

Election Services
Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142
Phone: 64 9 973 5212
Email: info@electionservices.co.nz

Report to the
Northland Regional Council
regarding the

2022 Triennial Election

From the
Electoral Officer

10 March 2022



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Outline

The 2022 triennial local government elections will occur on Saturday 8 October 2022. 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 2022 triennial elections for local authorities are due to occur on Saturday 8 October 2022 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

2022 Elections

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- Councillors (9)*:
 - Far North General Constituency (1)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (1)
 - Kaipara General Constituency (1)
 - Mid North General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal Central General Constituency (1)
 - Whangārei Central General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal South General Constituency (1)
 - Te Raki Māori Constituency (2).

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

There are no longer elections held for district health board members.

2022 Election Timetable

With an election date of **Saturday 8 October 2022**, the following key functions and dates will apply:

Nominations open/roll open

Friday 15 July 2022

Nominations close/roll closes (noon)

Friday 12 August 2022

Delivery of voting mailers

From Friday 16 September 2022

Close of voting

Noon Saturday 8 October 2022

A more detailed timetable is attached [Appendix 1](#).

2022 Election Fact Sheet

A 2022 Election Fact Sheet summarising the key functions of the election ([Appendix 2](#)) is also attached.

Representation Review

Following the decision to establish one or more Māori constituency in 2021, Northland Regional Council undertook a representation arrangements review (review of constituencies, boundaries, numbers of elected members etc).

The final proposal is subject to the Local Government Commission determination (expected by 10 April 2022).

If the final proposal is adopted, a new district-wide Māori constituency will be introduced and the current constituency boundaries and names changed. The total number of councillors remains the (nine).

Compilation of non- resident Ratepayer Roll

The compilation of the 2022 non-resident Ratepayer Roll is required to commence in early-mid 2022 by the three constituent territorial authorities. This will include:

- an insert detailing the qualifications and procedures for enrolment as a non-resident ratepayer elector to be included with a 2022 constituent territorial authority rates instalment notice by the end of August 2022 ([Appendix 3](#));
- a national Ratepayer Roll inquiry hotline operating between 1 February and 30 August 2022;
- a confirmation letter issued to all current constituent territorial authority non-resident ratepayer electors in March/April 2022;

- a national advertising campaign on the qualifications and procedures for enrolment as a non-resident ratepayer elector during May 2022.

The above are all required to be undertaken by the constituent territorial authorities.

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 resolved to adopt the alphabetical order for the 2019 triennial election.

For Council's information, following a recent analysis undertaken by Auckland Council, research showed no observable effect of candidate order on actual election outcomes.

For the 2019 local government elections:

- 22 territorial authorities used alphabetical order (32.84%)
- 7 territorial authorities used pseudo-random order (10.44%)
- 38 territorial authorities used random order (56.72%).

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 2022 triennial elections in the Northland region is expected to be 132,000 (as at 31 January 2022 this was 133,442). This compares to 120,548 electors for the 2019 triennial election or +9.5% 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 2022 (two weeks before the opening of nominations).

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

Council resolves for the 2022 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.

Author:




Dale Ofoske
Electoral Officer // Northland Regional Council
Election Services

APPENDIX 1

TIMETABLE 2022 election 8 OCTOBER 2022



Wednesday 2 March - Saturday 30 April 2022	Ratepayer roll enrolment confirmation forms sent [Reg 16, LER]
Wednesday 2 March - Wednesday 6 July 2022	Preparation of ratepayer roll [Reg 10, LER]
May 2022	National ratepayer roll qualifications and procedures campaign [Sec 39, LEA]
Friday 1 July 2022	Electoral Commission's enrolment update campaign commences
Wednesday 13 July 2022	Public notice of election, calling for nominations, rolls open for inspection [Sec 42, 52, 53, LEA]
Friday 15 July 2022	Nominations open / roll open for inspection [Sec 42, LEA]
Friday 12 August 2022	Nominations close (12 noon) / roll closes [Sec 5, 42, 55 LEA, Reg 21, LER]
Wednesday 17 August 2022	Public notice of day of election, candidates' names [Sec 65, LEA]
by Monday 12 September 2022	Electoral officer certifies final electoral roll [Sec 51, LEA, Reg 22, LER]
Friday 16 September - Wednesday 21 September 2022	Delivery of voting documents [Reg 51, LER]
Friday 16 September - Saturday 8 October 2022	Progressive roll scrutiny [Sec 83, LEA] Special voting period [Sec 5 LEA, Reg 35, LER] Early processing period [Sec 80, LEA]
by Friday 7 October 2022	Appointment of scrutineers (12 noon) [Sec 68, LEA]
Saturday 8 October 2022	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]
Saturday 8 October (pm) - Thursday 13 October 2022	Official count [Sec 84, LEA]
Friday 14 October - Wednesday 19 October 2022	Declaration of result/public notice of declaration [Sec 86, LEA]
by 9 December 2022	Return of electoral donations & expenses form [Sec 112A, LEA]

LEA = Local Electoral Act 2001
LER = Local Electoral Regulations 2001



// Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer
Northland Regional Council
December 2021

APPENDIX 2

FACT SHEET

2022 election

8 OCTOBER 2022



What does Council do?

While city or district councils are responsible for a wide range of local services in your area, the role and responsibilities of the Regional Council involve managing the region's natural resources - it manages land, air, coast and the quality of water in our lakes and rivers. They are also responsible for biodiversity, regional parks, flood protection, emergency management and regional transport. The Regional Council works closely with city or district councils and other agencies on some issues, to ensure they are managed to benefit the entire region.

Background

Local government triennial elections are being held by postal vote on Saturday 8 October 2022 and will be undertaken by Election Services, under contract to the Northland Regional Council.

The elections are undertaken on behalf of the regional council by its three constituent territorial authorities (Far North District Council, Whangārei District Council and Kaipara District Council). In addition to their own elections (Mayor, Council etc), each constituent territorial authority is also required to undertake regional council elections.

The first past the post (FPP) electoral system will be used for the Northland Regional Council elections.

2022 Key Dates

Nominations open	Friday 15 July
Nominations close	Noon, Friday 12 August
Delivery of voting packs	from Friday 16 September
Close of voting	Noon, Saturday 8 October
Official results announced	Thursday 13 October

Who is being elected?

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).

Elections will be required for the following positions:*

- Councillors (9)
 - Far North General Constituency (1)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (1)
 - Kaipara General Constituency (1)
 - Mid North General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal Central General Constituency (1)
 - Whangārei Central General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal South General Constituency (1)
 - Te Raki Māori Constituency (2)

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

How can I be nominated?

Nominations for these positions will open on **Friday 15 July 2022** and close at noon on **Friday 12 August 2022**.

Nomination papers will be available during this period:

- Council's Whangārei Office, 36 Water Street, Whangārei
- Council's Dargaville Office, 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville
- Council's Kaitiāia Office, 192 Commerce Street, Kaitiāia
- Council's Waipapa Office, Shop 9, 12 Klinac Lane, Waipapa
- by accessing www.nrc.govt.nz;
- by telephoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

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) on either the general or Māori electoral roll, irrespective of the constituency being nominated for; **and**
- nominated by two electors whose names appear on the respective electoral roll within the constituency that a candidate is standing for.

A detailed candidate information handbook will be available from April 2022.

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 12 August 2022. The Preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public inspection from **Friday 15 July 2022** to **Friday 12 August 2022** at the above locations.

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 at any postal agency;
- phoning 0800 ENROLNOW (0800 36 76 56)
- accessing the Electoral Commission website on: 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 from respective territorial authority websites, or by phoning 0800 922 822.

Māori constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled on the Māori constituency electoral roll.

General constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled on the general constituency electoral roll.

How to vote?

Voting packs will be sent out in the mail to all those who have enrolled from **Friday 16 September 2022**.

The voting period is three weeks (**Friday 16 September 2022 to noon Saturday 8 October 2022**). Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the electoral officer using the orange pre-paid envelope sent with their voting document.

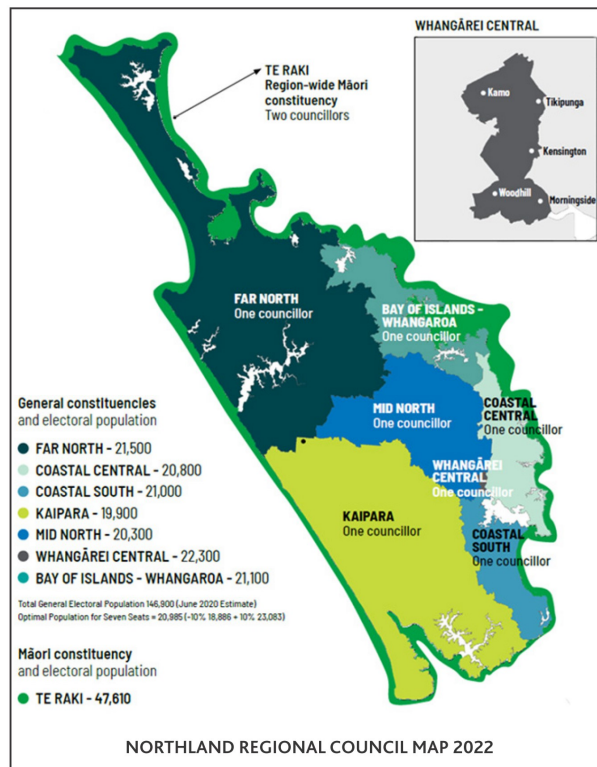
Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Friday 16 September 2022 to noon, Saturday 8 October 2022 at:

- Far North District Council's Main Office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe

- Kaipara District Council's Main Office, 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville
- Whangārei District Council's Office, Forum North, Rust Avenue, Whangārei.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official by **noon Saturday 8 October 2022**.

Progress results will be announced early afternoon of election day. Preliminary results will be announced early on Sunday morning, 9 October 2022, and final results will be known on Thursday 13 October 2022. All results will be accessible on Council's website: www.nrc.govt.nz



Contact us



Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer
Independent Election Services Ltd
Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142
Email: info@electionservices.co.nz
Phone: 0800 922 822

Chris Taylor, Governance Support Manager
Northland Regional Council
36 Water Street, Whangārei
Private Bag 9021, Whangārei Mail Centre, Whangārei 0148
Email: christinet@nrc.govt.nz
Phone: 0800 002 004 or (09) 470 1224

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 2022

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.

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 phone toll free

0800 54 8683 0800 LG VOTE

(phone number is available from 7 February 2022 to 30 August 2022)



**Enrol now – the
Ratepayer Electoral
Roll closes on
12 August 2022**