

# 2025 TRIENNIAL ELECTION

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WORKSHOP 19 MAY 2025

Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer



## COVERING

- Background
- Timetable
- Electoral principles
- Maaori Ward Poll
- Legislation changes
- Order of candidate names
- Chief executive's role
- Elected member protocols
- Candidate reminders





## BACKGROUND

### ➤ Triennial election to occur **Saturday 11 October 2025**

#### ➤ Elections for:

##### ➤ Mayor

##### ➤ 13 councillors

- Awaroa-Maramarua General Ward (1)
- Huntly General Ward (1)
- Newcastle-Ngāruawāhia General Ward (2)
- Tamahere-Woodlands General Ward (2)
- Tai Rara Takiwaa Maaori Ward (1)
- Tai Runga Takiwaa Maaori Ward (1)
- Tuakau-Pōkeno General Ward (2)
- Whāingaroa General Ward (1)
- Waerenga-Whitikahu General Ward (1)
- Western Districts General Ward (1)

#### ➤ 32 community board members

- Huntly Community Board (6)
- Ngāruawāhia Community Board (6)
- Raglan Community Board (6)
- Rural-Port Waikato Community Board (4)
  - North Subdivision (2)
  - South Subdivision (2)
- Taupiri Community Board (6)

#### ➤ Te Kauwhata Licensing Trust (6)

#### ➤ Waikato Regional Council

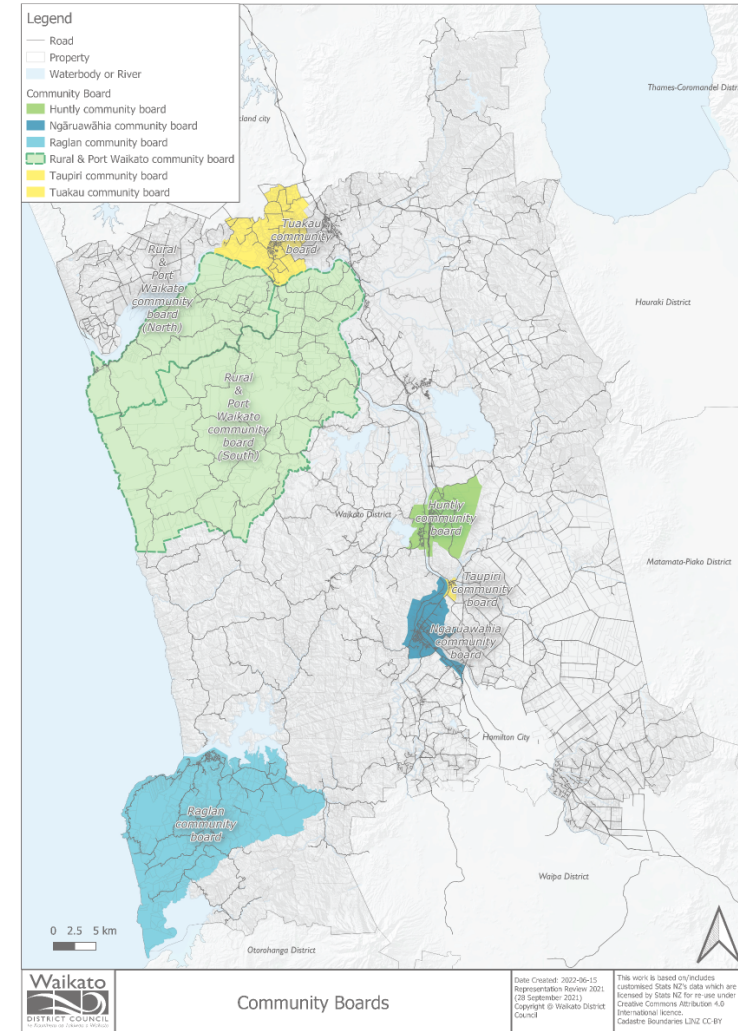
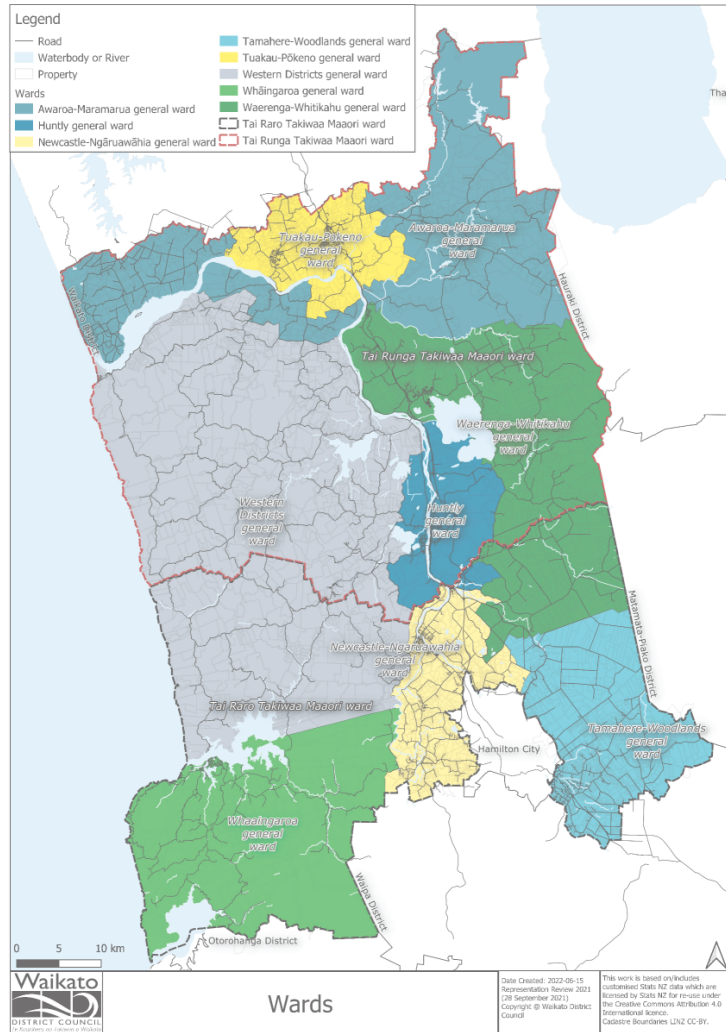
- Waikato General Constituency (2) or
- Ngā Hau e Whā Māori Constituency (1)

## BACKGROUND

- Maaori Ward Poll
- FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system
- Random order of candidate names
- Approximately 60,000 electors (+10.3% since 2022)
- Electoral officer Dale Ofoske from Election Services
- Deputy electoral officer Gaylene Kanawa from Council







## TIMETABLE

- Nominations open: Friday 4 July
- Pre-election period: Friday 11 July – Saturday 11 October
- Nominations close: noon Friday 1 August
- Election signs display period (2 months): Monday 11 August – noon Saturday 11 October
- Voting period: Tuesday 9 September – noon Saturday 11 October
- Appoint scrutineers: by noon Friday 10 October
- Progress results: Saturday 11 October PM
- Preliminary results: Sunday 12 October
- Final results: by Friday 17 October
- Members go out of office/take office: Saturday 18 October
- Return of election donations & expenses forms: 12 December



## ELECTORAL PRINCIPLES

- Representative and substantial electoral participation
- Fair and effective representation
- Reasonable and equal opportunity to:
  - nominate a candidate
  - accept a nomination
  - cast informed vote
- Public confidence in, and public understanding of, processes through:
  - regular election cycle
  - elections managed independently
  - protection of freedom of choice and secrecy of the vote
  - transparent electoral systems and voting methods
  - procedures that produce certainty in outcomes
- Local authorities and electoral officers must take into account principles in making decisions



## MAAORI WARD POLL

- Where local authority established Maaori wards/constituencies
  - since 2020
  - without undertaking poll
  - not dis-establish by 6 September 2024
- Must undertake poll with 2025 local elections
- Poll binding for two elections (2028, 2031)
- Likely question:
  - I vote to keep the Maaori wards; or
  - I vote to remove the Maaori wards
- Poll must use FPP electoral system
- Council must remain neutral on matter – can only promote process
- WRC not required to undertake poll on Maaori constituencies (decision prior 2020)
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024





## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- Legislative changes 30 July 2024
  - longer voting pack delivery period (6 to 14 days)
  - longer voting period (22.5 to 32.5 days)
- Largely to reflect slow postal delivery service
- Means process starts earlier (4 July)
- Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024



## ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES

- Ability for local authorities to determine order candidate names on voting document
  - Alphabetical
  - Pseudo-Random
  - Random
- Resolution made for random order





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ROLE

- Requirement under Local Government Act for chief executive to:
  - 'Facilitate and foster representative and substantial elector participation'
- Achieved through effective communications/education strategy to:
  - Increase number and diversity of candidates
  - Increase voter participation
  - Include information about the Council, what it does, its relevance to the community and importance of participation
- Council's candidate information booklet (key information)
- Council's communication campaign
- Council placing more vote boxes in community (e.g. supermarkets) over voting period
- Reinforced by electoral principle: implement representative and substantial electoral participation

## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Pre-election period = 3 months before election day (11 July to 11 October)
- Certain protocols need observing, as elected members wearing two hats:
  - continue to govern and make decisions as elected members
  - as candidates campaigning for re-election
- Elected members to clearly differentiate between Council business and campaigning
- Council should not make any significant decisions in pre-election period
- Business as usual must continue





## ELECTED MEMBER PROTOCOLS

- Council resources and technology provided to elected members
  - must only be used for Council purposes
  - must **not** be used for campaign purposes
  - examples include Council's mobile phones, computers, logo, website, Facebook page, communications, emails, premises, vehicles, copiers, use of support staff
- Council must not promote, or be seen to promote, prospects of any candidate, including current members in pre-election period
- Refer LGNZ/Taituara Good Practice Guidance (reviewed by OAG and DIA)



## CANDIDATE REMINDERS

- Specific Council-owned sites for election hoardings
  - available 2-months before election day
    - from Monday 11 August to noon, Saturday 11 October
    - must be moved by close of voting
- All advertising material to be authorized (by candidate or agent)
  - must show contact details (physical address now not required)
- Limit to campaign expenditure (based on population of area)
  - e.g. mayoral election pop 90,740 = \$50,000
  - limit includes GST
  - expenditure to include both before and during applicable 3-month period
  - keep all receipts (produce if required)





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