



How are Hamiltonians
represented by our Council?

WHO SPEAKS FOR YOU?

SHARE YOUR VOICE.
SHAPE YOUR CITY.



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa



**WHAT DO
YOU THINK?**

**HAVE YOUR
SAY!**

YOUR COUNCIL WHO SPEAKS FOR YOU?

We're looking at how Hamiltonians are represented by our Council. Like the overall number of councillors, whether we keep East and West Wards or look at another option and whether we should introduce community boards.

We've looked at a number of options and we have an initial proposal that we think gives us fair and effective representation for all Hamiltonians. But we want to know what you think.

How to have your say

At yourcityelections.co.nz

By filling out the feedback form on page 8 and sending it to us at:

Hamilton City Council
Representation Review
Freepost 172189

Private Bag 3010
Hamilton 3240

Or, you can drop your submission form off to our Council office or libraries.

STAGE 1

YOUR FEEDBACK
UNTIL 6
OCTOBER

STAGE 2

HEARINGS
13/14
OCTOBER

STAGE 3

FINAL COUNCIL
DECISION
11 NOVEMBER

STAGE 4

PUBLIC
NOTICE

STAGE 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION APPEAL
PERIOD 17 NOVEMBER
- 17 DECEMBER

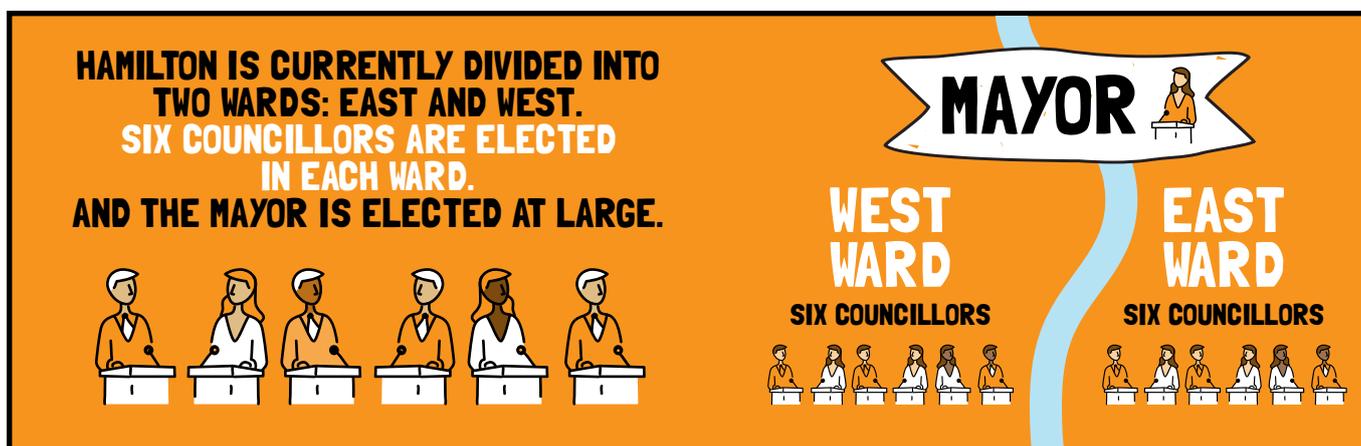
Some quick terms to help you understand our proposal:

Wards	A voting area e.g. East Ward, West Ward, Maaori Ward, Citywide Ward.
General ward(s)	Only people who are enrolled on the general roll can vote for candidates contesting a general ward seat. For example, if you're on the general roll and live on the east side of the Waikato River you vote for East Ward candidates.
Maaori ward(s)	Only people who are enrolled on the Maaori roll can vote for candidates contesting a Maaori ward seat. Council have already made the decision to introduce Maaori Wards in time for the 2022 Elections.
Maaori Citywide Ward	No ward boundaries are used for the Maaori ward (e.g. no East or West), only people who are enrolled for Maaori Ward candidates.
At large	No ward boundaries are used and everyone can vote for these candidates.
Community Boards	A small, community focused group, elected and appointed to represent and advocate for the interests of a community.
Voting system	The system we use to elect our Council. In August 2020 we voted to change from First Past the Post (FPP) and introduce Single Transferable Voting (STV). This will come into effect for the October 2022 Council elections.

OUR CURRENT COUNCIL STRUCTURE

All enrolled voters vote for the Mayor and either East Ward or West Ward candidates depending on which side of the river they live on.

In May 2021 we voted to introduce Maaori wards in time for the 2022 Council elections. This will be the first time we have dedicated Maaori representation at the Council table. We need to decide how we add these seats to our Council table.



SO, WHAT'S OUR INITIAL PROPOSAL?

We've looked at a lot of options and we have an initial proposal that adds two extra councillors to the table.



Our initial proposal is to:

- keep the current East and West general wards with six councillors elected from each ward
- the mayor elected 'at large'
- two new Maaori ward councillors to be elected citywide.

What this means:

- There are no changes to the current ward boundaries or number of councillors for those on the general roll
- Those on the Maaori electoral roll will vote for the mayor and two citywide Maaori candidates
- We have two extra councillors at the table.

Why this initial proposal?

We want to ensure all Hamiltonians are represented fairly and effectively by their Council. We believe that our initial proposal does this.

We have looked at our communities' needs and preferences, and we want to ensure that our proposal keeps councillors connected to their communities, now and in the future. We want our Council to be accessible, diverse, and provide choice for all voters.

We have a few big changes already planned, like our new way of voting (from FPP to STV) and the introduction of Maaori ward seats, so we are cautious about making many other major changes right now.

There are so many different options for how we represent our community, each with pros and cons. We've looked at each of these, and we propose:

Increasing to 14 Councillors will improve representation by providing better access to councillors for Hamiltonians.

Our city is growing quickly. Adding two more councillors now will help us keep up, and ensure we have enough councillors to do the work needed as the population grows.



A citywide Maaori ward will provide more choice for people registered on the Maaori electoral roll. This means all voters on the Maaori electorate roll can vote for two Maaori ward candidates.

Our Maaori partners have told us they prefer a citywide Maaori ward, as it would be more unifying and give Maaori greater choice.

Keeping the East and West General wards is working well for the community so we should keep it.

A key reason for councils to have multiple wards is if there is evidence of unique communities living in different parts of the city that have distinct characteristics, interests or needs.

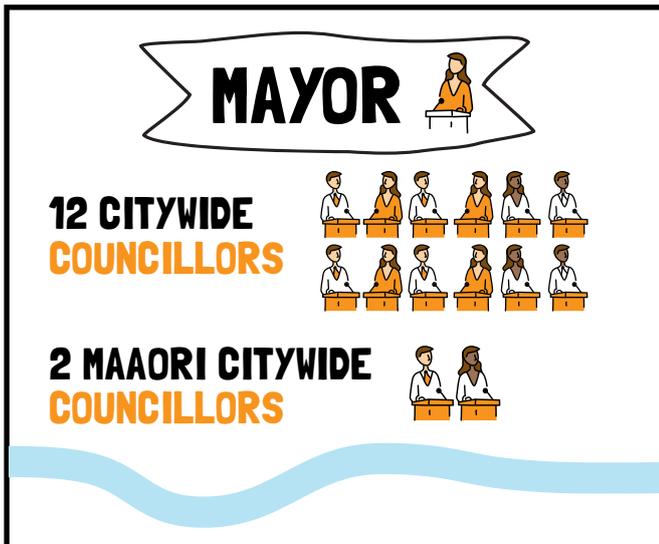
Research completed in 2018 showed that many Hamiltonians feel a sense of community to either the East or West side of the river. Keeping the wards smaller also means candidates' election campaign spend limit is lower. This can be perceived as reducing the financial barrier, and makes standing for Council more accessible for a diverse range of people.

Introducing Community Boards is unlikely to significantly improve the existing representation system for the community.

Community Boards represent areas where communities share distinct characteristics and who may be underrepresented in local governance (for example, geographically isolated communities).

The research we did in 2018 showed us that our communities are mixed and diverse right across the city. That means Community Boards are not likely to significantly improve the representation already provided by the existing ward system. So, we're not looking to introduce Community Boards at this time.

WHAT OTHER OPTIONS DID WE LOOK AT?



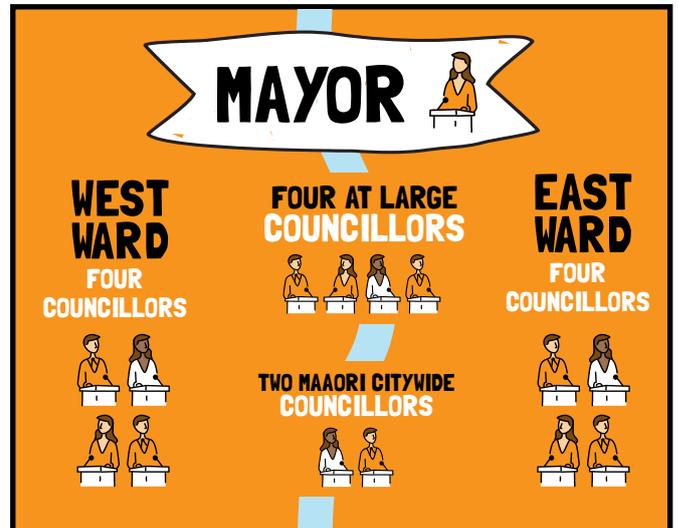
Having no ward boundaries. All councillors are elected citywide.



Introducing Community Boards that represent smaller pockets of our community.



Keeping the total number of councillors to 12 plus the mayor.



Or, introducing a mixed model.

Those on the general roll vote for the four East or West Ward councillors (depending on what side of the Waikato River the live on), the four 'at large' councillors and the mayor.

Those on the Maaori roll vote for the two Maaori citywide councillors, the four 'at large' councillors and the mayor.

But, with other key changes to how we elect our representatives like the introduction of Maaori Wards and the new STV voting system, we think our initial proposal keeps things simple and reflects our community. **What do you think?**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we reviewing our representation structure?

Councils are legally required to review their representation structure every six years to ensure our representation system remains fair and effective. We last reviewed our system in 2018.

However, in May, Council voted to introduce Maaori wards in time for the 2022 Council elections. This big change triggered the need for Council to review its representation structure again - including the overall number of councillors, the ward system and whether there is a need for community boards.

What are the main decisions to be made?

To determine the most fair and effective representation arrangements as part of a Wider Representation Review, Council must consider:

- the number of wards (if any), and their boundaries and names
- how councillors are elected; i.e. from wards, 'at large' (across the whole of the city) or a mix of both
- the number of councillors
- whether to establish community boards, and, if so, the arrangements for those boards.

In doing so, we have to make sure our arrangements are fair and effective in terms of the number of representatives per capita across the city and the community's access to them.

What does 'fair' representation mean?

Fair representation means everyone has the same degree of representation. Under the Local Electoral Act this is guided by a formula to ensure each councillor represents approximately the same number of people and that this ratio is similar between wards (within +/- 10% difference of the average population per councillor).

Under this proposal, the 12 general ward councillors will represent approximately 12,400 people each across the two East and West General wards (total general electoral population divided by 12). The two Maaori ward councillors will represent about 13,350 people each (the total Maaori electoral population divided by 2).

What does 'effective' representation mean?

Effective representation means the community has good access to councillors, can effectively participate in local government and that differences between distinct community interests and needs are appropriately recognised and represented.

It also means the arrangements support councillors to do their job well - so they are available to their community, able to attend public meetings and generally carry out their duties.

Can Council decide a different structure after consultation?

Yes, if community feedback shows preference for another arrangement of the different components of the representation system.

Some aspects (the STV voting system and introduction of Maaori wards) have already been determined through earlier processes and are not up for review now.

Does more councillors mean an increase to the councillors' salary?

No. The total councillor salary pool for a Council is based on the population that Council serves and is set by the Remuneration Authority. The total salary amount is then divided by the number of councillors. Adding two more councillors means each councillor will be paid less.

Why is Council's preference not to introduce Community Boards?

Legally, Council needs to consider whether Community Boards would improve representation for the community. Community Boards can be effective where there are distinct communities in defined locations that are underrepresented, or have particular interests that would benefit from improved representation (these are called 'communities of interest').

We did a lot of research in 2018 to identify whether such communities exist in Hamilton. While we found areas that shared some common characteristics in different parts of the city, we didn't find enough evidence of distinct communities or unmet representation need to support the establishment of community boards.

Recognising the lack of distinct communities of interest in Hamilton, and in keeping with our intent to keep things simple, Council decided not to propose introducing Community Boards.

Did Council consult on the decision to introduce Maaori wards?

Yes, we consulted in April 2021 and received 994 submissions. More than four out of five responses (81%) favoured Council introducing Maaori wards to achieve better representation.

The decision to add Maaori wards has been made and isn't being reviewed as part of this representation consultation.

Why are there only two Maaori ward seats?

Legally, the number of Maaori ward seats on Council must represent the Maaori Electoral Population (MEP) of Hamilton as a proportion of the total population.

Currently the MEP is 15.1% of the total population, which means if there are 14 councillors in total, two (or 14.3%) of them must be Maaori seats. This is the number of seats that gets us the closest to 15% of all councillor seats.

Was iwi consulted on how the Maaori wards seats should be set up?

Yes, we consulted with iwi and maataa waka and they told us one ward would be more unifying and give Maaori greater choice as each voter on the Maaori electoral roll could vote for both Maaori ward seats.



Find more answers to your questions at yourcityelections.co.nz

How to have your say



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Our initial proposal is:

- Keep the East and West Wards (divided by the Waikato River) with six councillors elected from each ward
- two citywide Maaori Ward councillors
- the mayor elected 'at large' across the whole city
- no community boards.

SUBMISSION FORM



Do you support the Council's initial proposal for representation arrangements for 2022?



Yes



No

The initial proposal is to keep the current arrangement of 12 councillors elected from two wards (East and West), the mayor elected 'at large' and the addition of two new Maaori ward councillors, also elected 'at large'.

Tell us why? Please be specific. Detail what you agree or disagree with in our proposal e.g. number of councillors.

The Council will hear verbal submissions on 13/14 October 2021.

Do you want to speak about your submission at this meeting?



Yes



No

If you answered yes, please make sure you fill in all the contact details below so we can get in touch with you to confirm your speaking time on 9 October.

About you

This section tells us a bit more about you. By capturing this information, we will be able to better understand who is, and isn't providing feedback.

Contact details

Name: _____

Organisation (if responding on behalf of): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Where do you live?

I live in Hamilton, my suburb is: _____

I live outside Hamilton city (please circle): Waipa Waikato Elsewhere in New Zealand Overseas

What is your age group? (Circle at your last birthday)

Under 16 16-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54
55-59 60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79 80+

Which ethnic group do you identify as? (Circle all that apply)

NZ European Maaori Indian Chinese Samoan British Filipino
Tongan Cook Islands Maaori South African Other





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Garden Place, Private Bag 3010 Hamilton



/HamiltonCityCouncil



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07 838 6699

hamilton.govt.nz

