

VOTE
2022

LOCAL ELECTIONS

FAQs

Triennial elections

8 OCTOBER 2022

FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Frequently Asked Questions

Far North District Council elections

General Information

Q1. When is the next Far North District 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.
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Q2. Who runs the election?

- A The electoral officer has full responsibility for running the election.
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Q3. Who is the council's electoral officer and council's electoral liaison person?

- A The electoral officer is:

Dale Ofsoske, Independent Election Services Ltd
Electoral Office: Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
Phone: 0800 922 822
Email: dale.ofsoske@electionservices.co.nz

- A Council's electoral liaison person is:

Casey Gannon, Project Manager – Democracy Services, Far North District Council
5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe
Phone: 0800 920 029
Email casey.gannon@fndc.govt.nz

Q4. What type of electoral system is used?

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

For a more detailed explanation of these electoral systems, refer Q57 and Q58.

Q5. What elections are being held?

- A Electors will be able to vote for the mayor, ward councillors, community board members and Northland Regional Council members. There are no longer elections held for district health board members.

Following the decision to establish Māori wards in 2021, Far North District Council was required to review its representation arrangements (number of councillors, wards, boundaries etc).

As a result of this, the current three ward structure was reviewed and changed to a four ward structure, with the addition of the new Māori ward, electing a total of 10 councillors:

- Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3 councillors)
- Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1 councillor)
- Te Hiku General Ward (2 councillors)
- Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4 councillors).

In addition, there are three community boards, which are further subdivided into subdivisions, with the addition of the new Waipapa Subdivision, electing a total of 19 members:

- Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board (7 members)
 - Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision (1 member)
 - Kerikeri Subdivision (2 members)
 - Paihia Subdivision (1 member)
 - Russell-Ōpua Subdivision (1 member)
 - Waipapa Subdivision (1 member)
 - Whangaroa Subdivision (1 member)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (6 members)
 - Kaikohe Subdivision (3 members)
 - North Hokianga Subdivision (1 member)
 - South Hokianga Subdivision (2 members)
 - Te Hiku Community Board (6 members)
 - Doubtless Bay Subdivision (1 member)
 - Kaitāia Subdivision (3 members)
 - North Cape Subdivision (1 member)
 - Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision (1 member).
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Q6. What is the difference between Māori and general wards?

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

- engage in community development activities in conjunction with council officers
- take a proactive stance anticipating strategies and policies that may be needed
- represent the community to other agencies
- promote the role of the community board in the wider community
- work cooperatively with the council.

Q7. What is the role of the mayor, councillors and community board members?

A The mayor:

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

A Mayor and councillors:

- participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole district
- develop policy across a wide range of activities and services
- represent the district at functions as required
- review and develop bylaws for the district
- 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, and setting a budget and rates
- monitor the performance of the council organisation.

A Community board members:

- promote residents' issues and initiatives to the board and the council
- monitor the provision of council services and advocates changes as necessary

Candidates

Q8. 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 Te Hiku General Ward, the nominators will need to be two electors enrolled on the Parliamentary General Electoral Roll for that ward. (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.fndc.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.

Q9. 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 more than 25% of the final quota as determined by the last iteration (for STV elections) or greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate (for FPP elections), you will receive your nomination deposit back.

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

Q10. 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 Far North District Council and local government
- communication and engagement
- relationship building and collaboration.

Q14. Do I need to be on the Māori electoral roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in the Māori ward?

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

Q11. Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?

A No, not for the Far North District Council elections.

Q15. How many positions can I stand for?

A You can stand for mayor, a ward councillor and a community board member, but if you are elected to more than one position, you take the highest ranked position.

You cannot stand for more than one ward or for both the Far North District Council and the Northland Regional Council.

Q12. How long is the term of the elected member?

A Three years.

Q16. 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.

Q13. 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 your candidate profile statement.

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.

Q17. 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 Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (Kaikohe Subdivision) area', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (Kaikohe Subdivision) area'. 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.

Q18. 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

For example, a candidate for the Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (which has a population in the range of 5,000 – 9,999) can spend up to \$7,000 inclusive of GST.

If you stand for more than one position, the amount you can spend is the highest amount for one position. You cannot add positions together to allow you to spend more than the limit.

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.

Q19. 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.

Q20. When is the campaign period?

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

Q21. Can people already elected onto council use council resources to campaign?

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

Q22. 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.

- Kaitiāia Service Centre/Library, Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitiāia
- Kawakawa Service Centre/Library, 54 Gillies Street, Kawakawa
- Kāeo Service Centre, Leigh Street, Kāeo
- Kerikeri Service Centre, 60 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri
- Kerikeri Public Library, 6 Cobham Road, Kerikeri
- Paihia Public Library, Williams House, 6 Williams Road, Paihia
- Rawene Service Centre, 11 Parnell Street, Rawene.

The availability of the 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.

Q23. 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.

Q26. 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 Far North District Council area?
 - Yes

You will automatically appear on the 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 Far North District 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.

Or

- A Is this your main place of residence?
- No
 - Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in another district?
 - Yes

Q24. When do nominations close?

A Nominations close at 12 noon Friday 12 August 2022.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not 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

Q25. Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A The preliminary electoral roll 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 will be available for inspection at:

- Council's Main Office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe
- Kaikohe Library, 14 Marino Place, Kaikohe

If you own a property in this district and it is not your main residence you may be able to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector. (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice in Q32.)

Q27. 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.

Q28. 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 mayor, the Māori ward councillors and the respective community board subdivision members. If a person is enrolled on the General Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the mayor, the respective general ward councillors and the respective community board subdivision members.

Q29. 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 Far North District 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.

Q30. 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 Q48.

Q31. We own a business in the Far North District Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Far North District Council area – do we get a say in the Far North District Council elections?

A Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available:

- online www.fndc.govt.nz
- or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The non-resident ratepayer enrolment form 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.

For special vote availability, see Q48.

Q32. I own a property in the Far North District 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:

- online www.fndc.govt.nz
- or by phoning 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 Q48.

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

Q33. 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.

Q34. 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 Q48.

- 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 Q48.

Q35. 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.

Q36. 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.

Q37. 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.

Q38. 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.

Q39. 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.

Q40. 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 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, 6 etc. in numerical order up to as many preferences as the voter wishes to vote for.

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.

Q41. 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 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.fndc.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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Q42. 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 Q43.

Q43. Where are the ballot box locations?

- A Polling places for receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Friday 16 September 2022 to close of business on Friday 7 October 2022 at all Council service centres:
- Council's Main Office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe
 - Kāeo Service Centre, Leigh Street, Kāeo
 - Kaitiāia Service Centre, Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitiāia
 - Kawakawa Service Centre, Gilles Street, Kawakawa
 - Kerikeri Service Centre, 60 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri
 - Rawene Service Centre, 11 Parnell Street, Rawene
 - Or by phoning 0800 922 822.

On Saturday 8 October 2022, the receiving of completed voting documents will be available until noon at Council's Kaitāia, Kerikeri and Kaikohe offices only.

The availability of the 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 will need to apply for a special vote – for special vote availability, see Q48.

Q44. 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
Far North District Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Q45. 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 Q48.

Q46. 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 Q48.

- 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.

Q47. I spoiled my voting documents/I have made a mistake on my document. 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 Q48), but this will take time and require you to complete a declaration.

Q48. Where can I have a special vote?

- A Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents will be available from Friday 16 September 2022 to noon Saturday 8 October 2022 at the following locations:
- 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
 - Or by phoning 0800 922 822.

The availability of the 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.

Q49. 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 Q48.

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

Q50. 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 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.

For 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 two councillors then you can vote for up to two candidates. Remember, for FPP you tick the candidates you want to elect.

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.

Q51. Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward, community board or other issue?

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

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

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general ward if you are on the Māori Electoral Roll and voting in the Māori ward election.

Q52. 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.

Q53. I have received two voting documents.

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

Q54. 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.

Q55. 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.

Q56. What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

A They are delivered to the Kaikohe 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.

Q57. What is STV and how do I vote in an STV election?

A STV is being used for the first time for the Far North District Council elections.

STV stands for single transferable voting and 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.

Q58. 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 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.

Election Results

Q59. When will we know the results of the election?

A Progress results will be announced as soon as possible after 12 noon on Saturday 8 October 2022 (around 2pm). Preliminary results will be announced on the morning of Sunday 9 October 2022 once all votes received at council offices (up until 12 noon on election day) have been delivered to Auckland and processed.

The official results will be announced when special votes have been checked and included in the final results, expected to be Thursday 13 October 2022.

Q60. How will I find out?

Candidates:

A Progress and preliminary results will be advised as soon as practicable on the afternoon of Saturday 8 October 2022 and on Sunday 9 October 2022 respectively.

Candidates will be notified of how they will be advised prior to election day.

Voters:

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

Q61. 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 Kaikohe District Court.

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

Members

Q62. 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 or community board. The first meetings are usually held as soon as practicable after the final election results are known.

Q63. 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 the council follows the law.

Q64. 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 shown below.

Far North District Council:

Office	Annual remuneration
Mayor	\$155,000
Deputy Mayor	\$112,721
Committee Chairperson	\$91,250
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	\$70,370
Councillor (Minimum Allowable Remuneration)	\$55,147

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration
Chairperson	\$31,742
Member	\$15,871

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration
Chairperson	\$27,208
Member	\$13,604

Ta Hiku Community Board:

Office	Annual remuneration
Chairperson	\$27,775
Member	\$13,888

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

Q65. 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.

Consequently, the mayor is considered a fulltime job and councillor and community board member positions are generally part-time jobs.

Q66. How many elected members are there?

- A Elections are being held for:
- mayor (elected at large)
 - councillors – 10 (six from three general wards and four from one Māori ward)
 - community board members – 19 (elected from three community boards which are further subdivided into 13 subdivisions)
 - Northland Regional Council members – up to 5 members (1 from the Far North General Constituency, or 1 from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency, or 1 from the Mid North General Constituency, or 2 from the Te Raki Māori Constituency).

Election Signs

Q67. What are the requirements for election signs?

- A Election signs are referenced in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and council's election signs policy – 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.

Council's election signs policy:

Time

The maximum period of time during which a sign, poster or placard may be displayed is two months before election day i.e. from 12.01 am Monday 8 August 2022 to midnight Friday 7 October 2022.

Size

The maximum permitted face surface area of any sign is 3 m² (approximately 1700 mm x 1700 mm).

Placement

Signs advertising a candidate standing for election are permitted on council streets and roads but not street furniture, bus shelters, public toilets, power light or telephone poles and parks and reserves.

No sign may use reflective materials or illuminations or moving parts and must not look like a traffic sign in shape or colour.

Any election sign in contravention of the council policy may be removed by the council.

Further information

For further information relating to council's election signs policy refer to www.fndc.govt.nz.

Election Sign Complaints

Q68. 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 council's compliance officer on 0800 920 029.
