

AT THE NEXT LOCAL ELECTION  
YOU WILL BE ASKED  
IF YOU WANT  
MĀORI WARDS  
ON YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL.



VOTE TO  
KEEP  
MĀORI WARDS

## KEY ELECTION DATES

**9 SEPT** Voting documents begin to be delivered and voting opens. By the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, you should have received your voting papers in the mail.

**7 OCT** Last day for posting vote by mail. After this date votes must be returned to council ballot boxes & selected grocery stores around town.

**11 OCT** Voting closes.

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### NOT ENROLLED? NO WORRIES!

**9 SEPT-  
10 OCT** If you are not enrolled, you will need to make a special vote. You can do this! Check your local council website for locations.



This pamphlet is authorised by Tiriti Action Group - a community group that supports actions for rangatiratanga, kotahitanga and justice in Te Upoko o te Ika.  
Contact: [tiritiactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:tiritiactiongroup@gmail.com)

VOTE TO

KEEP  
MĀORI  
WARDS

[tiritiactiongroup.nz](http://tiritiactiongroup.nz)

**VOTE  
KEEP  
KOTAHITANGA  
RANGATIRATANGA  
JUSTICE  
EQUITY**



## WHAT ARE MĀORI WARDS?

Māori wards are seats on local councils that make sure Māori voices are heard. They were set up because Māori weren't being represented in local decision-making.

Having a Māori Ward brings knowledge, perspectives and expertise that enhances overall community and environmental wellbeing.

People on the Māori Roll vote for Māori Wards. They do not vote for seats in general wards.

Māori wards simply create space to ensure Māori voices are part of the conversation alongside mana whenua.

## WHY HAVE MĀORI WARDS?

### REPRESENTATION

They make sure Māori are part of important decisions, as the Local Government Act requires.

### BETTER DECISIONS

They have brought knowledge and expertise that led to better decisions for all.

### RELATIONSHIPS

They have led to stronger relationships, shifting tensions into effective collaborations.

### FAIRNESS

Allowing Māori to decide how they are represented makes these wards the same as any other ward or constituency.

### EQUITY

For local democracy to work for everyone, it must ensure Māori voices aren't excluded by majority vote.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Powers to establish local Māori seats were given to councils in 2001.

42 out of 45 councils that have recently established Māori wards have voted to retain them.

In 2024, the government amended the Local Government Act, requiring a binding vote in the 2025 elections to decide if Māori wards will stay.

If we do not vote to keep Māori wards in the upcoming election, we can not vote on the issue again until 2034.

Māori representation in local government is well below the proportion of Māori in the population. Having Māori wards helps address this.

Māori ward councillors are elected by voters on the Māori roll, ensuring Māori are part of decisions that affect housing, transport, water and more.