



Governing Council elections 2025

Frequently asked questions

Contact details



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Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

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1. Why does the Teaching Council have elections for their Governing Council?

The Teaching Council was established by Parliament as an Independent Statutory Body and during that process parliament determined it should be governed by a Governing Council, of which seven members are elected by the profession – teachers and professional leaders. Members are elected for a three-year term, and by law elections must be held every three years.

2. How many people are on the Teaching Council Governing Council?

There are 13 members on the Governing Council in total, seven are elected by the profession and six appointed by the Minister of Education. The Minister also appoints the Chair and Deputy Chair. Follow [this link](#) to our website to find out more about our current members.

3. Why does the Minister of Education get to appoint Governing Council members, and how do they choose who to appoint (are there requirements)?

The six appointed members ensure that the Governing Council represents all types of people across the profession. For example, if no Pacifica people were voted in, that voice would be missing, so the Minister would balance this out with various appointments.

The Education and Training Act 2020 sets out requirements for appointed Governing Council members, which you can read, [here](#). The Teaching Council is not involved in the process of ministerial appointments, and you can find more information about the ministerial appointment process on the Ministry of Education website, [here](#).

4. What powers do Governing Council members have?

The Governing Council focuses on setting policy and strategic direction, ensuring an effective governance culture exists, oversight of the performance of the organisation, and managing risk. The collective and individual duties of all Governing Council members are set out in Schedule 19 of the Education and Training Act 2020, found [here](#).

You can also watch a helpful video about why it's important to be part of your body's membership process, [here](#).

You can also listen to some current members talking about their experiences [here](#).

5. Why are the elections at such a busy time of the year?

We're well aware the election cycle doesn't happen at an ideal time of the year for a busy profession. But while we understand the election timeframes aren't ideal, as Term 1 is just kicking off, the election process and timeframes are governed by the Education and Training Act 2020 and the [Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand Election Rules 2018](#) (the Rules), which don't allow the Teaching Council to vary the election timeline or process.

To counter this, we're aiming to ensure all teachers are well informed in advance of the election process so that they're ready and able to participate in the election process! So, you'll have lots of information including important dates well in advance.

6. Who can stand for Teaching Council elections?

To be eligible to stand in the elections, candidates must be registered teachers with a current practising certificate except teacher educator candidates, who don't need to hold a current practising certificate, but must be a registered teacher and have five or more years of experience in the field of initial teacher education or ongoing teacher education (or both) and be currently working in one of those fields.

Current Limited to Teach (LAT) holders are not eligible to stand.

Note there are other requirements relating to nomination that are set out in Section 16 of [the Rules](#).

The following positions on the Governing Council are up for election:

- 1 teacher representing the early childhood education sector (elected by teachers from that sector).
- 1 early childhood education service leader, representing leadership in the early childhood education sector (elected by leaders from that sector).
- 1 teacher representing the primary education sector (elected by teachers from that sector).
- 1 principal representing the primary education sector (elected by principals from that sector).
- 1 teacher representing the secondary education sector (elected by teachers from that sector).
- 1 principal representing the secondary education sector (elected by principals from that sector).
- 1 teacher educator (elected by registered teachers working in the fields of initial and ongoing teacher education).

You can only be nominated for the role type and sector that you currently work in.

7. Who can vote in the Teaching Council elections?

Any person is entitled to vote if they are on the Teaching Council electoral roll as of 24 January 2025 **and** entitled to vote on election day. If you register after this date, you will not be on the electoral roll, and therefore won't be able to vote.

The electoral roll will consist of people who on election day will be:

- registered teachers without current practising certificates
- registered teachers with current practising certificates
- current LAT holders.

Every person voting for a candidate in a sector is required to make a declaration to the returning officer that the person is entitled to vote in that sector because:

- the person is a registered teacher or a current LAT holder
- where applicable, the person holds a current practising certificate
- the person is currently (or was most recently) employed in that sector.

A person who is entitled to vote may vote only once and may vote only in the sector in which they are currently (or were most recently) employed. Where that person works in more than one sector, they may vote only in one sector and must choose the sector in which to vote.

Note that registered teachers without a current practicing certificate are only eligible to vote for the teacher educator representative and **only** if they are currently employed in the field of initial teacher education or the field of ongoing teacher education, or both.

8. When and how can I vote?

Electronic and postal voting will open on 5 February 2025. Election Services will send the voting form via email or post to all teachers on the electoral roll as of 24 January 2025, and 28 February 2025 is the last day to vote!

9. What happens if only one person stands for each sector?

If only one valid nomination is received in an election for an elected member, the returning officer must immediately declare that nominee is elected. No election for that sector's representative will be held. We strongly encourage members of the profession to nominate or be nominated, because this is your membership body and you will be able to influence how it works.

10. How many people voted in the last Governing Council elections?

Around 7,200 teachers voted in the 2022 elections. As the Teaching Council plays such an important role in the education eco-system, we'd love to get that number much higher.

11. How do I know the voting system is well managed?

This is a really great question and to ensure the elections adhere to the legal requirements set out in the [Education and Training Act 2020](#) the Teaching Council contracts the electoral voting by a specialist independent company, Election Services. You can find out more about them [here](#).

12. What is the time commitment involved if I decide to stand?

It is a commitment and if you're going to be shaping your professional body, it does take that commitment.

As a Governing Council member, you'll be required to attend ten full day Governing Council meetings per year). Each meeting does require preparation, including reviewing Governing Council papers. These papers are shared via a secure service at least a week prior to the meeting. There may be additional "out-of-cycle" Governing Council meetings that require attendance. Meetings are held in Wellington.

You may also be asked to sit on one of three subcommittees. You may also be asked to sit on one of the Governing Council's, often led by a Governing Council member (dependent on educational expertise), which meet throughout the year.

13. Who is currently on the Governing Council? And which of them are voted in and which are appointed?

You'll find profiles of all the current Governing Council members, stating who was elected or appointed, on our website, [here](#).

14. How long is a term on the Teaching Council Governing Council?

A term is three years. More information about Governing Council terms, including reappointments, can be found in the [Education and Training Act 2020](#), [here](#).

15. Do Governing Council members have legal responsibilities like members of public companies?

No member of the Governing Council is personally liable for any act done or omitted to be done by the body. The Teaching Council holds professional indemnity insurance. The cover extends to all current and former Governing Council members/officers of the Teaching Council, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. A copy of the policy can be made available to members on request.

However, Governing Council members are liable for offences in relation to the [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#).

16. Can I be a member of another body at the same time, for example a union rep?

Yes! Ideally, individual Governing Council members will have a wide variety of professional interests and affiliations.

Members of the Governing Council are required to act in accordance with the law and to act in the best interests of the Teaching Council. They're also expected to act with honesty and integrity and in good faith, and not pursue their own interests at the expense of the Teaching Council's interests. They are also expected to exercise the care, diligence, and skill that a reasonable person would exercise in the same circumstances.

Where conflicts of interest arise due to any situation where a Governing Council member could have their judgment or responsibilities affected by some other interest or duty they have, such as an employment, personal or financial interest, they are required to disclose those conflicts so they can be appropriately managed.

17. What is the point of having a Governing Council, and being on a Governing Council?

The Teaching Council is your membership body! Staff who work at the Teaching Council are carrying out the strategic plan set by the Governing Council – the profession, teachers and professional leaders – your peers! Teaching Council staff don't decide what is strategically important to the Teaching Council, you do – by being on the Governing Council.

Working as a Governing Council member for the Teaching Council can be hugely rewarding; you're creating change and making decisions for the benefit of the education sector. Governing Council members are collectively responsible for ensuring the Teaching Council acts in a manner consistent with its legislative functions and powers under the [Education and Training Act 2020](#) and that it exercises those functions efficiently and effectively. Governing Council members are also responsible for ensuring the Teaching Council operates in a financially responsible manner.

18. Do members of the Governing Council get paid, and are their costs (possibly out of the classroom) covered?

Members are paid for attendance of and preparation for Governing Council meetings, and for meetings of any other Teaching Council bodies they are members of.

The Teaching Council has a schedule of fees paid to Governing Council members. The amount paid depends on whether it is a full day or half day meeting. Travel to and from meetings is arranged and paid for by the Teaching Council on behalf of the Governing Council members.

Actual and reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Teaching Council are reimbursed after being approved by the Governing Council Chair. Where the meeting takes place during a business day, the Governing Council member's employer may receive the meeting fee, if the Governing Council member is being paid by them.

If the Governing Council member is employed full-time by an ECE center, school, or kura, it's up to the member to negotiate arrangements for time release or leave to attend Governing Council meeting and to agree whether Governing Council member attendance and preparation fees are paid to the individual or the employer. If public funding is involved (e.g. the Governing Council member is also employed by a publicly funded school or kura), there is a general expectation that payment for attending Governing Council meetings will come from one source only (i.e. either the employer or the Teaching Council, but not both).

19. If I submit my application for registration prior to 24 January 2025 and it is approved after that date, can I vote in the election?

The cut-off date for the Teaching Council electoral roll is 24 January 2025. If you gain registration after this date, you will **not** be on the electoral roll, and therefore won't be able to vote.

20. Can I vote for all seven elected seats?

No, you can only vote for the sector in which you're currently employed or were most recently employed. For example, if you're an ECE teacher, you can only vote for ECE teacher candidates.

21. How do I find out who I can vote for?

Election Services will publish a list of the candidates and any candidate profile statements on the Teaching Council website on or before 22 January 2025. All teachers on the electoral roll will be sent voting instructions, an alphabetical list of candidates and a candidate profile directory on or before 5 February 2025.

22. I am not currently teaching but would like to vote - can I choose what electoral roll I can be on?

If you're registered and hold a current practicing certificate, you are eligible to vote in the sector in which you were last employed.

If you are registered and **do not** hold a current practicing certificate, you are only eligible to vote for the teacher educator representative **and only** if you are currently employed in the field of initial teacher education or the field of ongoing teacher education (or both).

If you have never taught in New Zealand, and are registered ONLY, you are not eligible to vote.

23. How do I update my details so that I can vote?

Please make sure all your details are correct in our online services platform Hapori Matatū, [here](#).

Use the [Hapori Matatū User Guide](#) if you need help updating your details.

24. When will the results of the election be known?

All key dates are on this Teaching Council webpage, [here](#). Voting closes 12:00pm Friday, 28 February 2025 and results will be published that evening.

25. How does the election process run?

The elections process runs from 25 October 2024 until 28 February 2025 when voting closes, and there are lots of important key dates along the way, which you will find on our website, [here](#).

The process can be broken into two phases: the nominations phase and the voting phase. The nominations phase comes first and runs from 25 October and closes at midday on 30 December. (These dates are set in legislation and we acknowledge they are not ideal.) Candidate nominations require either nominating someone else or nominating yourself, with a seconder, to stand in the elections.

Candidates must submit a resumé and may submit a profile statement and photo with their nomination paper. Each of the elected members must be a registered teacher holding a current practising certificate, and working in either the ECE, primary or secondary sector (**except** the teacher educator). Please see more information on how to nominate someone, in the question 'How do I nominate someone?' below.

On 24 January 2025 all teachers on the electoral roll will receive a list of candidates from Election Services and this is when the voting phase begins! From 5 February 2025 you can vote for candidates in the sector in which you currently work or have most recently worked in. Voting closes on 28 February 2025. Details on how to vote are in the question 'When and how can I vote?' below.

26. How do I nominate someone?

To be eligible to stand in the elections, candidates must be registered teachers with a current practising certificate, **except** the teacher educator, who need not hold a current practising certificate but must be a registered teacher and have five or more years of experience in the field of initial teacher education or ongoing teacher education (or both) and be currently working in one of those fields.

Current LAT holders are not eligible to stand.

Each nomination must be made on the appropriate nomination form, available from 25 October 2024 at www.electionservices.co.nz/teachingcouncil/.

Nominations for the Governing Council elections can be completed and submitted online. If a candidate wishes to submit a nomination online, they will need to create an account and log-in, select the sector they wish to stand for, and follow the instructions to complete and submit their nomination.

A candidate will be required to provide details (name, registration number and email address) of their nominators. The nominators will be sent an email with a link for them to sign and agree to nominate. A nomination will not be able to be submitted online until all mandatory fields have been completed and a candidate's nominators have followed the link and signed the nomination.

Candidates must also submit a resumé and may submit a profile statement and photo with their nomination. To be valid, nominations must be received by the returning officer no later than 12:00pm Thursday 30 December.

A nomination of a person as an elected candidate is not valid unless:

- the person who made the nomination is:
 - entitled to vote
 - currently (or was most recently) employed in the same sector as the candidate they are nominating.
- the nomination is seconded by a person who:
 - is entitled to vote
 - is currently (or was most recently) employed in the same sector as the candidate whose nomination they are seconding
 - is not the person who nominated the candidate.

See the Candidate handbook for more information on our website, [here](#).

27. Can I nominate myself?

Yes, however, the nomination must meet all the requirements set out in the Candidate handbook, found on our website, [here](#).

28. What do we expect the 2025 election to cost?

Running Governing Council elections is a process prescribed and required by the [Education and Training Act 2020](#) and [the Rules](#), and this does cost the Teaching Council. It's important that the Teaching Council uses an external third-party election specialist, to ensure the elections are in line with all legal requirements and there is no interference of any kind. Election Services have estimated the 2025 costs at \$64,000.