

**From:** [Allie Dunn](#)  
**To:** [fox.meyer@newsroom.co.nz](mailto:fox.meyer@newsroom.co.nz)  
**Subject:** CM: Response to request for information re Māori ward voting record  
**Date:** Friday, 13 September 2024 3:58:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
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[image009.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 13 September 2024 regarding Māori ward voting record.

Part of the information you have requested is outlined below. However, we are unable to provide information on the estimated cost of holding a binding poll as we do not have an estimate at this stage. Our Electoral Officer will be providing that information to us in the near future.

Below is an extract from the minutes of our Council meeting held 28 August 2024, where the Council's decision to reaffirm its Māori Ward was made. Note our agendas and minutes for our meetings, as well as video recordings of our meetings, are available to download from our website, on the following link: <https://www.tararuadc.govt.nz/publications/agendas-and-minutes>

#### 10.1 **Required Decision-making for Māori Ward**

The Tararua District Council considered the report of the Manager – Democracy Services dated 6 August 2024 that provided the Council with options for decision-making that is required as a result of enactment of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024.

***That the report from the Manager - Democracy Services dated 06 August 2024 concerning the Required Decision-making for Māori Ward be received.***

***That in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024 the Tararua District Council affirms its resolution of 18 May 2021 to establish the Tāmaki Nui-a-Rua Māori Ward.***

***Crs Collis/Chase***

***Carried***

***Crs M F Long and S A Wallace recorded their votes against the motion.***

*The meeting adjourned at 10:41am and resumed at 11:02am.*

As you can see from the above, two Councillors voted against the motion. As requested the voting record for each member is as follows:

Voting for the motion: Her Worship the Mayor T H Collis, Councillors E L Peeti-Webber, N L Chase, A K Franklin, S M Gilmore, P A Johns, K A Sutherland and S M Wards.

Voting against the motion: Councillors M F Long and S A Wallace.

In response to your request regarding whether any consideration was given to not holding a binding referendum, we advise that there were only two options provided under the legislation

enacted by the Government. These options were either the Tararua District Council disestablishes its Māori Ward, or it holds a binding poll at its next election. To not hold this binding poll would mean that Council would be in breach of the law, therefore this was not a possibility that could be considered.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



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**From:** Fox Meyer <Fox.Meyer@newsroom.co.nz>

**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2024 3:02 PM

**To:** [media@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:media@boprc.govt.nz)

**Subject:** Media enquiry: Māori ward voting record

**EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT:** Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Kia ora,

I'm looking to piece together some data about the recent votes regarding Māori wards. I'm requesting the same information from every council to try to piece together an article.

Could you please respond to this email by Monday afternoon with the following information:

1. The voting record of your council on the decision to scrap the ward or hold a binding poll, with names of council members alongside their vote;
  2. The estimated cost of holding a binding poll should that take place;
- and

3. Has your council and/or your members discussed the possibility of not holding a referendum, even if council has not voted to get rid of Māori wards? If so, what would that look like?

If this query does not apply to your council, apologies for sending this email in error.

**Fox Meyer**

**Reporter**

**newsroom.**

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