

2025 Local Government Elections

Whakatāne District Council
Dale Ofsoske, Electoral Officer
14 June 2025

Agenda

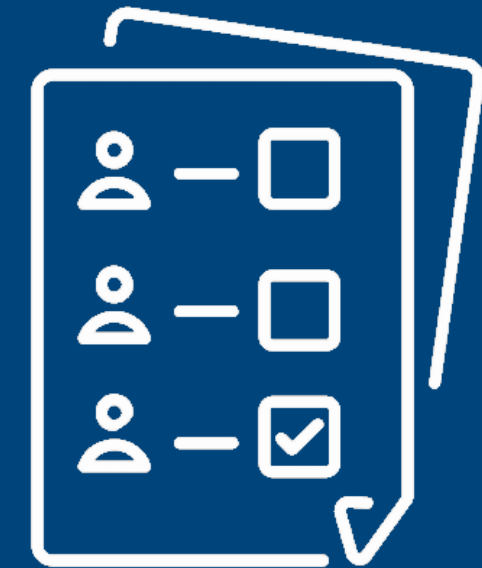
How do I become a candidate?



What do I need to know about campaigning?



How does the voting work?

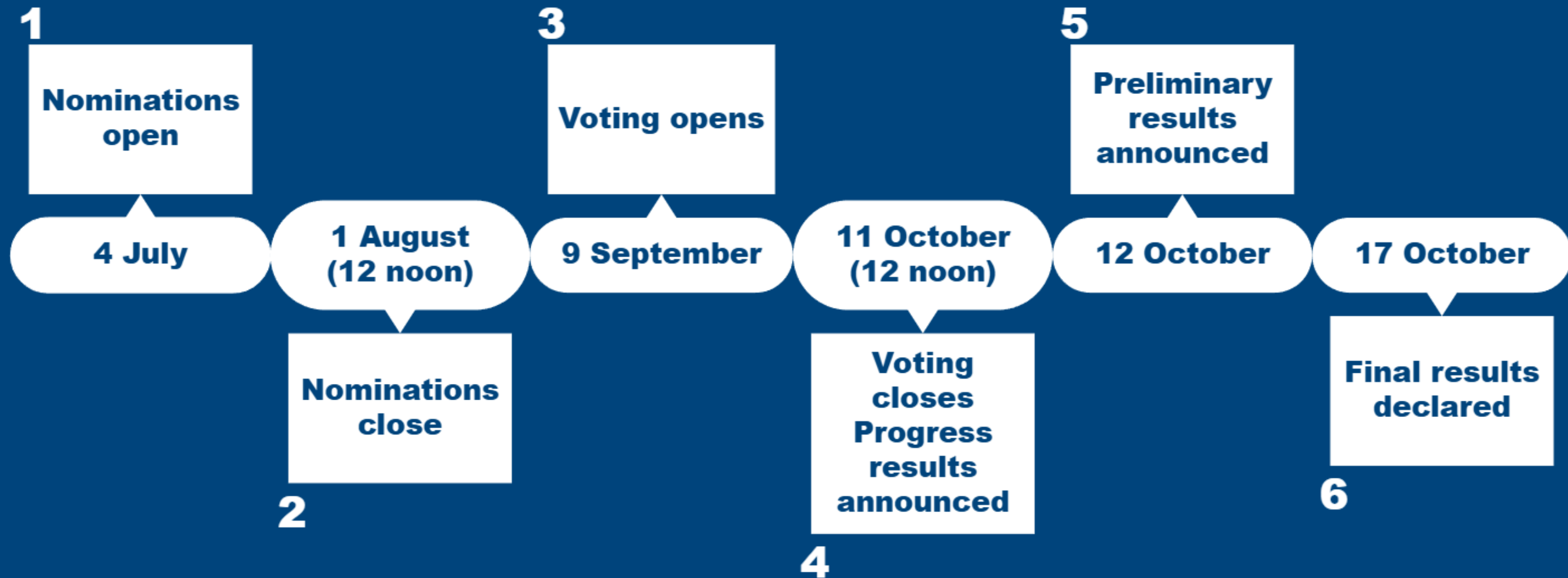


Key terms

Some terms:

- WDC: Whakatāne District Council
- BOPRC: Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Elector: a person who is eligible to vote, and who is enrolled
- Electoral roll: list of electors, who are either on the Māori or general roll
- Māori Electoral Roll: a list of electors who are enrolled on the Māori roll
- General Electoral Roll: a list of electors who are enrolled on the general roll

Key election dates



General electoral information

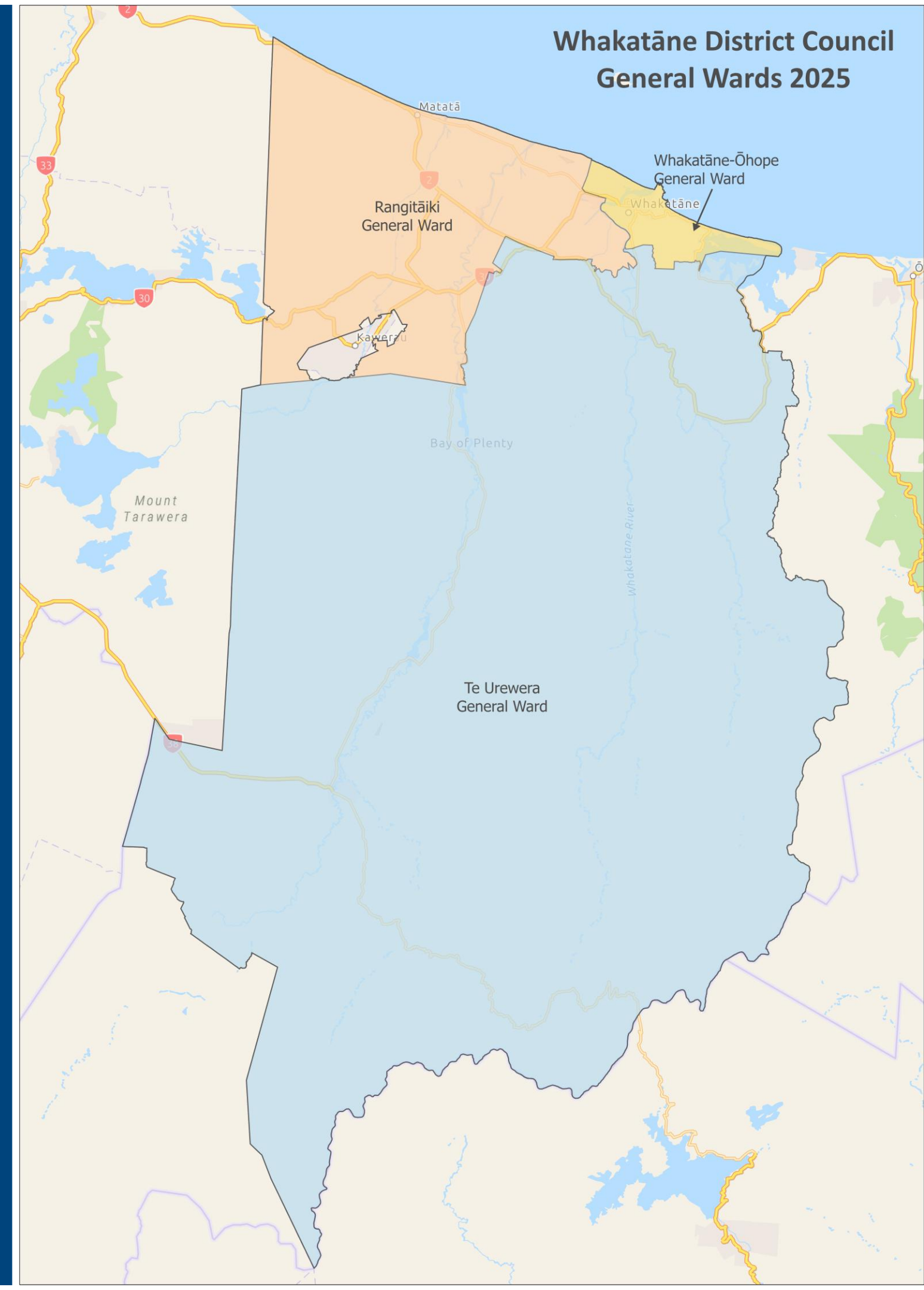
WDC:

- Population of around 39,000 people, and 26,600 electors
 - 18,600 electors on the general roll
 - 8,000 electors on the Māori roll
- FPP electoral system used
- Candidates listed in random order
- Elections held for BOPRC
- Māori ward poll for WDC

Elections required

Whakatāne District Council

- 1 mayor
- 10 councillors:
 - 7 general ward councillors:
 - 2 from the Rangitāiki General Ward
 - 4 from the Whakatāne-Ōhope General Ward
 - 1 from the Te Urewera General Ward



Elections required

Whakatāne District Council

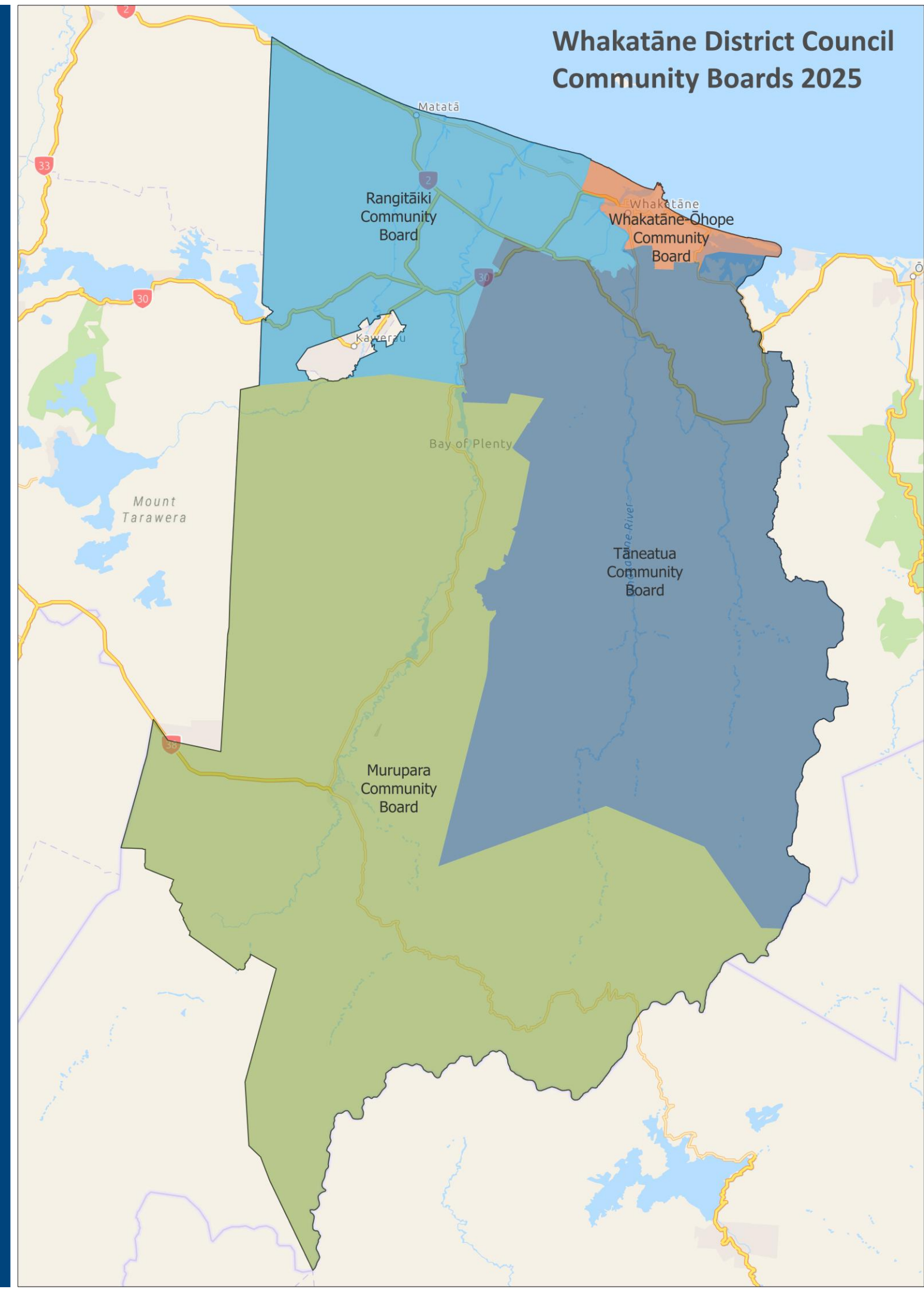
- 3 Māori ward councillors:
 - 1 from the Rangitāiki Māori Ward
 - 1 from the Kāpū-te-rangi Māori Ward
 - 1 from the Toi ki Uta Māori Ward



Elections required

Whakatāne District Council

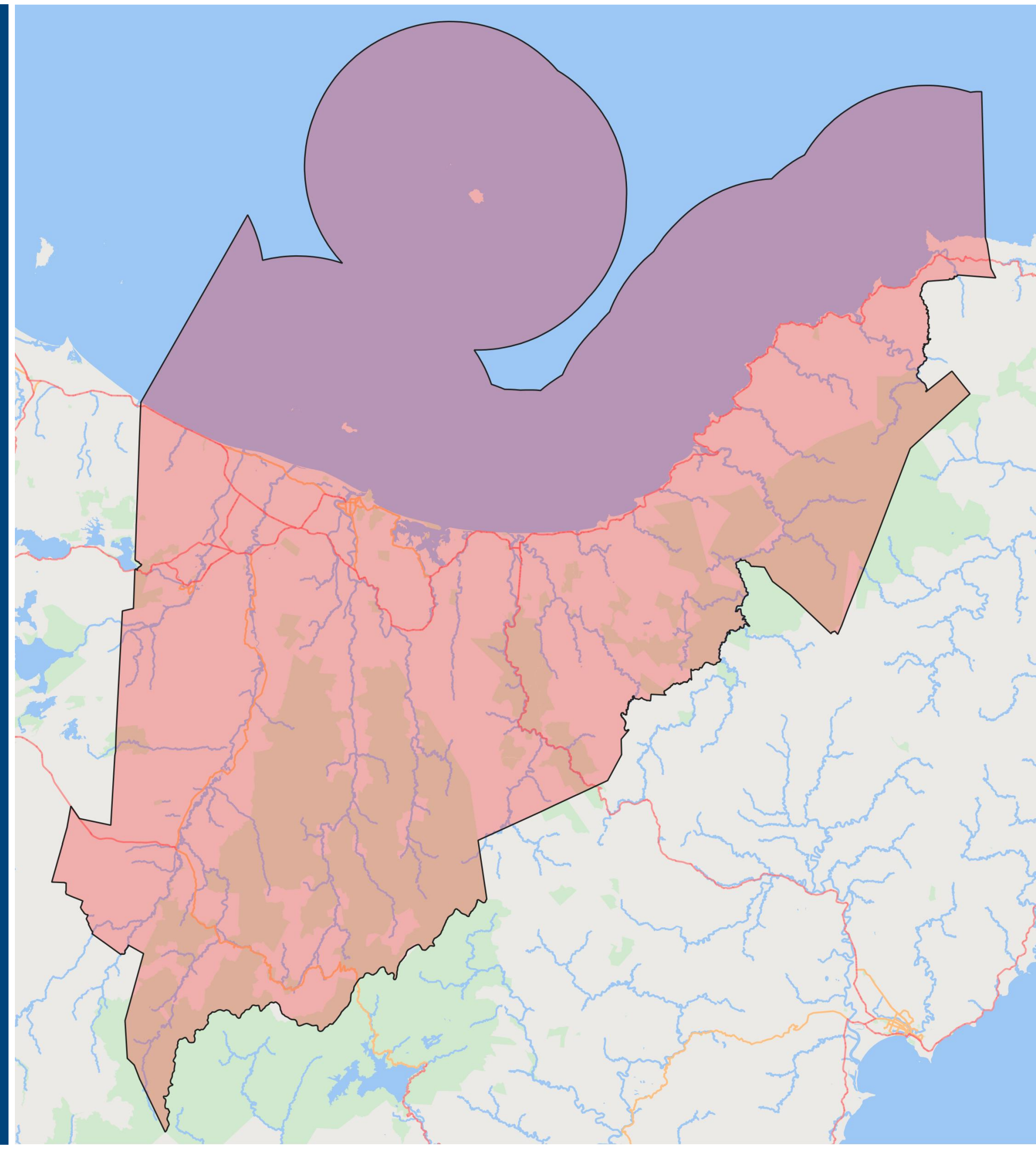
- 24 community board members:
 - 6 from the Rangitāiki Community Board
 - 6 from the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board
 - 6 from the Tāneatua Community Board
 - 6 from the Murupara Community Board, being:
 - 2 from the Galatea-Waiōhau Subdivision
 - 3 from the Murupara Subdivision
 - 1 from the Te Urewera Subdivision



Elections required

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- 3 regional councillors from the WDC area:
 - 2 from the Eastern Bay of Plenty General Constituency
 - 1 from the Kōhi Māori Constituency



Elections required

A poll will be held with 2025 elections, with two options:

- Vote to KEEP or REMOVE the Māori wards
- Poll is binding
- Outcome will apply for 2028 and 2031 elections
- Regardless of the outcome of the poll, the Māori wards will be in place for 2025-2028 term



Sample Māori ward poll

☒ Tick the circle next to the one (1) option you want to vote for.


<input type="radio"/> I vote to KEEP Māori wards	
<input type="radio"/> I vote the REMOVE Māori wards	
	

Electoral system

- Both WDC and BOPRC are using the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system
 - Vote by ticking candidate names
 - Candidates with highest number of votes wins
 - Don't vote for more candidates than the number of positions

Sample FPP Voting Document

 Tick the circle next to **one (1)** candidate you want to vote for.

<input type="radio"/>	Candidate A	 201
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Candidate B	 202
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate C	 203
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate D	 204
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate E	 205
		 206

Candidate names are listed alphabetically.

Candidate eligibility

To be a candidate, you must be:

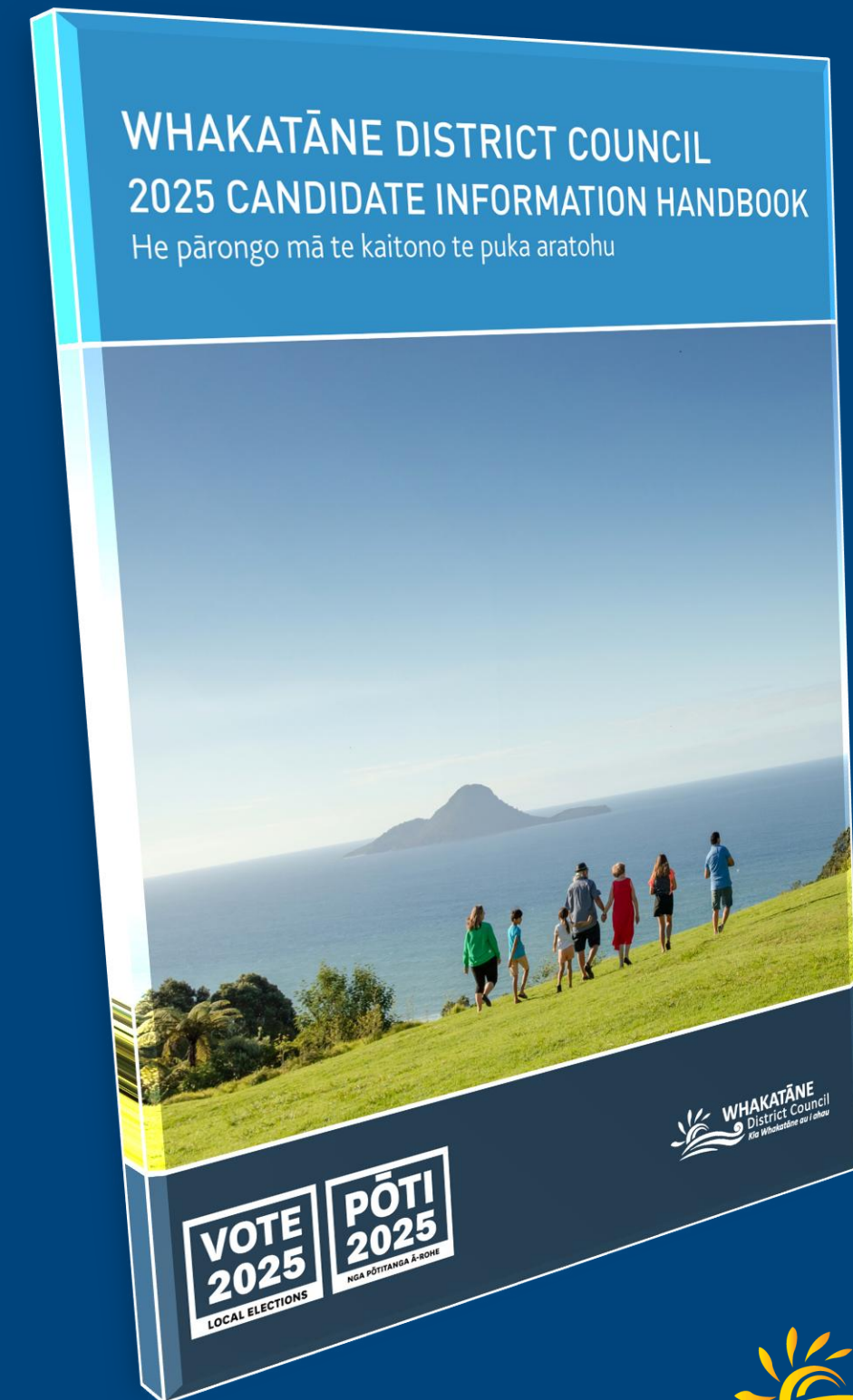
- A NZ citizen
- 18 or over
- Enrolled on the parliamentary roll in New Zealand
- Nominated by two people from area and roll standing
 - i.e. if you're standing for the Rangitāiki General Ward, your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled on the general roll in the Rangitāiki General Ward area
 - or, if you're standing for the Rangitāiki Māori Ward, your nomination must be signed by two people enrolled on the Māori roll in the Rangitāiki Māori Ward area

Candidate eligibility

- Can stand for multiple positions (mayor, council and community board)
 - If elected to more than one position, candidate take higher position
 - Can't stand for more than one ward
- Cannot stand for both WDC and BOPRC
- Elected members (or spouses) cannot have contracts with council over \$25,000 (incl GST) in one financial year
- If a council employee is elected to mayor or council, they must resign
- Can't nominate yourself

Nomination process

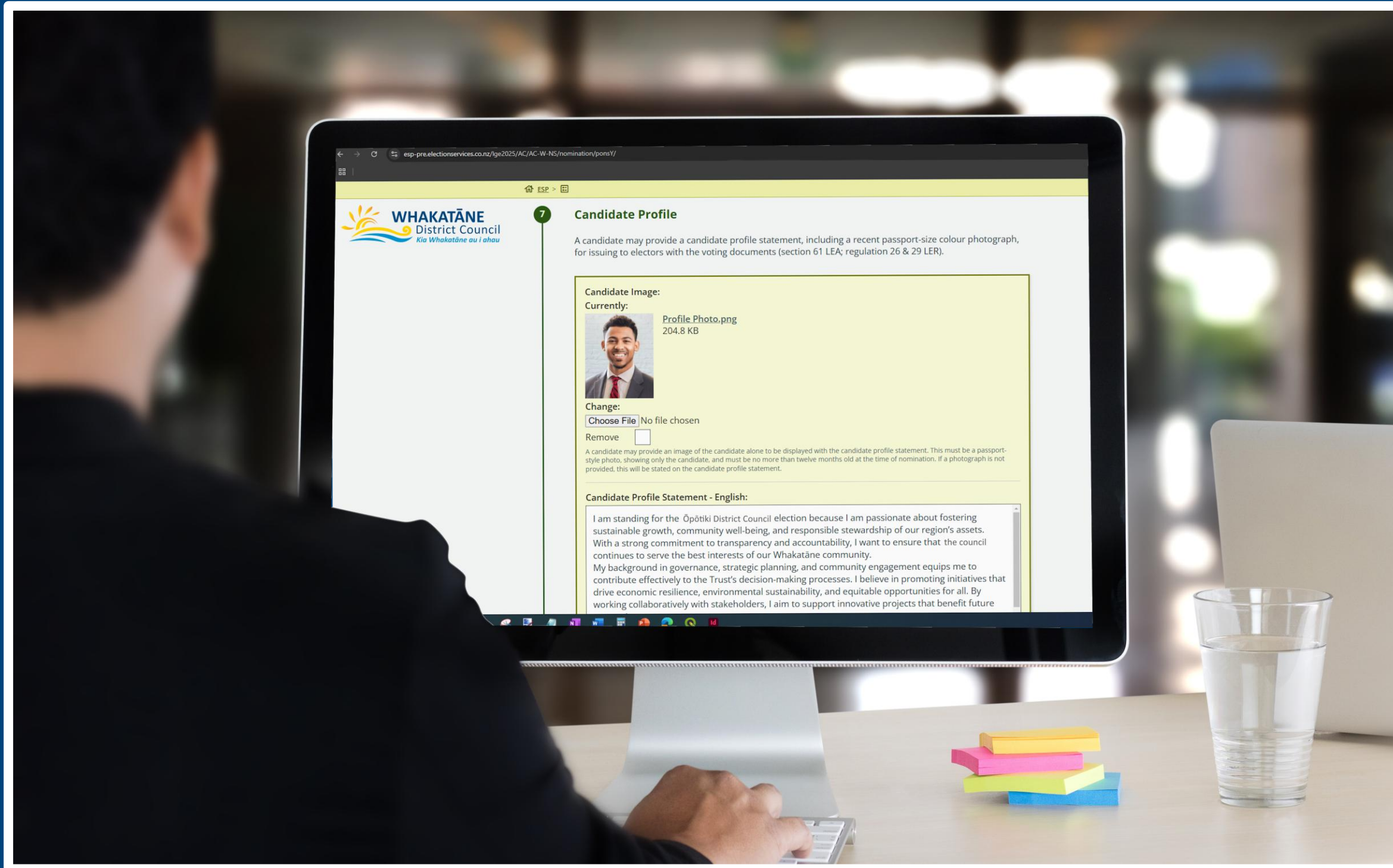
- First off - obtain a copy of the candidate information handbook
- Download a PDF from council's website, or request a hardcopy
- Contains everything you need to know about being a candidate
 - Nomination criteria, election sign rules, campaigning guidelines etc



Nomination process

- Nominations open Friday 4 July
- Two ways to submit your nomination:
 1. Online (easiest way) at esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/WK
 2. Complete a hardcopy form and drop off in person (see handbook or council website for locations)

Nomination process



Online nominations portal:

- No printing, handwriting, scanning etc
- Enter your statement electronically
- Upload your photo
- Instantly confirm your nominators are eligible

Nomination process

Each nomination requires:

- \$200 (including GST) deposit (for each position standing for)
- 150-word candidate profile statement (English, Māori or both)
- Recent passport-size colour photo
- Evidence of NZ citizenship
- Candidates can declare an affiliation
 - Can be group, organisation or independent
 - Unacceptable affiliations (slogan, indecent, slanderous)

Nomination process

Required to include:

- Statement on principal place of residence
 - This automatic and not counted in your 150 words
- List any other positions you're standing for
- Nominations close 12 noon, 1 August
 - Sharp - don't leave to last minute
 - What if you need to fix an issue? Will you have time?

Nomination process

Sample District Council
Mayor
Electing the Mayor



Firstname SURNAME

Communities for Progress

My principal place of residence is in the Sample District Council area.

I am also standing for the Sample Māori Ward.

As a lifelong resident in our community, I understand the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. I've served on the Parks and Recreation Committee and volunteered with local and regional non-profits, giving me firsthand experience in collaborative

- This candidate is standing for mayor
- They have supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is in the area they're standing for
- They have supplied a photo
- They have supplied a statement

Nomination process

Sample District Council
Mayor
Electing the Mayor

No photo
provided

Firstname SURNAME

My principal place of residence is not in the Sample District Council area.

No statement provided.

- This candidate is also standing for mayor
- They have not supplied an affiliation
- Their principal place of residence is not in the area they're standing for
- They have not supplied a photo
- They have not supplied a statement

Voter eligibility

If you're on the general electoral roll, you can vote for five issues:

1-4 general ward councillors



Mayor



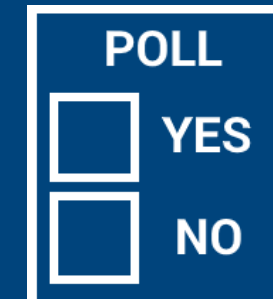
2 general constituency regional councillors



1-6 community board members



Māori ward poll



Voter eligibility

If you're on the Māori electoral roll, you can vote for five issues:

1 Māori ward councillor



Mayor



1 Māori constituency regional councillor



1-6 community board members



Māori ward poll

POLL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

Campaigning

- Campaigning can occur anytime (from now)
- WDC has an election signs policy
 - Signs can go up 8 weeks before election day (16 August)
 - Must remove them by 3 days after election day (14 October)
 - Good idea to read the full policy at www.whakatane.govt.nz
- All election advertisements must show contact details of authorising person
 - Signs, notices, pamphlets, webpages, vehicles etc
 - Excludes posts, tweets, messages – just put it once on your main page



Campaigning

Social media great way to campaign

- Instant, far-reaching, free
- Promote yourself and policies - state policies, run polls, encourage people to vote, key dates etc
- Fake news not acceptable

Council's media channels off-limits

- Must be politically neutral, monitored

Cyber-security - keep safe

- Computers can be hacked
- Be mindful of election offences

Donations

Yes, you can receive donations to spend on your campaign, noting:

- All donations must be recorded and declared after the election
- How much and who it came from, unless 'anonymous'
- 'Anonymous' donation can't be over \$1,500
- There's no limit on donations but there is a limit of how much you can spend

Campaign spend

How much can you spend on your campaign? Depends on which position you stand for

Position	Population*	Limit
Mayor	38,290	\$20,000
Rangitāiki General	6,960	\$7,000
Whakatāne-Ōhope General	14,750	\$14,000
Rangitāiki Community Board	10,200	\$14,000
Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board	19,900	\$14,000
All other positions (wards and community boards)	Up to 4,999	\$3,500

*as of 30 June 2024

Campaign spend

- Expenditure limits include GST
- Can't add limits together if campaigning for multiple seats
- Electoral expenses and donations return required by 11 December (enforced)
- Completed forms available for public inspection (7 years)
- Care to ensure accurate (declaration)

Voting

- Voting period 9 September to 12 noon, 11 October
- Voting packs delivered to electors 9 - 22 September
- Able to campaign up to and including election day
- Special votes available at certain locations - check council website or handbook
- Candidates not to collect votes from electors
- Voters can post back their votes or hand-deliver to a council location
- Voting closes 12 noon, Saturday 11 October (sharp)

Voting

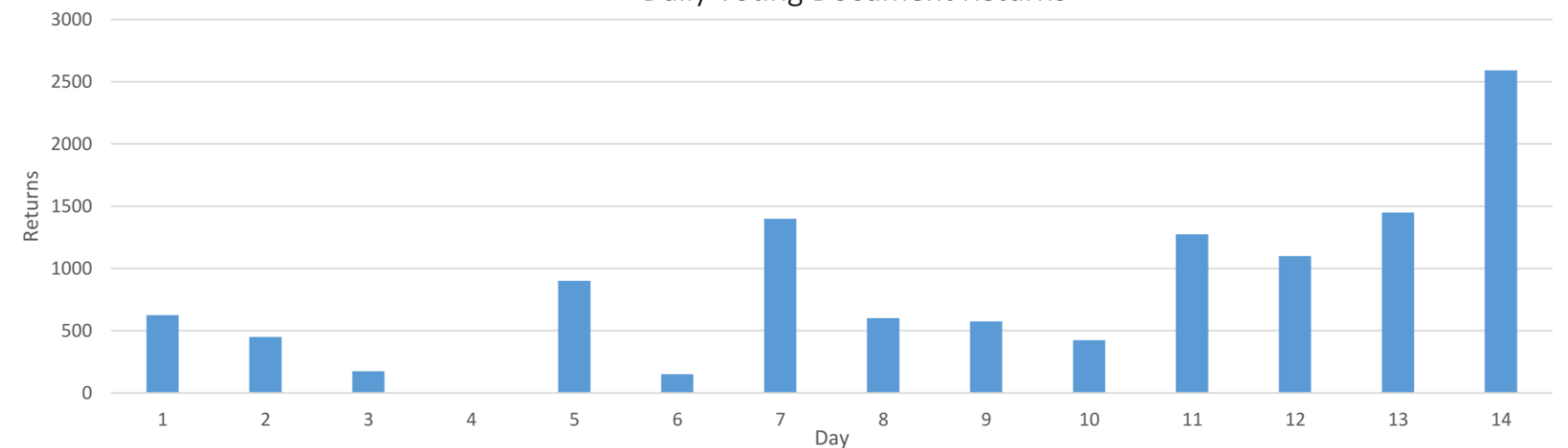
- During the voting period, a voting return schedule will be available on council's website
- Updated daily, so you can keep track of turnout



VOTING DOCUMENT RETURNS - 2022 ELECTIONS

Election Day Including Special Votes														
CB(SUB)/ELECTORS	21-Sep	22-Sep	23-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct
MURUPARA (GALATEA-WAIOHAU)	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	25	25	0	25	50	25	56
649	0	0	0	0	25	25	50	75	100	100	125	175	200	256
	0.0%	0.0%	0%	0.0%	3.9%	3.9%	7.7%	11.6%	15.4%	15.4%	19.3%	27.0%	30.8%	39.4%
MURUPARA (MURUPARA)	0	25	0	0	25	0	50	0	25	0	25	0	75	62
1100	0	25	25	25	50	50	100	100	125	125	150	150	225	287
	0.0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	4.5%	4.5%	9.1%	9.1%	11.4%	11.4%	13.6%	13.6%	20.5%	26.1%
MURUPARA (TE UREWERA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25	28
307	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25	25	25	50	78
	0.0%	0.0%	0%	0.0%	0.0%	0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	8.1%	8.1%	8.1%	16.3%	25.4%
RANGITĀIKI	175	150	50	0	225	75	325	25	325	75	300	225	350	587
6679	175	325	375	375	600	675	1000	1025	1350	1425	1725	1950	2300	2887
	2.6%	4.9%	5.6%	5.6%	9.0%	10.1%	15.0%	15.3%	20.2%	21.3%	25.8%	29.2%	34.4%	43.2%
TĀNEATUA	50	25	0	0	100	50	150	75	25	50	75	100	125	286
2810	50	75	75	75	175	225	375	450	475	525	600	700	825	1111
	1.8%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	6.2%	8.0%	13.3%	16.0%	16.9%	18.7%	21.4%	24.9%	29.4%	39.5%
WHAKATĀNE-ŌHOPE	400	250	125	0	525	25	850	475	150	300	850	725	850	1571
14342	400	650	775	775	1300	1325	2175	2650	2800	3100	3950	4675	5525	7096
	2.8%	4.5%	5.4%	5.4%	9.1%	9.2%	15.2%	18.5%	19.5%	21.6%	27.5%	32.6%	38.5%	49.5%
TOTAL	625	450	175	0	900	150	1400	600	575	425	1275	1100	1450	2590
25887	625	1075	1250	1250	2150	2300	3700	4300	4875	5300	6575	7675	9125	11715
	2.4%	4.2%	4.8%	4.8%	8.3%	8.9%	14.3%	16.6%	18.8%	20.5%	25.4%	29.6%	35.2%	45.3%
DAILY %	2.4%	1.7%	0.7%	0.0%	3.5%	0.6%	5.4%	2.3%	2.2%	1.6%	4.9%	4.2%	5.6%	10.0%
2019 Returns	3.6%	6.3%	8.8%	12.9%	16.7%	20.1%	22.2%	25.5%	28.4%	32.6%	38.8%	40.2%	41.7%	52.1%
2016 Returns	6.0%	8.7%	11.6%	14.6%	19.4%	22.0%	24.5%	26.5%	28.9%	32.3%	36.1%	40.6%	41.9%	48.4%

WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL 2022 ELECTION
Daily Voting Document Returns

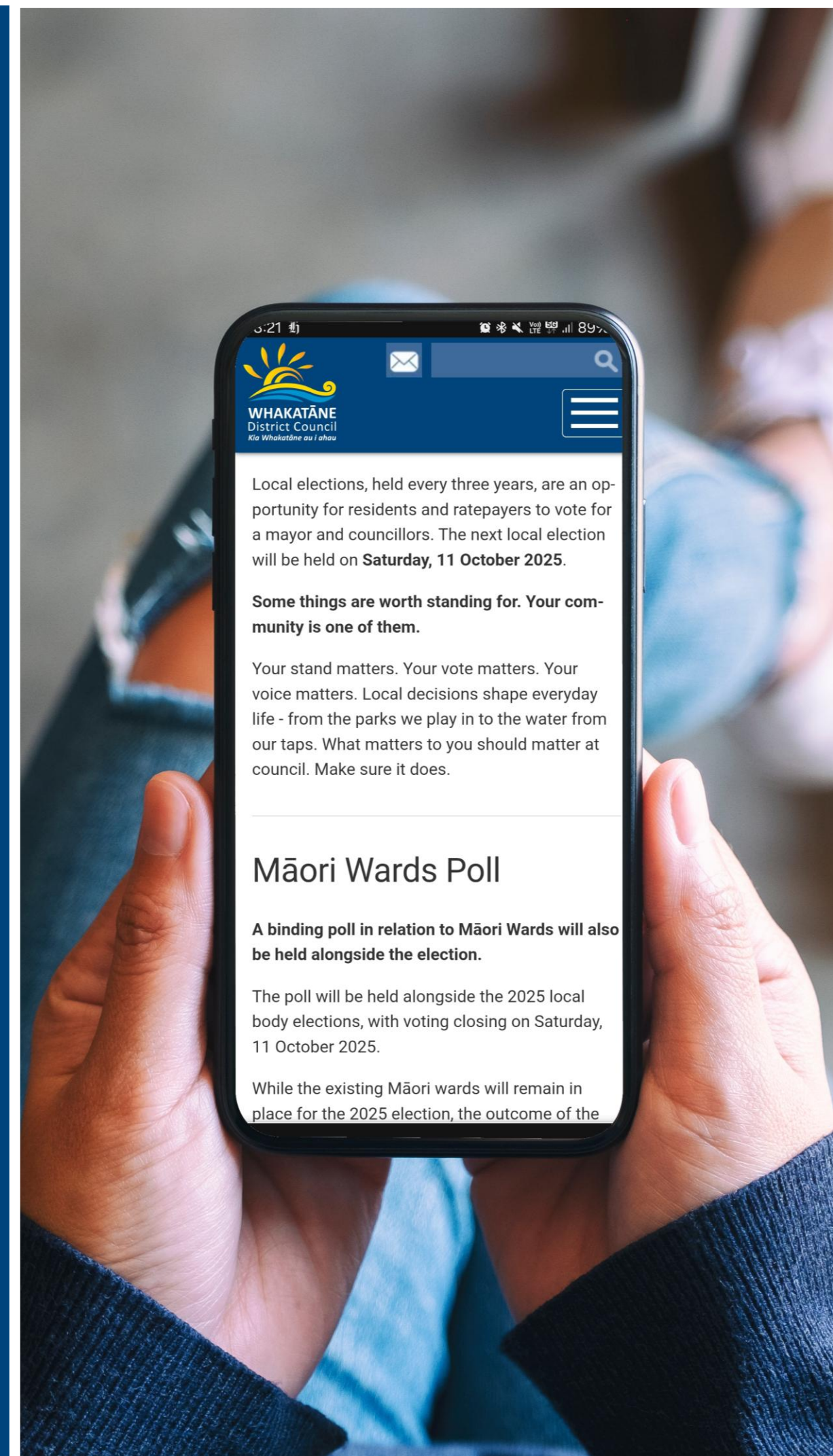


Results

- Progress results on election day afternoon (est 90% votes)
 - Do NOT assume progress results are final - outcomes may change!
- All candidates contacted, media advised
- Preliminary results on Sunday (includes all votes counted except special votes)
- All results available on Council website
- Final results expected by Friday 17 October
- Take office day after public notice (18 October)
- Can act after sworn in at first meeting

Resources

- Candidate Information Handbook
- Electoral legislation
 - Local Electoral Act 2001
 - Local Electoral Regulations 2001
 - www.legislation.govt.nz
- Attend a council meeting
- Read agendas and minutes available online
- Talk to a council staff member



Contact us

Electoral Officer

Dale Ofsoske

Independent Election Services

Ground Floor, 167 Victoria Street West, Auckland (entrance off Dock Street)

Phone: 0800 922 822

Email: dale.ofsoske@electionservices.co.nz

Deputy Electoral Officer for WDC

Chirese Viljoen

Whakatāne District Council

Civic Centre, 14 Commerce Street, Whakatāne

Phone - 07 306 0500

Email - chirese.viljoen@whakatane.govt.nz

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