

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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What voting in the local election looks like

Your voting papers should have arrived in the mail by Monday 15 September, so here's a guide to making your postal vote count before voting closes at midday Saturday 11 October.

Your voting papers specify which roll, ward, subdivision and constituency you are enrolled in and list the candidates you can vote for. Voting papers have unique identifiers so electoral officials can keep track of papers and check that none have gone missing. Special care is taken to keep all voting papers safe and secure, and your vote private.

This year all voters in the local election will also be asked to vote in a binding poll about whether to keep or remove Māori wards and constituencies.

Special votes

If you haven't received your voting papers in the mail, you haven't yet enrolled, or you enrolled or updated your details after 1 August, then you will need to complete a special vote. You can visit one of our council service centres or a Mobile Ballot Box Tour location to cast a special vote.

How to vote using Single Transferable Voting

The Far North is one of 15 councils in Aotearoa that



You can post your completed voting forms using the envelope provided or lodge your vote at a council service centre or mobile ballot box.

uses Single Transferable Voting. To vote this way you need to rank the candidates you choose in order of preference. You put a '1' next to the candidate you like best, a '2' next to your second favourite candidate and so on. You can vote for as many or as few

candidates as you like. For your vote to be counted there must be a single '1' as a minimum. For more information on STV go to www.stv.govt.nz.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Get ready - vote in local elections



Local elections let you choose who represents you at a council level.

All eligible voters can vote for:

- The Far North Mayor
- Your local community board – based on the subdivision you live in
- Your Northland Regional Council representative(s) – based on the constituency area you live in.

In addition, depending on the roll you are on:

- General Roll voters will vote for Far North Councillors based on the ward you live in, e.g. Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Ward, Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward or Te Hiku Ward
- Māori Roll voters will vote for Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward Councillors.

Remember, there are two binding polls too:

- Whether to keep or remove the Māori ward for Far North District Council
- Whether to keep or remove the Māori constituency for Northland Regional Council.

These decisions will apply at 2028 and 2031 elections.

Action! Candidate videos online



All candidates were offered the same opportunity to record videos.

Three-quarters of candidates standing in the Far North local elections have taken the opportunity to outline who they are and what they stand for in videos now available on the FNDC website.

The 90-second videos were filmed with the aim of making it easier for voters to make well-informed decisions when filling in their postal voting forms. Seventy-six per cent of the eligible candidates opted to have a video shot by council staff. Each was provided the same three questions as a guide for their video – who they are and what roles they are standing for, their top priorities for council and the district, and the biggest challenge facing the district. Voters are encouraged to gather their friends and whānau together to check out the candidate videos and have a kōrero before making their voting choices.

'Meet the candidates' events are being held across the Far North so please regularly check our Local Elections 2025 webpage for updates, or contact us at elections@fndc.govt.nz if you'd like to host an event.

Mobile ballot boxes go on tour



You can post your voting papers or visit a mobile ballot box.

We're making it easier for your vote to count by taking ballot boxes to voters in remote communities. From Wednesday 10 September to Friday 10 October, the district-wide Mobile Ballot Box Tour will visit marae, local halls, schools, sports clubs and markets, seven days a week.

Six mobile ballot box units will visit urban centres and small or remote Far North communities in an effort to reduce barriers to voting and help anyone wanting to enrol or cast a special vote.

Enrolled voters started receiving their postal voting forms from 9 September. Voting closes at midday on Saturday 11 October. While most voters will post their voting forms using the envelope included, the council is also providing ballot boxes at each of its eight service centres, as well as mobile units.

Go to our Mobile Ballot Box Tour webpage to keep up to date with tour locations. If you would like to invite a Mobile Ballot Box to your community, please elections@fndc.govt.nz

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