

# Local Government Candidates Survey 2004

A survey of Local Authority election candidates in the 2004 Local Authority elections

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## Where to obtain copies

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## Foreword

I am pleased to present this report on candidates for the 2004 Local Authority elections. The report covers all local authority elections held on October 9 2004. The elections include elections that used the Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system.

This report has been published as a companion report to the *Local Authority Election Statistics 2004*, and is the third survey in this series with previous reports on candidates being produced for the 1992 and 2001 local authority elections.

This report offers valuable insights into the local government process to the general public, people with an interest in issues of local democracy, and decision-makers. The report reveals the reasons candidates stood for election, their previous political experiences and some of the characteristics of candidates such as age, gender and ethnicity. It also enables us to see correlations between these factors and a candidate's likelihood of being elected.

I would like to thank the candidates who returned their questionnaire; without your kind assistance this report would not have been possible.

Christopher Blake  
Secretary for Local Government

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## Section 1: Candidates for local authority elections

A total of 2,081 questionnaires were returned in time to be included in the results of the 2004 survey. Results presented in this section include the types of local authorities candidates stood for election on, how successful the candidates were, and if candidates had any previous involvement or experience in politics at the local government level.

### Types of local authorities in which candidates stood for election

Candidates were asked to name the elections they were standing for. Figure 1.1 compares the total number of candidates who stood for election with those who responded to the survey, for each type of election. It should be noted that candidates could stand in more than one election.

A total of 4,092 candidates stood for election in 2004. Most candidates (and respondents) stood for election to a council of a territorial authority (city or district council). More than one-half of the candidates, in each type of election, responded to the survey. A higher proportion of District Health Board (DHB) candidates responded to the survey compared with other elections, with more than 60% of DHB candidates represented in the survey.

**Figure 1.1: Candidates standing for election, respondents and non-respondents**

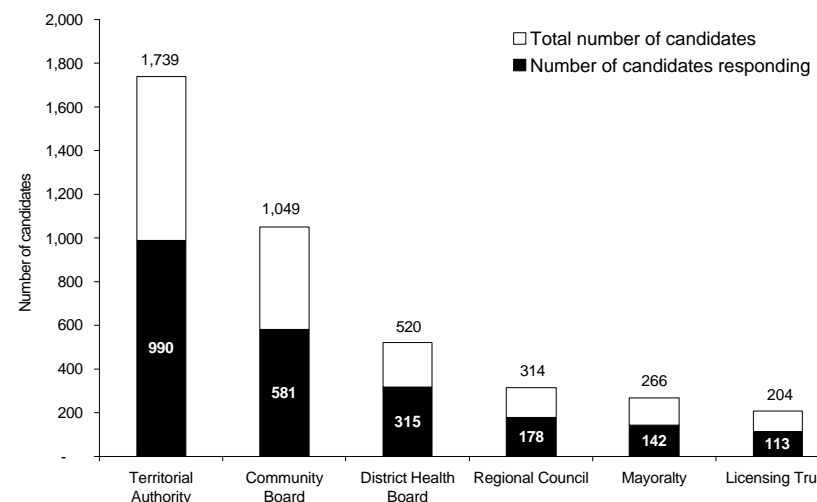


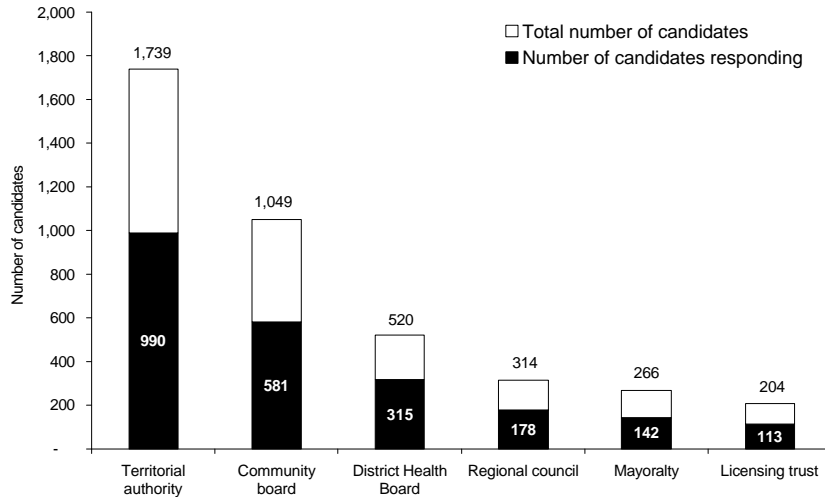
Figure 1.2 shows the total number of candidates who were elected and the numbers of survey respondents who were elected, by election type.

There were a total of 2,022 electable positions filled in local authority elections in 2004. However, not all electable positions were filled for Community Board and Licensing Trust (including Lands Trusts) elections, as in a small number of elections fewer candidates stood for election than there were positions to fill. These positions will be filled in by-elections.

Survey respondents stood for election to 1,195 of the electable positions, as some respondents were elected to more than one position.

Councillors comprise the largest number of respondents who were elected, with 514 responding to the survey. Just over one-half of the 158 candidates elected to a Licensing Trust or a Lands Trust responded to the survey. Almost two-thirds of the 136 Regional Councillors responded to the survey.

**Figure 1.2: Elected candidates by election type and survey respondents and non-respondents**



Note: \* There were fewer people elected than positions available, as some positions were unfilled at the time of the elections

Figure 1.3 offers a comparison between the number of candidates who stood for each election and the numbers elected, in each of the different election types.

**Figure 1.3: Number of candidates and elected members among survey respondents and non-respondents**

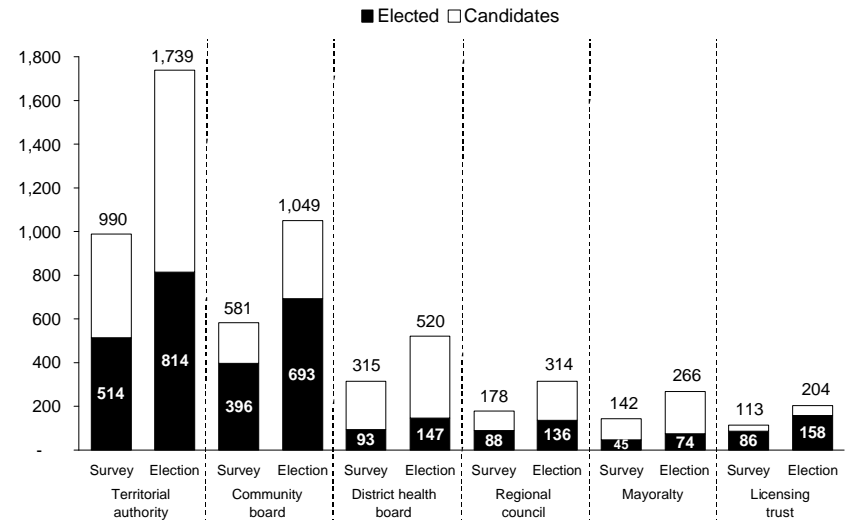


Table 1.1 shows the number and combination of elections that candidates stood for in 2004. Most candidates (89%) stood for only one election (shown in light grey, in Table 1.1). A further 10% stood for two different roles and 1% stood for three different roles (shown in dark grey, in Table 1.1). Less than 1% of candidates stood for four different roles.

**Table 1.1: Number and combination of elections candidates stood for - 2004**

Elections	N	%	Elections	N	%
TA	812	39%	CB CB	2	0%
CB	472	23%	MAYOR CB	2	0%
DHB	252	12%	LT RC	1	0%
RC	162	8%	TA TA	1	0%
MAYOR	91	4%	TA LT CB	3	0%
LT	71	3%	MAYOR TA CB	3	0%
TA CB	71	3%	TA DHB CB	2	0%
TA DHB	32	2%	TA LT DHB	2	0%
MAYOR TA	40	2%	LT CB CB	1	0%
TA LT	20	1%	LT DHB CB	1	0%
RC DHB	15	1%	TA MAYOR DHB	1	0%
LT CB	13	1%	MAYOR TA DHB CB	1	0%
DHB CB	5	0%	TA LT CB CB	1	0%
MAYOR DHB	4	0%	<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>

### *Elections where candidate not an elector*

Respondents were asked if they were standing in an election where they were not an elector, that is – not enrolled to vote in that election due to their living outside of the electorate. To be able to stand in local authority elections a candidate must be enrolled as a parliamentary elector; a candidate does not have to reside within the electorate or be a ratepayer in that electorate<sup>1</sup>.

Table 1.2 shows that most (93%) respondents were standing in an election where they were an elector. This was consistent with the 1992 and 2001 elections.

**Table 1.2: Elections where candidate was not an elector -1992, 2001 and 2004**

Election where not an elector	1992	2001	2004
None	92%	92.4%	92.8%
Territorial authority	5%	3.8%	4.2%
Community board	1%	1.0%	1.9%
Regional council	<1%	0.7%	0.8%
District health board	.	2.2%	0.4%
Licensing trust	N/A	0.1%	0.1%
Mayoralty	N/A	0.1%	0.0%

*Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%*

Of the 8% of respondents who were not residing in the electorate for which they were standing, just over 4% were standing for a territorial authority, and 2% were standing for a community board.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Local Electoral Act 2001

## Section 2: Experience of Candidates

*This section looks at the previous experience of respondents and their involvement in the wider community.*

### Previous local authority experience

Respondents were asked if they had previously stood as a candidate in a local authority election, including election to local authorities that no longer exist (eg. pest destruction boards, county councils). Almost two in every three respondents (62%) indicated they had previously stood for election. This is compared with 55% of respondents in both the 1992 and 2001 surveys.

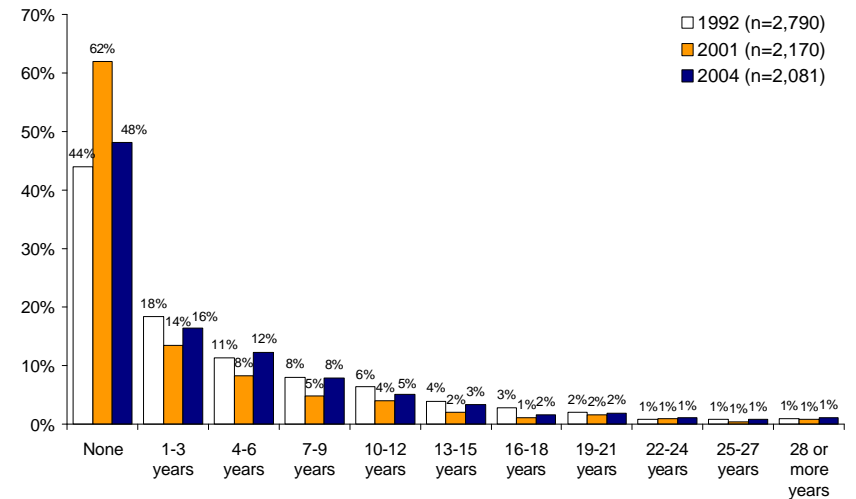
Of the 1,298 respondents who had previously stood for election to a local authority, almost three-quarters (74%) were sitting members of a local authority going into the 2004 elections. Of these 948 respondents, most (92%) were seeking re-election to the authority of which they were currently a member. The remaining 8% of sitting members were seeking election to an authority other than the one they were currently a member of.

### Length of service

Candidates were asked how many years they had spent as a member of a local authority, including local authorities that no longer exist (such as pest destruction boards and county councils).

Almost one-half of respondents (48%) had no previous local authority experience, at least as an elected member. This figure was down from the 2001 survey (62% in 2001).

**Figure 2.1: Length of service – 1992, 2001 and 2004**



The average length of service, including respondents with no local authority experience, was 4.6 years in 2004 compared with 3.3 years in 2001, and 4.9 years in 1992. The average, excluding respondents with no local authority experience, was 8.8 years in 2004 compared with 8.6 years in 2001 and 8.7 in 1992. The longest length of service recorded by a respondent in 2004 was 45 years experience. However, as Figure 2.1 shows, few respondents had served on local authorities for 28 years or more.

### Previous political involvement

Candidates were asked to name their previous political involvement, other than at local authority level. Almost one-half of respondents (49%) felt they had no prior political involvement, other than possibly at the local authority level. This compares with 54% in 2001.

**Table 2.3: Main areas of political involvement - 2004**

Previous political involvement	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No previous experience	416	46%	596	51%	1,012	49%
Central government politics	205	23%	201	17%	406	20%
Local issue politics	115	13%	141	12%	256	12%
Business association	93	10%	136	12%	229	11%
Trade unions	104	11%	113	10%	217	10%
Lobby groups	100	11%	84	7%	184	9%
Student politics	47	5%	55	5%	102	5%
Board of Trustees	17	2%	48	4%	65	3%
Other national political involvement	20	2%	13	1%	33	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

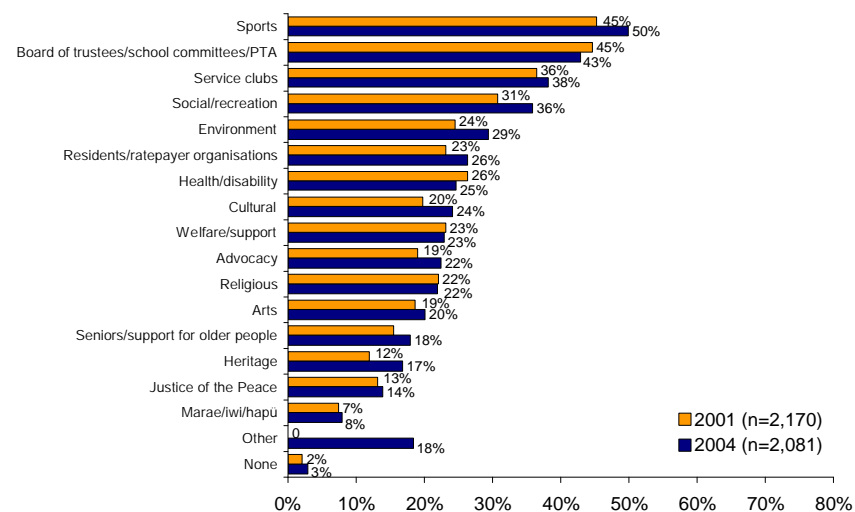
The most common areas of political involvement for elected candidates in 2004 were *central government politics* (17%); *local issue politics* (12%); and *business association* (12%).

The most common areas of political involvement for candidates who were not elected were *central government politics* (23%); and *local issue politics* (13%).

### Community involvement

Candidates were asked to name their main areas of involvement in the community (excluding involvement in political organisations, such as political parties). Respondents were given a list of 16 options. The results indicate a wide range of community involvement (Figure 2.2).

**Figure 2.2: Main areas of community involvement – 2001 and 2004**



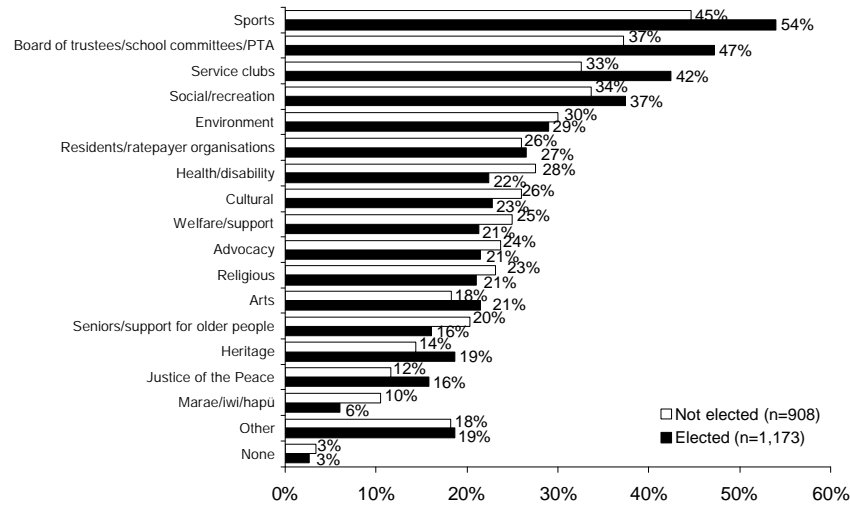
Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Almost all respondents reported some involvement in their community, with just 3% not mentioning any form of involvement. The most frequently mentioned areas were *sports* (50%); *Board of Trustees* (43%); and *service clubs* (38%).

The candidates who were elected were more likely to say they were involved in *sports* (54%), *Board of Trustees* (47%) and *service clubs* (42%) compared with those who were not elected.

Respondents who were not elected were more likely to mention being involved in *health/disability* (28%), or *welfare/support* (25%), compared with elected candidates. These candidates were also more likely to say they were involved with *marae/iwi/hapū* (10% compared with 6% of elected respondents).

**Figure 2.3: Main areas of community involvement, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

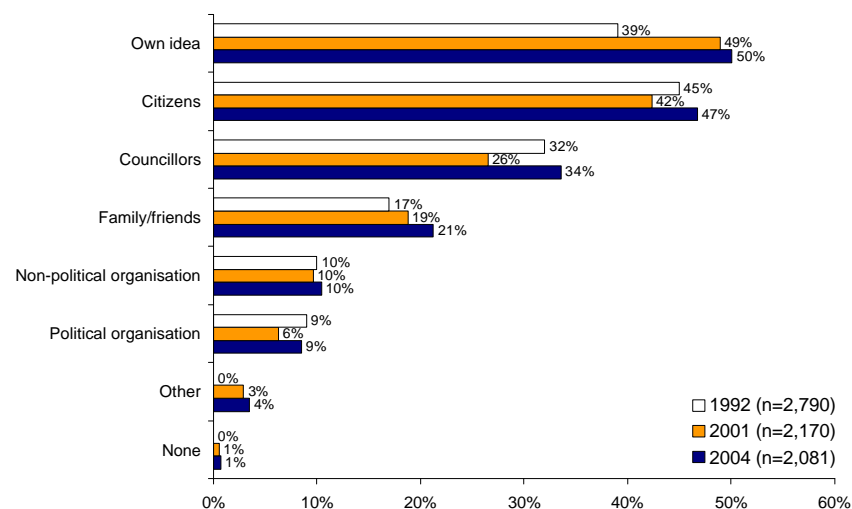
## Section 3: Candidates' reasons for standing for election

This section examines the reasons candidates gave as to why they chose to stand for election to local authorities.

### Decision to stand for election

Candidates were asked whose idea it was for them to stand for election. They were able to select any or all of the six options provided. One-half of respondents (50%) said it was their *own idea to stand*. Almost one-half of respondents (47%) said they were *asked by interested citizens*. The reasons given by respondents in 2004 were relatively similar to those given by respondents in the 1992 and, in particular, the 2001 survey.

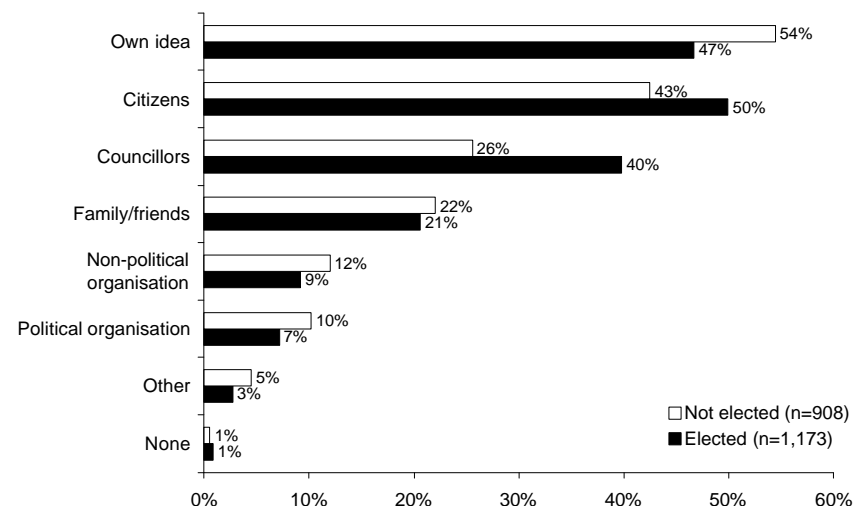
**Figure 3.1: By whom candidates were asked to stand for election– 1992, 2001 and 2004**



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Candidates who were not elected were most likely to say it was their *own idea to stand* (54%). Candidates who were elected were most likely (50%) to say they were *asked by interested citizens* to stand. A similar proportion of elected candidates also said that it was their *own idea* to stand (47%).

**Figure 3.2: By whom candidates were asked to stand for election, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2004**



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

### Main reasons for standing for election

Respondents were asked to rate the three main reasons for standing for election, from the eight options provided. They were also asked to select as many options as they felt applied.

The main reason given by respondents for standing for election was a *desire to serve the community* (67%). An *interest in Local Government* (47%) was the second most common reason given.

Respondents were more divided as to the other options, with around one-third saying they had a *special skill or qualification to offer* (34%) and that they felt they *represented a neighbourhood or sector* of their community (31%). Around one-quarter of respondents mentioned their *dissatisfaction with the way things are run* (26%), and having a *specific local issue* (24%).

**Table 3.1: Main reasons for standing for election – 2004**

Three main reasons for standing	Total	
	N	%
Desire to serve the community	1393	67%
Interest in Local Government	981	47%
Special skill/ qualification to offer	707	34%
Represent neighbourhood/ sector	646	31%
Dissatisfaction with the way things are run	539	26%
Specific local issue(s)	493	24%
Gain political experience	151	7%
Provide income	120	6%
Other	88	4%
None	341	16%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

When asked to select all of the reasons for standing for election, most respondents mentioned a *desire to serve the community* (81%), and an *interest in Local Government* (70%). More than one-half of respondents also mentioned that they had a *special skill/qualification to offer* (52%). Those who were elected were more likely to stand for election due to a *specific local issue* (23%), compared with those who were not elected (14%).

Those who were not elected were more likely to state their *dissatisfaction with the way things are run* (47%) as a reason to stand, compared with those who were elected (30%).

**Table 3.2: Reasons for standing for election, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2004**

Reasons for standing	Elected		Not elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Desire to serve the community	724	79%	957	82%	1,681	81%
Interest in Local Government	609	67%	852	73%	1,461	70%
Special skill/ qualification to offer	491	54%	596	51%	1,087	52%
Represent neighbourhood/ sector	400	44%	567	49%	967	46%
Dissatisfaction with the way things are run	432	47%	346	30%	778	37%
Specific local issue(s)	132	14%	268	23%	400	19%
Gain political experience	201	22%	173	15%	374	18%
Provide income	165	18%	161	14%	326	16%
Other	67	7%	67	6%	134	6%
None	101	11%	123	11%	224	11%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

## Section 4: Changes to the electoral system

Respondents were asked to note any recent changes in the local authority electoral system that they were aware of. They were also asked to list any advantages or disadvantages of these changes<sup>2</sup>. The main themes are identified and summarised below. Samples of comments relating to the perceived advantages and/or disadvantages are given to better illustrate the issues raised by respondents.

Note – the number of comments given does not necessarily reflect the frequency of the comments for that particular topic, but is more a reflection of the diversity of issues raised by respondents.

When asked to note any recent changes to the electoral system, most respondents (62%) noted changes to the electoral system, notably, the introduction of the *Single Transferable Voting* (STV) electoral system.

The next most commonly cited change was to *authority structures*, such as boundary or ward alterations, and/or changes to community boards.

Almost one-fifth (18%) *did not answer* this question, and a further 4% felt there were *no changes*.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first time these questions have been asked.

**Table 4.1: Recent changes to the electoral system - 2004**

Recent changes to electoral system	Total	
	N	%
Electoral system - STV	1,288	62%
Authority structure		
- boundary changes/ward changes for TLAs	133	6%
- wards at large/ changes to DHBs/ rural communities	132	6%
- Community Board changes	61	3%
Local Electoral Act		
- representation	171	8%
- Local Electoral Act (LEA)	94	5%
- citizenship issues	39	2%
Local Government Act (LGA)	149	7%
Election processing	74	4%
No changes	76	4%
Changes, not specified	51	2%
Did not answer	369	18%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

### **Electoral System – STV**

Most respondents (62%) mentioned changes to the electoral system, in particular, the introduction of STV. However, candidates were divided as to the impact of STV, and whether STV was beneficial or not. In particular, some candidates thought STV more representative, while others thought it was less representative. The confusion is largely as to whether STV allows better or less representation for rural areas, and for Māori.

The main advantages of STV were that it is seen to offer fairer representation, be more democratic/ representative, and that no votes are wasted.

The main disadvantages of STV were that it is seen to be a potentially confusing system for voters, offer inadequate representation for sectors of the community - particularly rural representation - although these comments largely relate to the 'at large' elections, and DHBs in particular.

Other perceived disadvantages mentioned by respondents were that the results favour parties; it is hard for the candidate to determine the size of their mandate; and is undemocratic as there is no way to calculate or verify the election result without a computer. Also, respondents were concerned that there was not enough voter education prior to the election.

Some respondents felt that STV was more democratic and representative, but that having two electoral systems on the one voting document would be confusing, or that STV itself was confusing.

### **Advantages**

- ⊕ *Personally like STV system. Representative of voters' choices.*
- ⊕ *Gives a better indication of what the majority want.*
- ⊕ *STV - fairer representation. Public actually get to vote for whom they want not who they are limited to, as in FPP.*
- ⊕ *STV should lead to more representative board, but could confuse voters with dual system operating. New wards very large.*
- ⊕ *STV ensures a majority vote not the scandal of a minority winner.*
- ⊕ *STV no votes are wasted. But change in system will cause confusion in electorate meanwhile.*
- ⊕ *STV is great - gives more value to your vote, most popular candidate wins.*

### **Disadvantages**

- ⊗ *Northland DHB - STV voting without wards is a debacle - subsequent appointees are not representative.*
- ⊗ *I do not believe STV is fair, as a candidate never knows how much support he got.*
- ⊗ *Disadvantage - rural candidates have a small voter base as compared to urban. People are confused by it. People do not know the candidates they need to vote for.*
- ⊗ *With no wards rural areas may struggle to get adequate representation.*
- ⊗ *Confusion for some, where there is dual voting systems ie: the elderly.*
- ⊗ *Not enough info about STV - nothing locally from Internal Affairs at this point.*
- ⊗ *STV complicated counting system reliant on IT software - also gives the minority better odds over the majority.*
- ⊗ *They will favour parties - disadvantage for community board [elections].*
- ⊗ *I see no advantage at all in STV system. In fact, I believe it paves the way for people to get in who don't deserve to. The votes should stay only with the person who gets them, period.*
- ⊗ *Introduction of STV. Turn off for voters. Very low turn out to date. Many have told me simply not voted as too hard to rank health candidates.*
- ⊗ *STV voting for health boards. Do not think STV is a helpful system for health board voting as most candidates are not well known - ranking is purely arbitrary.*
- ⊗ *Meek's system that only computers can work out. Prevents population understanding how the votes are computed. There are ways to fool the system by tactical voting no 2 or 1,3,5 etc.*
- ⊗ *STV and total confusion over form function and accountability in capacity to positively verify results. A vote of no confidence,*

perhaps? A perversion of basic human rights (principles of democracy) because candidate is entitled to know by definitive hard numbers of the level of community acceptance or rejection of the things he says and stands for. STV by its very nature will stifle true democracy! And then the persons elected will be the least offensive to the greatest number of voters. Thereby killing off any attempts to change the status quo.

### Neutral/Mixed

- ⊖ Advantages: gives local authorities a choice of the most appropriate election system. Gives significant minorities fair representation on their Council. Disadvantages: having another electoral system introduces added complexity and potential confusion.
- ⊖ Change in the voting system. Good, as some people are candidates for more than one office so votes for them aren't wasted, but so far there hasn't been enough in the media to explain how the system works (transferring votes until the right number of positions are filled). There only seems to be information on ranking candidates.
- ⊖ Confusing, but essential to give certain community people a chance, particularly STV.
- ⊖ STV okay but only with a small number of candidates - we have 36 on DHB List - this is ridiculous.
- ⊖ STV could possibly allow more minority groups to obtain representation. However, could disadvantage more rural communities.
- ⊖ 'At large' voting disadvantageous to rural constituents, but arguably fairer overall. DHB - return to non-market driven health provision: close to where it should be. STV immensely better voting system than FPP and better still than MMP.
- ⊖ Advantages: no votes wasted. Disadvantages: harder to understand for electors - may be frustrated and give up.

- ⊖ Advantages: politicians claim STV fairer for minority groups. Yet to be seen whether it actually changes the outcome for DHBs. Disadvantages: lose the TLA separate lists and could lead to less fair distribution of places.
- ⊖ Advantage on a small scale ie: up to 10 candidates, beyond that it becomes unwieldy.
- ⊖ Ensures candidates elected have a real mandate and don't get voted in by 1 or 2 votes. Changes to DHBs going district-wide will result in less representation of smaller communities, also makes it an onerous task rating candidates when there are 40 standing. Really, DHBs could have had STV whilst retaining a ward-based structure.
- ⊖ Advantages: greater likelihood of getting more Maori/other ethnicity candidates elected with STV. Probably a far fairer system. Disadvantages: more complicated for electors to understand.
- ⊖ If you refer to STV, then its use for DHBs has been disadvantageous - large number of candidates. May work better for [small number of candidates] eg: position of mayor.
- ⊖ Advantages of STV greater in smaller, urban area where easier for electors to find out/know candidates. Disadvantages: in big rural areas where concentration of urban votes could swing votes to urban candidates.
- ⊖ STV probably a better indication of voter intent, but poorly promoted and presented ie: same sheet as FPP, electors don't move easily between tick and 1. Besides, there's too much to read. Many people don't read well, therefore, don't understand instructions.
- ⊖ Advantages: STV a better overall selection process to identify elector preferences. Disadvantages: pre-election advertising has not properly prepared the voter in the methodology for STV. More prone to voter confusion.
- ⊖ Possible better spread of community representation. Disadvantages: 1. Cost of lobbying across wide and diverse communities. 2. Communities don't seem to understand the

*process. 3. Candidates with key skills and experience may miss out this time round. 4. Print/radio are rife with package deals to promote candidates at enormous costs*

- ⊖ *At least we could choose if any change was made and it wasn't forced upon us. So we can have a mixture of methods and not an across the board forced change. Some systems suit different needs.*

### **Authority structure**

Around 15% of respondents commented about changes to the structure of their local authority. Some of the comments concerned the move to 'at large' voting, dissolution of the community boards, or the reduction in the number of wards and/or elected representatives.

Opinion is divided as to the advantages of ward amalgamations and/or the move to 'at large' voting. Some respondents see advantages in councillors not being concerned with just their voters/ward, and taking a more cohesive view. Other perceived advantages are that smaller councils are less divisive and more decisive.

Other respondents see disadvantages in smaller wards, particularly in the increased cost of campaigning for election, and what they see as the dilution of representation or the disenfranchisement of certain sectors of the community, particularly for rural and lower socio-economic areas. Some respondents mentioned greater electioneering costs.

### **Advantages**

- ⊕ *Changes in ward electoral boundaries, with reduced numbers on community boards and wards = reduced costs*
- ⊕ *Tauranga City Council moved from ward to at large system and reduced the size of the council. It is more representative of the entire region and hopefully a smaller council will mean more intelligent governance.*

- ⊕ *From all ward voting to a combination of ward and at large. Should be all at large so that all candidates are viewed and judged equally.*
- ⊕ *Wards - means if elected you represent the area where you live or have your business, however, once on the council you have to make decisions affecting the whole city - ie: on behalf of people who had no opportunity to vote for you.*
- ⊕ *District has combination of ward and district-wide representation. Should be total district wide to get better and more cohesive district.*
- ⊕ *New ward structure and reduction of council size. Quality over quantity.*
- ⊕ *Reduction from 24 councillors to 12 and mayor. The joining of 2 wards eg: Burwood/ Pegasus now one ward. More accountability.*
- ⊕ *Far North District Council. Proposal to abolish community boards. The 2 community boards, Kaikohe and Hokianga, will merge and work well together embracing each other's issues - tourism and to further economic development.*
- ⊕ *Some boundary restructuring. Resizing of community boards/ council representation. Necessary to meet needs of our growing communities in this city.*
- ⊕ *Community board members being able to vote on some council committees. Major advantage - will maybe stop fence sitters stopping progress.*
- ⊕ *Reduced number of councillors from 10 to only 6 now for Waitomo Council. 9,400 people, an absurd number [10] of councillors and mayor. Compared to Hamilton 129,000 folk and 14 councillors.*
- ⊕ *Reduced number of councillors. Good. Need to attract "board" type people. Leave minor matters to community boards.*

## Disadvantages

- ⊗ *Disadvantage: removal of wards - especially for Rodney as the population differential between North Shore City and Waitakere City means we will be lucky to have a candidate from Rodney elected.*
- ⊗ *Ward system is good because you represent and are known by the ward region.*
- ⊗ *The number of elected members has been reduced from 10 down to 6, a community board has been established and ward boundaries have changed. Reduced number could be less diverse range of candidates. Community board could be very successful if handled well.*
- ⊗ *Council slashed to 10 members from 13. 4 wards now 3 only one elected ward instead of 3 or 4. 7 seats now elected at large. Very disappointing as the community by referenda wished to remain with wards.*
- ⊗ *Less representatives on Council, so less ratepayer ordinary representatives. More business/chamber of commerce representation. We need more representation, not less.*
- ⊗ *The move to a single ward system - disaster for a unitary authority like Gisborne with the voting majority in the city.*
- ⊗ *The local body commission [Local Government Commission] has ruled against having a specific Eketahuna ward district councillor, which has not gone down well in Eketahuna. Gravely disenfranchises Eketahuna residents - (over an hours journey to Dannevirke) as we are a small, rurally isolated area with a very distinct and different character to the area we have now been forced to amalgamate with (ie Woodville and Pahiatua).*
- ⊗ *LG Commission making significant changes to numbers and wards for some councils. LG Commission appears to be subverting democratic processes for membership and ward boundary reviews.*

- ⊗ *Change in allocation of wards. Initially Horowhenua had 3 wards with 4 candidates each. These days Levin has five ward members and the three remaining wards have a total of 5 representatives to out vote the remaining councillors on all issues.*
- ⊗ *Fewer councillors= less diversity, less new blood and more polarisation perhaps so negative.*
- ⊗ *Can't be on both council and community board. Change of boundaries. Change in number of positions. Smaller number of elected representatives means less democracy for the public.*
- ⊗ *The Dunedin City Council ward boundaries were recently changed. The ward system is not much improved and would be better abolished and replaced with community boards where desired by local communities.*
- ⊗ *Christchurch reduction of councillors and community board numbers. Ward now twice the size. Going to be very difficult for councillors to adapt to the new structure. We need council and community board run by elected members not by staff. Christchurch new wards now consist of one former lower socio-economic [area] with low voter [turnout] and one of the more affluent areas with higher voter turnout. So that in the Shirley/Papanui area more voters are from Papanui making poorer representation from the Shirley area of this new ward of Shirley/Papanui.*
- ⊗ *Reduction of funding for community boards their funds going towards councillors' remuneration. I believe this move is detrimental to small communities and to the empowerment of communities. It reduces the ability of our community to have its views heard. We have only 1 councillor out of 12. All other areas have at least 2. Now we cannot even offer decent funding for representing their community.*
- ⊗ *Changes in balance of representation. Changes in ward boundaries. Representation based on population solely ignores relative rating values and demands.*

- ⊗ *Switch to mix of at large and ward. 7+ 3 ward. (1 per ward). The one representative per 3 wards is silly when it comes to people wanting to stand - only one chance to get in.*
- ⊗ *The Local Government Commission reduced the Opotiki District Council from 10 to 6. A big mistake, the disadvantage is that 6 councillors will not be truly representative and their workload will be approaching that of fulltime positions.*
- ⊗ *Changes of ward councillors by LGNZ [Local Government Commission]. Disadvantage: rural area representation by population rather than area. People change existing representation not aware of isolation.*
- ⊗ *Boundary changes. Reduction in representation - council and ward. Lack of representation. Too much work for the reduced numbers. Not representative of the community.*
- ⊗ *Reduction of elected members from 14 to 10 – disapprove. To carry out councillor duties conscientiously called for a considerable commitment - to share committee duties between 10 rather than 14 will inevitably mean an even more rigorous schedule for conscientious members. It won't make less dedicated members anymore effective, but will probably pass more power for decision making to staff.*
- ⊗ *Reduction in number of councillors from 24 to 12 and community boards 36 to 30. Reduction in councillors does not ensure communities of interest are fairly represented. Object to Local Government Commission telling us how many councillors we have. The citizens of the city should decide this by way of referendum.*
- ⊗ *LGC interfering with decisions made by councils and consulted on with the community. Drastic. In some large areas no representation at all because of population base only.*

### **Neutral/Mixed**

- ⊖ *More representative of local community. Disadvantage - ward too large, having 4 representatives. Candidates living well outside ward are elected because are well known.*
- ⊖ *Waitomo has amalgamated wards. Reduced number of councillors from 11 to 6. More responsibility for councillors - maybe more work as well.*
- ⊖ *Better representation, but more difficult campaign and much more costly.*
- ⊖ *Major restructuring of ward boundaries in Christchurch. Easier decision-making. Disadvantages - elected members will find it difficult to remain connected to their constituency.*
- ⊖ *Changed to ward system. The disadvantage is while one is elected by a ward we do the work for the whole area plus people in the other wards want to vote for me and can't.*
- ⊖ *Local Govt Commission change to Christchurch Council and electorate structure. Reduction in councillor numbers is good, but not if they straightaway double their salaries! I find the removal of the boundary between the 2 parts of the ward very debilitating for low budget candidates. Everyone is spending twice as much to cover twice the area from before. It would be better to have an even number of community board candidates to split between the 2 areas so 1 councillor and 2 or 3 community board members represent 1 area. I would lobby for a return of the boundary. It also means you continue to represent your own neighbourhood and interests which predisposes increased attention to that area.*
- ⊖ *Representation review - 2 less councillors. Boundary changes for wards (to the detriment of some rural communities). Advantages: less councillors is a good decision. Boundary changes have disadvantaged the rural voice. Combining 2 communities divided by a mountain is a bad decision. There are no communities of interest, LGC did not listen!*

- ⊖ *LGC decisions on number of wards and number of councillors. LGC running a particular political agenda - which is not necessarily wrong, but often takes no account of local situations.*
- ⊖ *Boundary changes. Decrease in ward councillors. Decrease in councillor numbers. Advantages are cost savings and fair distribution of population per councillor. Disadvantages are: Increase responsibility for councillors, may lead to poor decision making, should increase [number of] councillors for low social economic sectors and decrease [number of councillors] for middle class areas.*
- ⊖ *Ward boundaries. Reduction in councillor numbers. Ward boundaries = equal representation. Reduction in councillors = not a good thing without community boards.*
- ⊖ *Reduction in number of councillors. Change to elected community board. Change to boundaries of wards. Reduction in number of ward councillors. District councillors good. Elected community board good - better representation. Boundary changes are confusing to voters.*
- ⊖ *Change of community boards this election - size reduced from 12 to 5 people. Coverage by ward. Disadvantages - far too large an area to fairly represented by so few. Advantage - community board member will now become a member of council committees, which should allow for community opinions.*
- ⊖ *Representation review. Worked out well for Coromandel ward. Not so well for Eastern seaboard. Representation is now hit-and-miss for them.*
- ⊖ *Reduction of number of city councillors various cities. Basically sound, but in Christchurch a bit heavy.*

### **Local Electoral Act (LEA)**

Respondents mentioned several changes to the Local Electoral Act (2001). There were mixed views on the changes to candidate eligibility, in particular, that candidates are now required to be New Zealand citizens.

Other issues noted by respondents were the introduction or ability to introduce Māori constituencies/ wards, the ability or inability to stand for multiple elections, and requirements about authorisation of election advertisements, and declaration of election expenses.

### **Advantages**

- ⊕ *NZ citizenship - good move.*
- ⊗ *Have to be a NZ citizen. More knowledge of the way things are done here.*
- ⊕ *Maori seats - better tangata whenua representation but possibility of councillor getting in on few votes if poor turnout in Maori electorate.*
- ⊕ *Requirements regarding promotion and accounting for expenses. Accounting for expenses - fair too. Shows up spending disparities etc. Also who authorised by - good for transparency, but they can get around those things.*
- ⊕ *Can only take a higher office if elected to 2 positions. It is good that only one person holds one position.*
- ⊕ *Cannot stand for both council and regional council. It is appropriate that one cannot be elected to both local council and regional council at the same time - conflict of interest.*
- ⊕ *Prohibiting successful candidates holding elected council and community board seats. Great advantage - allows fuller representation on community boards.*
- ⊕ *Nominee not able to stand for ward and community board at same time. Advantage: as long as there are people in the community prepared to stand, it gives a wider representation.*
- ⊕ *Random order on voting paper. Random order of candidates is great idea.*
- ⊕ *Dual candidate for mayoralty and ward just reinstated on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Experienced politicians are not totally lost to a community as was possible without the dual concept.*

### Disadvantages

- ⊗ *Difficulty with Maori wards is that local Maori want Iwi wards as Maori from outside Wanganui could take a seat on council and therefore not represent [local] Iwi issues.*
- ⊗ *New ward boundaries to meet + or - 10% law. Provision for Maori representation. Not sure I agree with compulsory provisions for Maori representation.*
- ⊗ *Amendment stopped non-NZ citizens from being elected members. Thus taxation without representation.*
- ⊗ *Declaration of campaign expenses. Limit of campaign expenditure. Expenses - little practical value. Very unlikely that anyone would be taken to account. Encourages people to form other groups/ organisations, which then campaign on the candidates' behalf. Limits on expenditure are good and working as well.*
- ⊗ *NZ citizenship. May eliminate good candidates.*
- ⊗ *Banned non-NZ citizens. Eastbourne lost a good board member - so see disadvantage in this particular case.*
- ⊗ *Dual role eg: councillor/ community board not allowed. Why can a member of parliament stand for a council position?*
- ⊗ *Change back to allow mayoral candidates to stand for council as well. Mayoral candidates when the elected to council tend to try to undermine mayor and council.*
- ⊗ *Now unable to co-opt members to a community board as in the past. This is if there is a short fall on nominated persons. I think it was okay in the past to be able to co-opt a member after nominations close to make a full board. To have a by- election is extra costs to the ratepayer at community board-level.*

### Neutral/Mixed

- ⊖ *Re: citizenship - fair enough, same rules apply to MP's. However, I know someone who has lived in NZ for 20 years and lived locally for the same, PR's wanted to stand as an independent candidate and couldn't from 2004. That did seem most unfortunate.*
- ⊖ *Maori constituencies for Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Supposed to ensure tangata whenua representation, however Maoris returned unopposed in general constituencies. Disquiet at special treatment for one racial group.*
- ⊖ *Must be a NZ citizen. Disadvantage: is [that] it limits representation from minor ethnic groups. Advantage: is having candidates committed to NZ and its communities - in theory.*
- ⊖ *Maori seats in a few councils. Reduction in councillors in some authorities. Oppose representation on race, it should be based on general election. Some councils, such as Christchurch and Manukau, clearly had too many councillors. However, it is a fine line as to an adequate number of representatives.*
- ⊖ *Reduction in councillors and wards. Smaller number of councillor's, quicker not necessarily better decisions. Wards - less community involvement.*
- ⊗ *Some councils have opted for lesser numbers on total representation. Special Maori seats. The lesser numbers can be more efficient. However, geographically hard for representatives to cover area especially with remuneration being so pitiful. Do not believe in special seats for Maori. They should stand in a community with their supporters doing their work.*
- ⊗ *Candidates may stand for council or community boards not both as before. The Remuneration [Authority] has set council and mayoral salaries. Candidates need an election to choose council or board, makes more opportunity for others to serve. The councillor's salaries are set too low in most small and medium authorities. They are a disincentive to attracting good candidates.*

## **Election processing**

Respondents mentioned several changes relating to how elections are processed, including postal voting, and the order in which candidates appear on the voting document.

Many respondents feel that postal voting is beneficial. However, there is a lack of consensus as to the ideal length of the voting period, with some respondents believing that three weeks is too long, and others who believe that it is just right.

Many respondents believe that there is an advantage with a candidate being listed at the top of the voting document, with some believing that listing candidates by random-order<sup>3</sup> or pseudo-random order<sup>4</sup> on the voting document is a fairer system.

### **Advantages**

- ⊕ *Voting paper in random order rather than alphabetical. Random order of candidates appears to be a lot fairer to me.*
- ⊕ *Postal voting. Postal maybe a better turnout.*
- ⊕ *Randomisation of ballot order. Don't have to change my name to Aaron Aardvark.*
- ⊕ *Postal voting. No disadvantages. Time to study candidate profiles. Family discussion, voting at home.*
- ⊕ *Postal voting. May induce a few more to exercise their right.*
- ⊕ *Having all the voting on one paper eg: mayor, councillors, community boards, ARC, DHB. Excellent.*
- ⊕ *There is less involvement in the counting of votes by vested interest council employees. I believe all elections, both general*

<sup>3</sup> Random-order - surname order is randomly selected and all voting documents have a different order.

<sup>4</sup> Pseudo-random order (surname order is randomly selected and all voting documents have the same random order.

*and local body, should be run by the Justice Department and not by corrupt councils.*

- ⊕ *Random order on voting paper. Random order of candidates is great idea.*
- ⊕ *Voting papers random. Postal voting. Random papers give equal opportunity alphabetically. Postal voting [better] captures the younger voter.*

### **Disadvantages**

- ⊗ *Authorisation of advertising material. More rules and regulations.*
- ⊗ *Election papers able to contain names in any order. I personally believe that voting should be FPP and that names should be in true alphabetical order.*
- ⊗ *Random listing another disaster. Voting by post should be on a written request ie: by choice otherwise at the ballot box on polling day. Postal voting period is far too long, reduce from 3 weeks to 10 days maximum.*
- ⊗ *Postal votes. Postal voting is convenient, but is it genuine and not interfered with by members of the household. Postal voting covers a period of 3 weeks. Surely too long! If a person can't find 5 minutes to vote at home why allow 3 long weeks?*
- ⊗ *Postal balloting. Hard to scrutineer.*
- ⊗ *Not alphabetical in BOP. Disadvantage: many people [35] standing in BOP. If you're not in the first 15 names less likely to get voted in.*
- ⊗ *I assume you mean outside of the fact that postal voting is not even mentioned in the Electoral Act. This Government extended the time the postal voting paper is in the voters' house to 3 weeks. No sense of urgency now.*

### Neutral/Mixed

- ⊖ *Early processing. Random/alphabetical listing. Advantages: quicker results. Not sure there are any with the second point.*
- ⊖ *Random names on voting papers. Material for public eyes has to state "authorised by". Very good - especially random listings on voting papers. Much fairer. Postal voting - I believe and many others do also that the voting period allowed is far too long. The task gets forgotten about. 10 days would be better.*
- ⊖ *Postal voting. Advantages: postal voting ensures a reasonable % of voters. Disadvantages: can lead to dominant family member exercising more than own vote.*
- ⊖ *Postal voting since 2001. Easier but people forget to post.*
- ⊖ *The ability to list candidates in random order on ballot paper. Advantages: the donkey vote is worth about 5%. Disadvantages: councillors make the decision on whether or not to use candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Vested interest in status quo.*

### Local Government Act (LGA)

Respondents noted several changes to the Local Government Act 2002. The main change noted by respondents was the introduction of the Long-Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs). Respondents were mixed according to the advantages and disadvantages of the change – with some seeing greater community consultation, accountability and transparency as an advantage. Other respondents were concerned about the cost of this consultation, and about further delegations of responsibilities from central government without any additional funding.

### Advantages

- ⊕ *New Local Government Act requirements. Increased consultation requirement is good.*
- ⊕ *The New Act. Boundary changes and delegations via LGC. I see them a very positive and offer an opportunity to raise public awareness and participation eg. consultation requirements in the LGA.*
- ⊕ *More community consultation. More accountability/ transparency to decision making.*
- ⊕ *More consultation process with residents. Local community and city plans for 10 years as well as annual plan process needed now. Consultation process with substance is an advantage.*
- ⊕ *New emphasis on environmental and social issues by local government. They are positive, but central government needs to provide funding to help local government cater for the wider human spectrum.*
- ⊕ *LTCCP and consultation with Maori. Allows for further transparency and accountability.*

### Disadvantages

- ⊗ *More responsibilities to local authorities. More planning required/ consultation. Higher overheads. Should be more open.*
- ⊗ *Too much red tape now.*
- ⊗ *Increase in consultation requirements and red tape. The public are subjected to far too great political correctness at the expense of achieving issues and goals.*
- ⊗ *More responsibility being placed on local authority from central government. Ratepayers being forced to pay when central government should be.*
- ⊗ *Local Government Act 2002 gave almost unlimited powers to LG. Encouraged TLA's not to collect regional council rates. Separate*

*rating costs, Auckland ratepayers \$6-7 million per annum for no benefit.*

- ⊗ *Influence of Local Government Act. Setting up regional councils. Central government no longer funding environment and roads. Also requirements of Local Government Act causing increased bureaucracy.*
- ⊗ *Council now dictate payment schedules. Community boards no longer independent of council.*

### **Neutral/Mixed**

- ⊗ *Increased powers to local governments via delegated legislation. Halfwits can now make laws, which contradict central government and our rights more readily.*
- ⊗ *More consultation needed on more issues that were previously preserve of central government. More consultation is good, but costly. Wider powers eg. prostitution, dogs etc, should have come with some funding - huge shift of financial burden from taxpayer to ratepayer.*
- ⊗ *LGA 2002 and the changes imposed on our district by the [Local Government] Commission - ie: reduced number of councillors/ ward changes/ new community boards. The advantages/ disadvantages will only become apparent after the changes have been in place a few years.*
- ⊗ *Ability of regional council to do more for region than just environmental, hazard control, transport etc is an advantage, but some sectors of the community may use this option to devalue the core functions, which are paramount in my view.*
- ⊗ *This act is probably the most significant piece of legislation for local authorities since the abolition of the provinces in NZ.*
- ⊗ *Advantages: more consultation with citizens. Disadvantages: more compliance costs.*

## Section 5: Personal characteristics of candidates

*This section looks at the personal characteristics of candidates, including their sex, age, occupation and income levels.*

### Gender

Overall, there were more male (67%) than female respondents (33%). The mix of males and females was evenly distributed across elected and non-elected respondents. Compared with the New Zealand population aged 18 years and over, females were under-represented among both candidates, and elected respondents.

**Table 4.1: Gender of candidates, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

Gender	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ* %
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Female	302	33%	385	33%	687	33%	49%
Male	606	67%	788	67%	1,394	67%	51%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population aged 18 years and over, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Male respondents were more likely to be an employer of staff (22%) compared with female respondents (10% employer). Female respondents were more likely to be an employee (38% compared with 29% of male respondents). Female respondents were also more likely to be employed in a family business (7%) compared with males (3%).

The occupations of male and female respondents differed in several key areas. Males were more likely to be retired (18% compared with 10% of females) or blue-collar workers (8% compared with 1% of females).

Females were more likely to be home-makers (8% compared with 1% of male respondents).

Male and female respondents had similar levels of household income. Around 7% of male and 8% of female respondents lived in a household with an annual income of \$20,000 or less. At the other end of the scale, 40% of male and 39% of female respondents had household income of \$100,000 or more.

**Table 5.1: Elections contested, by gender of candidate - 2004**

Authority	Females		Males		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Territorial authorities	322	47%	668	48%	990	48%
Community boards	198	29%	383	27%	581	28%
District health boards	137	20%	178	13%	315	15%
Regional councils	47	7%	131	9%	178	9%
Mayorality	39	6%	103	7%	142	7%
Licensing trusts	25	4%	88	6%	113	5%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

A higher proportion of female respondents (20%) stood for election to a DHB compared with male respondents (13%). Otherwise, the proportion of males and females standing for election to the various local authorities was relatively similar.

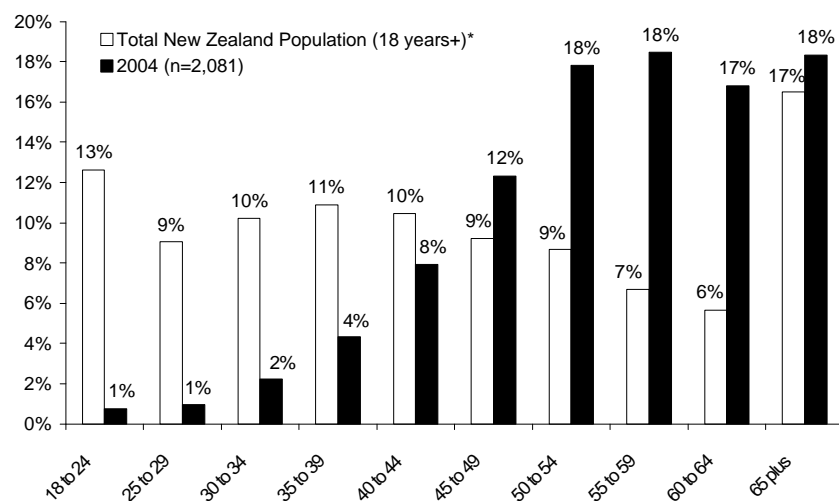
Although most respondents were likely to have previously stood for election to a local authority, males were more likely to have previously stood (64%), compared with female respondents (59%). Of those who had previously stood for election to a local authority, a higher proportion of female respondents were previously elected (76%), compared with male respondents (71%).

Females had a lower average length of service on local authorities (4.1 years) compared with males (4.8 years). Excluding respondents with no previous local authority experience, the length of service of females (9.2 years) and males (8.0 years) is more marked. There is a continued disparity between females (7.6 years in 2001) and males and (9.1 years in 2001).

### Age

The majority of respondents (83%) were aged 45 years or over. Compared with the national population, survey respondents were comparatively older than the rest of the population (Figure 5.1). Few respondents (2%) were under the age of 30 years. Compared with the New Zealand population (aged 18 years and over), people under the age of 40 years were particularly under-represented among candidates.

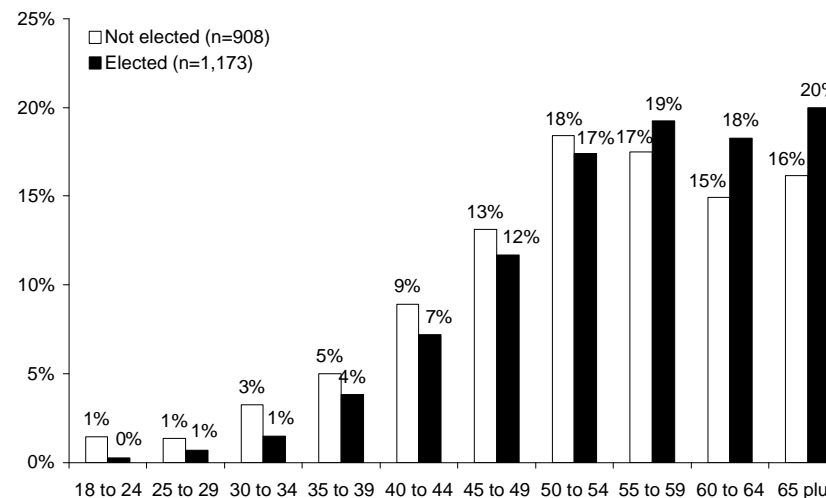
**Figure 5.1: Age distribution of respondents and the national population - 2004**



Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Elected respondents tended to be slightly older than non-elected respondents, with 86% of elected respondents aged 40 years and over, compared with 79% of non-elected respondents..

**Figure 5.2: Age distribution of candidates, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**



### Place of birth

More respondents were born in New Zealand (86%) than were born overseas (14%). This is compared with 23% of people nationally, who were born overseas. There were no notable differences in elected status of New Zealand born and overseas born respondents.

**Table 4.2: Place of birth, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

NZ born?	Not elected		Elected		Total <sup>^</sup>		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	757	85%	1,007	87%	1,764	86%	77%
No	137	15%	150	13%	287	14%	23%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand  
<sup>^</sup> Excludes 30 respondents who did not answer this question.

### Māori ancestry

Most respondents did not have any Māori ancestry (81%). This is compared with 72% of the population nationally who had no Māori ancestry. 12% of respondents reported having Māori ancestry, compared with 16% of the national population.

**Table 4.3: Māori ancestry, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

Māori ancestry	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	133	15%	116	10%	249	12%	16%
No	708	78%	981	84%	1,689	81%	72%
Don't know	11	1%	20	2%	31	1%	2%
Not stated	56	6%	56	5%	112	5%	10%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

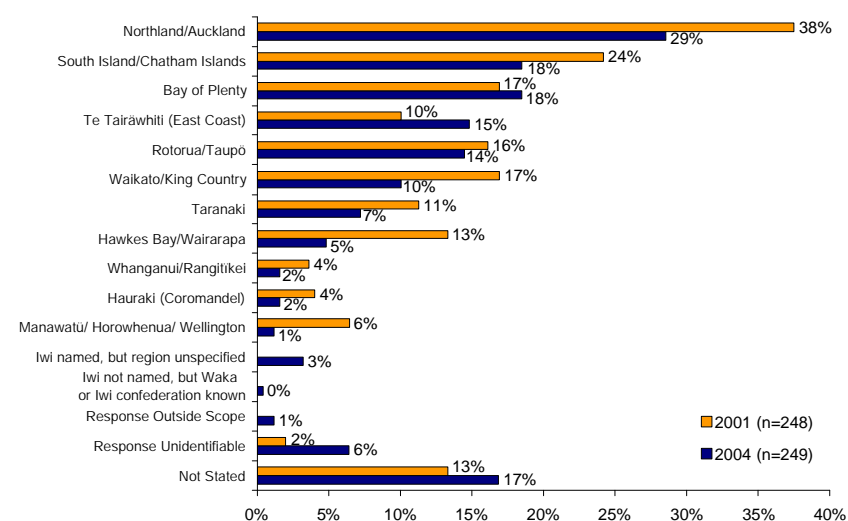
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding  
 \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand

Fewer elected respondents reported having Māori ancestry (10%) compared with respondents who were not elected (15%). Respondents with no Māori ancestry were slightly more likely to be elected, than respondents of Māori descent.

### Iwi

The 249 respondents who indicated they were of Māori descent were asked if they knew the name of their iwi, of which 83% recorded one or more iwi affiliation.

**Figure 5.3: Iwi affiliation by region – 2001 and 2004**



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

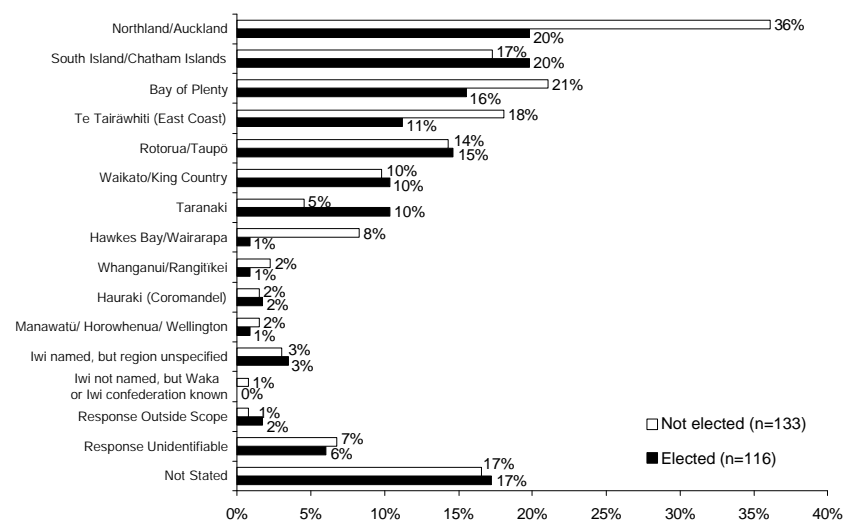
The highest proportion of respondents identified with Northland/Auckland-based iwi<sup>5</sup> (29%), followed by South Island/Chatham Island-based iwi and Bay of Plenty-based iwi (both 18%). In comparison with the 2001 results, a slightly higher

<sup>5</sup> Iwi were grouped according to the Statistics New Zealand iwi regional/geographic groupings.

proportion of respondents identified with Bay of Plenty-based iwi (18% in 2004, compared with 17% in 2001) and East Coast-based iwi in 2004 (15% in 2004, compared with 10% in 2001).

Figure 5.4 shows that respondents who identified with Taranaki-based iwi had a higher proportion of elected (10%) than non-elected respondents (5%). Similarly, respondents who identified with South Island/Chatham Islands-based iwi had a higher proportion of elected (20%) than non-elected respondents (17%).

**Figure 5.4: Iwi affiliation by region and elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**



Note: Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

### Ethnicity

Respondents were asked to identify the ethnic group(s) they belong to. They were allowed to tick as many options as they liked from the list provided (for more information refer to the questionnaire in Appendix A).

The majority of respondents (88%) belonged to the New Zealand European/Pākehā ethnic group. The proportion of respondents who identified with each of the ethnic groups was similar to 2001 (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2: Ethnicity of respondents – 2001 and 2004**

Ethnic groups	2001		2004	
	N	%	N	%
European/Pākehā	1,924	89%	1,837	88%
Māori	196	9%	187	9%
Pacific peoples	28	1%	32	2%
Asian	26	1%	26	1%
MELAA <sup>#</sup>	6	0%	7	0%
Miscellaneous <sup>^</sup>	61	3%	71	3%
Object/did not answer	5	0%	46	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

<sup>#</sup> Middle-eastern, Latin American, and African

<sup>^</sup> contains responses where respondents gave generic responses such as 'Kiwi', 'New Zealander' etc

Compared with the national population, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian ethnic groups were under-represented among respondents, particularly among elected respondents (Table 5.3).

Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) with Māori ancestry identified with the Māori ethnic group.

**Table 5.3: Ethnicity of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

Ethnic groups	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
European	771	85%	1,066	91%	1,837	88%	77%
Māori	108	12%	79	7%	187	9%	14%
Pacific peoples	23	3%	9	1%	32	2%	6%
Asian	16	2%	10	1%	26	1%	6%
MELAA <sup>#</sup>	6	1%	1	0%	7	0%	1%
Miscellaneous <sup>^</sup>	37	4%	34	3%	71	3%	NA
Object/did not answer	19	2%	27	2%	46	2%	4%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand  
<sup>#</sup> Middle-eastern, Latin American, and African  
<sup>^</sup> contains responses where respondents gave generic responses such as ‘Kiwi’, ‘New Zealander’ etc  
 \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

### Employment

Almost a third of respondents (32%) were working as employees. This figure was comparatively lower than the national population (47%). A relatively high proportion of respondents were self-employed (28%) compared with the national population (7%), with the figure for elected respondents higher again (30%).

A smaller proportion of respondents (18%) identified themselves as employers, and again, this figure was higher than the population as a whole (5%), and highest among elected respondents (22%).

The proportion of respondents in the labour force (shown in light grey in Table 5.4) was high (86%) compared with the national population (65%).

**Table 5.4: Job where worked most hours in, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

Job worked most hours in	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Employee	344	38%	320	27%	664	32%	47%
Self-employed	220	24%	356	30%	576	28%	7%
Employer	128	14%	255	22%	383	18%	5%
Not paid employment	134	15%	143	12%	277	13%	33%
Family business	34	4%	53	5%	87	4%	1%
Unemployed	25	3%	13	1%	38	2%	5%
Not given	23	3%	33	3%	56	3%	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand  
 \*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

### Occupation

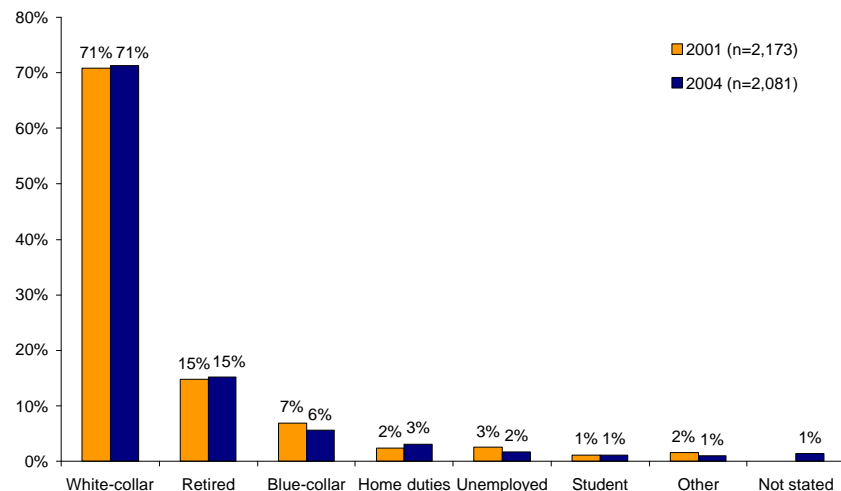
The categories used in the questionnaire were combined (in some cases) to better present information on respondents’ occupations. These groupings can be seen in Figure 5.5.

The proportion of respondents across the various occupational groups was very similar among respondents from the 2001 and 2004 surveys. Almost three-quarters of respondents from both surveys were white-collar workers (71%). The next highest

occupational group was retired people (15% in both 2001 and 2004).

There were comparatively few respondents from blue-collar occupation groups in both 2001 (7%) and 2004 (6%).

**Figure 5.5: Occupation of respondents by main categories – 2001 and 2004**



The proportion of white-collar workers was slightly higher among elected respondents (73%) compared with those not elected (69%). Conversely, the proportion of respondents who were unemployed was slightly higher for respondents who were not elected (3%) than those who were elected (1%).

**Table 5.5: Occupation of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

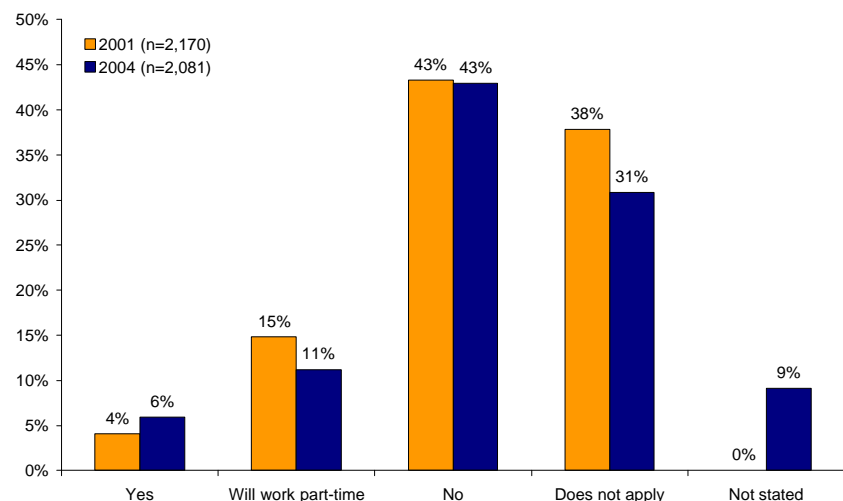
Occupation	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
White-collar	623	69%	860	73%	1,483	71%
Retired	132	15%	184	16%	316	15%
Blue-collar	57	6%	58	5%	115	6%
Home duties	33	4%	30	3%	63	3%
Unemployed	28	3%	7	1%	35	2%
Student	17	2%	5	0%	22	1%
Other	8	1%	11	1%	19	1%
Not given	10	1%	18	2%	28	1%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### *Likelihood of giving up job if elected*

Respondents were asked if they were likely to give up their current employment if they were elected. For a large proportion of respondents (31%) this question did not apply to their situation. Part of this will be due to the relatively large proportion of questionnaires that were returned after the elections when respondents were aware if they were already elected or not.

A small proportion of respondents (6%) said they would give up their present job if elected and a further 11% said they would work part-time.

**Figure 5.6: Likelihood of giving up job if elected – 2001 and 2004**



Excluding respondents *not in paid employment* or who were *unemployed*, respondents who were standing for a regional council or a territorial authority were the most likely to indicate they would *work part-time* if elected.

Mayoral candidates were the most likely to *give up their present job* if elected. This reflects the nature of the mayoralty for most territorial authorities, where the mayoralty is considered a full-time job.

Excluding those not currently employed (10 respondents), 40% of the (132) mayoral candidates indicated they would either *work part-time* or *give up their present job* if elected. Respondents standing for regional council or a territorial authority were most likely to indicate they would *work part-time* if elected.

**Table 5.6: Likelihood of giving up job if elected, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2004**

Give up job?	Not elected		Elected		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	78	9%	45	4%	123	6%
Will work part-time	131	14%	102	9%	233	11%
No	346	38%	548	47%	894	43%
Does not apply	262	29%	380	32%	642	31%
Not given	91	10%	98	8%	189	9%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Geographic location

The highest proportion of respondents reported living in a *main urban area* (37%), followed by *rural areas* (31%) and then by *minor urban areas* (23%).

**Table 5.7: Geographic location of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents - 2004**

Area	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Main urban area	419	47%	329	29%	748	37%	71%
Secondary urban area	83	9%	103	9%	186	9%	6%
Minor urban area	168	19%	308	27%	476	23%	8%
Rural area	218	25%	409	36%	627	31%	14%
Did not answer	20	N/A	24	N/A	44	N/A	-
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand  
N/A - respondents who did not answer this question have been excluded from the percentage calculations to allow direct comparison with the Census data

When looking specifically at candidates who were elected, the overall trend reverses, with 36% being elected from rural areas, followed by *main urban areas* (29%) and *minor urban areas* (27%).

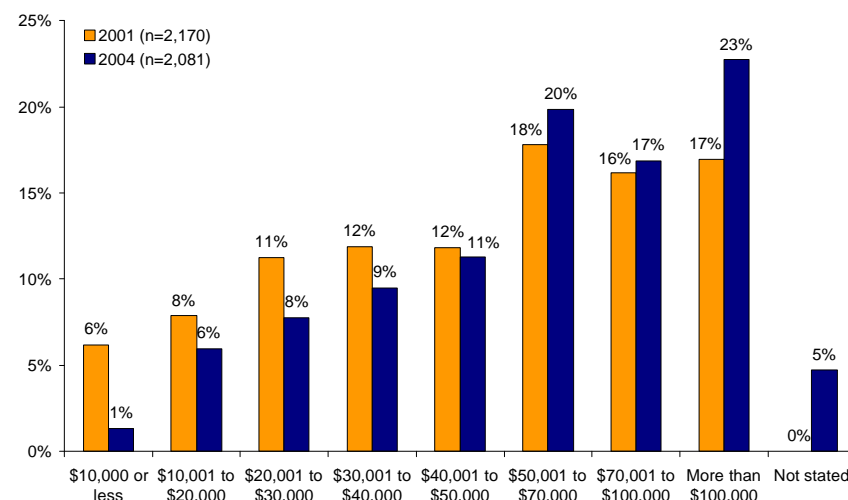
Respondents who reside in *rural areas* and *minor urban areas* are over-represented amongst candidates, relative to the geographic spread of the national population. However, this is partly due to the structure of local authorities, which cater to representation of

communities of interest through particular authorities (eg community boards, and licensing trusts), or through ward/constituencies/ subdivisions<sup>6</sup>. The notable exception is DHBs, which adopted an ‘at large’ system of election in conjunction with the use of the Single Transferable Voting (STV) electoral system for the 2004 elections.

## Household income

Almost three in five respondents (59%) came from households with an annual income of \$50,000 or more, compared with 32% nationally. This result is likely to be closely linked to the occupation of the respondent.

**Figure 5.7: Household income of respondents – 2001 and 2004**



<sup>6</sup> Wards are commonly used to refer to boundaries for territorial authorities; constituencies for DHBs and regional councils; and sub-divisions for community boards

There were no notable differences in the distribution of household income of elected and non-elected respondents.

**Table 5.8: Household income of respondents, by elected and non-elected respondents – 2004**

Total Household Income	Not elected		Elected		Total		NZ*
	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
\$0 to \$10,000 or loss	21	2%	7	1%	28	1%	5%
\$10,001 to \$20,000	75	8%	49	4%	124	6%	15%
\$20,001 to \$30,000	81	9%	81	7%	162	8%	12%
\$30,001 to \$40,000	92	10%	105	9%	197	9%	9%
\$40,001 to \$50,000	94	10%	141	12%	235	11%	9%
\$50,001 to \$70,000	178	20%	235	20%	413	20%	13%
\$70,001 to \$100,000	147	16%	204	17%	351	17%	9%
More than \$100,000	179	20%	294	25%	473	23%	9%
Did not answer	41	5%	57	5%	98	5%	18%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: \* Source: Usually resident population, 2001 Census – Statistics New Zealand

### Household composition

One in ten (10%) of respondents lived alone. However, the majority of respondents lived with a partner (80%), and a fifth (20%) of respondents lived with a child or children aged between 5 to 15 years.

**Table 5.9: Whom respondents live with – 1992, 2001 and 2004**

Household occupants	1992		2001		2004	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Live alone	N/A	7%	208	10%	208	10%
Partner	N/A	84%	1,809	83%	1,662	80%
Children under 5	N/A	8%	113	5%	123	6%
Children 5-15	N/A	23%	480	22%	424	20%
Dependants	N/A	5%	74	3%	167	8%
Other adults	N/A	24%	291	13%	239	11%
Others	N/A	-	39	2%	0	0%
Did not answer		-	-	-	32	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>***</b>

Note: N/A – raw numbers not available

\*\*\* Multiple responses: percentages do not add up to 100%

Over one-half of respondents (52%) live in a couple only household (Table 5.10). The next most common situation was a couple with children in the household (23%).

The household composition of respondents in the 2004 survey was relatively the same as in 2001.

**Table 5.10: Composition of household – 2001 and 2004**

Household composition	2001		2004	
	N	%	N	%
Live alone	208	10%	208	10%
Couple only	1,142	53%	1,073	52%
Couple with child(ren)	475	22%	471	23%
Couple with others	191	9%	118	6%
Sole parent with child(ren)	56	3%	93	4%
Other multi-person household	71	3%	86	4%
Did not answer	27	1%	32	2%
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix A: Covering letter and questionnaire

Kia ora/Hello

### **Survey of Election Candidates, 2004**

I am writing to invite you to participate in a survey of local authority and District Health Board (DHB) election candidates.

#### **Why have I been contacted?**

This letter is being sent to all candidates who are participating in local government elections on 9 October 2004. This includes those standing for DHBs and Licensing Trusts.

#### **Why should I fill in this questionnaire?**

Your participation in the survey is not compulsory, but will be greatly appreciated (it should take you about 10 minutes). We are seeking information about you, and your reasons for participating in this election, to build a national profile of candidates. This profile will demonstrate how candidates reflect the communities that they seek to represent. A high level of response will provide a more accurate and useful profile. The survey results will be compared with Census information (which is why most of the questions resemble the Census questionnaire). This means we will compare the characteristics of candidates (such as age, ethnicity, sex) with those of the wider community. This information will be used to assess the changing characteristics of candidates.

#### **But everyone will know all about me then, won't they?**

The personal information that we collect about you in this survey will be stored, analysed and reported in a *strictly confidential* manner, and will not be released in a form that can identify you. Information will be summarised and presented separately for each characteristic – that is, details such as candidates' ages and income will be presented separately. For example, we would not say that a 50 to 54 year-old person earns \$20,000-\$30,000 annually, but rather that a certain proportion of candidates earn \$20,000-\$30,000 annually, and (separately) that a certain proportion of candidates are within the 50 to 54 year age range.

### What happens to this information?

Your information, and that supplied by other candidates, will be analysed and published in a report titled *Local Government Candidates: 2004*. This summarised information will not identify any candidate and will be put on the Department's website. The report will be made available to libraries, the general public, international agencies and any other interested parties. Summarised information about DHB candidates also will be provided to the Ministry of Health.

This survey was conducted previously in 2001 and 1992. The 2001 report is on the Department of Internal Affairs' (DIA) website (<http://www.dia.govt.nz>). To access the report go to the website and click on the "Services" link, then on "Local Government Services", then on "Local Government Candidates 2001" (in the left-hand panel).

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the **2004 report** please let us know by ticking one of the boxes below and returning this letter, along with the questionnaire, in the reply paid envelope provided. If you did not receive a reply-paid envelope, please let us know and we will send you another one.

Mail me a copy of the report  **OR** Email me a copy of the report

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### What if I have any questions about this survey?

If you have any concerns or questions that have not been answered here, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Amey (Senior Research Analyst):

**Telephone:** 04 494 0517

**Fax:** 04 495 7222

**Email:** [ben.amey@dia.govt.nz](mailto:ben.amey@dia.govt.nz)

**Post:** Research Services  
Department of Internal Affairs  
PO Box 805  
WELLINGTON

### When do I need to complete the survey by?

We know you will be very busy preparing and campaigning for election, but we would appreciate it if you would complete and return your questionnaire as soon as possible before the election, or very soon after.

Yours sincerely,  
Sue Walker



Manager Research Services - Te Rōpū Rangahau Kaupapa

# Local Authority and District Health Board Elections Candidates Survey 2004

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Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) in the freepost envelope provided.

**Please note that for the purposes of this questionnaire, District Health Boards (DHBs), Community Boards and Licensing Trusts are regarded as “local authorities”.**

*All information collected for the survey is strictly confidential. The information will be presented in a way that protects the identity of all respondents (i.e. including you). No information about individual candidates will be made available to any third party.*

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**Question 1: For which local authorities are you standing for election?**  
*(give name, e.g. Wainuiomata Community Board, Waitomo District Council, West Coast District Health Board)*

Community Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Licensing Trust: \_\_\_\_\_

District Health Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Council: \_\_\_\_\_

District or City Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayoralty: \_\_\_\_\_

Other  
*(please specify):* \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2: Have you previously stood as a candidate in a local authority election?**  
*Include authorities that no longer exist, such as pest destruction boards and borough councils (please tick one)*

1

Yes

2

No → go to Question 5

If Yes, please give the name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 3: Are you a sitting member of a local authority?** *(please tick one)*

1

Yes

2

No

**Question 4: Please state, to the nearest year, the number of years you have spent as a local authority member, including local authorities that no longer exist:**

\_\_\_\_\_ years

Note: if you sat on more than one authority at one time, do not count the same period twice; e.g. if you were elected to both a district council and a community board in 1998, this counts as three year's service, not six.

**Question 5: If you are standing for any local authorities or wards/constituencies for which you are not an elector, please state which one(s)?**

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**Question 6: What are your main reasons for standing in the election?** *In the first column tick all that apply and in the second column rank the three most important options from 1 to 3 (where "1" is the most important reason)*

Tick all that apply

Rate the three most important

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A specific local issue or issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	An interest in local government affairs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To provide a regular or supplementary income
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To represent a particular neighbourhood or community sector
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dissatisfaction with the way things are being run
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A desire to serve the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	To gain political experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a special skill/qualification or relevant specialist skills/experience to offer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other ( <i>please specify</i> ): _____

---

**Question 7: When you decided to stand for a local authority, was it mainly your own idea or were you asked to stand by some person or organisation?**  
(tick all that apply)

- 1 Own idea
- 2 Asked by political organisation
- 3 Asked by sitting councillors or board members
- 4 Asked by family and/or friends
- 5 Asked by a non-political organisation
- 6 Asked by interested citizens
- 7 Other (*please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 8: Please describe any political involvement you have had, other than at local authority level?** (*e.g. student politics, lobby groups, trade unions*)

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**Question 9: Please describe any recent changes in the local authority electoral system that you are aware of?**

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**Question 10: What do you think are the advantages and/or disadvantages of these changes?**

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**Question 11: What, if any, have been your other main areas of involvement in the community? (tick all that apply)**

- |                            |                                           |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a | Service clubs e.g. Lions, Rotary          | <input type="checkbox"/> j | Marae/iwi/hapū       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b | Welfare/support                           | <input type="checkbox"/> k | Health/disability    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c | Arts                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> l | Religious            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d | Residents/ratepayers organisations        | <input type="checkbox"/> m | Social/recreation    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e | Boards of Trustees, school committees/PTA | <input type="checkbox"/> n | Environment          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> f | Sports                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> o | Justice of the Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> g | Seniors/support for older people          | <input type="checkbox"/> p | Advocacy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> h | Cultural                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> q | Heritage             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i | Other (please specify): _____             |                            |                      |

**Question 12: Are you? (please tick one):**

- |                            |        |                            |      |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Female | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Male |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------|

**Question 13: What age group are you in? (please tick one):**

- |                            |          |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | 18 to 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | 45 to 49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | 25 to 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | 50 to 54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | 30 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | 55 to 59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | 35 to 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | 60 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | 40 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | 65 plus  |

**Question 14: Were you born in New Zealand?** *(please tick one)*

1 Yes

2 No

**Question 15: Have you any New Zealand Maori ancestry?** *(please tick one)*

1 Yes → go to Question 16

2 No → go to Question 17

3 Don't know → go to Question 17

**Question 16: Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?** *(please tick one)*

1 No → go to Question 17

2 Yes → print the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi in the boxes below:

Iwi (tribe)	Region

**Question 17: Which ethnic group(s) do you belong to? (tick all that apply)**

- |                            |                                                                             |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | New Zealand European/Pākehā                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | New Zealand Maori |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Samoan                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Cook Island Maori |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Tongan                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Niuean            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Chinese                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Indian            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Other (such as <i>Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan</i> etc) please specify: _____ |                            |                   |
|                            | _____                                                                       |                            |                   |

**Question 18: In the job that you work the most hours in, are you: (please tick one)**

- 1 A paid employee
- 2 An employer of other person(s) in my own business
- 3 Self-employed and NOT employing others
- 4 Working in a family business or family farm without pay
- 5 Not in paid employment
- 6 Unemployed

**Question 19: If currently in full-time employment, are you likely to be giving up your present job if elected? (please tick one)**

- |                            |                     |                            |                |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Yes                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | No             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Will work part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Does not apply |

**Question 20: From ALL sources of income, what was the TOTAL income for your HOUSEHOLD before tax in the past financial year? (please tick one)**

- |                            |                      |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | \$10,000 or less     | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | \$40,001 to \$50,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | \$10,001 to \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | \$50,001 to \$70,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | \$20,001 to \$30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | \$70,001 to \$100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | \$30,001 to \$40,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | More than \$100,000   |

**Question 21: Do you live in a...? (please tick one)**

- |                            |                                            |                            |                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Main urban area<br>(30,000 or more people) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Secondary urban area<br>(10,000 - 30,000 people)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Minor urban area<br>(1,000 -10,000 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Rural area<br>(less than 1,000 people)             |
|                            |                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Not sure? (Please specify your locality):<br>_____ |

**Question 22: Who do you normally live with in your household? (tick all that apply)**

- |                            |                                                                                                        |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Live alone                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Partner/spouse                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Child/children under 5 years                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Child/children aged 5 to 15 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | People (other than children) who are dependent upon you and/or your partner/spouse for day-to-day care |                            |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Other adults                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Other (please specify): _____     |
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 23: How many people are normally resident in your household? (Please give a single figure, not a range):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 24: Which occupational group best fits the work that you do?**  
(tick main occupation only)

- a Retired
- b Unemployed/Social Welfare Beneficiary
- c Student
- d Home duties (not in paid workforce)
- e Farm manager or owner
- f Executive /manager/senior public servant
- g Health Professional (e.g. nurse, dentist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, medical practitioner, radiographer) *Please specify:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h Professional (e.g. lawyer, accountant, scientist, teacher) *Please specify:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- i Company board director
- j Clerical worker
- k Salesperson, or service worker and food outlet, hotel, security industry etc
- l Tradesperson or skilled manual worker
- m Semi-skilled manual worker
- n Labourer, agricultural worker, factory operator, cleaner etc
- o Other (*please specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you very much for your participation in this survey, and good luck for the election! Or, if you have been elected unopposed, congratulations!**