

# Electoral voting system – 2025 local body elections

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 26 July 2023  
**Reporting officer:** Alana Thurston, Governance Advisor  
Dale Ofoske, Electoral Officer

## Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To seek a decision on the type of electoral system to be used in the 2025 and 2028 Local Government elections.

## Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires the Council to consider what type of electoral system will be used for the 2025 local body elections. This review must be completed by 12 September 2023.

Kaipara District Council (Council) currently uses the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system. Council can choose to continue with this system or change to the First Past The Post (FPP) electoral system.

## Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Agrees to retain the Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system for 2025 and 2028 Local Government elections. OR
- b) Agrees to introduce the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2025 and 2028 Local Government elections. OR
- c) Agrees a poll of electors is held on which electoral system is to be used for the next two triennial elections.
- d) Agrees not to undertake a representation arrangements review in 2024.

## Context | Horopaki

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act) provides Council the opportunity to determine in 2023 the electoral system for the 2025 election. Council has used the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system since 2004. Council can choose to continue with this system or change to the First Past The Post (FPP) electoral system. Consideration of the electoral system must be completed by 12 September 2023.

The Act provides three options on the matter:

- The Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system is retained; or
- The First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system is re-introduced; or
- A poll of electors is held on which electoral system is to be used for the next two triennial elections. This approach would cost approximately \$40 – \$50k and funding has not been allocated for this.

Furthermore, Council can choose to undertake a representation arrangements review, however, as the last review was undertaken in 2021, the next review is not legally required until 2027. The estimated cost to conduct a representation review would be in order of \$20 - \$25k.

## Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

The primary report for this agenda item has been prepared by the Council Electoral Officer (**Attachment A**).

The report provides a comprehensive overview of:

- What is required of the Council (section 1)
- The electoral options available (section 3.1)
- Processes for selecting each item (section 3.1)
- Representation arrangements review (3.2)
- The timeframes which apply (appendix 1).

## Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

## Next steps | E whaiake nei

The Council will need to consider and decide the process and voting system that they would like to use for the 2025 local body elections. Council staff will then process the decision with the relevant government agencies and the Kaipara District Council Electoral Officer.

## Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Electoral Officers report on local government election voting systems