

Chapter Seven

Civil and political rights

What's in this chapter?

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/
Treaty of Waitangi

Community involvement
in council decision making

Voter turnout

Representation on local decision
making bodies

Representation on local decision
making bodies



Introduction

This chapter looks at the participation of residents in representative governance and decision making processes at local and national levels. Civil and political rights are a fundamental aspect of human rights, protecting the ability of people to participate in politics and decision making by expressing views, protesting, having input and voting.

Why this is important

Enabling democratic local decision making is one of the key purposes of local government and is also important in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities. Effective civil and political systems allow our communities to be governed in a way that promotes justice and fairness and supports people's quality of life.

The population in our cities is becoming increasingly diverse, with more people from different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds. It is important that we understand how our institutions and processes can continue to support people's civil and political involvement. This understanding can also help us work to remove barriers that limit people's ability to exercise their civic rights and to participate in decision making.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi establishes the rights of Maori in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Local councils have a role in facilitating the involvement of tangata whenua¹ in the governance of their area.

Key points

About one third of residents (35.0%) in our cities believe that they have an understanding of how their council makes decisions. This does not appear to be based on lack of interest in council affairs, as about half of people would like to have more of a say in what their council does. Pacific Islands and Asian/Indian residents in particular seek more say in council decision making.

Just over half of residents in our cities (55.0%) believe that the public has some or a large influence on the decisions that their council makes.

Residents of the cities in the Auckland region generally have more concerns about their level of understanding and input to their local council's decision making. They also have lower levels of confidence that their council makes decisions that are in the best interest of their city.

Voter turnout is higher for elections at the national than local level, with 80.9% turnout nationally in the 2005 general election compared with an average of 42.5% in the 2004 local city council elections. Across the 12 cities combined, voter turnout declined slightly between the 2001 and 2004 local elections. Some details around the 2007 local council elections were not available in time for inclusion in this report. Based on preliminary results, average voter turnout across city and district councils in the 2007 elections was 43.2%

There are gender and ethnicity disparities in representation on the local governance bodies of local councils and school boards.

The councils of all our 12 cities report an active work programme in strengthening their relationship and engagement with tangata whenua to incorporate Maori perspectives into policy, planning and operations.

Links to other indicators

Local councils have an obvious role in influencing how residents view their decision making processes. Making processes transparent and culturally appropriate as well as clearly communicating information will encourage understanding and input by residents.

Overall quality of life is related to how people view local governance arrangements. People who rated their quality of life highly were more likely to believe that councils make decisions in the best interest of the area and that the public can influence decision making.

There are ethnic differences in the confidence of residents in their local council's decision making and desire to have greater levels of input. Councils face a challenge to adapt their practices to meet the needs of the increasingly ethnically diverse population in our cities.

Younger people report lower levels of understanding of council's decision making and this has implications for civic education programmes within schools.

¹ Tangata whenua refers to Maori people as "people of the land". In relation to a given area, tangata whenua are the iwi (tribe), hapu (band, subtribe) or whanau (family grouping) that holds mana whenua or customary and ancestral ties over that area.



Treaty of Waitangi

7. Civil and political rights

- All the councils of the 12 cities report active work in strengthening their relationship and engagement with tangata whenua to incorporate Maori perspectives into policy, planning and operations.

What this is about

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi is the foundation of relationships between government and tangata whenua. The Local Government Act (2002) acknowledges this by requiring local government to foster the capacity of and provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision making processes. The Resource Management Act (1991) establishes the promotion and protection of Maori interests in natural and physical resources.

This indicator explores how the councils of the 12 cities engage with Maori and meet their responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi and legislation. It uses information provided by the councils.

What did we find?

Rodney District Council

The jurisdictional boundaries of Rodney District Council fall within the enduring rohe² of Ngati Whatua, Kawerau a Maki, Ngati Wai and Ngati Paoa. The council seeks to build and consolidate relationships with these groups and recognises their exercise of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and manakitanga (caring for others) within their respective rohe.

The council actively works with tangata whenua in the spirit of mutual benefit, trust, good faith and partnership and has Memoranda of Understanding with Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara and Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust.

North Shore City Council

North Shore City Council's current practice is to involve Maori in decision making on strategic planning matters, resource consent issues, major projects and some operational matters.

The council seeks to build on the relationships that have been established with Maori, particularly through the identification of community outcomes and the issues highlighted through this process.

Auckland City Council

Auckland City Council recognises three iwi groups who exercise ahi kaa³ within Auckland City boundaries, Ngati Whatua o Orakei, Ngati Paoa and Ngati Rehua of Aotea-Great Barrier. The council has worked steadily to foster positive relationships with local iwi and the wider Maori community. A dedicated council team works to provide policy advice and support to the council, facilitate consultation and engagement with tangata whenua, foster positive relationships with Maori communities and provide bicultural and educational support for council staff.

The council consults with eight tangata whenua groups on pre-resource consent applications through a monthly Tangata Whenua Consultative Committee.

The council and tangata whenua have worked together successfully on a number of Treaty-based projects.

Waitakere City Council

Waitakere City Council's vision is that people in the city are proud to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi. This priority requires that the treaty is sustained in all the council's activities and planning.

Te Taumata Runanga is a standing committee of the council that provides Maori perspective and input into council strategy, plans, policies and operations. It consists of representatives from council, iwi claiming mana whenua⁴ status and a number of urban Maori and pan-tribal organisations in the city. A representative of Te Taumata Runanga also sits on the council's strategy and policy committee.

The council works directly with Te Kawerau A Maki and Ngati Whatua as mana whenua in Waitakere. The council has developed relationships with these iwi groups that are represented through a range of mechanisms including Memoranda of Understanding, contracts for professional services and formal consultation processes.

Manukau City Council

At a governance level, Manukau City Council has Treaty-based relationship agreements with the five mana whenua groups in Manukau.

The council has established a Te Tiriti o Waitangi Committee consisting of elected members from all city wards and mana whenua and taura here⁵ appointed members. The committee recommends responses to Treaty of Waitangi issues and a strategy and work programme for developing relationships with tangata whenua in Manukau.

At an organisational level the council has established and supports a Mana Whenua Forum that provides early input into the development of policies and service delivery programmes.

A Treaty of Waitangi unit delivers strategic leadership and direction to support more comprehensive engagement with tangata whenua in Manukau. Treaty of Waitangi competency and training is part of staff performance requirements.

2 Rohe means a territory or boundary which defines the area within which a tangata whenua group claims traditional association and mana whenua.

3 Ahi kaa refers to tangata whenua who reside within the mana whenua of their rohe - they "keep the home fires burning".

4 Mana whenua are iwi with customary and ancestral ties to the area.

5 Taura here are iwi who affiliate to tribes outside the area.

Treaty of Waitangi continued

Hamilton City Council

Hamilton City Council recognises the Treaty of Waitangi, the importance of kingitanga (kingship) in the Waikato and values its relationships with both mana whenua and mata waka (Maori from other areas).

The council works closely with a range of Maori organisations. Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa is an urban iwi authority and represents the views of mata waka on social issues and Maori contribution to decision making. A partnership with Nga Mana Toopu o Kirikiriroa (an iwi group representing the views of local mana whenua) provides support to the council on issues relating to the management of Hamilton's natural and physical resources.

The council also recognises the influence of Tainui (the local iwi authority) on Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) and surrounding districts. The council's engagement with Tainui covers a wide range of matters that influence the spectrum of community wellbeing.

Tauranga City Council

Tauranga City Council recognises three iwi within the Tauranga City rohe, Ngati Ranginui, Ngaiterangi and Ngati Pukenga. The Kaumatua Forum provides an opportunity for kuia and koroua of Tauranga Moana to raise their issues directly with the Mayor and council Chief Executive. The Tangata Whenua/Tauranga City Council Committee provides strategic leadership and advice to Council in respect of environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes relating to tangata whenua. The Tauranga Moana Tangata Whenua Collective provides initial feedback on issues to the council.

The council has protocol agreements with 11 of the 15 iwi/hapu in the Tauranga rohe. The focus is on facilitating tangata whenua engagement at all levels of the council's activities.

The Takawaenga Maori unit within the council provides relationship management, training and education and advice on projects, policy and strategy.

Porirua City Council

Porirua City Council has an established relationship with Ngati Toa, the tangata whenua of Porirua, both at a governance and management level.

The council accepts that as tangata whenua, the world view of Ngati Toa is the Maori world view for Porirua. The council has a Charter of Understanding with the Runanga o Toa Rangatira which sets out the mechanisms that support its relationship with Ngati Toa. These include the Treaty Partnership Group made up of councillors and members of the Runanga, regular joint Chief Executives' meetings, the provision to the council by Ngati Toa of an advisory Kaumatua and processes for seeking advice. The council also works with Ngati Toa to ensure the participation of other Maori in council decision making processes and has working relationships with other marae, including Maraeroa Marae.

Hutt City Council

Hutt City Council is committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintaining and improving opportunities for Maori to contribute to local government decision making processes. The council also recognises and provides for the special relationship that Maori have with their culture, traditions, land and taonga.

The council consults with Maori who have mana whenua status in the city. These are represented by Nga Tekau o Poneke – the Wellington Tenth Trust. The council also recognises Te Rūnanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui as mana whenua. Both these groups represent Te Atiawa and the Taranaki tribes within the Wellington region.

The council also consults with urban Maori now resident in Hutt city, including, but not limited to, Te Taurahere o Te Awakairangi, Koraunui Marae, Te Mangungu Marae, Wainuiomata Marae, Te Kakano o te Aroha Marae, Waiwhetu Marae, Kokiri Marae and Te Tatau o te Po Marae.

7. Civil and political rights

Wellington City Council

Wellington City Council recognises the rights of Maori under the Treaty of Waitangi and is committed to developing opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision making processes. The council fosters partnerships with mana whenua and builds relationships with the wider Maori community through effective consultation.

These relationships are supported by a dedicated unit within the council that provides advice and administrative support on Treaty-based relationships.

Memoranda of Understanding with mana whenua organisations, Ngati Toa Rangatira and the Wellington Tenth Trust, outline how they participate in decisions on policy, protocol and regulatory and service delivery issues. These organisations also have ex-officio membership on the council's strategy and policy committee.

The council maintains networks with Maori in Wellington and holds hui to discuss matters of mutual concern. Staff recruitment and training procedures aim to improve the council's capacity to respond to Maori issues appropriately.

Christchurch City Council

Christchurch City Council enjoys a strong working relationship with local Maori. The council continues to work at developing processes to provide for opportunities for Maori to contribute to the decision making of the council.

The council is working towards putting in place mechanisms for consulting with Ngai Tahu on operational matters, including an agreed protocol with local runaka relating to consultation under the Resource Management Act.

Treaty of Waitangi training is highly recommended for all new staff.

Dunedin City Council

Dunedin City Council continues to maintain an effective Treaty relationship with Ngai Tahu. The relationship has been formalised via a Memorandum of Understanding which confirms the commitment to work together to achieve a greater understanding of Maori needs and increased Maori involvement in strategic decision making. The council also works with taurahere, via the Araiteuru marae council. To guide the development of the Treaty relationship the council has established a Maori Participation Working Party which includes councillors, senior officers and representatives from both mana whenua and taurahere.

The council has various mechanisms for consulting with Ngai Tahu on operational matters, including an agreed protocol with Kai Tahu ki Otago Ltd relating to consultation under the Resource Management Act.

Data source: Participating councils, 2007



Community involvement in council decision making

- One third of city residents believe that they have an understanding of how their council makes decisions.
- About half of people would like to have more of a say in what their council does.
- Just over half of city residents believed that the public has influence on the decisions that their council makes.

What this is about

The purpose of local government, as established by the Local Government Act (2002), is to:

- Enable democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of, communities
- Promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future.⁶

Community involvement in decision making is critical for local government. The measures for this indicator are taken from the 2006 Quality of Life Survey:

- Understanding how councils make decisions
- Having a say in what the council does
- Confidence that council decisions are in the best interests of the city
- Public influence on council decision making.

What did we find?

Understanding how councils make decisions

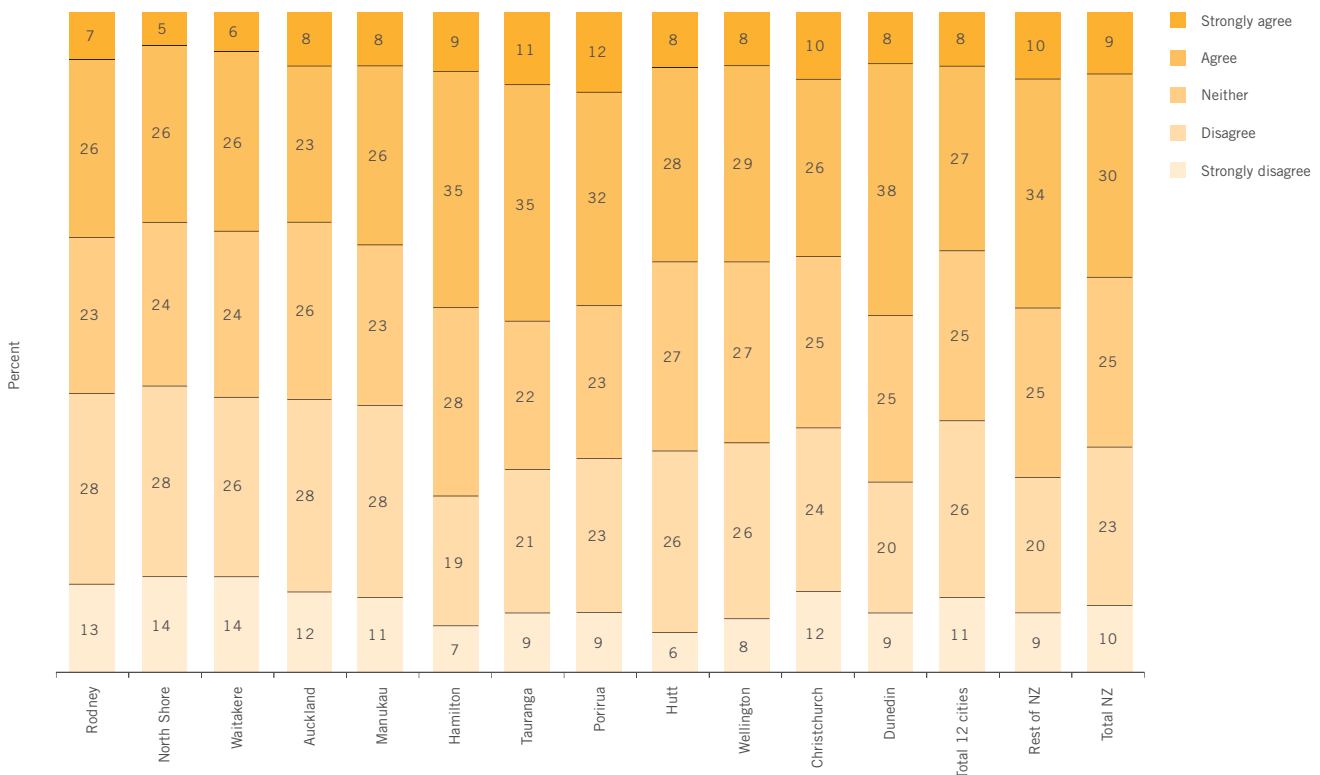
Residents were asked about their local city or district council decision making in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey using a five point scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

Across New Zealand, nearly two fifths (39.0%) of people either agreed or strongly agreed they had an understanding of how their council makes decisions. Residents in the 12 cities were less likely to understand decisions (35.0%), compared with people in the rest of New Zealand (44.0%).

There were differences between the cities. Tauranga and Dunedin residents were most likely to understand how their council makes decisions (46.0% agreed or strongly agreed). Residents of the cities in the Auckland region were less likely to understand this process.

Nationally and in our cities, people aged 50 years and over were more likely to say they understood how councils make decisions than younger people.

Residents' understanding how their council makes decisions (2006)⁷



Data source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

⁶ Local Government Act (2002) Part 2, section 10, Purpose of Local Government.
⁷ Figures might not add to 100% as 'don't know' responses are not shown.



7. Civil and political rights

Having a say in what the council does

Residents were asked in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey if they wanted more say in what their council does.

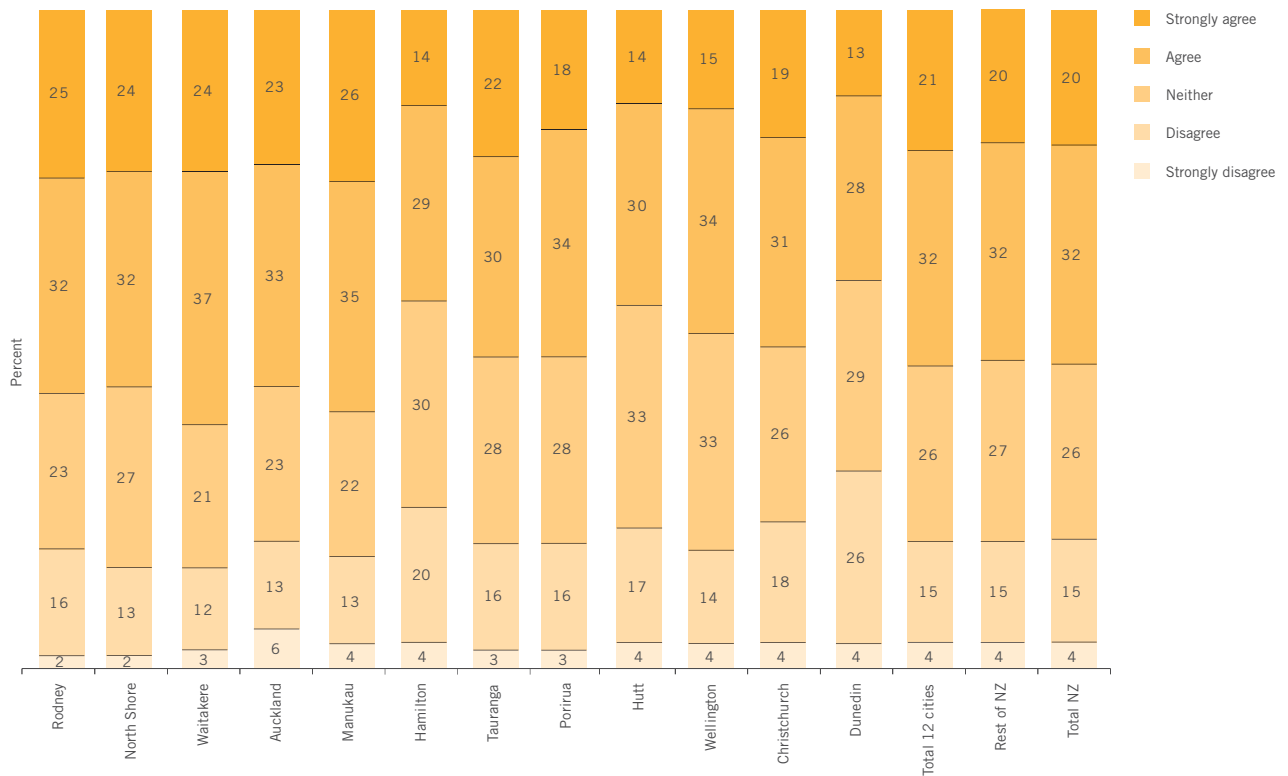
Nationally, over half (53.0%) of residents agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to have more say in what the council does.

Although there were no notable differences between residents in the 12 cities and those living in the rest of New Zealand, there was considerable variation between the cities. Residents of cities in the Auckland region were most likely to want a greater say in

what their council does: Waitakere and Manukau (both 61.0%), followed by Rodney, North Shore and Auckland (both 56.0%). Residents in Dunedin (41.0%), Hamilton (43.0%) and Hutt (44.0%) were less likely to agree that they wanted more say.

Responses varied between people of different ethnic groups. Pacific Islands and Asian/Indian people in our cities (65.0% and 60.0% respectively) were more likely to agree that they wanted a greater say in what their council does than New Zealand Europeans (50.0%).

Residents' seeking more of a say in what their council does (2006)⁸



Data source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

⁸ Figures might not add to 100% as 'don't know' responses are not shown.

Community involvement in council decision making continued

Confidence that council decisions are in the best interests of the city

Residents were asked in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey if they had confidence that their council makes decisions in the best interests of the city.

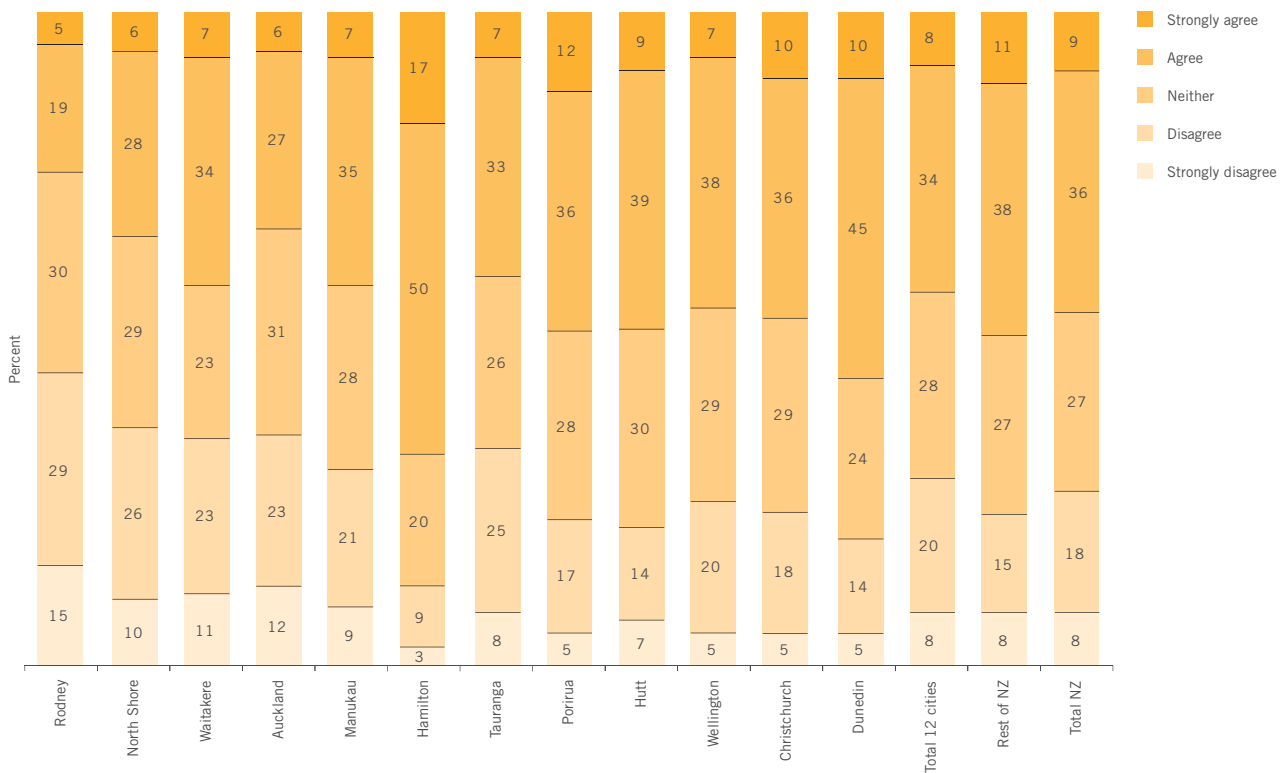
Fewer than half (45.0%) of New Zealand residents agreed that their council makes decisions that are in the best interests of the city or area where they live.

Those living outside the 12 cities were more likely to have confidence that their council makes decisions in the best interests of their area (49.0%) than residents in the 12 cities combined (42.0%).

Hamilton (67%) and Dunedin (55%) residents were most likely to agree that their council makes decisions in the best interests of their city. Those living in Rodney (24.0%), Auckland (33.0%) and North Shore (34.0%) were less likely to express confidence that this was the case.

Across the 12 cities, younger people aged 15 to 24 years were more likely to be confident about their council's decision making than those in other age groups. There were also differences between ethnic groups, with Pacific Islands and Asian/Indian residents more likely to have confidence that their council makes decisions in the best interests of the city or area than New Zealand European residents.

Residents' confidence in council decision making (2006)⁹



Data source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

⁹ Figures might not add to 100% as 'don't know' responses are not shown.



7. Civil and political rights

Public influence on council decision making

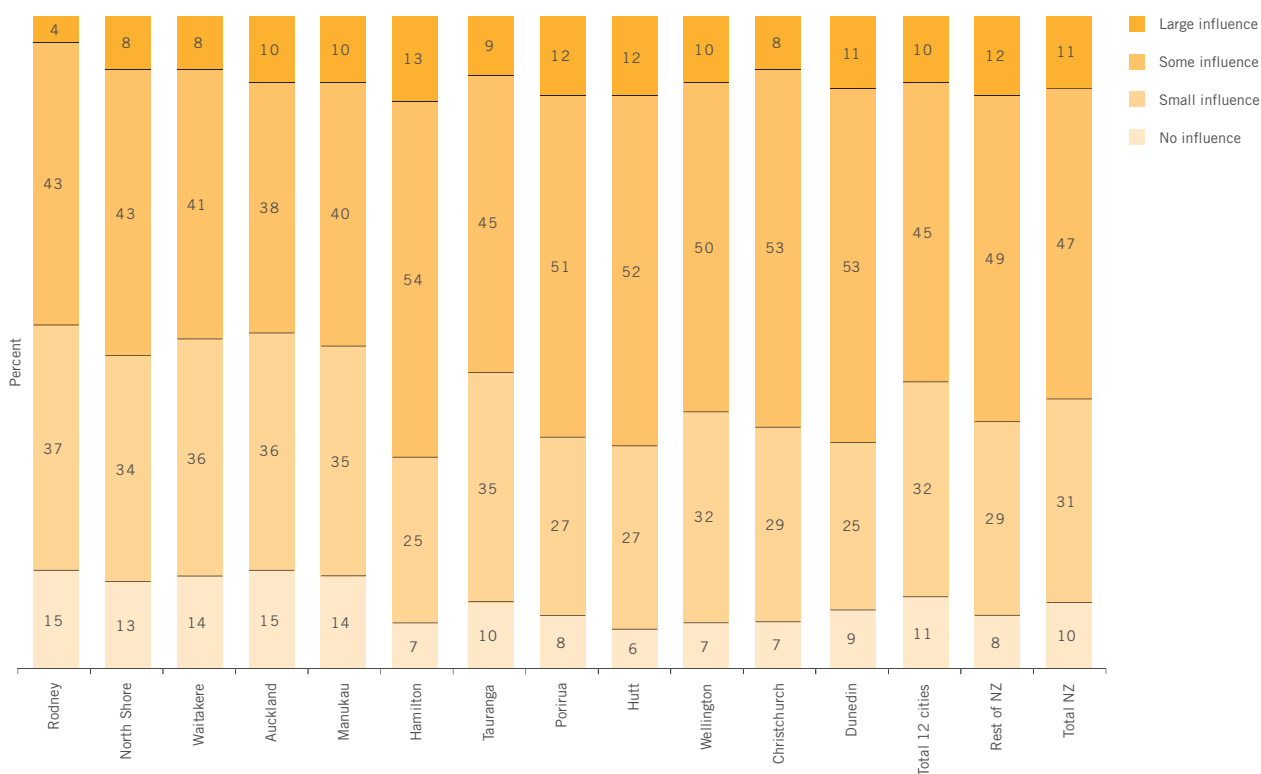
Residents were asked in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey to rate the influence that the public has on the decisions that their local council makes using a four point scale from 'large influence' to 'no influence'.

Almost three fifths (58.0%) of people nationally believed that the public has some or a large influence on the decisions that their council makes. Those living in the 12 cities were less likely to think that the public had influence on the council's decision making (55.0%) than those residing in other parts of New Zealand (61.0%).

Hamilton, Hutt, Dunedin and Porirua residents were more likely to think that the public has influence on council decisions. Residents in Rodney, Auckland and Waitakere were less likely to feel this way.

Younger people aged 15 to 24 years in our cities were more likely to think that the public had influence on council decisions than those from other age groups. Those aged 65 years and over thought the public had lower levels of influence. Asian/Indian and Pacific Islands residents were more likely to think the public had influence over decisions than New Zealand Europeans.

Residents' rating of public influence on council decisions (2006)¹⁰



Data source: Quality of Life Survey 2006

¹⁰ Figures might not add to 100% as 'don't know' responses are not shown.

Voter turnout

- Voter turnout for national elections is nearly double that of local level elections.

What this is about

Exercising a vote in a democratic process is a fundamental way that people can express their political will. It is an important responsibility and key to effective governance. The level of voter participation at the various levels of government indicates people's engagement with the representative democratic process.

Voter turnout in an election is the proportion of electors who exercise their vote. New Zealand's national system of government is decided through the general election. The local authority electoral system is the process used to elect local and regional councils and district health boards. The local authority elections are conducted by post and electors had three weeks within which to return their votes.

The measures for voter turnout are:

- Voter turnout at local council elections
- Voter turnout at district health board elections
- Voter turnout at regional council elections
- Voter turnout at the general election.

What did we find?

Voter turnout at local council elections

By voting in local council elections residents and ratepayers seek to influence the overall direction in their area and the delivery of services in their local communities. Voter turnout can reflect the level of engagement of voters in local matters.¹¹

Nine of the 12 councils used the First Past the Post electoral system in 2007,¹² where voters tick the names of their preferred candidates and the candidate who gets the most votes win the seat. The councils in Porirua, Wellington and Dunedin used the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral system, where candidates have to cross a vote threshold based on the number of seats to be filled and the number of votes cast. In STV systems voters rank the list of candidates with their vote transferring down this list until it helps a candidate cross the threshold.

The level of voter turnout in the 2007 local council election in the 12 cities ranged from 47.1% in Dunedin to 35.1% in Hamilton.

Final average voter turnout results across all councils in 2007 were not available for inclusion in this report. Based on preliminary results, average voter turnout across city and district councils in the 2007 local elections was 43.2%. Average voter turnout across city councils nationally in 2004 was 42.5% compared to 50.8% for district councils.

For the first time since 1989, turnout in 2004 dropped below 50.0%. The level of voter turnout in local council elections remains substantially lower than at the general election which could suggest that information, communication and levels of interest are lower in local politics. Analysis undertaken by the Department of Internal Affairs after the 2001 local council elections found that voter turnout was generally lower in urban areas and when there was a relatively high number of candidates standing and a low ratio of councillors to electors.¹³

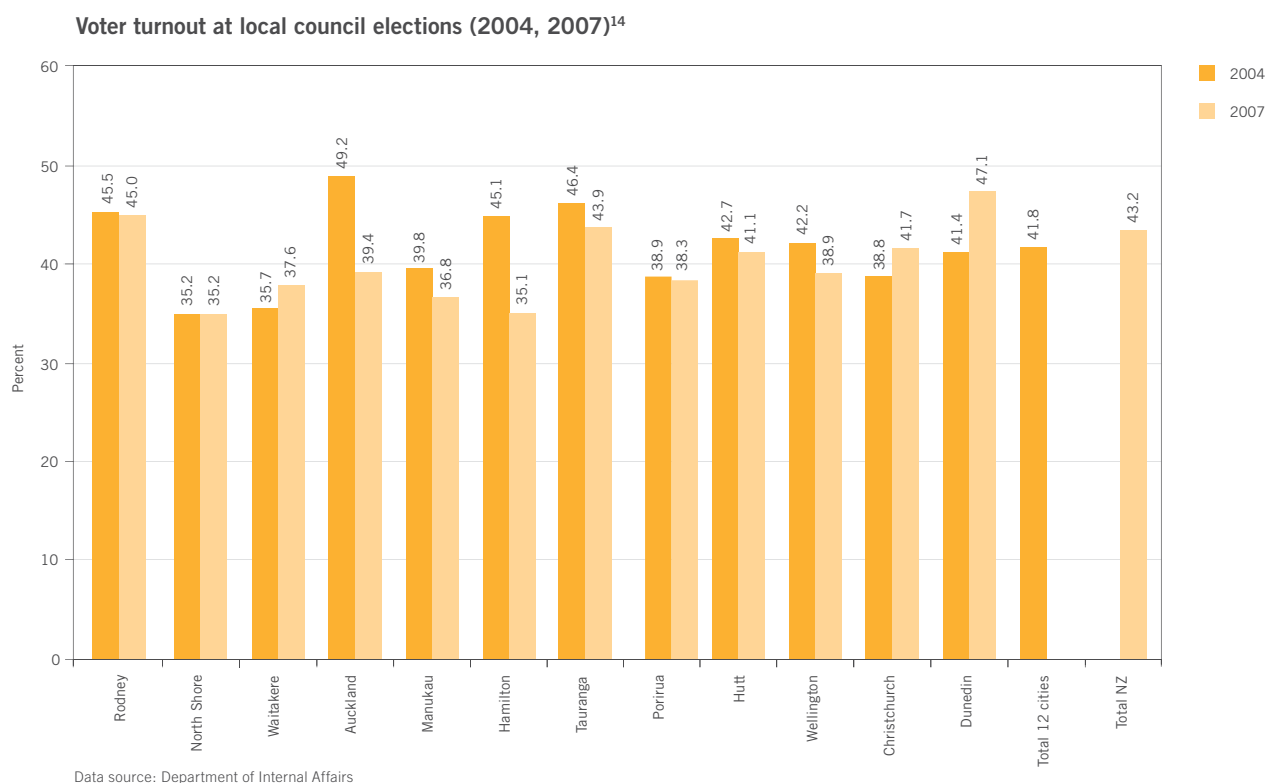


11 Local councils are responsible for a broad range of functions, such as roads, water supply, sewage disposal and rubbish collection. They also provide community facilities, including parks, libraries and swimming pools and undertake planning and regulatory functions.

12 Some details around voter turnout at the 2007 local council election were not available in time for inclusion in this report.

13 Department of Internal Affairs. (2003). *Local Authority Election Statistics 2001*.

7. Civil and political rights

**Voter turnout at district health board elections¹⁵**

District Health Boards (DHBs) are responsible for providing or buying Government-funded health care services for the population of a specific geographical area. All DHBs use the STV electoral system.

This measure is the percentage of voters that turnout in the nine DHB areas that cover the 12 cities. The geographic area covered by DHBs is not usually the same as local council boundaries.¹⁶

The Waitemata DHB, covering Waitakere, had the lowest level of voter turnout at the 2004 elections and the Otago DHB, which included Dunedin, had the highest. The 2004 elections were only the second set of elections for the DHBs. Between the 2001 and 2004 elections voter turnout declined in seven of the DHBs. Only the Auckland and Counties-Manukau DHBs saw an increase in turnout.

Voter turnout in DHB elections, by DHB region (2001, 2004)

DHB region	2004	Change 2001-2004
	%	%
Waitemata	36.4	-1.0
Auckland	48.6	1.0
Counties-Manukau	40.7	2.0
Waikato	44.6	-5.0
Bay of Plenty	44.9	-8.0
Hutt	40.7	-8.0
Capital and Coast	43.5	-4.0
Canterbury	40.4	-11.0
Otago	55.7	-4.0
Total NZ DHBs	45.6	-4.0

Data source: Department of Internal Affairs, 2001, 2004

¹⁴ 2007 local council election results are preliminary. Voter turnout data was not available for the 12 cities combined in 2007 and for Total NZ in 2004.

¹⁵ Voter turnout results at the 2007 DHB election were not available in time for inclusion in this report.

¹⁶ The Waitemata DHB area includes Rodney, North Shore and Waitakere. Auckland DHB includes Auckland city. Counties-Manukau DHB includes Manukau city. Waikato DHB includes Hamilton. Bay of Plenty DHB includes Tauranga. Hutt DHB includes Hutt city. Capital and Coast DHB includes Porirua and Wellington city. Canterbury DHB includes Christchurch. Otago DHB includes Dunedin.

Voter turnout continued

Voter turnout at regional council elections¹⁷

Regional councils are responsible for a range of functions, including resource management, environmental planning and urban transport. All regional councils used the First Past the Post electoral system in 2004.

This measure looks at the level of voter turnout in the six regional council areas in which the 12 cities are located.¹⁸ Overall the level of voter turnout decreased between the 2001 and 2004 elections. Otago Regional Council (56.0%) had the highest level of voter turnout and the Auckland Regional Council (42.0%) the lowest.

Voter turnout in regional council elections (2001, 2004)

Regional council	2004 %	Change 2001-2004 %
Auckland	42.0	-1.0
Waikato	45.0	-4.0
Bay of Plenty	45.0	-7.0
Wellington	43.0	-6.0
Canterbury	43.0	-9.0
Otago	56.0	-4.0
Total NZ	45.0	-4.0

Data source: Department of Internal Affairs, 2001, 2004

Voter turnout at the general election

This measure is of the level of voter turnout by electorate at the 2005 general election for New Zealand's Parliament. The electorate boundaries do not match exactly with those of a local council. New Zealand uses the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system to elect members of Parliament. Voters

have two votes under the MMP electoral system – one for a party and one for an electorate member of Parliament.

The five electorates with the lowest level of voter turnout in 2005 were all located in the Auckland region, with three of the lowest in Manukau.

Five electorates with highest and lowest voter turnout in general election (2005)¹⁹

Electoralates (within city) with highest voter turnout	%	Electoralates (within city) with lowest voter turnout	%
Wellington Central (Wellington)	86.6	Te Atatu (Waitakere)	79.0
Banks Peninsula (Christchurch)	86.1	Maungakiekie (Auckland)	77.5
Ohariu-Belmont (Wellington/ Porirua)	85.8	Manurewa (Manukau)	75.8
Rongotai (Wellington)	85.7	Manukau East (Manukau)	73.3
Dunedin South (Dunedin)	84.8	Mangere (Manukau)	72.9

Data source: Department of Internal Affairs, 2005

The factors underpinning voter turnout are complex. Low turnout does not seem to be an issue in all cities, as the five electorates nationally with the highest voter turnout were also in cities, with three in Wellington, the seat of government. Younger and less well-off people generally have lower levels of electoral engagement.²⁰

Another potential impact on the level of voter turnout is the numbers of new migrants in areas. This may help explain the low turnout in some Auckland region electorates that have high numbers of new migrants. Recent immigrants could have less understanding or engagement with the political process.

17 Voter turnout results for the 2007 regional council election were not available in time for inclusion in this report.

18 Auckland region includes Rodney, North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland city and Manukau. Waikato region includes Hamilton. Bay of Plenty region includes Tauranga. Wellington region includes Wellington city, Hutt and Porirua. Canterbury region includes Christchurch. Otago region includes Dunedin.

19 Excludes Maori electorates as these electorate areas are geographically large and include more than one city.

20 Catt, H. (July 2005). Now or Never: *Children and young people as citizens: Participation, provision and protection*. Paper delivered in the 2005 symposium Citizenship: learning by doing, 6th child and family policy conference, Dunedin. www.elections.org.nz/now-or-never-lit-review.html. Retrieved 10 July 2007.



Representation on local decision making bodies

7. Civil and political rights

- Women are underrepresented on the local councils of the 12 cities.
- The ethnic composition of school boards does not reflect the ethnic diversity of city populations.

What this is about

Societies have stronger governance and institutional frameworks when elected representation reflects the community that it governs. This indicator assesses whether our local governance bodies are operating in a way that encourages the formal involvement of all groups in society. The measures show the level of formal representation by different groups:

- Representation by women on local councils
- Composition of school boards of trustees.

What did we find?

Representation by women on local councils

This measure illustrates the differences in gender representation on the councils of the 12 cities.

Women are underrepresented as candidates standing for election and also underrepresented on the councils of the 12 cities overall. However, in Wellington, North Shore, Christchurch and Hamilton, female councillors represent over half of the councillors on the council. Across our 12 city councils, the proportion of women councillors increased from 34.1% in 2004 to 38.8% in the 2007 election.

In 2007, over two fifths of councillors in Waitakere and Hutt are women, compared with less than one fifth in Tauranga and Dunedin.

Women candidates and councillors in the local authority elections (2007)

	2007 Women candidates		2007 Elected women councillors	
	Number	Percentage of total candidates %	Number	Percentage of elected councillors %
Rodney	10	21.3	4	33.3
North Shore	14	24.1	9	56.3
Waitakere	19	30.2	6	42.9
Auckland	26	37.1	6	31.6
Manukau	22	32.8	5	31.3
Hamilton	9	37.5	6	50.0
Tauranga	9	22.0	1	10.0
Porirua	7	30.4	4	30.8
Hutt	13	35.1	5	41.7
Wellington	14	36.8	8	57.1
Christchurch	17	34.0	7	53.8
Dunedin	12	27.3	3	21.4
Total 12 cities	172	30.6	64	38.8

Data source: Participating Councils, 2007

Representation on local decision making bodies continued

Composition of school boards of trustees

School Boards of Trustees are locally elected boards that govern state and state-integrated schools. This measure uses Ministry of Education data on the ethnicity and gender of school board trustees.

The majority of school trustees were of New Zealand European ethnicity in 2006. Compared with the rest of the country, there was a lower proportion of Maori trustees in the 12 cities combined and a higher proportion of trustees from the Pacific Islands, Asian and Other ethnic groups. Whereas this may reflect the higher levels of ethnic diversity in our cities, it does not reflect the ethnic diversity of city populations. While Asian people comprised 13.9% of the population in the 12 cities, Asian trustees comprised only 1.6% of trustees. Pacific Islands people are similarly underrepresented on school boards. The situation is

changing, with the composition of school boards becoming more representative of the ethnically diverse population in our cities. The proportion of trustees that were New Zealand European declined over the period 2001 to 2006 in all our cities except North Shore and Tauranga.

Porirua and Manukau had the highest number of school trustees from ethnicities other than New Zealand European, with one in five trustees belonging to the Maori and Pacific Islands ethnic groups.

There was an equal number of males and females serving on school boards across our cities, with the exception of Porirua and Manukau schools which had slightly more female trustees than male.

Ethnicity of school board trustees (2006)

	NZ European	Maori	Pacific Islands	Asian	Other
Rodney	87.7	8.4	0.7	0.4	2.8
North Shore	88.9	6.3	1.8	1.1	1.8
Waitakere	76.8	12.1	7.4	1.0	2.7
Auckland	70.1	9.3	14.0	3.4	3.3
Manukau	57.2	18.1	18.7	2.3	3.6
Hamilton	73.8	21.3	1.6	1.4	1.9
Tauranga	83.3	14.6	1.0	1.0	0.0
Porirua	54.3	21.1	21.5	1.5	1.5
Hutt	75.5	12.7	8.8	1.5	1.5
Wellington	81.9	8.6	3.4	2.3	3.8
Christchurch	88.3	7.6	1.7	0.7	1.7
Dunedin	90.8	6.1	1.0	0.7	1.5
Total 12 cities	77.2	11.3	7.4	1.6	2.4
Rest of NZ	78.3	19.0	0.9	0.4	1.5
Total NZ	77.9	16.0	3.4	0.9	1.9

Data source: Ministry of Education 2006