Hauraki-Waikato Poll
October 2026

KIRITAKI / CLIENT:	Whakaata Māori
POLL DATES:	Monday 21 September to Thursday 01 October 2026. The median response was collected on Wednesday 30 September 2026.
TARGET POPULATION:	Māori adults aged 18+ enrolled in the Hauraki-Waikato electorate.
SAMPLE POPULATION:	Māori adults aged 18+ in Hauraki-Waikato who were contactable by landline, mobile phone or online panel.
SAMPLE SIZE:	500 respondents participated: 420 by phone and 80 through an online panel.
SAMPLE SELECTION:	The phone portion used a random selection of landline and mobile numbers in Hauraki-Waikato meshblocks where more than 25% of residents were Māori. Respondents were asked whether they were Māori and enrolled on the Māori roll in Hauraki-Waikato. The online portion used the Dynata global panel that complies with ESOMAR guidelines for online research. New Zealand panel members were recorded as being of Māori ethnicity and living within a postcode in Hauraki-Waikato. Respondents were asked if they were enrolled on the Māori roll to vote in Hauraki-Waikato.
RESPONSE RATE:	Multiple call-backs occurred to maximise the response rate. Of the 7,100 numbers called 68% were valid numbers. Of the valid numbers, 29% got through to a person. Of the 1,428 people contacted, 29% agreed to take part.
QUESTIONS:	The questions were asked in the order they are listed.
WEIGHTING:	The results are weighted to reflect the Māori adult population of Hauraki-Waikato by gender and age. Gender targets are based on the census, and age targets on turnout by age in Hauraki-Waikato at the 2023 election.
SAMPLE ERROR:	Based on this sample of 500 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 4.5%, at the 95% confidence level. Results for sub-groups such as gender and age will have a higher margin of error.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

1. Under the MMP system, you have two votes - one for the party and another for the electorate candidate. Taking the party vote, which party do you think you would vote for if another election was held today?

If you are undecided, is there any party you are leaning towards, even slightly?

		N	%
Party Vote	Te Pāti Māori	109	22%
	Labour	104	21%
	Greens	82	16%
	Unsure	76	15%
	NZ First	33	7%
	National	26	5%
	ACT	14	3%
	Te Tai Tokerau Party	14	3%
	Opportunity (TOP)	9	2%
	Free Palestine	7	1%
	Animal Justice	7	1%
	NZ Loyal	6	1%
	Vision NZ	5	1%
	Women's Rights	4	1%
	ALCP (Legalise Cannabis)	2	0%
	Conservatives	0	0%
	NZ Outdoors & Freedom	0	0%
	Alliance	0	0%
	Total	500	100%

Te Pāti Māori leads the party vote on 22%, followed by Labour on 21%, the Greens on 16%, NZ First on 7% and National on 5%. A further 15% were undecided.

Tāne (men) were more likely than wāhine (women) to support National: 9% compared with 2%. Labour support was higher among those aged 40–59 than those aged 18–39: 30% compared with 12%. Te Pāti Māori support was higher among those aged 18–39, at 32%, than those aged 40–59, at 14%, or those aged 60+, at 11%.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

Excluding undecided respondents, the shares of the decided vote are:

		N	%
Party Vote	National	26	6%
	Labour	104	24%
	Greens	82	19%
	ACT	14	3%
	NZ First	33	8%
	Te Pāti Māori	109	26%
	Opportunity (TOP)	9	2%
	Alliance	0	0%
	Te Tai Tokerau Party	14	3%
	Free Palestine	7	2%
	Animal Justice	7	2%
	NZ Outdoors & Freedom	0	0%
	Women's Rights	4	1%
	NZ Loyal	6	1%
	ALCP (Legalise Cannabis)	2	1%
	Vision NZ	5	1%
	Conservatives	0	0%
	Total	424	100%

Party	2026 poll	2023 election	Percentage-point change
Labour	24%	45%	-21%
Greens	19%	7%	+12%
Te Pāti Māori	26%	33%	-7%
NZ First	8%	4%	+4%
National	6%	4%	+2%
ACT	3%	1%	+2%
Opportunity (TOP)	2%	1%	+1%
Te Tai Tokerau	3%		+3%

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

2. With your electorate vote, which candidate or political party's candidate would you vote for to be the MP for Hauraki-Waikato?

		N	%
Electorate Vote	Labour/Kingi Kiriona	129	26%
	Te Pāti Māori/Hana–Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke	224	45%
	Other	63	13%
	Unsure	84	17%
	Total	500	100%

Maipi-Clarke leads Kiriona by 45% to 26% with 17% undecided.

Wāhine (women) were more likely than tāne (men) to support Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke: 51% compared with 38%. Her support was higher among those aged 18–39, at 55%, than those aged 40–59, at 38%, or those aged 60+, at 34%.

Excluding undecided respondents, the electorate-vote shares are:

		N	%
Electorate Vote	Labour/Kingi Kiriona	129	31%
	Te Pāti Māori/Hana–Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke	224	54%
	Other	63	15%
	Total	416	100%

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

3. The current MP for Hauraki-Waikato is Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke. How good a job do you think she has done over the last three years as the local MP? Has it been good, average or poor?

		N	%
Maipi-Clarke approval	Poor	30	6%
	Average	118	24%
	Good	306	61%
	Unsure	47	9%
	Total	500	100%

Maipi-Clarke has very high net approval: 61% say she has done a good job and 6% say she has done a poor job, giving a net rating of +55 percentage points.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

4. What is the most important local issue in Hauraki-Waikato that could affect your vote?

		N	%
Most important local issue	Roading and transport isolation	11	2%
	Education	21	4%
	Hauora / healthcare	49	10%
	Housing	52	10%
	Cost of living	173	35%
	Mahi / jobs	21	4%
	Local council and regional development	23	5%
	Te Tiriti o Waitangi	63	13%
	Law and order	3	1%
	Environment	19	4%
	Infrastructure	24	5%
	Other	16	3%
	Unsure	24	5%
	Total	500	100%

The cost of living is the leading issue on 35%, followed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi on 13%, Hauora (healthcare) on 10% and housing on 10%.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

5. Do you believe the Crown, and therefore the Government, is upholding its Treaty of Waitangi settlement commitments with Waikato-Tainui to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River?

		N	%
Crown upholding Waikato River settlement	Yes	132	26%
	No	235	47%
	Unsure	133	27%
	Total	500	100%

A plurality of 47% say the Crown is not upholding its Treaty settlement commitments regarding the Waikato River. A further 26% say the Crown is upholding the settlement, and 27% are unsure.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

6. There are different views on what should be done to improve Māori health. Which of these should be the Government's focus?

- Re-establishing Te Aka Whai Ora, the independent Māori Health Authority
- Granting funding and resources to Māori health providers
- Improving the single health system for all New Zealanders

		N	%
Preferred focus for Māori health	Re-establishing Te Aka Whai Ora	110	22%
	Funding to Māori health providers	142	28%
	Improve health system for all	222	44%
	Unsure	27	5%
	Total	500	100%

A plurality of 44% say the Government should focus on improving the health system for all New Zealanders, followed by 28% who favour funding Māori health providers and 22% who favour re-establishing Te Aka Whai Ora (the Māori Health Authority).

Younger respondents were more likely to favour greater funding for Māori providers.

Respondents aged 60+ were more likely to favour improving services for everybody.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

7. Should the Kiingitanga have a formal role in New Zealand's political and constitutional system?

		N	%
Kiingitanga have formal role in NZ constitutional system	Yes	321	64%
	No	119	24%
	Unsure	61	12%
	Total	500	100%

A majority of 64% say the Kiingitanga should have a formal role in New Zealand’s political and constitutional system.

Respondents aged 18–39 were more likely than those aged 60+ to answer yes: 73% compared with 49%.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

8. The following are four qualities that people have said matter when choosing an MP. Please rank them from most to least important when deciding your candidate vote in Hauraki-Waikato.

		N	%
Strong advocate for local issues	1st (most important)	128	26%
	2nd	148	30%
	3rd	129	26%
	4th (least important)	95	19%
Gets the mahi done	1st (most important)	193	39%
	2nd	94	19%
	3rd	102	20%
	4th (least important)	111	22%
Kanohi kitea / Physically present	1st (most important)	72	14%
	2nd	137	27%
	3rd	160	32%
	4th (least important)	131	26%
Work effectively with other parties	1st (most important)	107	21%
	2nd	121	24%
	3rd	109	22%
	4th (least important)	163	33%

Getting the mahi done was the most common first choice.

Working effectively with other parties was the most common fourth-ranked quality.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

9. How important is it to you that your electorate MP is willing to stand up to their own party on the issues that matter to Māori?

		N	%
Importance electorate MP stand up to their party on Māori issues	Very important	205	41%
	Somewhat important	215	43%
	Not that important	52	10%
	Not at all important	14	3%
	Unsure	14	3%
	Total	500	100%

Overall, 84% said it was somewhat or very important for their electorate MP to stand up to their own party on issues affecting Māori.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

10. Which of the following should be the highest priority for the next Government when it comes to improving outcomes for Māori?

		N	%
Highest priority for the next Government to improve Māori outcomes	Reducing poverty and homelessness	119	24%
	Addressing the Māori unemployment rate	59	12%
	Improving health and education outcomes	102	20%
	Support for mental health and drug addiction	63	13%
	Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi	128	26%
	Other	29	6%
	Total	500	100%

The highest priority was honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, followed by reducing poverty and homelessness.

Tāne (men) were more likely than wāhine (women) to prioritise mental health: 18% compared with 8%.

Wāhine (women) were more likely than tāne (men) to prioritise Te Tiriti: 34% compared with 17%.

Te Pāti Māori voters were especially likely to prioritise Te Tiriti: 49%, compared with 13% of Labour voters.

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz

Demographics

		Unweighted Count	Weighted Count
Gender	Female	266	262
	Male	234	238
	Other	0	0
Age	18 - 39	161	236
	40 - 59	223	168
	60+	116	95

David Farrar
Director
Curia Market Research

Friday 02 October 2026

Curia Market Research, PO Box 13028, Johnsonville, Wellington
Ph: 04 894 3150 E-mail: curia@curia.co.nz