
Wellington City Council

Final proposal for representation arrangements for the 2022 local elections

Submissions

On 28 October 2021 the Wellington City Council considered the submissions received on its initial proposal regarding the representation arrangements for the Council and its constituent community boards to apply for the local elections to be held on 8 October 2022.

The Council received 52 submissions on its proposal. 31 submissions were in favour of the Council's proposal. 21 submissions contained objections to various elements of the proposal, as follows:

- Five submitters said Council should have some councillors elected at-large.
- Two submitters said Council should be elected from one general ward and one Māori ward.
- Four submitters said Council should be elected under option 2 in the consultation document.
- Two submitters said Council should be elected under option 3 in the consultation document.
- Seven submitters said Council representation should meet the criteria under the Act for fair representation.
- Two submitters said there should not be more councillors for cost reasons.
- One submitter said it would be undemocratic by allowing one councillor to be elected regardless of the amount of votes he/she receives.
- One submitter said Council should review the use of the STV voting system.
- One submitter said the number of councillors elected from wards should be the same as the number elected at large.
- One submitter said Paekawakawa Southern Ward should have three councillors.
- One submitter said Wellington does not have defined communities of interest and should be elected at-large.
- One submitter said Council should use English only names for the general wards.
- Two submitters said Council should use the Māori electoral population as the base for determining the population per councillor.
- One submitter said Council should adopt a party/ward model similar to parliament.
- One submitter said Council should have more Māori ward councillors.

Final proposal

Having considered all of the objections, the Council resolved to adopt its initial proposal as the Council's final proposal.

The Council rejected the other matters raised in objections for the following reasons:

Submission Theme	Proposed Response
Council should have some councillors elected at-large.	Feedback received was supportive of having councillors elected solely from wards. The proposal provides for more effective representation than having some councillors elected at-large.
Council should be elected from one general ward and one Māori ward.	Feedback received was supportive of the current ward system. The proposal provides for more effective representation than Council being elected from one general ward.
Council should be elected under option 2 in the consultation document.	Feedback received was supportive of the current ward system and Council being elected under option 2 of the consultation document will not most effectively represent Wellington City because it would split communities of interest between wards.
Council should be elected under option 3 in the consultation document.	Feedback received was supportive of the current ward system and Council being elected under option 3 of the consultation document will not most effectively represent Wellington City because it would split communities of interest between wards.
Council representation should meet the criteria under the Act for fair representation.	Changes to the current ward structure will not most effectively represent Wellington City because it would split communities of interest between wards.
There should not be more councillors for cost reasons.	Councillor remuneration comes from a pool set by the Remuneration Authority. Increasing the number of councillors will not increase remuneration costs to the Council.
It would be undemocratic by allowing one councillor to be elected regardless of the amount of votes he/she receives.	The highest polling candidates in each ward will be elected under the STV voting system.

<p>Council should review the use of the STV voting system.</p>	<p>Council could choose to consider this ahead of the 2025 local elections.</p>
<p>The number of councillors elected from wards should be the same as the number elected at-large.</p>	<p>Council needs to have 12 councillors elected from wards to qualify for a Māori ward. If an equal number of councillors was elected at-large, then there would be 24 councillors' total. The proposal provides for more effective representation than having 24 councillors.</p>
<p>Paekawakawa Southern Ward should have three councillors.</p>	<p>Increasing the number of councillors in Paekawakawa Southern Ward to three while making no other changes would result in a variance of -20.0% for Paekawakawa Southern Ward and +18% for Takapū Northern Ward. This would not be consistent with the requirements for fair representation under the Act.</p>
<p>Wellington does not have well defined communities of interest and should be elected at-large.</p>	<p>Suburbs and collections of nearby suburbs are seen as communities of interest. Feedback received was supportive of having councillors elected solely from wards. The proposal provides for more effective representation than having some councillors elected at-large.</p>
<p>Council should use English only names for the general wards.</p>	<p>The use of dual names with te reo Māori first is consistent with the Council's naming policy.</p>
<p>Council should have a greater number of councillors.</p>	<p>The proposal provides for more effective representation than having a greatly larger number of councillors.</p>
<p>Council should use the Māori electoral population as the base for determining the population per councillor.</p>	<p>To make the population per councillor in general wards the same as in the Māori ward a total of 22 general ward councillors would be needed ($206,800 / 9,400 = 22$). The proposal provides for more effective representation than having 22 councillors. The Act does not require Māori wards to be within a 10% variance from general wards.</p>
<p>Council should adopt a party/ward model similar to parliament.</p>	<p>Currently there is no provision in the Act for this type of system.</p>

Council should have more Māori ward councillors.	The number of Māori ward councillors that Wellington City can have is set by a formula in the Act. Wellington City cannot currently have more than one Māori ward councillor.

Therefore, the final proposal is as follows:

Council Representation

It is proposed that the Council comprise 15 members elected from six wards, and the mayor. The six wards reflect the following identified communities of interest:

Ward	Communities of interest
Takapū Northern Ward	The suburbs of Ōhāriu, Tawa, Takapū Valley, Grenada North, Glenside, Grenada Village, Churton Park, Horokiwi, Paparangi, Woodridge, Johnsonville, and Newlands.
Wharangi Onslow-Western Ward	The suburbs of Mākara Beach, Mākara, Ngaio, Kaiwharawhara, Crofton Downs, Wadestown, Northland, Broadmeadows, Ngauranga, Khandallah, and Karori.
Pukehīnau Lambton Ward	The suburbs of Thorndon, Pipitea, Wellington Central, Te Aro, Oriental Bay, Kelburn, Highbury, Aro Valley, Mount Cook, and Mount Victoria.
Motukairangi Eastern Ward	The suburbs of Roseneath, Hataitai, Kilbirnie, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay, Melrose, Rongotai, Miramar, Maupuia, Karaka Bays, Seatoun, Strathmore Park, and Moa Point.
Paekawakawa Southern Ward	The suburbs of Brooklyn, Owhiro Bay, Island Bay, Southgate, Berhampore, Newtown, Vogeltown, Mornington, and Kingston.
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Ward	The Māori electoral population.

The population that each member will represent is as follows:

Ward	Population	Members	Population per member
Takapū Northern Ward	48,800	3	16,267
Wharangi Onslow-Western Ward	43,300	3	14,433
Pukehīnau Lambton Ward	44,100	3	14,700
Motukairangi Eastern Ward	37,500	3	12,500
Paekawakawa Southern Ward	33,100	2	16,550
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Ward	9,410	1	9,410
Total	216,210	15	

In accordance with *section 19V(2), Local Electoral Act 2001* the population that each member in a general ward represents must be within the range of 14,771 +/- 10% (13,293 to 16,248), unless particular community of interest considerations justify otherwise.

Representation for Takapū Northern Ward, Motukairangi Eastern Ward, and Paekawakawa Southern Ward falls outside of the stipulated range. Council considers that this is warranted because changing the ward boundaries would limit effective representation of communities of interest by dividing a community of interest between wards.

Community Board Representation

It is proposed that the following two community boards be elected:

Community Board	Area of Community
Tawa Community Board	The suburbs of Tawa, Takapū Valley and Grenada North
Mākara/Ōhāriu Community Board	The suburbs of Mākara, Mākara Beach, and Ōhāriu

The Tawa Community Board will elect six members. It will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. It will have two appointed members from the Takapū Northern Ward.

The Mākara/Ōhāriu Community Board will elect six members. It will not be subdivided for electoral purposes. It will not have any appointed members.

Appeals and objections

Any person who made a submission on the Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against the Council's decision. An appeal must relate to the matters raised in that person's submission.

Appeals must be made in writing and must be received by Council no later than 8 December 2021. Appeals are to be forwarded to:

- Postal address – PO Box 2199, Wellington 6140.
- Email – RepReview2021@wcc.govt.nz

Further information

Direct any queries regarding the Council's decision to the Deputy Electoral Officer, Jennifer Parker, 04 499 4444, jennifer.parker@wcc.govt.nz.