



# Elected members' profile 2019 – 2022

A description of New Zealand's elected members and their reasons for standing

October 2020

## Contents

Contents.....	2
Foreword.....	3
We are. LGNZ. ....	4
Introduction .....	4
Previous experience .....	6
Age profile.....	7
Gender .....	8
Ethnicity .....	11
Main occupation and primary source of income.....	13
Education .....	15
Reasons for standing.....	16
Prioritising roles .....	19
Training needs and capabilities .....	20
Capabilities required for being an effective elected member .....	20
Self-identified training needs .....	22
References and further reading .....	25
Questionnaire.....	26

## Foreword

As the national organisation of local authorities protecting and enhancing our system of local democracy is of critical importance. It is at the local level where democracy first emerged and it is at that level, in our towns and cities, that people learn the skills necessary to be an active citizen – skills fundamental to the quality of our democracy, whether local or national. Yet for much of our history local democracy has been taken for granted; a chore that fewer than 50 per cent of New Zealanders actually perform.

As part of our work to strengthen local democracy LGNZ, immediately after each election, conducts a survey of elected members to gain an understanding of those elected to local office. The survey allows us to understand the degree to which councils are representative of their communities, the range of reasons that motivate citizens to stand for office and how motivation might change over time.

The information that elected members provide enables policy makers, in both local and central government, to assess the efficacy of the local government framework and the degree to which it is meeting the needs of citizens. For example, does local government, as currently organised, facilitate participation that reflects the diversity of our communities or are there barriers restricting representation. Councils' mandate, after all, comes not only from their elected status but also from the degree that they are representative of their communities.

The survey of the 2019 – 2022 cohort of elected members provides evidence that changes in the composition of local representatives found in previous surveys are an ongoing trend, namely, that elected members are becoming younger, are increasingly likely to be female and are more likely to be Māori. These trends augur well for the future of local democracy.

Stuart Crosby  
President  
LGNZ

### Key stats at a glance

**40.5%**

The highest proportion of women elected to local government, ever.

**41%**

The percentage of members elected in 2019 for the first time

**13.5%**

The number of members who identify as Māori, up from 10%.

**56 – 60**

The average age of elected members

**13.9%**

The percentage of members under the age of 40, up from 7%.

**83%**

The share of members stood for election in order to “serve their community.”

**52%**

The share of members wanting to learn more about stronger council engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and businesses

**35%**

The share of members for whom being an elected member is their primary occupation.

**23.5%**

The share of members who are graduates.

## We are. LGNZ

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is the sector voice for all 78 councils in the country. We advocate on behalf of our members who are the local authorities of New Zealand and lead the sector's commitment to improving practice and efficiency, enabling economic growth, community vibrancy and environmental wellbeing.

Protecting and enhancing local democracy is paramount.

Governance of LGNZ is provided by the National Council, which is made up of elected members from throughout New Zealand. The National Council sets strategy and policy and provides leadership to the LGNZ office.

We represent the national interests of councils and lead best practice in the local government sector. We provide advocacy and policy services, business support, advice and training to our members to assist them to build successful communities throughout New Zealand.

As part of our commitment to lead policy on local government and local democracy, LGNZ undertakes and commissions research. Elected members' profile 2019 – 2022 is part of a series designed to increase understanding about those elected to represent communities and inform future policy discussions about democracy at the sub-national level.

For further information about the 2019 – 22 Elected Members' Profile, or any other LGNZ reports or publications on local democracy, please contact the author, Dr Mike Reid at [mike.reid@lgnz.co.nz](mailto:mike.reid@lgnz.co.nz).

## Introduction

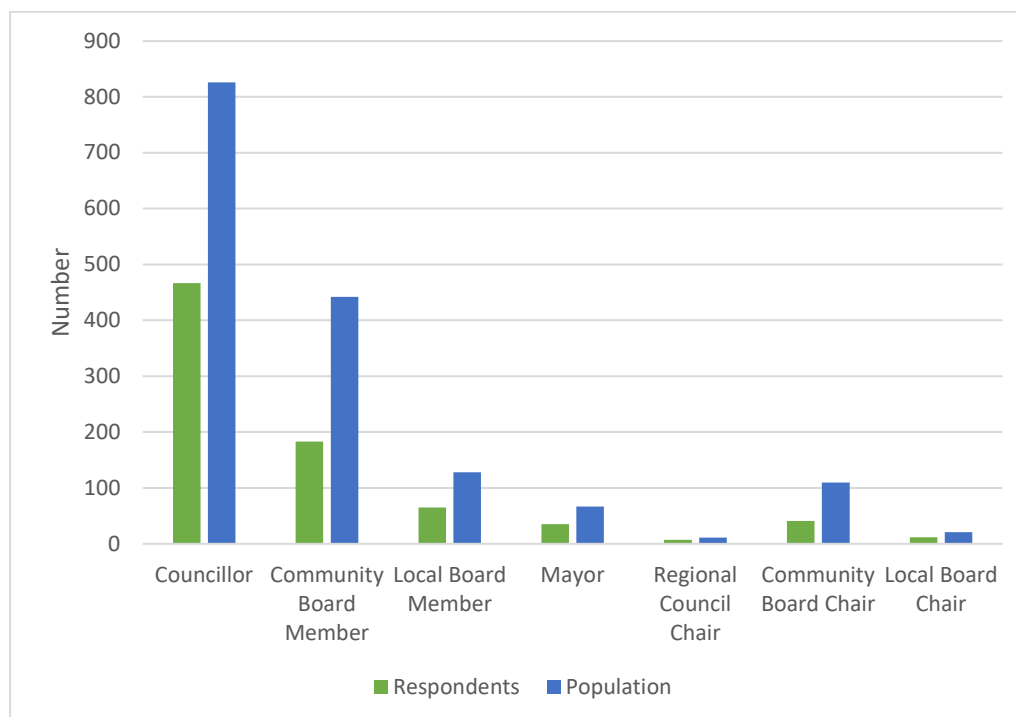
This survey provides a demographic snapshot of the individuals elected to local government in the 2019 local authority elections held in October of that year. It is designed to provide information on the degree to which councils are representative of their communities and how this is changing over time. It also provides information on why people stand for local government and what they hope to achieve. The information itself is intended to increase community understanding of local government as well as assist policy makers and legislators assess the degree to which New Zealand's system of local government is providing representation the diverse communities that make up this country.

**Table 1. Number of elected positions by role 2019**

	Elected bodies	Elected positions
Auckland local boards	21	149
Community boards	110	552
Territorial authorities	67	777
Regional councils	11	127
Total	208	1605

Undertaken during April 2020, questionnaires were sent to councillors, mayors, local board members and members of community boards using Survey Monkey. Of the 1605 questionnaires emailed to respondents, 810 were completed and returned – a response rate of 50 per cent. The results have a confidence level of 95 per cent and a margin of error of +/- 2.5 per cent. Figure 1 shows the number of responses from each class of elected member.

**Figure 1 Profile of respondents**



Source: LGNZ

The mix of respondents is generally close to their proportion in the overall population of elected members. Table 2 shows the ratio of respondents to the population of each group of elected members.

**Table 2. Ratio of respondents to population**

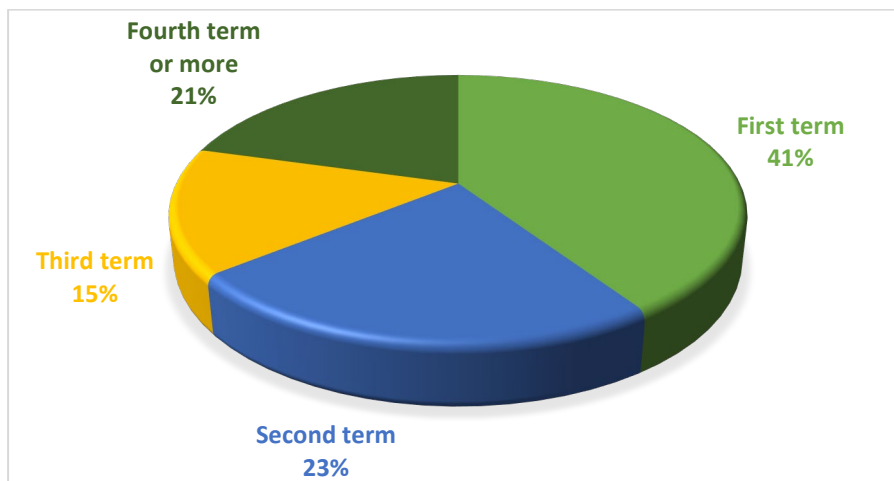
Councillor	0.56
Community Board Member	0.41
Local Board Member	0.51
Mayor	0.53
Regional Council Chair	0.63
Community Board Chair	0.37
Local Board Chair	0.57

Source: LGNZ

## Previous experience

Respondents were asked whether they were elected to local government for the first time or were returning with previous experience. The results are set out in Figure 2.

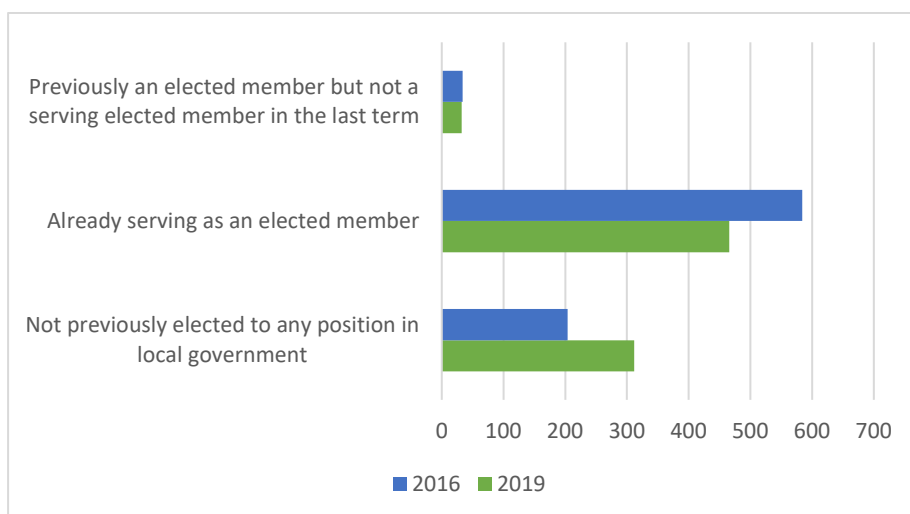
**Figure 2 Experience**



Source: LGNZ

Figure 2 shows that 41 per cent of members are first term members, due to either retirement of sitting members or electoral victory. This proportion is significantly higher than the number of first term members in 2016, which was 27 per cent. The high number of first time elected members suggests that some councils will lack governance experience and that investment in professional development will be needed to bring new members up to speed. Figure 3 provides additional information by identifying the number of members who had previously been elected members but not in the 2016 term. Interestingly, the number in this category is almost the same in 2019 (32) as it was in 2016 (34).

**Figure 3 Status prior to election**

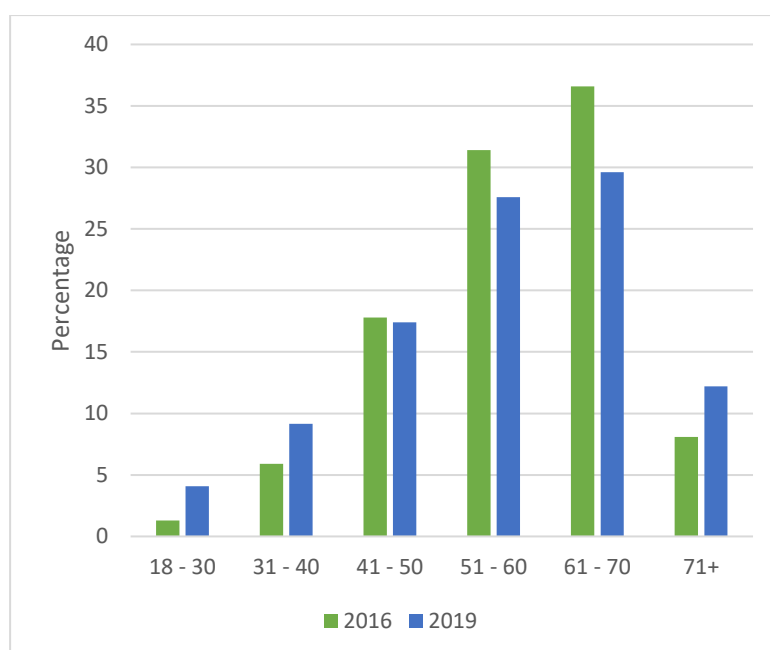


Source: LGNZ

## Age profile

The age of elected members is often referenced in discussions about the representativeness of local government. Historically the average age of elected members has been in the late 50s or older, the average age of the 2019 cohort is between 56 and 60 years old (see figure 4). It is not unusual for the age of local government members to be older than the general population, partly reflecting remuneration. A recent survey of members in municipalities in Ontario found an average age of 60 for rural councils and 61 for urban councils (Rural Ontario Institute 2016). The average age of councillors in the United Kingdom was 53 years (Rallings 2010).

**Figure 4** Elected members age by cohort



The cohort of members elected in 2019 has some key difference to its predecessors, primarily in the proportion of members who are aged under 30 years' old and under 50 years' old. As table 3 highlights, the number of members under the age of 40 years old has almost doubled from the number in the previous triennium and the share of members under the age of 50 has increased by approximately five per cent. The share of members under the age of 60 is similar to that in the cohort elected in 2016, due to an increase in members aged between 51 and 60.

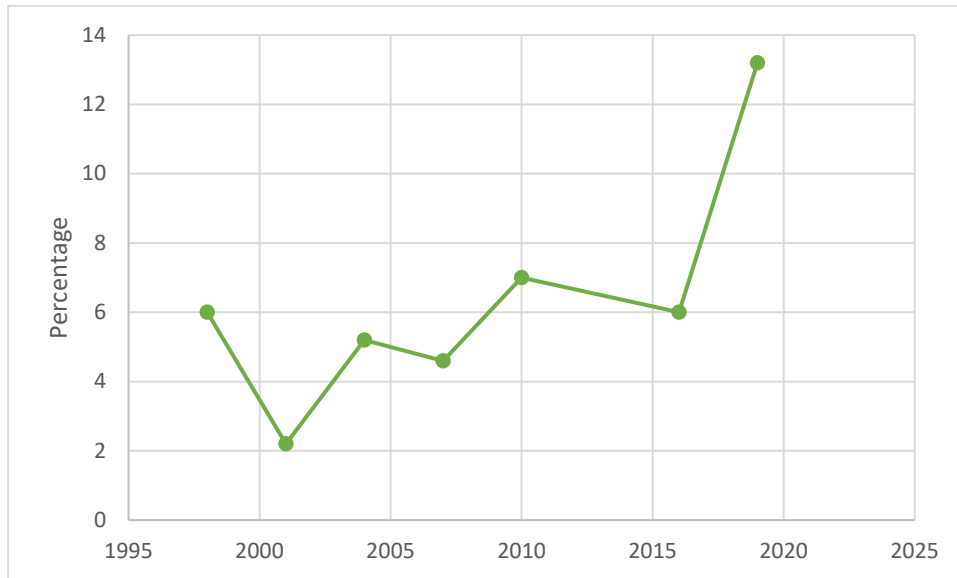
The share of elected members who are over 70 has increased significantly since 2016, rising from eight per cent to over 12 per cent. The share of members in this age group tends to vary considerably by election. It was approximately five per cent in the 2004 and 2007 cohorts rising to nine per cent in 2010.

**Table 3.** Age by cohort

	2016	2019
Under 40	7.2%	13.2%
Under 50	25%	30.6%
Under 60	56.4%	58.2%

Interestingly, the 2019 cohort is characterised by growth in both the youngest and oldest groups. The cohort under the age of 40 is now larger than at any time since records were kept, see figure 5.

**Figure 5**      **Number of representatives under the age of 40**



Source: LGNZ

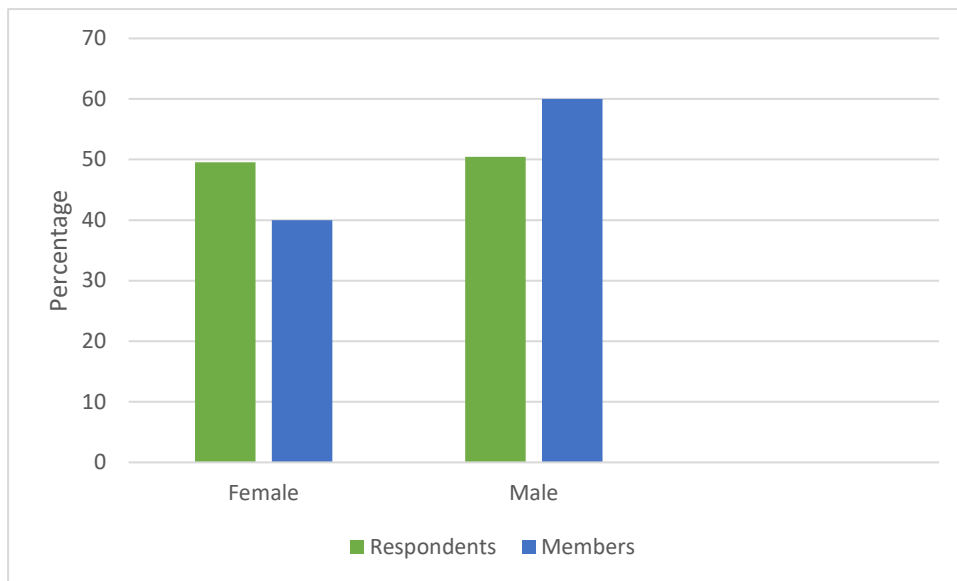
The growth in the share of elected members under the age of 30 is similarly revealing, increasing from 1.3 per cent in 2016 to over four per cent in 2019.

## Gender

Respondents were evenly divided between men (50.44 per cent), and women (49.56 per cent). The effect is a slight bias in the sample as the actual division of men and women elected in 2019 was 60 per cent (men) and 40.5 per cent (women), see figure 6.



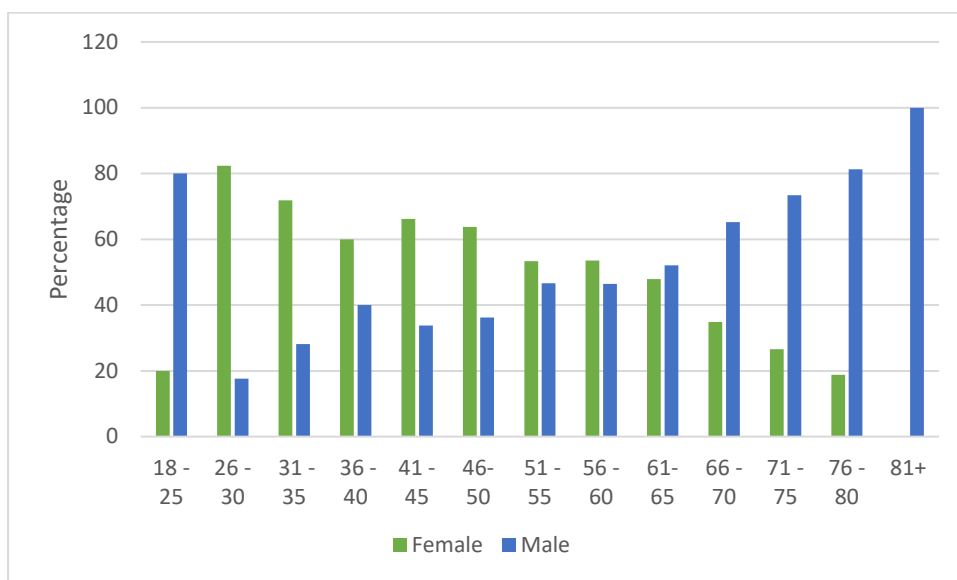
**Figure 6 Gender of respondents**



Source: LGNZ

When cross-referenced with age there is a significant relationship between being younger (under 40) and being female (see figure 7). The growth in the number of younger members who are also largely female (and Māori) may provide an indication of the likely makeup of future councils. Figure 7 shows an interesting pattern with the proportion of women higher in the younger age cohorts and the proportion of men higher in the older cohorts.

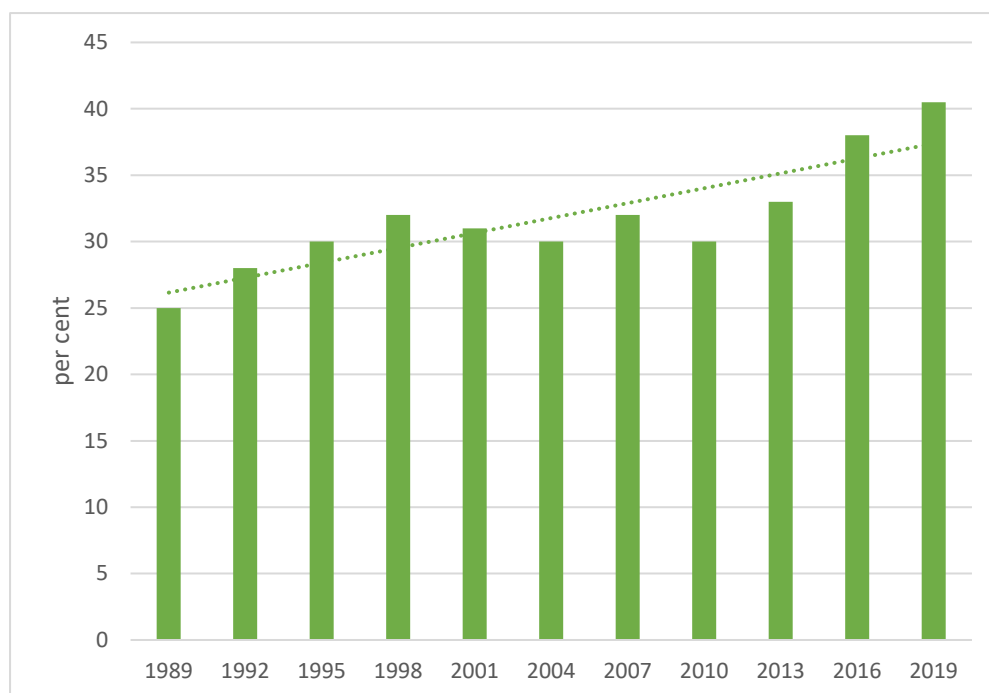
**Figure 7 Gender and age cohorts**



Source: LGNZ

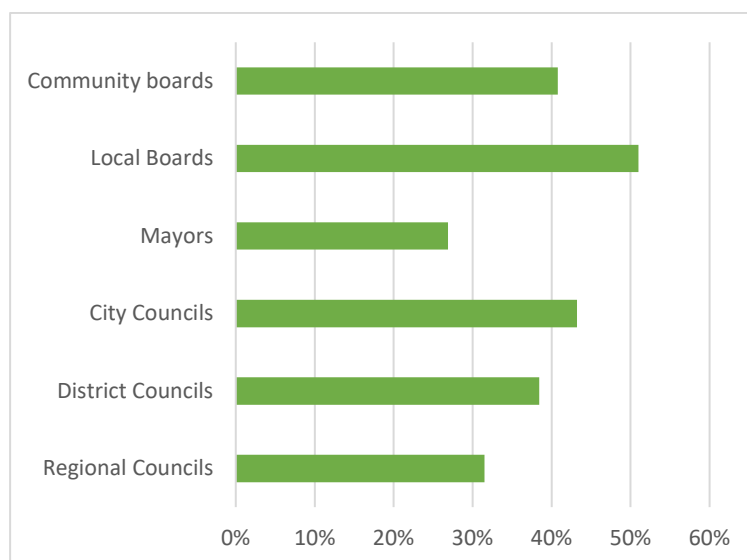
The 2019 local authority elections resulted in a higher proportion of women elected to local government than at any time in its history, see figure 6. The results continue the trend toward increased representation by women since 2010, see figure 8.

**Figure 8 Representation of women since 1989**



The proportion of women and men varies considerably amongst the constituent bodies that make up local government, see Figure 9. Overall, the general tendency is for women to be represented in greater numbers in urban local authorities, with more women than men elected to Auckland’s local boards.

**Figure 9 Proportion of women by type of local body**



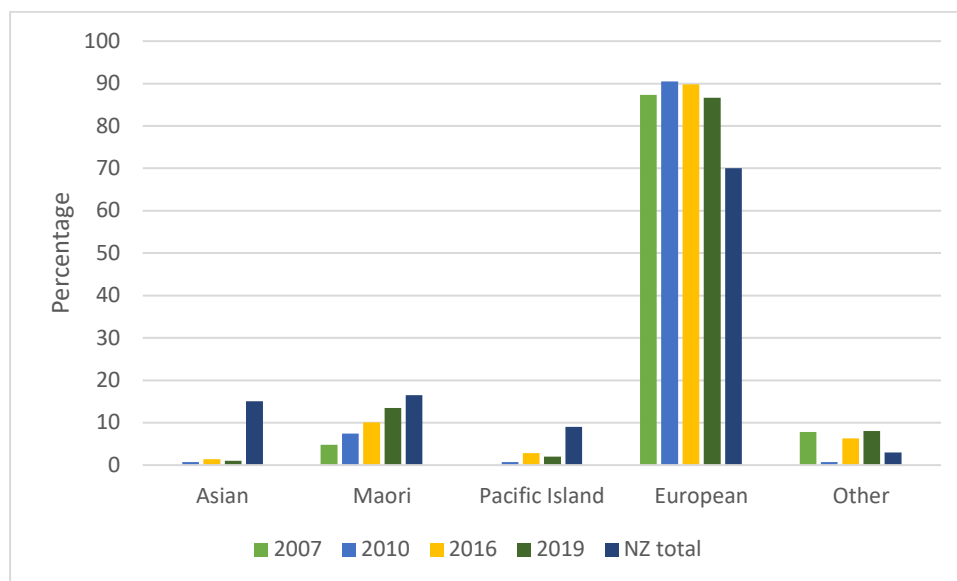
Source: LGNZ

As in previous elections, the proportion of women elected to regional councils is less than the proportion elected to districts and cities; the gap, however, is starting to diminish. Since 2013, when the proportion of women elected to regional councils was 21 per cent representation has increased, growing to 24 per cent in 2016 and 31 per cent in 2019.

## Ethnicity

In terms of ethnicity, the significant difference between the cohort of elected members elected in 2019 and those that came before is the increase in the number of members who identify as Māori (13.5 per cent). However, representation of Asian and Pacific Island communities has shown little change, see figure 10.

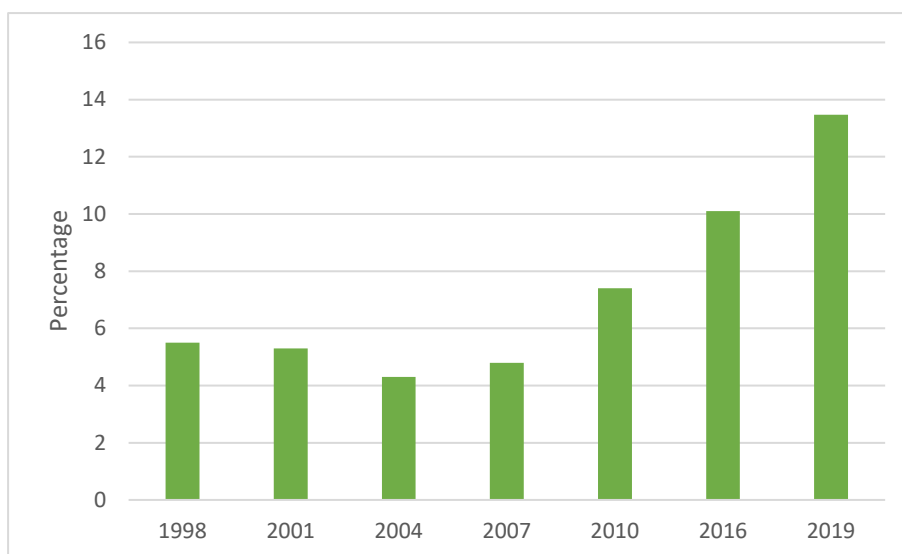
**Figure 10 Ethnic diversity 2007 – 2019**



Source: LGNZ

Figure 10 compares representation in local government with the proportion of each ethnic group in New Zealand’s population. It shows significant under representation for Asian, and to a lesser degree, Pacific Island communities along with substantial over-representation of European ethnicities. Increasing Māori representation has been a feature of local authority elections since 2004 with the 2019 cohort having the highest proportion of Māori members since records began, see figure 11.

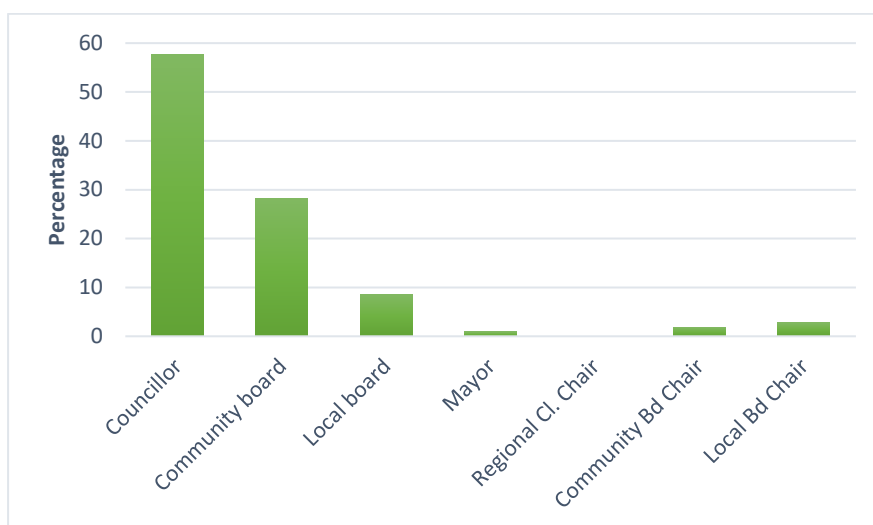
**Figure 11 The proportion of Māori elected members<sup>1</sup>**



Source: LGNZ

Approximately 54 per cent of the respondents who identified as Māori were first time members and 60 per cent of those who identified as Māori were women. Most Māori respondents were members of district and city councils, or community boards, see figure 12.

**Figure 12 Māori members by type of local body**

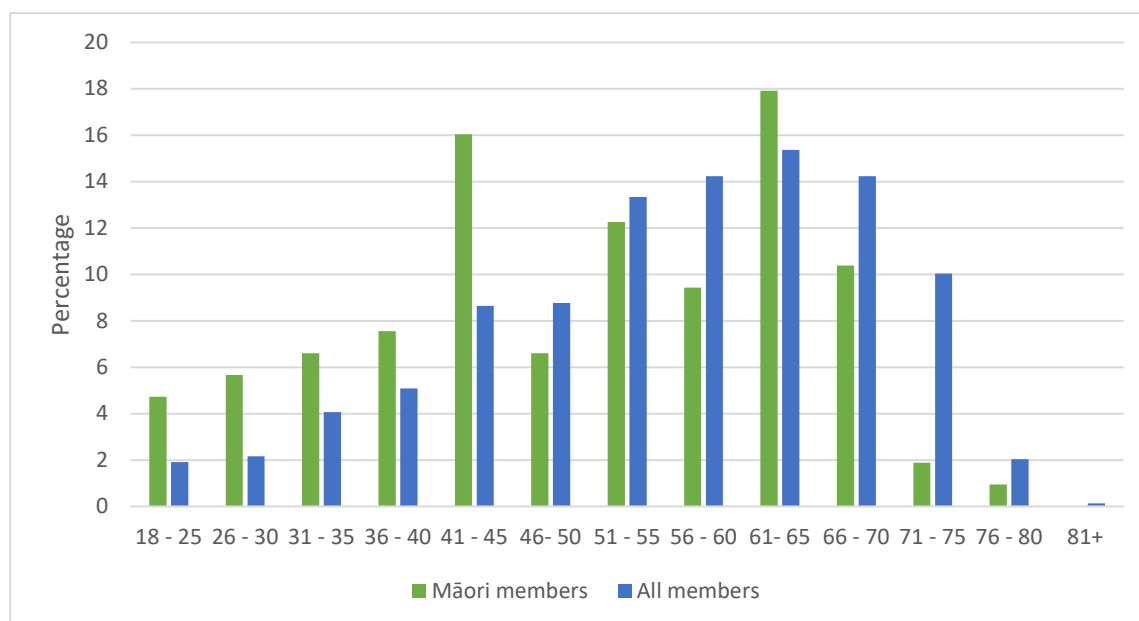


Source: LGNZ

Figure 13 compares the age of Māori members with the age of all members. It shows that Māori members are generally younger than non-Māori members, with approximately 41 per cent of Māori members under the age of 45 compared to approximately 22 per cent of all members. As expected, a higher proportion of non-Māori members are in the older age groups. This pattern also echoes figure 7, which shows that a high proportion of younger members are also female.

<sup>1</sup>Data prior to 2010 available data is limited to councillors and mayors. From 2010 the data set has included local and community board members. Survey results for 2013 are unavailable.

**Figure 13** Age of Māori members



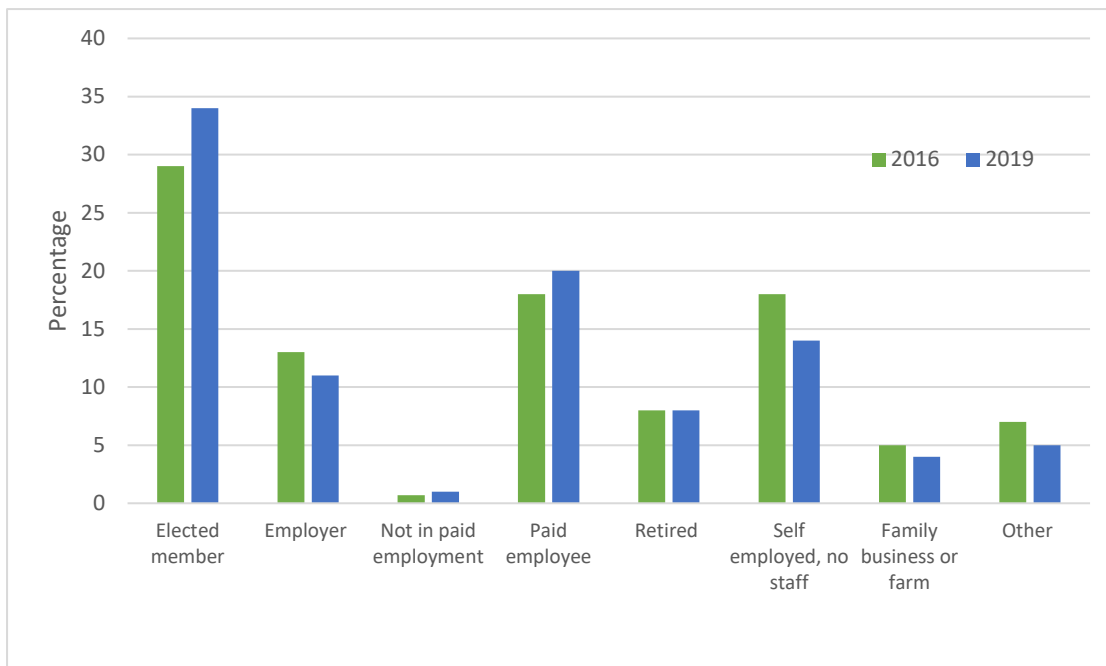
Source: LGNZ

The survey also sought information about which country respondents were born in. The proportion of respondents who indicated they were not born in New Zealand was six per cent. Of that group, almost half were born in England and almost half identified a country other than those specified on the questionnaire. A small number were born in in Australia and South Africa.

### Main occupation and primary source of income

The largest proportion (35 per cent) of respondents stated that their main occupation was being an elected member; this was an increase of five per cent from 2016 survey. The 2019 cohort also had a greater number of members in paid employment compared to those elected in the previous term, and fewer members who identified as self-employed with no employer responsibilities, see figure 14.

**Figure 14 Main occupation of elected members**



Respondents who identified as Māori were more likely to state that their main occupation was being an “elected member” (35 per cent), a “paid employee (30 per cent), or a self-employed person (13 per cent). The proportion of Māori respondents who gave “retired” as their main occupation was less than 4 per cent, which was less than half the rate for all respondents.

Principle sources of income also varied according to the age of members, see figure 15.

**Figure 15 Primary source of income, by age**

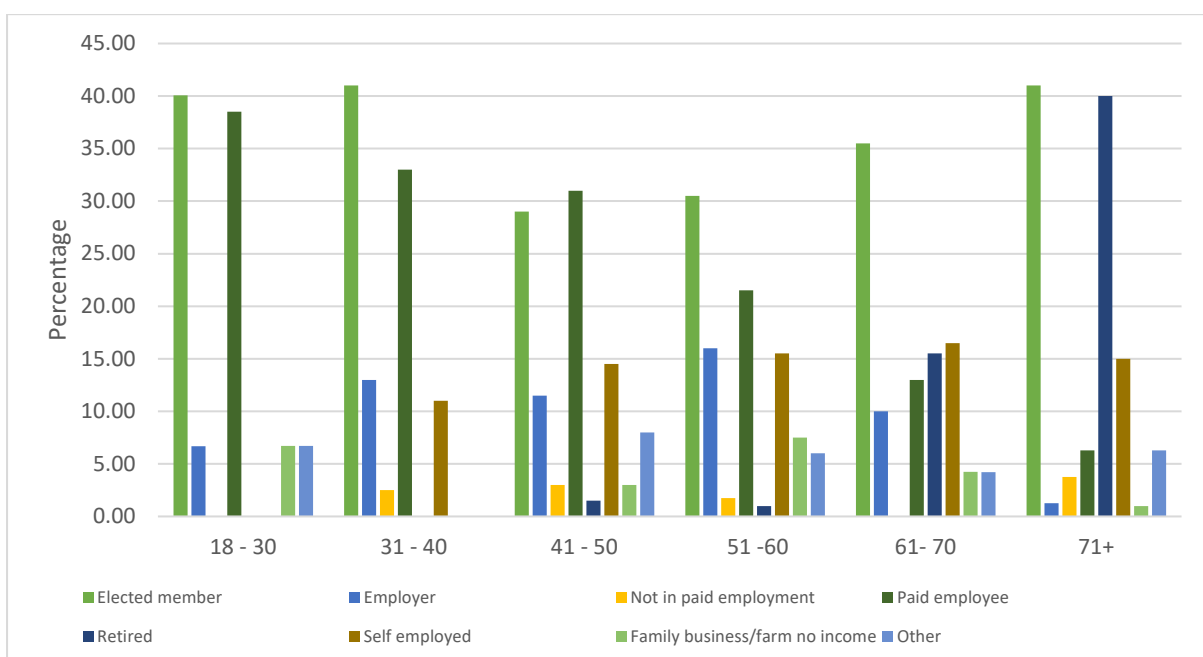


Figure 15 highlights the degree to which an elected member's main occupation varies by age. Interestingly, being an elected member is the main occupation for respondents in both the youngest and the oldest cohorts. In relation to those over 71, the proportion of members (41 per cent) for whom remuneration as an elected member is the primary form of income indicates that they are elected to councils where remuneration is higher superannuation payments.

Not surprisingly, the increase in the number of members who identified their primary occupation as an elected member was matched by an increase in the number of members who stated that their primary source of income was their elected member's salary, see Table 4.

**Table 4. Trends in main income sources**

Source	2010	2016	2019
Self-employment	32%	33%	25.16%
Wages	26.9%	26%	30.37%
Elected members' salary	20.2%	23%	28.3%
Government benefits/superannuation	10%	8%	4.70%

Source: LGNZ

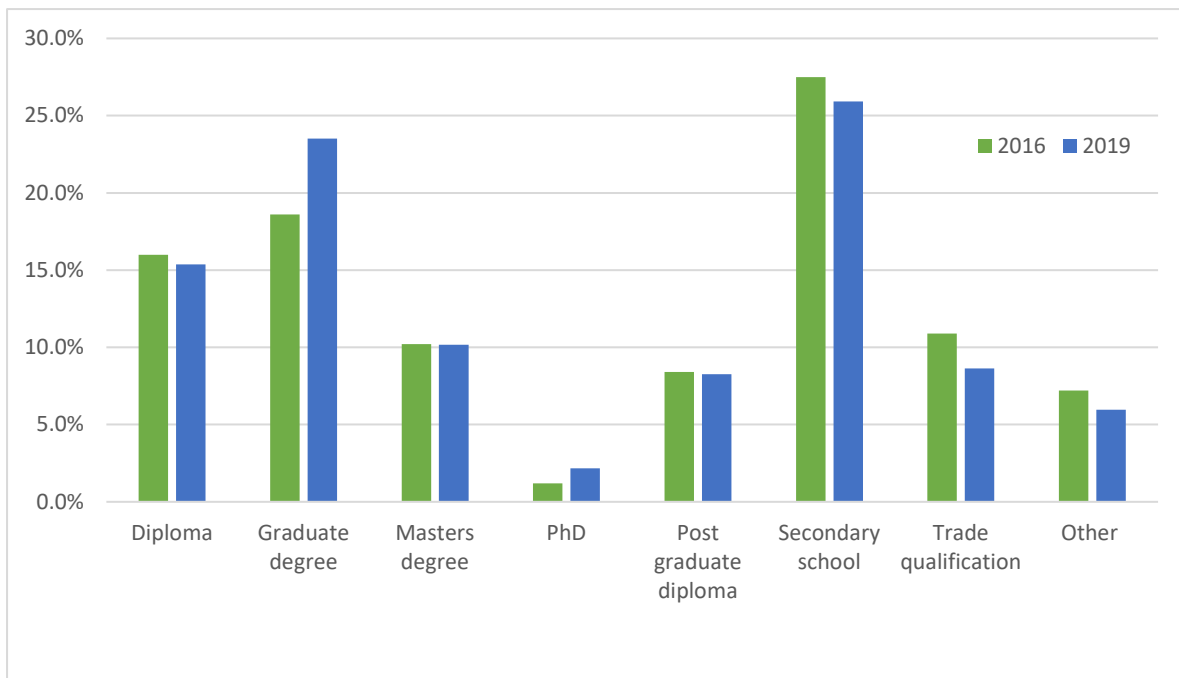
Since 2010, the number of members whose main source of income was self-employment has fallen from 31 percent to 25 per cent. A similar trend exists for members whose primary sources of income is from benefits or superannuation. In contrast, the share of elected members whose main source of income is wages or elected member salaries has increased.<sup>2</sup>

## Education

The level of educational achievement of the largest proportion of respondents (25.92 per cent) was attending secondary school, slightly smaller than in 2016. There was also a decline in the proportion of members with some form of trade qualification. This has fallen two per cent to 8.6 per cent. Both declines are offset by an increase in the number of graduates, the number of graduates has increased by approximately five per cent, to 23.5 per cent.

<sup>2</sup> The decline in the share of members for whom benefits/superannuation are the main source of income may also be explained by the fact that elected member remuneration has grown faster than benefits/superannuation over the last ten years.

**Figure 16** Levels of education

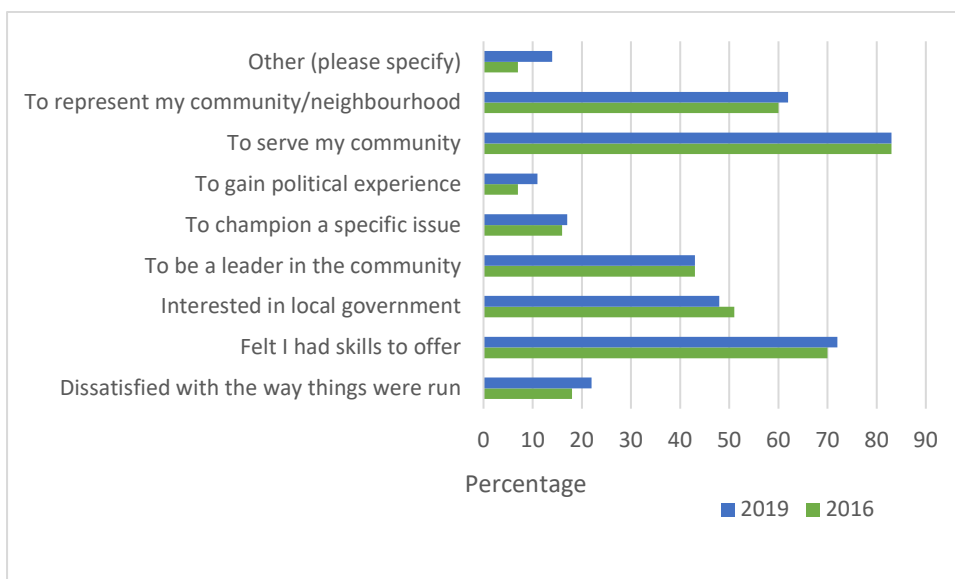


The proportion of elected members with a bachelor’s degree or higher qualification is 35 per cent, compared to 30 per cent for New Zealand’s adult population.

### Reasons for standing

Respondents were given eight options and asked to indicate which ones best describe their reasons for standing, see figure 17. They were also asked to state any other reasons that might be relevant.

**Figure 17** Reasons for standing



Source: LGNZ



The 2019 cohort’s reasons for standing closely resembled the reasons given by elected members in 2016. The increase in respondents giving “to gain political experience” possibly reflecting the increase in the number of those under the age of 40.

The most common reason respondents gave for standing was to “serve my community”, closely followed by a belief that they “had skills to offer” and a desire to “represent their neighbourhood/community”. Reasons to do with changing a policy or programme or achieve a single issue were less common, for example “championing a specific issue” (17 per cent) and “dissatisfaction with the council” (22 per cent). While all age groups gave “to serve my community”, as their primary reason for standing, support for other reasons varied by age group and ethnicity, for example:

- The majority of respondents in the 18 – 25 age group (73 per cent) gave “interest in local government” and “being a leader in the community” as their primary reasons for standing;
- Proportionally more respondents in the 18 – 30 age group gave “dissatisfaction with the way things are run” as a reason for standing than other age groups;
- Older respondents (2.5 per cent of those 71 – 75) were less likely to describe their reason for standing as being to “to gain political experience” than younger respondents (73 per cent of 18 – 25 year olds);
- Older respondents were less likely to give “interest in local government” and “to be a leader in the community” as reasons for standing than younger respondents;
- The only respondent in the 81 years or older category gave just one answer, “to serve my community”.

Amongst Māori respondents, the most commonly reason given for standing was to “so serve my community”, as with the overall sample. However, there was variation in support for other reasons. The major differences are set out in Table 5:

**Table 5. Top reasons for standing**

Reasons	Māori	All respondents
Dissatisfied with the way things were run	28.3%	21.8%
To be a leader in the community	43%	51%
To gain political experience	17.9%	11.11%
Represent your community/neighbourhood	68.9%	62%

Compared to all respondents, Māori were more likely to be dissatisfied with the “way things were run” than other respondents and more likely to give “to represent their community/neighbourhood” and “to gain political experience” as reasons for standing than others – the latter reflecting perhaps their younger age profile. Māori respondents were less likely to support “to be a leader in the community” as a reason for standing than other respondents.

Other reasons given for standing include:

- To make a difference for the good of my community;
- I didn't like the people that were standing;
- Unfinished business in helping district advance in terms of infrastructure, economically and socially;
- Didn't like/appreciate the lack of action from the previous candidates and didn't want them back in again;
- Lack of Māori representation for decades;
- To change the direction the council of the day was tracking;
- We are one of the highest rated councils in New Zealand, something needs to change;
- To enact meaningful action against the climate crisis;
- To deliver on progressive policies;
- I particularly wanted to increase the representation of young people! I was 20 at the time of the election;
- To work with our community in partnership and share my experience and knowledge to support change;
- To make sure there was at least one woman to vote for in my constituency. There was me and five men in the end;
- After retiring from owning a business locally for 53 years which catered throughout the country I felt that I had a wealth of business experience to offer;
- After working in the non-profit sector for more than a decade, I noticed a lot of people struggling and living in poverty. I want to do more to fix this from the top, in local policies that actually look after our people and our planet;
- Māori and youth representation;
- Urgent and appropriate action on climate change, water and biodiversity issues;
- To try and bring some environmental focus to our regional council;
- Need the job to top up my pension;
- Genuinely believe I can initiate small steps to social and economic change with a clear agenda to promote the issues and challenges across the broad spectrum of society not just a small and vocal elite;
- To offer continuity, as some elected members were stepping down;
- To continue progress on council's RMA planning document;
- I wanted the great work being done by the council to continue and two of the incumbents in my ward were retiring;
- Represent diverse cultures, needs and views in our community, promote inclusive representation.
- I truly love the work;
- To represent positions of homeless citizens;
- Have ability to decode complex bureaucratic language into everyday speak that normal folk can understand;
- Hoping to improve engagement with council, since our local folk want to have a voice and a say, but don't know how to;

- Previous board members were not effective in their roles, so felt someone with a skill-set of working in complex environments (was a project manager for development in previous career) may help;
- Demystify what council does; and
- Voice for youth/young families and the social services sector.

better offer asked stepping people two local serve community  
 experience started need voice make see council  
 change community terms wanted business  
 stand time felt unfinished business continue members  
 representation retiring work issues

### Prioritising roles

The 2019 survey saw the introduction of a new question that asked respondents to give a view on the importance of the various roles that elected members play. Respondents were asked to rank each role from least important (1) to most important (5). Table 6 indicates the weighted average of those replies.

**Table 6 Most important roles for achieving the purpose of local government (weighted average)**

	All respondents	Māori
Ensuring essential services meet the needs of this and future generations	4.59	4.61
Connecting with local communities, local organisations and local businesses.	4.52	4.61
Setting strategic direction	4.45	4.46
Representing the interests of your constituents	4.44	4.53
Providing community leadership	4.33	4.4
Ensuring public services are coordinated and meet community needs	4.32	4.35
Meeting statutory requirements	4.26	4.28
Building relationships with Iwi/Māori organisations	3.94	4.41
Providing corporate governance	3.89	3.96

The two roles that respondents identified as the most important for achieving the purpose of local government were to “ensure essential services met the needs of current and future generations” and “to connect with local communities, local organisations and local businesses”. The role ranked least important of the nine was to “provide corporate governance”. Rankings also varied according to age and ethnicity. Younger respondents gave more weight to the following roles than older respondents did:

- Ensuring essential services meet the needs of this and future generations;
- Connecting with local communities, local organisations and local businesses;
- Providing community leadership; and
- Building relationships with Iwi/Māori organisations.

Younger respondents gave less weight to roles involving corporate governance and meeting councils’ statutory requirements than other respondents. Māori respondents gave “connecting with local communities; local organisations and local businesses”, equal weight with “ensuring essential services meet the needs of future generations”. However they gave more weight to “representing the interests of your constituents” and “building relationships with Iwi/Māori organisations” than other respondents.

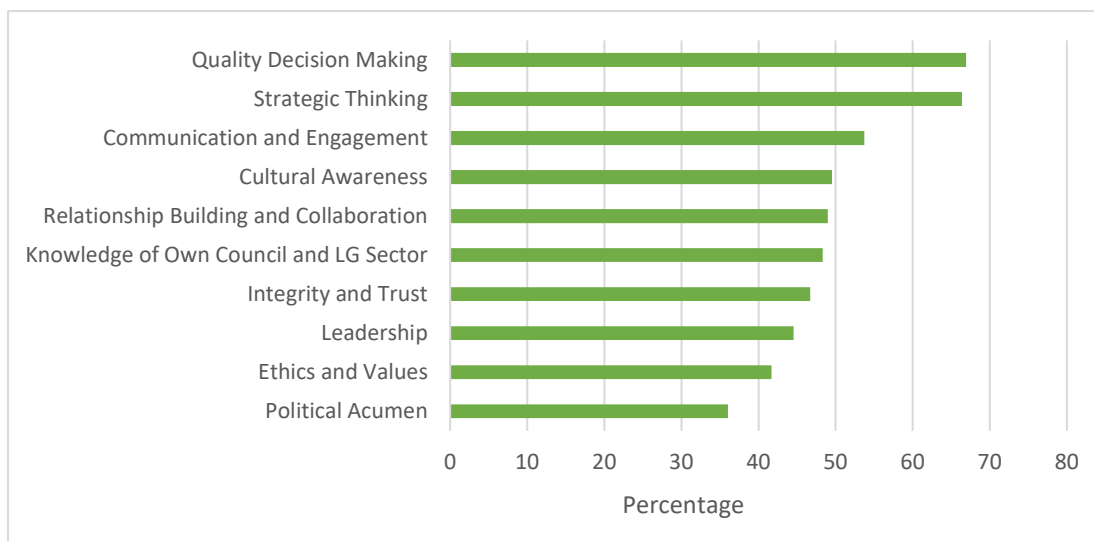
## Training needs and capabilities

Respondents were asked to identify what they saw as the desirable attributes of an effective elected member as well as an effective mayor. They were also asked to identify what additional knowledge or skills that they believed they needed to be more effective.

### **Capabilities required for being an effective elected member**

Two questions sought the views of respondents about the capabilities that elected members, mayors and regional chairs needed if they were to successfully fulfil their political objectives. The two most important capabilities that respondents believed elected members needed in order to be effective were making quality decisions and engaging in strategic thinking. The third most important capability was communication and engagement followed by cultural awareness. The least important capabilities were political acumen, ethics and values, see figure 17.

**Figure 17 Elected members’ capabilities regarded as important**

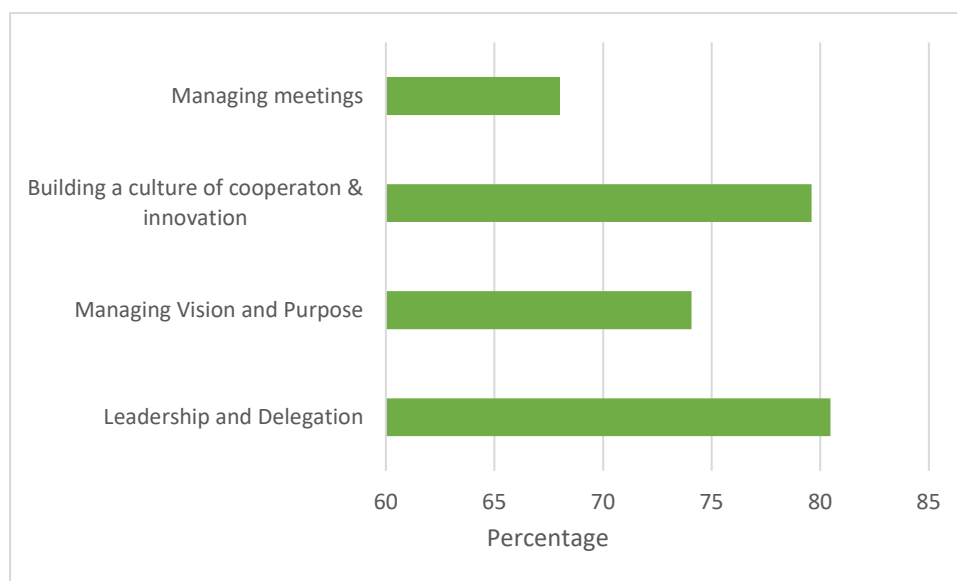


Answers varied by age of respondent. Younger respondents gave much greater weight to “quality decision-making”, “leadership”, “strategic thinking” and knowledge of local government” than older respondents. The further capabilities identified by respondents included:

- Financial governance;
- Financial capability and literacy;
- A governance specific course that comes with certification;
- How to empower the “voiceless”;
- Media training;
- Treaty of Waitangi and new history;
- Asset management;
- Transparency;
- A passion and love for the community;
- Cultural awareness; and
- Knowledge of the “four well-beings”.

Respondents were also asked for their views on what the most important capabilities for mayors and regional council chairs should be. See figure 18.

**Figure 18** Important capabilities for Mayors and Regional Chairs



Respondents gave greater weight to the softer capabilities of cooperation, leadership and delegating responsibilities to others with the role of managing meetings ranked the lowest. Other capabilities identified by members included:

- Staying connected with the grass roots;
- Performance management and/or development of councillors;
- Freedom to dream big with their teams;
- Cultural awareness;
- Knowing the right amount of information to pass on to members;
- Integrity and ethics;
- Understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- Listening to constituents; and
- Identifying and leveraging off the strengths in their team.

Many respondents indicated support for a mayor who took an active stewardship role in relation to their councillors. This was highlighted by comments such as “team building” and councillor development. Another capability that respondents highlighted was the importance of communication with residents.

### **Self-identified training needs**

Participants were asked what assistance, training or additional circumstances would help to make them more effective elected members and were given nine potential options. The two training needs that received the greatest level of support were “stronger engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and business (52.3 per cent) and “access to more training and skill development” (47.49 per cent). Other options related primarily to the ability of members to fulfil their responsibilities, such as having better meetings, less formality, better information on which to make decisions and more involvement in annual and long-term planning.

Put together, the answers to this question suggest the need for an agenda for change, one that increases the opportunities for elected members to have influence in the decision-making of their councils and strengthen the council’s role as a facilitator of community governance, see table 7.

**Table 7 Respondents’ views on their own training needs**

	Answers	Responses
1	Stronger council engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and businesses	52.38%
2	More opportunities to undertake training and skills development	47.49%
3	Better information on which to make decisions	37.07%
4	More involvement in developing annual and long-term plans	33.20%
5	More effective meetings	30.89%
6	More ability to influence meeting agendas	28.31%
7	Better remuneration	24.07%
8	Less formality	19.18%
9	Other (please specify)	18.02%
10	Personal workspace at the council office and access to an advisor	17.63%
11	Nothing, I'm already effective	7.34%

Answers varied by age of respondent with the youngest cohort giving substantial more weight to the need for “more opportunities for training and skills development”. Not surprisingly support for more training diminished the older respondents were. The younger cohort also prioritised “more involvement in development annual and long-term plans” and “stronger council engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and businesses” significantly more than other cohorts. Support for more involvement in annual and long-term planning was in fact more than twice the support given by other cohorts, reflecting, the fact that these processes will be new and perhaps a better understanding of their importance for achieving the objectives on which they may have stood.

Amongst the age groups 61 years and older the training need most highly ranked, in fact significantly higher than all other training issues, was “stronger council engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and businesses”. Other replies of interest included the placing of the request for “better remuneration” which ranked 7th in importance and the two replies concerned with Standing Orders – more effective meetings and more information on how to influence agendas. Both are topical issues and indicate a widespread belief amongst elected members that their effectiveness is limited by an inability to influence the policy agendas that their respective councils pursue.

Amongst the other factors identified were:

- Better connection to staff;
- More time to engage informally with other councillors;
- Less red tape and faster processes;
- Opportunity to conduct their business outside council hours (argument that people should not have to give up their jobs to be on council);
- Stronger roles for community boards;
- Improved governance skills;
- Better and broader induction;
- Te Reo;
- More direct staff support for councillors;
- More power for local boards;
- Online meetings; and
- More time for team bonding.

Common themes ranged from the importance of providing better support for councillors to more effectively performing their roles. Suggestions for improving performance included ensuring members were given more time to 'bond' with each other and form an effective team and giving them direct access to administrative staff and a workplace/office within the council building.



## References and further reading

2019 Auckland local election voter turnout: Who did and did not vote? Dr Jesse Allpress,  
<https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2019-auckland-local-election-voter-turnout-who-did-and-did-not-vote/>

Candidates and their views: LGNZ's survey of candidates standing for the 2019 local authority elections (May 2020) <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Candidates-Survey-Report-2019.pdf>

Drage, Jean (2008) *A Balancing Act; Decision-making and Representation in New Zealand's Local Government*, Institute of Policy Studies, Wellington.

Local Authority Turnout; What's the story? (2016) <https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pq/article/view/4625>

Local elections 2016; Voters choices and reasons, <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/ed9f75954b/Post-election-report-2016.pdf>

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR PROFILE, Rural Ontario Institute (2014)  
<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/uploads/userfiles/files/Municipal%20Councillor%20Profile.pdf>

New Zealand's elected members 2016 – 2019: A profile,  
<https://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/e41e5fb07f/Elected-Members-Profile-Report-FINAL.pdf>

The Demographic Characteristics of Auckland Council Candidates and Elected Members (2017) Auckland Council, <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/the-demographic-characteristics-of-auckland-council-candidates-and-elected-members/>

Tester, Louise (2014) *Women Councillors' Stories of Effectiveness in New Zealand Local Government: A Feminist Hermeneutic*, Inquiry <https://openrepository.aut.ac.nz/handle/10292/8341>

**Questionnaire**

## Introduction

### Tēnā koutou katoa

As the national association of local authorities, Local Government New Zealand is committed to ensuring that local democracy in New Zealand Aotearoa is vibrant, representative and successful. To help us to meet these objectives and advocate for policy change to strengthen our democracy, we need access to good information about who we are and how we have changed over time, reflecting the changes that have occurred in our communities.

To this end, I encourage all elected members to answer this survey. It should take no more than seven minutes and the results, which will be available towards the middle of the year, will assist our policy and advocacy work on your behalf.

Your answer will be held confidentially and personal information will be disaggregated from any statistical information publicly released to ensure individuals are not identifiable. If you have any questions please contact [info@lgnz.co.nz](mailto:info@lgnz.co.nz)

### Ngā mihi

Dave Cull

President

Local Government New Zealand

\* 1. In which council are you an elected member?

\* 2. In your council, what role do you hold?

- Councillor
- Community Board Member
- Local Board Member
- Mayor
- Regional Council Chair
- Community Board Chair
- Local Board Chair

\* 3. As an elected member, is this your:

- First term
- Second term
- Third term
- Fourth term or more

\* 4. Before standing in the 2019 elections were you:

- Not previously elected to any position in local government
- Already serving as an elected member
- Previously an elected member but not a serving elected member in the last term

\* 5. Have you been a member of parliament?

- Yes
- No

\* 6. Why did you stand as a candidate in the 2019 elections? (Tick all that apply)

- Dissatisfied with the way things were run
- Felt I had skills to offer
- Interested in local government
- To be a leader in the community
- To champion a specific issue
- To gain political experience
- To serve my community
- To represent my community/neighbourhood
- Other (please specify)

## Profile

\* 7. What gender are you?

Female

Male

\* 8. Which age group are you in?

18 - 25

26 - 30

31 - 35

36 - 40

41 - 45

46 - 50

51 - 55

56 - 60

61 - 65

66 - 70

71 - 75

76 - 80

81+

\* 9. Which country were you born in?

- Australia
- China
- Cook Islands
- England
- India
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Samoa
- South Africa
- Other (please specify)

\* 10. Which ethnic group/s do you belong to? (Tick all that apply)

- Chinese
- Cook Is Maori
- Indian
- Māori
- Niuean
- NZ European
- Philippines
- Samoan
- Tongan
- Other (please specify)

11. If you have Māori whakapapa, which iwi do you belong to? (List all that apply)

\* 12. What is your main occupation? (Tick only one)

- Elected member
- Employer of other people in your own business
- Not in paid employment
- Paid employee
- Retired from paid employment
- Self employed and not employing others
- Working in a family business or family farm without remuneration
- Other (please specify)

\* 13. What was your main source of income in the past 12 months? (Tick only one)

- My remuneration as an elected member
- Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses
- Self-employment
- Interest, dividends, rent, other annuities
- Government benefits
- Other sources of income, counting support payments from people who do not live in my household
- No main source of income during that time
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

\* 14. What is your highest level of education?

- Diploma
- Graduate degree
- Masters degree
- PhD
- Post graduate diploma
- Secondary school
- Trade qualification
- Other (please specify)

15. To achieve the purpose of local government elected members play multiple roles. Indicate the importance of the following roles by ranking them from 1 - 5, with 5 being the most important.

	1	2	3	4	5
Connecting with local communities, local organisations and local businesses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing community leadership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing corporate governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building relationships with Iwi/Māori organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Setting strategic direction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring public services are coordinated and meet community needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Representing the interests of your constituents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring essential services meet the needs of this and future generations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting statutory requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



16. What would help you to be a more effective elected member? Mark any that apply.

- More opportunities to undertake training and skills development
- More involvement in developing annual and long term plans
- Better remuneration
- Nothing, I'm already effective
- Stronger council engagement with communities, local organisations, Iwi/Māori and businesses
- Less formality
- More effective meetings
- Better information on which to make decisions
- Personal workspace at the council office and access to an advisor
- More ability to influence meeting agendas
- Other (please specify)

## Equip

**Equip is LGNZ's Centre of Excellence. It works directly with mayors, elected members and staff to provide customised guidance and tools to drive efficiency and effectiveness in councils to support governance and management excellence. Our professional development and support services offer new insights into key areas of local government and we work with you to help you achieve your vision for your community.**

**To help us best meet your learning needs please tell us which of the following elected member capabilities you would most like some support with.**

### 17. Capabilities for all Elected Members (List all that apply)

- Quality Decision Making
- Political Acumen
- Leadership
- Cultural Awareness
- Strategic Thinking
- Knowledge of Own Council and LG Sector
- Communication and Engagement
- Relationship Building and Collaboration
- Ethics and Values
- Integrity and Trust
- Other (please specify)

### 18. Capabilities for Mayors and Chairs (List all that apply)

- Leadership and Delegation
- Managing Vision and Purpose
- Building a culture of cooperation and innovation
- Managing meetings
- Other (please specify)

Equip has introduced some new learning delivery mediums to save your time and travel, and enable consistent messages to reach all parts of the country at times that suit you.

19. If we offered a programme on a topic that was appropriate to your needs, which of the following mediums would you prefer? (List all that apply)

- Workshop – Gain knowledge, interact with others, review case studies, role play actions facilitated by a Subject Matter Expert
- Facilitated Discussion workshop - Bring your own projects or issues to a group session facilitated by a Subject Matter Expert. Develop an action plan.
- Webinar – Be informed and ask questions about a topical issue in a one hour session at your own location. Revisit as needed via 'Video on Demand'
- Digital Module – review a specific topic and return to key points as and when you need to.
- A blended learning programme utilizing a range of these mediums to suit.

To help us best meet your needs please tell us which of the following areas you may like additional support. (List all that apply)

20. Would you like someone from LGNZ to contact you to discuss the range of services that LGNZ and Equip provide?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide your contact details: