the majority votes to keep the Māori constituency: Northland Regional Council will continue to have Māori seats in 2028 and 2031.

If the majority votes to remove it: There will be no Māori seats in those elections.

Why does this matter?

This poll will decide whether Māori constituencies—seats that guarantee Māori representation on council—will continue for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit nrc.govt.nz/elections for:

- More information about Māori constituencies
- History of Māori representation at Northland Regional Council
- FAQs about the poll and voting process.



TE MĀRAMA KI TE PŌTI

He aha ngā kōrero mō tēnei pōti?

I ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe o te tau 2025, ka tonoa koe mēnā me noho tonu, me whakakore rānei ngā tūru Māori i te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Taitokerau.

He wā tēnei e whakaputa whakaaro ai koe mō te anamata o ngā tūru Māori me te āhua o tā Kaunihera ā-Rohe whakakanohi i Te Taitokerau.

He aha tēnei mea te wāri Māori?

He rohe pōti motuhake ngā wāri Māori hei whakarite māngai Māori ki ngā kaunihera ā-rohe o Aotearoa. He ōrite ēnei ki ngā tūru Māori o Pāremata. Mā te hunga kei te rārangi pōti Māori e pōti i ngā kaitono mō ēnei tūru.

- Kotahi te tūru Māori o Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Taitokerau i tēnei wā – ko Te Raki Māori.
- Nō ngā pōtitanga o te tau 2022 tīmata ai tēnei wāri, ā, e rua ngā kaikaunihera i pōtitia e ngā kaipōti kei te rārangi pōti Māori.
- Kāhore te hunga kei te rārangi Māori e pōti i te rārangi whānui.

He aha te take e tū ana tēnei pōti ināianei?

I te tau 2020, i whakatau te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Taitokerau kia whai tūru Māori hei whakaatu tika ake i tō te rohe taupori – neke atu i te hautoru o Te Taitokerau he Māori.

I te tau 2024, i panoni te Kāwanatanga i te ture kia tū ai he pōti tūmatanui here mō ngā wāri Māori – me noho tonu rānei, kāhore rānei.

Nō reira, mā tō pōti e whakatau mēnā ka mau tonu ngā tūru Māori ki te Kaunihera.

He aha ngā kōwhiringa o te pōti?

Ka tonoa koe kia kōwhiri i tētahi o ēnei kōwhiringa:

» Ka pōti au kia mau tonu te wāri Māori

Ka noho tonu ngā tūru Māori, ā, mā te hunga kei te rārangi Māori e pōti i ō rātou māngai.

» Ka pōti au kia whakakorea te wāri Māori

Ka whakakorea ngā tūru Māori mai i te tau 2028, ā, ka pōtihia katoatia ngā kaikaunihera mai i ngā wāri whānui.

Ka whakatauhia te otinga e te pōti a te tokomaha.

NGĀ MEA ME MŌHIO KOE

Ko wai e āhei ana ki te pōti i tēnei pōti?

Ka taea e ngā tāngata katoa kua rēhita mō ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe o te tau 2025 te pōti i tēnei pōti – Māori mai, tauīwi mai, ahakoa kei tēhea rārangi pōti koe.

Me pēhea te pōti?

Ka whaahaerehia te pōti mā pōti ā-mēra. Ka whiwhi koe i ō pepa pōti (me taua pātai tonu) mā te mēra, mai i te 9 o Hepetema.

Ki te kore koe e whiwhi i ō pepa pōti i mua i te 22 o Hepetema, whakapā atu ki te Āpiha Pōti:

☎ 09 973 9212 or 0800 922 822 rānei

✉ dale@electionservices.co.nz

Ka aha i muri i te pōti?

Ki te pōti te tokomaha kia mau tonu te wāri Māori, ka noho tonu ngā tūru Māori ki te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Taitokerau mō ngā pōtitanga 2028, 2031 hoki.

Ki te pōti te tokomaha kia whakakore i te wāri Māori, ka kore he tūru Māori i ngā pōtitanga 2028, 2031 hoki.

He aha te hiranga o tēnei?

Mā tēnei pōti e whakatau mēnā ka mau tonu ngā wāri Māori i roto i ngā pōtitanga 2028, 2031 hoki – arā, ngā tūru Māori hei māngai motuhake mō te Māori i roto i te kaunihera.

HE MŌHIOTANGA ANŌ KA HIAHIATIA?

Toro atu ki nrc.govt.nz/elections mō:

- Ētahi atu pārongo mō ngā wāri Māori
- Te hītori mō ngā māngai Māori ki Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Taitokerau
- Ngā pātai ka pātaia i ngā wā katoa e pā ana ki te pōti me ngā tukanga pōti.