



REPRESENTATION REVIEW: WARDS, BOARDS AND VOTING

ABOUT WARDS

Wards are geographic areas that candidates can stand in and be voted for to become councillors. These wards might be based on towns, general areas (like rural or urban areas), or entire districts – depending on where the main communities of interest are.

In the last election we had no wards at all – we need to establish at least one ward to sit alongside our Māori Ward in the 2022 and 2025 elections.

MĀORI WARDS

In May 2021 the Council voted to establish a Māori Ward to make sure Māori always have an elected voice and a vote at the council table. Our Māori Ward covers the entire district.

Our decision to adopt a Māori Ward isn't up for review as part of the Representation Review 2021.

CANDIDATES IN EACH WARD

Candidates standing for the Māori Ward represent Māori roll electors.

Candidates standing in the General Ward will represent General Ward voters.

However, all candidates who are elected to the Council must act in the interests of the whole district, no matter who they represent.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

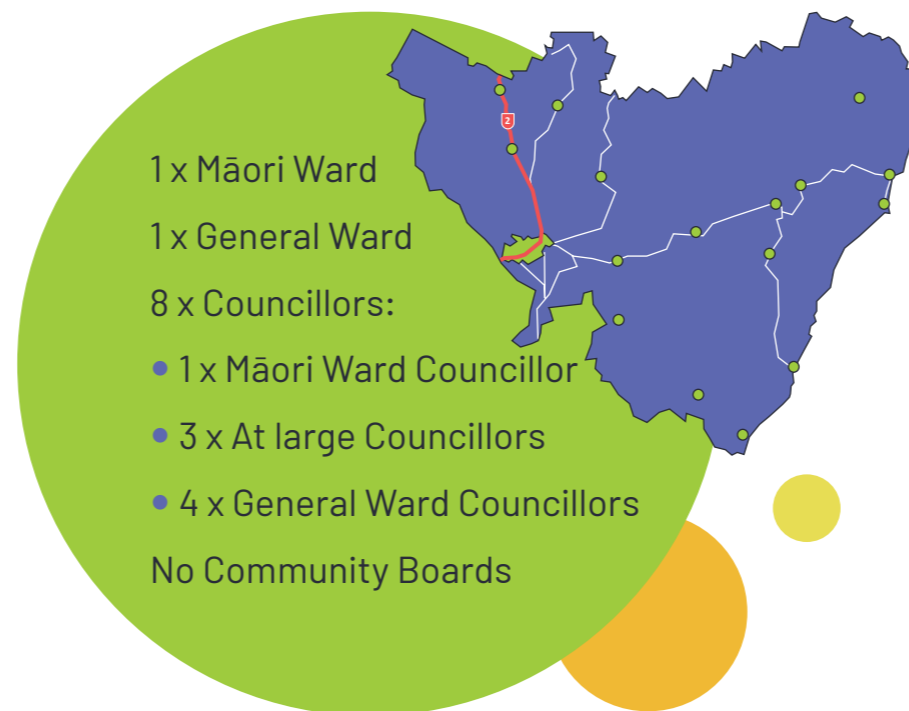
Community boards were created by the local government reforms in 1989. They carry out functions and exercise those powers delegated to them by their councils. They are useful for areas with large populations, or with complex communities with specific needs. Masterton District does not currently have any Community Boards.

WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING

We are proposing we have:

- one General Ward that covers the entire district, to sit alongside our Māori Ward that both cover the entire district
- eight councillors in total, plus the Mayor
- no Community Boards.

Here's how this would look for the 2022 election:



VOTING SPLIT

Not all electors can vote in all wards:

- People on the General Electoral Roll can't vote for the people standing in the Māori Ward.
- People on the Māori Electoral Roll can't vote for the people standing in the General Ward.
- Everyone can vote for 'at large' candidates and for the Mayor.

KEEPING THINGS FAIR

We're trying to keep the number of votes available to people on the Māori and General Electoral Rolls as close as we can. What we're proposing is highlighted in the table below, but we've included some other scenarios to help inform your feedback on our Representation Review.

COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND VOTE SPLIT							
Māori Ward councillors	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
'At large' councillors	0	1	2	3	4	5	0
General Ward councillors	5	4	4	4	4	4	11
Votes: Māori Roll elector	1	2	3	4	5	6	2
Votes: General Roll elector	5	5	6	7	8	9	11
Total councillors	6	6	7	8	9	10	13

What we're recommending ▲

NOTE: The above councillor and vote numbers do not include the Mayor (an additional vote for all electors).

How many 'at large' councillors we can have is dependent on how many Councillors we have in total.