

FAQS | NGĀ PĀTAI AUAU

2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

11 October 2025





CONTENTS

➔ GENERAL INFORMATION	3
➔ CANDIDATES	4
➔ ENROLMENT	8
➔ VOTING	9
➔ ELECTION RESULTS	14
➔ MEMBERS	14
➔ ELECTION SIGNS	15

➔ GENERAL INFORMATION

Q1: What is a regional council?

A1: A regional council is one type of local authority and generally looks after region-wide issues rather than local issues.

It is different from a territorial authority (which is either a city or district council), but there are no differences in the way that each generally operates.

Q2: What do regional councils do?

A2: Regional councils' responsibilities include:

- ➔ managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters;
- ➔ developing regional policy statements and issuing of consents;
- ➔ managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control;
- ➔ regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness;
- ➔ regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services;
- ➔ harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

Q3: How many regional councils are there?

A3: Eleven.

Q4: When is the next Taranaki Regional Council election?

A4: Election day is Saturday 11 October 2025 with voting closing at noon. The voting period starts on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

Q5: Who is running the election?

A5: The Taranaki Regional Council's electoral officer has overall responsibility for the election, but the conduct of the election is undertaken by each constituent territorial authority's electoral officer.

The constituent territorial authorities are:

- ➔ New Plymouth District Council;
- ➔ Stratford District Council;
- ➔ South Taranaki District Council.

Q6: What is the name of the electoral officer and council's electoral liaison person?

A6: The Taranaki Regional Council's electoral officer is:

Dale Ofoske,
Independent Election Services Ltd
Electoral Office: 167 Victoria Street West,
Auckland central (entrance off Dock Street)
Phone: 0800 922 822
Email: dale.ofoske@electionservices.co.nz

Dale Ofoske is also the electoral officer for the three constituent territorial authorities.

Taranaki Regional Council's electoral liaison person is:

Mike Nield,
Director, Corporate Services
Taranaki Regional Council
47 Cloten Road, Stratford
Phone: 06 765 7127
Email: mike.nield@trc.govt.nz

Q7: What type of electoral system is used?

A7: The FPP (first past the post) electoral system will be used for Taranaki Regional Council.

Of the region's territorial authorities, South Taranaki District Council and Stratford District Council also use the FPP electoral system, whereas New Plymouth District Council uses the STV (single transferable voting) electoral system.

For a more detailed explanation of these electoral systems, refer [Q61](#) and [Q62](#).

Q8: What elections can we vote for?

A8: Electors will be able to vote for the councillors representing the constituency in which they live.

There will be eleven (11) councillors being elected from the following five (5) constituencies:

Constituency	Councillors
New Plymouth General	5
North Taranaki General	2
South Taranaki General	2
Stratford General	1
Taranaki Māori	1

Electors will also be able to vote for the respective territorial authority elections (mayor, ward councillors, etc).

In addition there will also be a poll on whether the Māori constituency remains or is disestablished. The outcome of this binding poll will be applicable for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

For further information refer to council's website: www.trc.govt.nz/.

- reads agenda and other materials before meetings;
- leads the council and co-ordinates 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 region if the need arises.

The chairperson and councillors:

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

➔ CANDIDATES

Q11: I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

A11: You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

Q9: What is the difference between Māori and general constituencies?

A9: Māori constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the Māori electoral roll. Similarly, general constituency councillors are elected by those enrolled to vote on the general electoral roll.

Q10: What is the role of the chairperson and councillors?

A10: The chairperson is a councillor and is elected by the other regional councillors following the election:

- The chairperson:**
- presides at council meetings;
 - attends and participates at meetings of committees and working parties;

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 South Taranaki General Constituency, the nominators will need to be enrolled on the Parliamentary General Electoral Roll for that constituency. (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 4 July 2025. If you would like a nomination paper and candidate information handbook sent out, please contact the electoral office closer to this date. Nomination papers and a candidate information handbook will be available on Council's website (www.trc.govt.nz) or in hard-copy from designated council offices from May 2025.

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.

Q12: How much will it cost me to stand?

A12: You will need to pay a nomination fee of \$200 GST inclusive.

Your nomination fee can be paid by electronic bank transfer, EFTPOS, credit card or cash.

If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate you will receive your nomination fee back.

Q13: Where can I obtain a nomination paper?

A13: From 4 July 2025 nominations can be completed and submitted online at: esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/TRC/

Nomination papers will also be posted on request by phoning 0800 922 822 and available

in hard copy at

- Taranaki Regional Council offices, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford;
- each constituent territorial authority office and library.
 - New Plymouth District Council www.npdc.govt.nz;
 - Stratford District Council www.stratford.govt.nz;
 - South Taranaki District Council www.southtaranaki.com;
- the electoral office - phone 0800 922 822.

A candidate information handbook will be available in May 2025.

Q14: What qualifications and experience do I need?

A14: Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a 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 Taranaki Regional Council and local government;
- communication and engagement, relationship building and collaboration.

Q15: Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a Council candidate?

A15: No, not for the Taranaki Regional Council elections.

Q16: How long is the term of an elected member?

A16: Three years.

Q17: Do I need to be resident in the area I am standing for?

A17: 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 the candidate profile statement.

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

Q18: Do I need to be on the Māori Electoral Roll or of Māori descent if I am standing for election in the Māori Constituency?

A18: 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 constituency, 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.

Q19: How many positions can I stand for?

A19: You can stand in only one constituency of the Taranaki Regional Council.

You cannot stand for both the Taranaki Regional Council and one of its constituent territorial authorities (New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council or South Taranaki District Council).

Q20: Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A20: 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.

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 lawyer about your situation will be required.

See the electoral officer if you need more information about this process.

Q21: What is a candidate profile statement?

A21: 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. 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 Taranaki Māori Constituency', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Taranaki Māori Constituency'. 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 (taken in the last 12 months).

See the [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 61](#) for more information.

Q22: When is the campaign period?

A22: Election campaigning can start at any time before the election and continue up to and including election day.

Refer [Q71](#) for information on election signage.

Q23: How much can I spend on my campaign?

A23: 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 in the table:

Local government area population	Expenditure limit (incl GST)
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 – 999,999	\$70,000
1,000,000 or more	\$100,000 *

*plus 50 cents for each elector

For example, a candidate for councillor of Taranaki Māori Constituency (which has a population in the range of 10,000 – 19,999) can spend up to \$14,000 inclusive of GST.

Please note any expenditure made by a candidate for an election campaign is funded by the candidate and is not refundable by Council to the candidate.

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 11 December 2025).

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 fee is refunded if appropriate.

Q24: Can I raise campaign funds from donations, and can I claim expenses?

A24: 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.

For more information go to [Local Electoral Act 2001, sections 103A – 112F](#).

Q25: Can people already elected onto Taranaki Regional Council use Council resources to campaign?

A25: No, elected members cannot use Council resources for their campaigns.

Q26: Are there any rules about using social media?

A26: 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. This includes tagging Council in social media posts. Council monitors its online sites and takes down any campaign related posts.

Q27: Can I help people vote or collect their voting documents to send in?

A27: 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 they should vote. Candidates and their assistants should be mindful of this particularly if campaigning occurs in facilities such as rest homes or hospitals.

Q28: When do nominations open and close?

A28: Nominations open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at noon Friday 1 August 2025.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not leave lodging their nomination until the last day, as to do so may mean insufficient time to rectify any error with the nomination.

➔ ENROLMENT

Q29: Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A29: The preliminary electoral roll will be available for public inspection for a one-month period from Friday 4 July 2025 to Friday 1 August 2025.

The preliminary electoral roll will be available for inspection at:

- ➔ Taranaki Regional Council offices, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford;
- ➔ each constituent territorial authority office and library.

Q30: How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

A30: 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 Taranaki Regional Council area?

Yes You will automatically appear on the electoral roll that is used for these elections

Or
Is this your main place of residence?

Yes Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in the Taranaki Regional Council area?

No or Don't Know

You need to complete an enrolment form for this. You can:

➔ enrol online or download a form at www.vote.nz;

➔ phone the Electoral Commission 0800 36 76 56 to request a form in the post with a return envelope.

Or
Is this your main place of residence?

No Are you on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address in another district?

Yes If you own a property in a different district to your main residence, you may be able to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector. (Refer to ratepayer enrolment advice in [Q35](#) and [Q36](#).)

Q31: I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

A31: You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.

Q32: I am a New Zealand Māori; do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?

A32: 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, you are able to change from the Māori Electoral Roll to the General Electoral Roll (or vice versa) at any time, except during the 3 months before election day.

If a person is enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the Māori constituency councillor. If a person is enrolled on the General Electoral Roll, that person will be able to vote for the respective general constituency councillor(s).

Q33: How do I know whether I am enrolled?

A33: The Electoral Commission will be undertaking a roll update campaign from 1 April 2025 for the Parliamentary Electoral Roll which forms the basis of the electoral roll for the Taranaki Regional Council elections.

If you do not receive a letter in the post after 9 April 2025 the chances are you are not enrolled, or your details are incorrect. You will then need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form.

If you have recently changed address, you will need to update your address details on www.vote.nz.

You can check to see if you are enrolled at www.vote.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Q34: I turn 18 on election day. Can I vote?

A34: 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 (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon, Saturday 11 October 2025).

For special vote availability, see [Q52](#).

Q35: We own a business in the Taranaki Regional Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Taranaki Regional Council area. Do we get a say in the Taranaki Regional Council elections?

A35: Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled on the relevant constituent territorial authority's electoral roll.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available from:

→ from each constituent territorial authority's website:

– New Plymouth District Council
www.npdc.govt.nz;

– Stratford District Council
www.stratford.govt.nz;

– South Taranaki District Council
www.southtaranaki.com;

→ online portal www.ratepayer.co.nz;

→ by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

The non-resident ratepayer enrolment form should be submitted to the electoral officer by Friday 1 August 2025 (in order to receive an ordinary vote), and no later than Friday 10 October 2025 (in order to receive a special vote).

Q36: I own a property in the Taranaki Regional Council area, but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the ratepayer electoral roll?

A36: Is your name on the rates notice?

Yes → You may be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Go to www.ratepayer.co.nz to complete a ratepayer enrolment online, or contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a ratepayer enrolment form.

This should be submitted to the electoral officer or an electoral official by Friday 1 August 2025 in order to receive an ordinary vote, and no later than Friday 10 October 2025 in order to receive a special vote.

If it is easier you can call at a special voting venue during the voting period (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to 12 noon Saturday 11 October 2025) and complete the ratepayer enrolment form and have your special vote at the same time. For special vote availability, see [Q52](#).

In no case does this allow you to have two votes at an election.

Or

Is your name on the rates notice?

No → You may not be eligible to be on the ratepayer electoral roll. Go to www.ratepayer.co.nz to check your eligibility or contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

➔ VOTING

Q37: Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?

A37: All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote.

Voting documents will be delivered by post between Tuesday 9 September 2025 and Monday 22 September 2025.

There is no online voting option available.

Q38: My partner received a voting document but I didn't receive mine. What should I do?

A38: Is it before Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are correctly registered on the electoral roll?

Yes Please wait until the mail has been delivered on Monday 22 September 2025. If your voting document is not received, then please call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and request a special vote.

Or

Is it after Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are correctly registered on electoral roll?

Yes You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see [Q52](#).

Or

Is it after Monday 22 September 2025 and you believe you are not correctly registered on the electoral roll?

Yes

You will need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form. These are available at any postal agency, or you can enrol online at www.vote.nz or phone 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, refer [Q52](#).

Q39: I didn't receive my voting document, so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two voting documents. Which one should I use?

A39: Use the original one and destroy the special vote.

Q40: 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 on behalf of that person?

A40: No, you are not allowed to vote on behalf of that person as Attorney.

Q41: I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) who does not live at my address or is incapable of voting. What should I do with the voting document?

A41: If they are overseas, you could post it to the person or destroy it if that is not practicable.

If it is for a person who is cognitively impaired, for example someone who is living with advanced dementia, please destroy it by ripping/cutting it up. You cannot vote on their behalf unless directly instructed by them.

Q42: I received a voting document that does not belong to me and I don't know this person or where this person has gone. What should I do with the voting document?

A42: Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.

Q43: What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?

A43: 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.

Q44: How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?

A44: Returned envelopes containing a voting document cannot be opened until there is a justice of the peace (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 we are making sure that the voter's intention is clear and the voter has not ticked or marked more candidates than the number of vacancies.

Q45: Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates.

A45: 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:

- candidate meetings may be held in your community and by attending you can find out what policies the different candidates are advocating for;
- a candidate profile booklet comes with the voting document and this will include a photo and a statement from each candidate if these have been provided. This information will also be available on the

Council's website (www.trc.govt.nz) after nominations close (expected 8 August 2025);

- candidates may have their own website, social media page(s), videos, advertise in local newspapers or send out information to letterboxes in your area;
- local media are likely to cover information.

Q46: Do I have to post my voting document back?

A46: You can post it but make sure you have it in the mail by Tuesday 7 October 2025 to ensure it gets back to us in time (by noon Saturday 11 October 2025.)

You can also hand deliver your voting document to a ballot box during the voting period (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025).

For ballot box locations refer [Q51](#).

Q47: I have lost my return envelope. What shall I do?

A47: You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Replypaid number on it.

You will not need to put a stamp on the envelope if you write the Replypaid number on the envelope and post it in New Zealand.

Replypaid number 4710
The Electoral Office
Taranaki Regional Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street
Auckland 1142

Q48: I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote. What should I do?

A48: You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q52](#).

Q49: I didn't receive my voting document. How do I obtain a special vote?

A49: 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, refer [Q52](#).

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 download and print from www.vote.nz or phone 0800 36 76 56 to have one mailed to you with a return envelope. This form needs to be with the Electoral Commission before close of business Friday 10 October 2025.

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q52](#).

Q50: I spoiled my voting documents/I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?

A50: If you can amend it so that your voting intention is clear, then do so.

If necessary, we can issue you with a special vote (for special vote availability, refer [Q52](#)), but this will take time and require you to complete a statutory declaration.

Q51: Where are ballot boxes located?

A51: You can drop your completed vote into the official ballot boxes located at:

- Taranaki Regional Council offices, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford;
- each constituent territorial authority office (refer [Q52](#) for addresses);
- Local libraries.

Q52: Where can I have a special vote?

A52: Special votes can be obtained from:

- New Plymouth District Council, Civic Centre, Liardet Street, New Plymouth;

- South Taranaki District Council, Administration Building, 105-111 Albion Street, Hāwera;
- Stratford District Council, 63 Miranda Street, Stratford;
- by phoning the electoral office 0800 922 822.

All special votes need to be completed and returned to the electoral officer or an electoral official (at any of the above locations) by noon Saturday 11 October 2025.

If posting, send by Tuesday 7 October 2025 to ensure it gets back to the Electoral Office in time.

Q53: I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out. What should I do?

A53: You will need to apply for a special vote.
For special vote availability, refer [Q52](#).

Q54: Do I have to vote for all the candidates for an issue? If I don't vote for all the candidates or all the issues on my voting document, will all my votes not be counted?

A54: 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.

With STV (used for some territorial authorities, ie New Plymouth District Council) 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.

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.

Q55: Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward or other election?

A55: You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live or the electoral roll you are on.

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

Similarly, you cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in a general constituency if you are on the Māori electoral roll and voting for the Māori constituency.

Q56: My partner's document and mine are different and there are more/less things to vote for. Why is the list of candidates different?

A56: Depending on which electoral roll you are on (Māori or general), your voting entitlements may differ from others in your household.

For any other differences, you will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q57: I have received two voting documents. What shall I do?

A57: You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q58: Do the staff working on the election know who I voted for?

A58: No, your vote remains secret under the required separate roll scrutiny and vote counting procedures.

Q59: Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

A59: 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.

Telephone voting will be available for electors with disabilities. To access this service, electors will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q60: What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

A60: They are delivered to the New Plymouth District Court and kept for 21 days after public notice is given declaring the result of the election so that the Court can access them should there be any application for a recount or petition for inquiry.

After this time, or the completion of any recount or enquiry, the Court is responsible for destroying them.

Q61: What is FPP and how do I vote in an FPP election?

A61: FPP stands for first past the post voting system and is used for the Taranaki Regional Council, the South Taranaki District Council, the Stratford District Council elections and the Māori constituency poll.

With FPP the candidate or poll question 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 on your voting document.

Q62: What is STV and how do I vote in an STV election?

A62: STV stands for single transferable voting and is used for some territorial authorities including the New Plymouth District Council.

STV 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.

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.

For more information about STV, go to www.stv.govt.nz.

➔ ELECTION RESULTS

Q63: When will we know the results of the election?

A63: Progress results will be announced on the afternoon of election day, Saturday 11 October 2025.

Preliminary results will be announced on Sunday 12 October 2025, once all votes received at the council offices (up until noon on election day) have been delivered to the electoral office in Auckland and processed.

The official results will be announced when special votes have been checked and included in the final result, expected to be Friday 17 October 2025.

Q64: How will I find out the results?

A64: Candidates:

Progress and preliminary results will be advised as soon as practicable after the results are known, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October respectively. This may be by email or by phone.

Voters:

Progress and preliminary results will be released to the media and placed on the council's website (www.trc.govt.nz) as soon as practicable once they are known, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October respectively.

Q65: What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

A65: Under legislation a candidate may challenge the official results through either a judicial recount or a judicial inquiry. A candidate will have to file an application in the District Court and pay an application fee of \$750.

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

➔ MEMBERS

Q66: When do elected members take up their roles?

A66: Elected members take up office the day after the official results have 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. This first meeting is usually held as soon as practicable after the official results are published.

Q67: Who are elected members responsible to?

A67: Ultimately the elected members are responsible to the local community. The Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that council follows the law.

Q68: Do elected members get paid and if so, how much?

A68: The Remuneration Authority sets a remuneration pool. The newly elected council will decide how to apply the pool of funding. Some expenses are also reimbursed.

As an indication, the remuneration as of 24 July 2024 was:

Office	Annual Remuneration
Chairperson	\$116,379
Deputy Chairperson	\$56,543
Chairpersons of Policy and Planning Committee, Operations & Regulatory Committee, and Audit & Risk Committee (3)	\$56,543
Chairpersons of Regional Transport, Yarrow Stadium Joint Committee, and Taranaki Solid Waste Management Committees	\$45,773
Taranaki Regional Council Agriculture Portfolio Holder	\$45,773
Councillor (with no additional responsibilities)	\$40,926
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	\$38,880

Local Government Members (2024/25)
Determination 2024, Schedule of Remuneration-part 2

For further information refer to:
www.remauthority.govt.nz.

Q69: Would being an elected member take up much time?

A69: 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.

As a consequence, the chair is considered a fulltime job and councillors are generally part time jobs.

Q70: How many elected members are there?

A70: The Taranaki Regional Council has 11 councillors, elected from 5 constituencies.

The Chairperson is one of the elected councillors and is elected by the councillors following the election.

Refer [Q5](#) for more information.

➔ ELECTION SIGNS

Q71: What are the requirements for election signs?

A71: Rules about election signs are found 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 contact details of the candidate or the candidate’s agent). Not to do so is an electoral offence.

Refer to the [Local Electoral Act 2001, section 113](#).

State Highway corridors

All local government election signs located on or adjacent to a state highway require the written consent of the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. Refer [NZTA Planning Policy Manual \(esp sections 7.3 and 8\)](#).

Local council bylaws on advertising and signs:

For constituent territorial authority’s election signs policies or bylaws, refer to the relevant constituent territorial authority website:

- New Plymouth District Council:
www.npdc.govt.nz or phone 06 759 6060.
- South Taranaki District Council:
www.southtaranaki.com or phone 06 278 0555.
- Stratford District Council:
www.stratford.govt.nz or phone 06 765 6099.

Q72: I have a complaint about the electoral signage. What should I do?

A72: If the signs don't have the required authorisation on them, call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

If the signs are located where they should not be, or have been pulled over or damaged, call the relevant territorial authority. For contact details, see [Q71](#).