



KŌRERO MAI



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RANGITIKEI Connect

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2025



“Your district is calling”

Rangitikei residents encouraged to stand for Council



With the 2025 local elections fast approaching, it's time for people to start thinking about standing for Council. Rangitikei District Council will be hosting two candidate information presentations on Monday 30 June in both Taihape and Marton for potential candidates to hear more about what standing for election involves, and rules that must be followed during the election period.

In the 2022 local elections, three ward seats were won uncontested because there weren't enough candidates to hold an election.

“Local government is in a delicate position with lots of change happening at speed. Balancing council commitments and your own work or personal responsibilities can be tough, so we want to make sure people know what it's like to be an elected member,” says Rangitikei District Council Deputy Electoral Officer, Katrina Gray.

Nationally, the number of uncontested seats at the last local elections reached an all-time high. Low pay, increasing time commitment and public abuse were cited as the main reasons why outgoing elected members were choosing not to stand again.

“Being an elected member can be hard, but there are many reasons why elected members find real fulfilment and purpose in their roles. Contributing to and serving your community is incredibly rewarding, especially when you see the benefits of the projects and initiatives you've advocated for, realised,” adds Katrina.

Many believe that you must be business orientated to be a successful elected member, but Rangitikei District Council Chief Executive, Carol Gordon says a passion for your community and desire to see Rangitikei thrive shouldn't be underestimated.

“Financial and business acumen are valuable skills to have – understanding governance is also important, but these are skills that can be learnt and developed throughout your term.

“An open mind, critical thinking and analysis, relationship building, collaboration, communication, and a genuine care for Rangitikei residents is necessary.”

“People who are community minded and want to leave our district in a good place for future generations tend to be the ones who connect the most with voters and make for good elected members around the Council table,” adds Carol.

Those thinking about standing in the upcoming election are invited and encouraged to attend one of the candidate information presentations happening at the end of this month. **Nominations open Friday 4 July 2025.**

Details on the Candidate Information Presentations

- **Taihape**
Where: Kokako Street Hall
When: 4:00pm on Monday 30 June
- **Marton**
Where: Council Chambers, High Street office
When: 7:00pm on Monday 30 June
(this will be live streamed to the Council Facebook page)

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/local-elections-stand



ENROLLING FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Enrolling to vote is easy to do! And there's plenty of ways you can do it as well.

- Visit www.vote.nz to enrol online
- Phone 0800 36 76 56
- Text your name and address to free text 3676

If you need help enrolling, you can get someone to help you complete the enrolment form, such as a support person, family member or a friend.

If you know someone whose first language isn't English, there is enrolment information available on the [vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz) website in multiple languages.



Māori Wards Referendum

As part of the 2025 local government elections, Rangitikei District Council will be holding a binding referendum on the future of the Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) and the Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Māori wards.

Voters will be asked:

- Whether Rangitikei District Council should keep or remove its Māori wards
- Whether Horizons Regional Council should keep or remove its two Māori Constituencies.

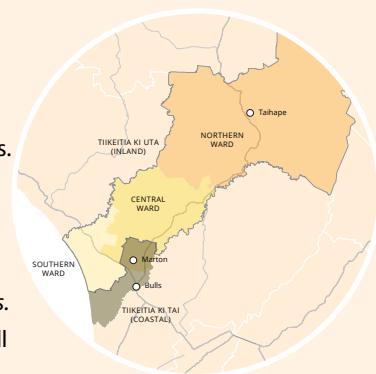
Note: This referendum will not affect the 2025 election. The Council elected in October 2025 will include Māori ward councillors. The outcome of the referendum will determine whether the Māori wards are retained for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

If the majority vote to keep the Māori wards, they'll remain in place for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

If the majority vote to remove the Māori wards, they'll be disestablished for the 2028 and 2031 elections and voters on the Māori electoral roll vote for the general wards instead.

Voting papers will be delivered from 9 September and voting closes at 12 noon on 11 October.

See a list of facts and FAQs about our Māori wards on our website.



How does local government work?

In a nutshell, local government:

- Enables democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities.
- Promotes the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

The first part enables councils to make decisions and undertake services that their communities want and are prepared to pay for. The second part requires councils to think about the needs of future generations when making decisions regarding local services, infrastructure and regulations.

Councils are separated into governance and staff.

- **Governance.** This is where elected members such as the mayor and councillors (the 'council'), community board trustees, committee members etc sit. The primary purpose of the governance function is to make decisions on behalf of, and advocate for the needs and wants of communities. Council also determines the strategic direction – i.e. how and which projects/initiatives council staff will prioritise.
- **Operations.** This is where council staff (often referred to as 'council officers') sit. The primary purpose of the operations function is to carry out the day-to-day operations of council based on the strategic direction set by Governance.

When it comes to decision-making, staff put forward recommendations to Governance based on expert advice, data, and evidence. This is to ensure elected members are in the best position to make informed decisions on behalf of their communities.

Elected members need to ask the right questions to ensure resources are used well and wisely. The way in which councils make decisions is subject to several rules and regulations set out in the Local Government Act, 2002 and other statutes. Some critical ones are:

- Decision-makers must be informed by the views of those affected by the decision.
- Decision-makers must consider reasonable practicable options.
- Decisions must be made in public unless there are specific grounds for excluding the public.
- Decision-making processes must acknowledge the diverse needs of the community.

Individual elected members have little authority by themselves. It's only when acting together with your colleagues that you can implement change and make a difference. To be effective you need to work constructively with your fellow elected members to achieve your common goal of a thriving Rangitikei.