

FAQS | NGĀ PĀTAI AUAU

2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

11 October 2025





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➔ GENERAL INFORMATION | URUPOUNAMU

Q1: When is the next Kaipara District Council election?

A1: Election day is Saturday 11 October 2025 with voting closing at 12 noon. The voting period starts on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

Q2: Who runs the election?

A2: The electoral officer has full responsibility for running the election.

Q3: What is the name of the electoral officer and Kaipara District Council’s electoral liaison person?

A3: The 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

The deputy electoral officer is:

Alana Thurston, Governance Advisor
Kaipara District Council
Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive,
Mangawhai
Phone: 09 439 9287 or 0800 727 059
Email: athurston@kaipara.govt.nz

Q4: What type of electoral system is used?

A4: The FPP (first past the post) electoral system will be used for the Kaipara District Council, the Northland Regional Council elections and the poll question.

For a more detailed explanation of this electoral system, refer [Q56](#).

Q5: What elections can we vote for?

A5: Electors will be able to vote for the mayor, ward councillors and Northland Regional Councillors.

The current Kaipara District Council structure is:

- ➔ mayor (elected ‘at large’)
- ➔ 8 councillors (from 3 wards)

Ward	Councillors
Kaiwaka-Mangawhai General	3
Otamatea General	2
Wairoa General	3

The Northland Regional Council is made up of 9 councillors (elected from 8 constituencies). Electors in the Kaipara district will be able to vote for:

Regional Constituency	Members
Kaipara General	1
South General	1
Te Raki Māori	2

In addition there will also be a poll on whether the Māori Constituency for Northland Regional Council remains or is disestablished. The outcome of this binding poll will apply to the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

Kaipara District Council disestablished its Māori ward and therefore is not required to hold a poll.

For further information refer to council’s website: www.kaipara.govt.nz/.

Q6: What is the role of the mayor and councillors?

A6: The mayor provides leadership to other elected members of the council and the people living in the district.

This includes:

- ➔ presides at council meetings
- ➔ is a member of all committees
- ➔ 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 district if the need arises.

Mayor and councillors:

- participate in strategic and long-term planning for the whole district
- develop policy across a wide range of activities and services
- represent the district at functions as required
- review and develop bylaws for the district
- 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
- Carry out all listed responsibilities in accordance with relevant legislation and the regulatory framework
- set a budget and rates
- monitor the performance of the council organisation.

→ CANDIDATES | NGĀ KAITONO

Q7: I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

A7: You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

When lodging your nomination, proof of citizenship will be required (copy of passport,

birth certificate, citizenship certificate). If your name on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll is different from your name on your proof of citizenship, you also need to provide proof of change of name.

You will need to have two electors enrolled on the electoral roll in the area you are standing for to nominate you –

e.g. if you stand for the Wairoa General Ward, the nominators will need to be enrolled on the general electoral roll for that ward. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which they are standing but that fact will appear in candidate information for electors.)

For information on nomination papers and the candidate information handbook refer [Q24](#).

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.

Q8: How much will it cost me to stand?

A8: You will need to pay a nomination fee of \$200 GST inclusive. This fee applies to each election (position) you stand for.

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.

Q9: What qualifications and experience do I need?

A9: Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a will/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 Kaipara District Council and local government
- communication and engagement, relationship building and collaboration.

Q10: Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a Council candidate?

A10: No, not for the Kaipara District Council elections.

Q11: How long is the term of an elected member?

A11: Three years.

Q12: Do I need to be a resident in the area I am standing for?

A12: 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). If you don't reside in the area you are standing for, this needs to be disclosed to electors.

The two people who nominate you must be on the electoral roll within the area you are standing for.

Q13: How many positions can I stand for?

A13: You can stand for mayor, and a councillor, but if you are elected to more than one position you must take the highest ranked position.

You cannot stand for both the Kaipara District Council and the Northland Regional Council.

Q14: Can I withdraw my nomination as a candidate?

A14: Only if it is withdrawn before the close of nominations (noon, Friday 1 August 2025). 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 are 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.

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

Q15: What is a candidate profile statement?

A15: 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 Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward', or 'My principal place of residence is not in the Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward'. 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 and style colour photograph (taken in the last 12 months).

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

Q16: When is the campaign period?

A16: Election campaigning can start at any time before the election and continue up to and including election day.

For specific information about election hoardings see [Q65](#)

Q17: How much can I spend on my campaign?

A17: 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 following table:

Local government area population	Expenditure limit
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 Otamatea General Ward (which has a population in the range of 5,000 – 9,999) can spend up to \$7,000 inclusive of GST.

If you stand for more than one position, the amount you can spend is the highest amount for one position. You cannot add positions together to allow you to spend more than the limit.

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 the day on which the successful candidates are declared to be elected.

If a return is not submitted within the required time period, the non-return will be advised to the New Zealand Police for enforcement.

If a candidate is eligible for a refund of the nomination fee, the return needs to be received before the fee is refunded.

Q18: Can I raise campaign funds from donations, and can I claim expenses?

A18: 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](#).

Q19: Can people already elected onto Kaipara District Council use Council resources to campaign?

A19: No, elected members cannot use Council resources for their campaigns.

Q20: Are there any rules about using social media?

A20: 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.

Q21: Can I help people vote or collect their voting documents to send in?

A21: No, 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 or their assistants should not collect voting documents from electors. Each elector should post or deliver their own voting document to the electoral officer.

Candidates and their assistants should be particularly careful if campaigning occurs in facilities such as rest homes or hospitals.

Q22: When do nominations open and close?

A22: Nominations open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at noon on Friday 1 August 2025.

It is strongly recommended that candidates do not leave lodgement of their nomination until the last day. There may be insufficient time to rectify any error with the nomination, if lodgement occurs on Friday 1 August 2025.

Q23: Where can I obtain a nomination paper?

A23: From 4 July 2025 nominations can be completed and submitted online at: esp.electionservices.co.nz/lge2025/KA/.

Nomination papers will also be posted on request by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822 and are available in hard copy at the following Kaipara District Council offices:

- Dargaville, 32 Hokianga Road
- Mangawhai, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive.

A candidate information handbook will be available in May 2025.

→ ENROLMENT | NGĀ WHAKAURUNGA

Q24: Where can I view the electoral roll that will be used for this election?

A24: 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 the Kaipara District Council offices:

- Dargaville, 32 Hokianga Road
- Mangawhai, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive.

Q25. How do I enrol to vote in these elections?

A25. 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 Kaipara District 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 Kaipara District Council area?

No or Don't Know

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

- enrol online or download a form at www.vote.nz
- by telephoning 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 [Q32](#) and [Q33](#).)

Q26: I am a student and spend my time in different places. Where should I enrol?

A26: You should enrol where you spend the greater part of your time.

Q27: I turn 18 on election day. Can I vote?

A27: 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 12 noon, Saturday 11 October 2025).

For special vote availability, see [Q47](#).

Q28: I am a New Zealand Māori; do I need to enrol on the Māori roll?

A28: 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.

Q29: How do I know whether I am enrolled?

A29: 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 Far North District 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.

Q30: We own a business in the Kaipara District Council area and pay rates, but we don't live in the Kaipara District Council area. Do we get a say in the Kaipara District Council elections?

A30: Yes, subject to being eligible as a non-resident ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

A non-resident ratepayer enrolment form is available from:

→ online portal www.ratepayer.co.nz

→ download at www.kaipara.govt.nz

→ by phoning 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).

Q31: I own a property in the Kaipara District Council area, but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the ratepayer electoral roll?

A31: 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 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 [Q47](#).

In no case does this allow you to have two votes in any one 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 | NGĀ PŌTITANGA

Q32: Is it a postal vote and will I be sent my voting documents in the mail?

A32: 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.

Q33: My partner received a voting document, but I haven't received mine. What should I do?

A323: 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, refer [Q47](#).

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 online at www.vote.nz or phone 0800 36 76 56 to have one posted to you with a return envelope.

You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, refer [Q47](#).

Q34: 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?

A34: Use the original one and destroy the special vote.

Q35: 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?

A35: No, you are not allowed to vote on behalf of that person as Attorney.

Q36: 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?

A36: 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.

Q37: 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?

A37: Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.

Q38: What is that barcode that I can see through the return envelope or on the front of the voting document?

A38: It is a legal requirement to scan the barcode and mark the electoral roll to indicate the person has voted. This is to ensure that we do not receive two votes from the same person.

Q39: How do you ensure the secrecy of my vote?

A39: 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.

Q40: Do I have to vote? I don't know any of these candidates.

A40: 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.kaipara.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 about the election.

Q41: Do I have to post my voting document back?

A41: 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 [Q47](#).

Q42: I have lost my return envelope. What shall I do?

A42: 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
Kaipara District Council
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Q43: I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote. What should I do?

A43: You will need to apply for a special vote. For special vote availability, see [Q47](#).

Q44: I didn't receive my voting document. How do I obtain a special vote?

A44: 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, see [Q47](#).

Or
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 enrol or update your details online at www.vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

Alternatively, you can download an enrolment update form and return it by uploading it to the enrolment team at www.vote.nz/upload, or request one to be mailed to you with a return envelope.

For any queries regarding enrolling on the residential roll, email: enquiries@elections.govt.nz.

The completed enrolment 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, see [Q47](#).

Q45: I spoiled my voting documents/I have made a mistake on my documents. What can I do?

A45: 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, see [Q47](#)), but this will take time and require you to complete a statutory declaration.

Q46: Where are ballot boxes located?

A46: You can drop your vote into the ballot box at the Kaipara District Council offices:

- Dargaville, 32 Hokianga Road
- Mangawhai, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive.
- Dargaville Public Library, 71 Normanby Street, Dargaville
- Mangawhai Public Library, 45 Moir Street, Mangawhai
- Ballot bins will also be available at supermarkets across the district.

An updated list of drop-off points will be available at www.kaipara.govt.nz/elections

For special votes, refer [Q47](#).

Q47: Where can I have a special vote?

A47: Special voting documents can be obtained from the Kaipara District Council offices:

- Dargaville, 32 Hokianga Road
- Mangawhai, Unit 6, The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive.

Alternatively, phone the electoral office 0800 922 822, to have one posted out to you.

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.

Q48: I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out. What should I do?

A48: You will need to apply for a special vote.

For special vote availability, see [Q47](#).

Q49: Do I have to vote in all elections for the maximum number of candidates permitted?**Will my votes be counted if I don't vote for the maximum number of candidates permitted in all the elections on my voting document?**

A49: 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 one ward councillor then you can vote for one candidate. For FPP you tick the candidate you want to elect.

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.

For more information about FPP refer [Q55](#).

Q50: Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different ward or regional constituency?

A50: 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 ward, because you are not an elector of that other ward.

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 and vice versa.

Q51: My partner's document and mine are different and there are more/less things to vote for. Why is the list of candidates different?

A51: Candidates for all Kaipara District Council elections are listed in random order. This means that every voting document has a different order of candidate names for each election.

Depending on whether electors are on the Māori roll or the general roll, they may have differences in the regional council election.

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

Q52: I have received two voting documents. What shall I do?

A52: You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Q53: Do the staff working on the election know who I voted for?

A53: No, your vote remains secret under the required separate roll scrutiny and vote counting procedures.

Q54: Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

A54: 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.

Q55: What happens to all the voting documents after the elections?

A55: They are delivered to the Whangārei 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.

Q56: What is FPP and how do I vote in an FPP election?

A56: FPP stands for first past the post voting system and is used for the Kaipara District Council and the Northland Regional Council elections.

The candidate, candidates or poll answer that get the most votes win.

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.

Q57: What is STV and how do I vote in an STV election?

A57: STV is not currently used for any of the elections held in the Kaipara District Council area.

STV stands for single transferable voting. For more information, go to www.stv.govt.nz.

➔ ELECTION RESULTS NGĀ HUA PŌTI

Q58: When will we know the results of the election?

A58: 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 by Friday 17 October 2025.

Q59: How will I find out the results?

A59: 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.kaipara.govt.nz) as soon as practicable once they are known, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October respectively.

Q60: What do I need to do if I want to challenge the results of the election?

A60: 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 | NGĀ MEMA

Q61: When do elected members take up their roles?

A61: 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.

Q62: Who are elected members responsible to?

A62: Ultimately the elected members final responsibility is to the local community. The Minister of Local Government and the Auditor-General do have a role in ensuring that council follows the law.

Q64: Would being an elected member take up much time?

A64: 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 Mayor is considered a fulltime job and councillors are generally part time jobs.

Q63: Do elected members get paid and if so, how much?

A63: 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 1 July 2024 was:

Office	Annual Remuneration
Mayor	\$138,441
Deputy Mayor	\$68,719
Councillor (with no additional responsibilities)	\$50,548
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	\$39,549

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

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

Q65: How many elected members are there?

A65: The Kaipara District Council will be made up of:

- mayor (elected ‘at large’)
- 8 councillors elected from 3 wards

The Northland Regional Council will be made up of 9 elected councillors from 8 constituencies. Of these, electors in the

Kaipara district will be able to vote for 3 councillors as follows:

- 1 elected from Coastal South General constituency
- 1 elected from Kaipara General constituency
- 2 to be elected from Te Raki Māori constituency.

Refer [Q5](#) for more information.

➔ **ELECTION SIGNS | NGĀ TOHU PŌTI**

Q66: What are the requirements for election signs?

A66: 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 \(esp sections 7.3 and 8\)](#).

General

Use non-metallic stakes only to erect signs, and ensure you are aware of any services that may be underground.

Local Authority:

Kaipara District Council is responsible for regulating when, where and how signs can be displayed in the district.

Council has published an Election Signs Policy, a brief summary of which follows opposite.

For further information relating to council’s election sign guidance refer to:

www.kaipara.govt.nz.

Q67: I have a complaint about the electoral signage. What should I do?

A67: 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 Council on 0800 727 059.

COUNCIL'S ELECTION SIGNS POLICY:

Election signage is permitted on specified council property – maps and location information is provided on the Kaipara District Council election website. A permit is required for election signs to be erected in these areas. This will be provided to approved candidates at the time of nomination.

Kaipara District Council offers specific road reserve sites that are suitable for the display of election hoardings. A list of approved sites is available on the Council website and will be provided with a sign erection permit given to candidates once a nomination is accepted.

- Signs must only be located in the approved sites.
- Signs must not be erected prior to 11.59pm on 10 July 2025.
- Signs must be removed by 11.59pm on 10 October 2025.
- Signs must be no greater than 3m².
- Signs must comply with all traffic safety requirements of clauses 5 and 6 of the Kaipara District Council Sign Standards (2024).
- Signs must be installed in a way that does not obstruct other electoral signs on the site. Council Officers reserve the right to remove or relocate signs as required to meet this condition if necessary.
- Candidates must only erect one sign per signage area.
- Maps and pictures of locations can be found on council's website: www.kaipara.govt.nz/council/local-elections **Important – please refer to GIS map to help identify the precise location.**
- Council may, pursuant to section 163 of the Local Government Act 2002, remove or alter a work or things that is, or has been, constructed in breach of this bylaw and may recover the costs of removal or alteration from the person who committed the breach.