

14 September 2026

Horizons Regional Council

Public Notice

Right to demand a poll on electoral system

Under the Simplifying Local Government reform proposals, Central Government has indicated that elections will not be held for regional councils in 2028. However, councils must continue to meet statutory requirements under existing legislation including the Local Electoral Act 2001 until changes to representation and electoral systems and processes arising from the proposed Simplifying Local Government reform are known.

If Horizons Regional Council is required to hold an election in 2028, notice is given under section 28 of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that Horizons Regional Council will continue to use the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2028 triennial election.

Horizons Regional Council electors have the right to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used at the next two triennial general elections (2028 and 2031) for Horizons Regional Council (Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council).

The choice for local elections is between the First Past the Post (FPP) and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) electoral systems. The Council has used First Past the Post in every election to date.

To be valid, any demand for a poll must be:

- made in writing
- signed by not less than 5% of eligible electors for Horizons Regional Council. This will require a minimum of 8678 elector signatures
- Every elector who signs a demand must also set out in it their full name and the address for which they are qualified as an elector of the Horizons Regional Council
- Delivered to the Horizons Regional Council office at 11-15 Victoria Avenue, Palmerston North by 5pm Friday 11 December 2026

Should a valid demand for a poll be received by 11 December 2026, the poll will be held no later than 28 March 2027 and will have effect for the 2028 and 2031 elections. If the valid demand for a poll is received after 11 December 2026, then the poll will be held after 28 March 2027, and will have effect for the 2031 and 2034 elections.

For further information, please contact Trina Bishop, Horizons Regional Council Deputy Electoral Officer on 0508 800 800 or email elections@horizons.govt.nz



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Horizons Regional Council