

Ōpōtiki District Council Māori Wards Poll

**HAVE
YOUR
SAY!**

Māori wards for Ōpōtiki District Council?

This year, you can have your say on whether Ōpōtiki District Council should establish Māori wards in addition to the current general wards in future council elections.

Councillors from Māori wards would be elected by people who are enrolled on the Māori Parliamentary Electoral Roll. Councillors from General wards would be elected by people on the General Parliamentary Electoral Roll. Everyone would have the opportunity to vote for the mayor.

This is a non-binding poll, the outcome will assist elected members in making a decision on Māori wards.

Who can vote in the poll?

Anyone who can vote in local government elections can vote in the poll. That is:

- All residential electors – people who live in the Ōpōtiki district who are on the General or Māori Parliamentary Electoral Rolls. You can check whether you are enrolled to vote and your electoral address at the [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) website.
- All non-resident ratepayer electors – these are people who live outside the district but own property in the Ōpōtiki district and are registered on the non-resident ratepayer electoral roll. You can find out more about non-resident ratepayer electors on the Ōpōtiki District Council website.

After the Poll

Council, after taking into consideration of the outcome of the poll, will then decide whether or not to establish Māori wards. If Council decides to establish Māori wards, it will need to carry out a 'representation review'. A representation review considers what a fair and effective number of elected members would be, how they should be elected, whether they should be elected from wards (including Māori wards), "at large" across the whole district, or a mix of both. And several other things like boundaries, names of wards and communities of interest.

If Māori wards are established, the number of Māori ward members is determined by a legislative formula based on the Māori and General electoral populations of the Ōpōtiki district. Currently, about half of the Ōpōtiki electors are enrolled on the Māori electoral roll and half on the general electoral roll. The number of councillors would also be equally divided, for example three Māori ward councillors (from between one and three Māori wards) and three General ward councillors from between one and three General wards).

The representation review will go through a formal consultation process with the Ōpōtiki community in 2023. The final proposal can be appealed to the Local Government Commission for determination. The final outcomes should be in place for the 2025 local government elections.

Me whiwhi rohe pōti Māori te Kaunihera o Ōpōtiki?

I tēnei tau ka tāea e koe te whakaputa o whakaaro mehemea ka whakatū te Kaunihera o Ōpōtiki i ētahi rohe pōti Māori āpiti atu ngā rohe pōti no nāia nei.

Ka pōtīhia ngā mema o ngā rohe Māori e te hunga kua rēhita ki te Rārangi Pōti Pāremata Māori. Ko te hunga e rēhita ana ki te Rārangi Pōti Pāremata whānui ka pōti mō ngā mema o ngā rohe pōti whānui. Ka pōti tonu ngā kaipōti katoa mō te Koromatua.

Kaore tēnei he pōti herenga, he whaingā noa iho hei awahi i ngā mema te kōwhiri i ngā rohe Māori.

Ko wai e taea te pōti?

Ko te hunga e taea te pōti i roto i ngā pōtitanga kaunihera, ka taea te pōti. Ko:

- Ngā kaipōti kainoho katoa – ngā tāngata e noho i roto te rohe o Ōpōtiki e rēhita ana ki ngā Rārangi Pōti Whānui me te Rārangi Pōti Māori. Ka taea koe ki te titiro mehemea e rēhita koe ki te pōti, ā, mena kei runga te rehita pōti to wāhi noho ki [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) website
- Ngā kaiuturēti katoa ehara i te kainoho engari kei waho i te Rohe o Ōpōtiki e noho ana, engari he whenua Motuhake o rātau i roto i te Rohe, ā, kua rēhita ki te Rārangi Pōti. Ka taea koe te whai kōrero mō te kaiuturēti i runga i te wharangī ipurangi o Te Kaunihera o Ōpōtiki.

Whai atu te pōti

Te Kaunihera, whai atu te whiriwhiringa i ngā putanga o te pōti, ka kowhiritia e tātau mehemea ka whakatū ngā pōti rohe Māori. Mehemea ka whakatū ngā pōti Māori, me whai tātau he arotake whaikāhōhitanga. Ma te arotake whiriwhiri e whaiwhakaaro he aha te nama matatika, tōtika anō hoki o ngā mema o te Kaunihera, me pehea te pōti i ngā mema, mehemea me pōti rātau mai ngā rohe pōti (rohe pōti Māori anō hoki), "te nuinga" o te rohe katoa, he whakauruuru i ngā mea e rua rānei. He maha ngā mea me whai atu ā ko ngā paenga, ngā ingoa o ngā rohe pōti me ngā hāpori o roto.

Mehemea ka whakatū ngā pōti rohe Māori, ka whakaritea te maha o ngā mema rohe Māori e ngā tātai ā-ture, e ai ki ngā taupori rohe pōti Māori, whānui hoki o te Rohe o Ōpōtiki. I te wā nei, kua rēhita e hāwhe o ngā kaipōti ki te rārangi pōti Māori, ā, e hāwhe ki te rārangi pōti whānui. Me orite te wehenga o ngā nama o ngā mema, hei taurira, kia toru ngā mema o te pōti Rohe Māori (mai waenganui i te tahi me te toru o ngā pōti rohe Māori), ā, me toru ngā mema o te pōti Rohe Māori (mai waenganui i te tahi me te toru o ngā pōti rohe Whānui).

Ka rapua ngā whakaaro o te hāpori o Ōpōtiki mō te arotake whaikāhōhitanga e mārohitia ana mā tētahi whakahāere whitiwhiti kōrero okawa i roto 2023. Ka taea te pīrangia te tuinga whakamutunga ki te Mana Kāwanatanga a rohe ki te whakamana. Ko ngā putanga whakamutunga ka whakatū mo ngā pōti a rohe 2025.

Things to consider

- All elected members must make decisions in the best interests of the whole of the Ōpōtiki District, not just for their own ward.
- In the 2018 census, approximately 63.7% of people in the Ōpōtiki district said they were Māori.
- About half of the district is on the General electoral roll and about half is on the Māori electoral roll.
- Māori wards could provide more effective, direct representation for tangata whenua in Council decision-making processes as required by law.
- Ōpōtiki district has voter turnout a little above the national average of 42% but still very low. Māori wards may encourage more people to participate in local government, by standing for office and voting at local elections.
- Māori ward representatives could better relate to the needs of Māori communities and provide the Council with a greater understanding of Māori issues and concerns.
- Candidates would not be able to stand for both a General ward and a Māori ward at the same time.

Ētahi whiriwhiringa

- E paiherea ana ngā mema katoa i pōtīhia ki te mahi mō te painga o te rohe whānui o Ōpōtiki kua mō ō rātau ake rohe anake;
- I roto i te kautetanga 2018, āwhiwhi ki te 63.7% ngā tāngata o te rohe o Ōpōtiki e kīa nei he Māori rātau
- Āwhiwhi ki te hāwhe ngā tāngata o te rohe kei runga i te Rārangi Pōti Whānui me hāwhe kei runga i te Rārangi Pōti Māori
- Ka taea e ngā rohe pōti Māori te tuku whaikano hitanga whaitake ake, hāngai mō te tangata whenua o te rohe i roto i ngā tukanga whakatau a te Kaunihera e ai ki te ture
- I tini noaiho te hunga o te Rohe o Opotiki e pōti ana, iti noa iho mai te motu taurite o 42% engari he iti tonu. Mā ngā rohe pōti Māori pea e nui ake te whai wāhi mai a te Māori ki ngā whakahāere kāwanatanga ā-rohe, mā te tū hei kaitono me te pōti i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe;
- Ka mōhio ake ngā māngai o ngā rohe pōti Māori ki ngā hiahia o ngā hāpori Māori, ka mutu ka nui ake te mōhio o te Kaunihera ki ngā take me ngā māharahara o te Māori;
- E kore e taea ngā kaitono ki te tū i roto i te Rohe Pōti Whānui me te Rohe Pōti Māori i te wā kotahi

Have your say

The result of the Māori Wards Poll is important in determining how members will be elected to the Ōpōtiki District Council in local government elections from 2025. The voting period for this poll (together with the triennial election of mayor, council and community board) is **Friday 16 September to noon, Saturday 8 October 2022.**

Please complete the enclosed voting document and return it by mail (in the prepaid envelope provided) or place it in a ballot box available at council office by noon, Saturday 8 October 2022.

Whakaputahia ō Whakaaro

He mea nui ngā hua o te Pōti Rohe Pōti Māori mō te whakarite e hia ngā mema ka pōtīhia ki te Kaunihera o Ōpōtiki i roto i ngā pōtitanga a rohe mai 2025. Ko te wā pōti mō tēnei pōti ka whakatū mai i te **Paraire te 16 o Hepetema i te 12pm tae atu ki te Rāhoroi te 8 o Oketopa 2022.**

Tena koa, whakakī te pepa pōti kei roto, ā, whakahokia mā te mēra (kei roto te kōpaki kua utua kē), raua atu rānei ki tētahi pouaka pōti kei te tari o te Kaunihera i te 12pm, Rāhoroi 8 o Oketopa 2022.

MŌ ĒTAHI ATU KŌRERO, WHAKAPĀ ATU KI FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Te Āpiha Pōti – Electoral Officer

- Waea - Phone: 0800 922 822
- Īmera - Email: info@electionservices.co.nz
- Te wharangi ipurangi o te Kaunihera o Ōpōtiki
Ōpōtiki District Council website odc.govt.nz



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