

The Electoral System in New Zealand

UMR Omnibus Results
July 2009



Email: umr@umr.co.nz
Website: www.umr.co.nz

WELLINGTON
3 Collina Terrace
Thorndon
WELLINGTON 6011
NEW ZEALAND
Tel: +64 4 473 1061
Fax: +64 4 472 3501

AUCKLAND
11 Earle Street
Parnell
AUCKLAND 1052
NEW ZEALAND
Tel: +64 9 373 8700
Fax: +64 9 373 8704

SYDNEY
Level One, Suite 105
332-342 Oxford Street
SYDNEY NSW 2022
AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61 2 9386 1622
Fax: +61 2 9386 1633

Methodology

Results in this report are based upon questions asked in the UMR Research nation-wide omnibus survey. This is a telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 750 New Zealanders 18 years of age and over.

Fieldwork was conducted from the 2nd to 6th July 2009 at UMR Research's national interview facility in Auckland.

The margin of error for sample size of 750 for a 50% figure at the '95% confidence level' is $\pm 3.6\%$.

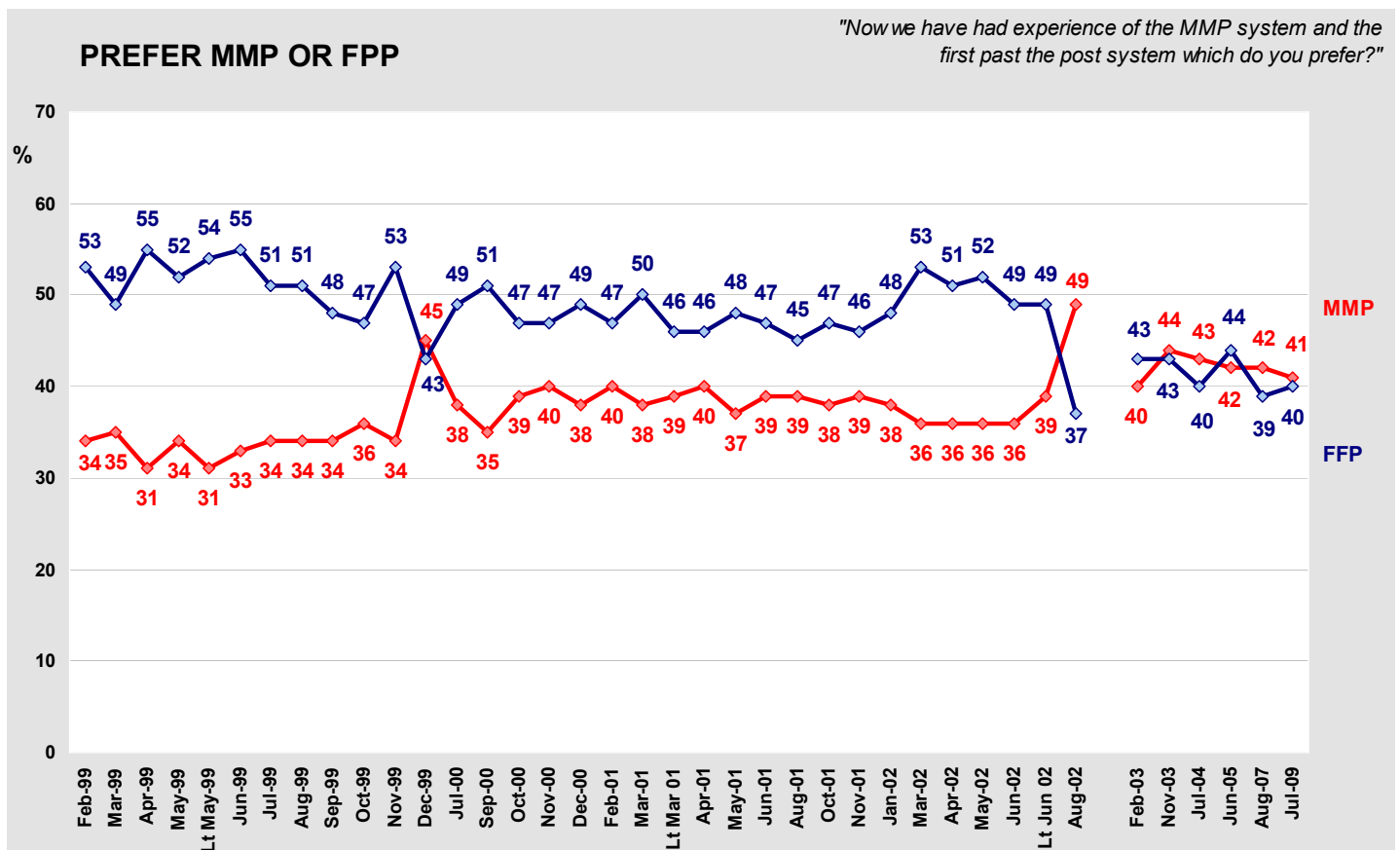
MMP vs FPP

Support for the MMP and FPP voting systems continued to be relatively even.

41% said they prefer the MMP voting system, while 40% said they prefer FPP. 19% were unsure or had no preference. These figures were relatively unchanged from 2007, when 42% preferred MMP and 39% preferred FPP.

Support for each voting system varied across several demographics:

- Wellingtonians heavily favoured MMP over FPP 58% to 32%.
- Those in provincial or rural areas were slightly more in favour of FPP.
- Support for MMP decreased with age. Those aged under 30 favoured MMP over FPP 43% to 18%. Those aged 60 plus were much less supportive, 36% to 56%.



Impact of MMP

Opinions on the impact of MMP on the quality of Government were fairly split.

A third (32%) said the MMP voting system has had a positive impact (7-10 on a 0-10 scale where 10 means 'very positive') while 37% had a neutral opinion (4-6 on the scale) and 24% said it has had a negative impact (0-3 on the scale).

These figures were similar to those in 2007, however slightly more people now believe MMP has had a negative impact.

As you may be aware, New Zealand has had MMP Governments since 1996. Using a 0 to 10 scale where 0 means very negative and 10 very positive, what impact do you think the MMP voting system has had on the quality of Government in New Zealand over this period.

	AUG 07 %	JUL 09 %
10 – Very positive	3	4
9	2	1
8	10	13
7	17	14
TOTAL POSITIVE (7-10)	32	32
6	14	12
5	19	15
4	10	10
TOTAL NEUTRAL (4-6)	43	37
3	6	10
2	5	5
1	1	3
0 – Very negative	7	6
TOTAL NEGATIVE (0-3)	19	24
Unsure	6	7

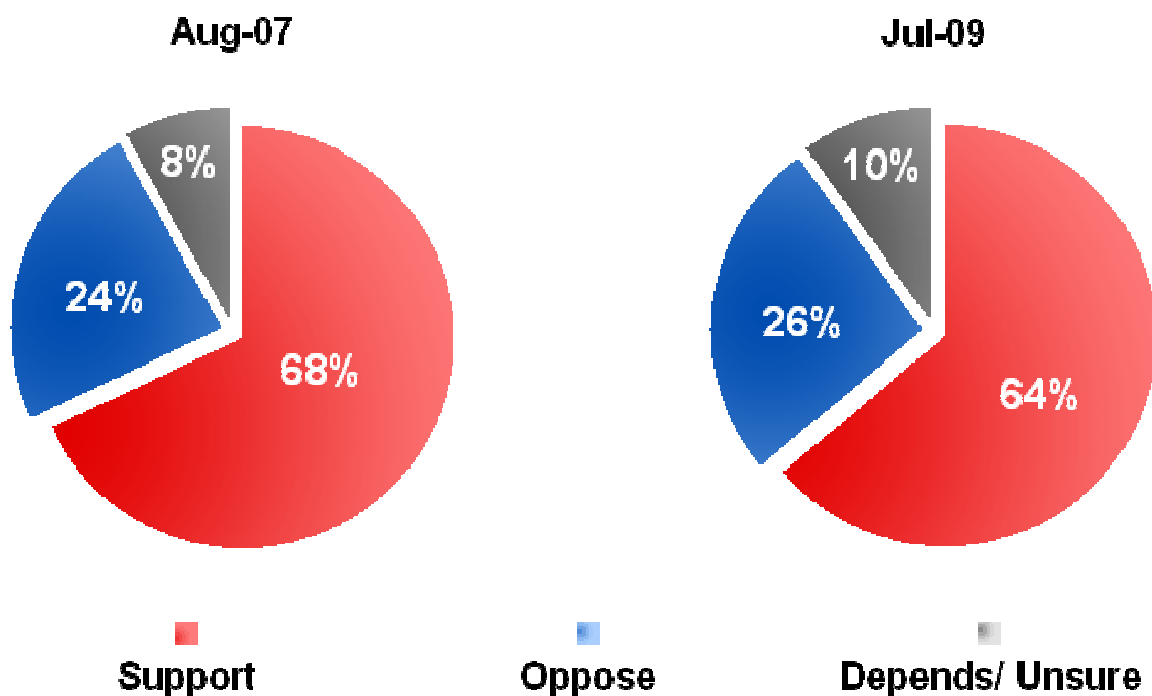
MMP Referendum

Most respondents continue to support a referendum on whether we keep or change the MMP voting system.

64% declared they support a referendum while 26% oppose it. These figures were similar to those recorded in 2007 (68% support, 24% oppose).

Males were slightly more supportive than females (66% and 61% respectively). Wellingtonians were the least supportive (54%) compared to other areas.

Regardless of your views on MMP, would you support or oppose a referendum on whether we keep or change the MMP voting system?



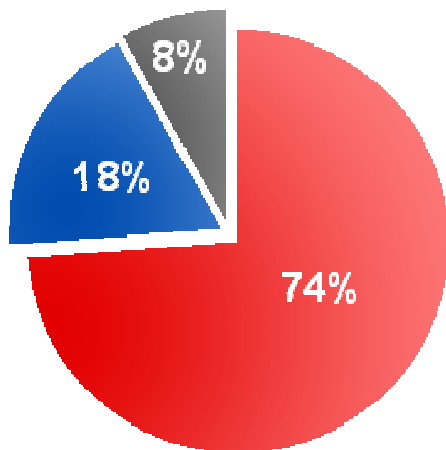
Reducing Number Of MP's

A solid majority of respondents favoured reducing the number of MP's in the house from around 120 to 100. 74% declared support for this notion, while just 18% were opposed. 8% were unsure.

Support increased with age, from 71% amongst those under 30 to 80% amongst those aged 60 plus. Support was also higher amongst blue collar workers (85%) and retirees (82%) compared to white collar workers (70%).

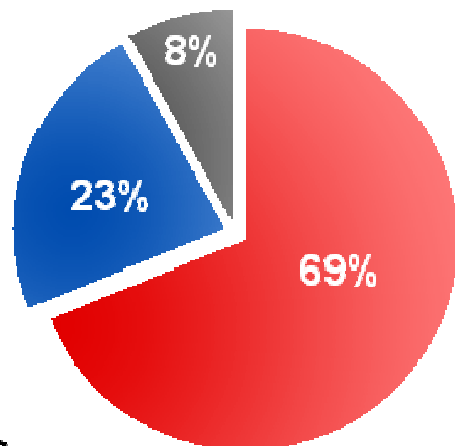
Of those who supported reducing the number of MP's, 69% declared they would continue to support it even if it meant the representation of parties would no longer be proportional. 23% said they would change their mind while 8% were unsure. The equivalent numbers as a percentage of the total sample (n=750) were 51% support, 17% oppose and 6% unsure.

Do you support or oppose reducing the number of MP's from around 120 to 100?



■ Support
■ Oppose
■ Depends/ Unsure

Would you support reducing the number of MP's by 20 if it meant that the representation of parties in the House would no longer be fully proportional?



■ Yes
■ No
■ Depends/ Unsure

Base: 74% of respondents, those who support reducing number of MP's to 100, n=555

Supplementary Tables

PREFER MMP SYSTEM OR FPP SYSTEM

Now we have had experience of the MMP system and the first past the post system which do you prefer?

	Base	MMP system	First past the post	Unsure	Neither
ALL	750	41%	40%	16%	3%
AREA					
Auckland	241	41%	36%	22%	1%
Provincial	350	36%	46%	14%	4%
Christchurch	82	47%	39%	12%	2%
Wellington	77	58%	32%	8%	2%
Rural	149	37%	41%	16%	6%
SEX					
Male	359	41%	41%	14%	4%
Female	391	41%	40%	17%	2%
AGE GROUP					
Under 30	157	43%	18%	35%	4%
30-44	225	44%	39%	16%	1%
45-59	196	40%	48%	8%	4%
60 Plus	172	36%	56%	6%	2%
OCCUPATION					
Professionals, Managers	163	45%	41%	12%	2%
Technicians, Associates	80	55%	29%	16%	0%
Clerks & Sales	114	39%	37%	21%	3%
Blue collar	128	40%	44%	13%	3%
Students	40	41%	8%	45%	6%
Retired	104	26%	68%	4%	2%
Homemaker	54	43%	39%	18%	0%
Not employed	44	43%	26%	25%	6%
Self employed	20	32%	46%	5%	17%
PERSONAL INCOME					
Less than \$15,000	119	42%	37%	17%	4%
\$15,001-25,000	101	30%	51%	17%	2%
\$25,001-30,000	67	45%	34%	21%	0%
\$30,001-40,000	97	46%	36%	14%	4%
\$40,001-50,000	82	48%	35%	10%	7%
\$50,001-70,000	97	45%	39%	14%	2%
More than \$70,000	104	41%	48%	9%	2%
ETHNICITY					
Pacific Island	35	53%	15%	32%	0%
Maori	82	44%	32%	19%	5%
Non Maori/Non PI	634	40%	43%	14%	3%
PREFER MMP OR FPP SYSTEM					
MMP	306	100%	0%	0%	0%
FPP	304	0%	100%	0%	0%
REFERENDUM TO KEEP OR CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM					
Support	478	33%	52%	13%	2%
Oppose	196	69%	19%	9%	3%
REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S FROM 120 TO 100					
Support	555	35%	48%	14%	3%
Oppose	137	64%	18%	17%	1%

Supplementary Tables cont'd

IMPACT OF MMP ON QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

As you may be aware, New Zealand has had MMP Governments since 1996. Using a 0 to 10 scale where 0 means very negative and 10 very positive, what impact do you think the MMP voting system has had on the quality of Government in New Zealand over this period.

		0 Very Base negative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10 Very 9 positive	Unsure	
ALL	750	6%	3%	5%	10%	10%	15%	12%	14%	13%	1%	4%	7%
AREA													
Auckland	241	5%	3%	4%	10%	12%	10%	15%	17%	14%	1%	3%	6%
Provincial	350	7%	3%	5%	12%	10%	17%	9%	13%	11%	1%	4%	8%
Christchurch	82	8%	1%	4%	5%	13%	17%	13%	7%	14%	2%	8%	8%
Wellington	77	4%	2%	3%	7%	4%	17%	10%	22%	17%	3%	6%	5%
Rural	149	10%	3%	5%	13%	7%	15%	10%	12%	11%	1%	4%	9%
SEX													
Male	359	9%	3%	5%	12%	11%	13%	9%	15%	11%	2%	4%	6%
Female	391	4%	2%	5%	9%	9%	16%	14%	14%	14%	1%	4%	8%
AGE GROUP													
Under 30	157	1%	0%	1%	4%	7%	15%	17%	20%	16%	3%	3%	13%
30-44	225	4%	3%	5%	12%	9%	13%	12%	14%	14%	1%	4%	9%
45-59	196	7%	2%	6%	10%	16%	17%	9%	13%	10%	0%	5%	5%
60 Plus	172	12%	5%	4%	14%	9%	16%	9%	10%	12%	1%	6%	2%
OCCUPATION													
Professionals, Managers	163	4%	2%	6%	11%	9%	13%	17%	17%	15%	1%	2%	3%
Technicians, Associates	80	2%	5%	7%	9%	7%	13%	9%	24%	15%	2%	4%	3%
Clerks & Sales	114	2%	3%	3%	10%	15%	17%	14%	9%	13%	1%	5%	8%
Blue collar	128	11%	0%	5%	15%	12%	13%	7%	10%	11%	1%	6%	9%
Students	40	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	12%	2%	22%	23%	5%	5%	23%
Retired	104	15%	3%	5%	14%	10%	18%	13%	8%	8%	1%	3%	2%
Homemaker	54	1%	3%	3%	5%	7%	19%	15%	16%	14%	0%	2%	15%
Not employed	44	6%	4%	1%	2%	9%	20%	4%	21%	11%	0%	13%	9%
Self employed	20	14%	0%	9%	16%	10%	4%	11%	9%	13%	0%	3%	11%
PERSONAL INCOME													
Less than \$15,000	119	7%	2%	3%	5%	9%	16%	13%	15%	13%	2%	5%	10%
\$15,001-25,000	101	6%	3%	4%	12%	13%	14%	13%	10%	12%	2%	5%	6%
\$25,001-30,000	67	4%	0%	5%	14%	7%	13%	16%	15%	16%	1%	0%	9%
\$30,001-40,000	97	3%	5%	4%	9%	10%	14%	8%	20%	12%	1%	6%	8%
\$40,001-50,000	82	8%	0%	7%	12%	8%	12%	17%	11%	15%	1%	4%	5%
\$50,001-70,000	97	3%	2%	4%	8%	14%	20%	7%	14%	18%	1%	2%	7%
More than \$70,000	104	9%	3%	5%	17%	10%	10%	14%	15%	11%	0%	4%	2%
ETHNICITY													
Pacific Island	35	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	20%	11%	20%	21%	0%	10%	9%
Maori	82	8%	2%	3%	3%	6%	16%	16%	16%	13%	0%	9%	8%
Non Maori/Non PI	634	6%	3%	5%	11%	11%	15%	11%	14%	12%	1%	4%	7%
PREFER MMP OR FPP SYSTEM													
MMP	306	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	12%	17%	27%	27%	3%	8%	1%
FPP	304	14%	6%	10%	20%	20%	17%	7%	3%	1%	0%	1%	1%
REFERENDUM TO KEEP OR CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM													
Support	478	8%	3%	6%	13%	13%	15%	11%	12%	10%	1%	4%	4%
Oppose	196	2%	1%	2%	5%	5%	15%	12%	21%	23%	3%	7%	4%
REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S FROM 120 TO 100													
Support	555	7%	3%	5%	13%	12%	17%	11%	13%	10%	1%	3%	5%
Oppose	137	3%	1%	1%	1%	4%	12%	15%	19%	24%	3%	8%	9%

Supplementary Tables cont'd

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE REFERENDUM ON KEEPING OR CHANGING MMP

Regardless of your views on MMP, would you support or oppose a referendum on whether we keep or change the MMP voting system?

	Base	Support	Oppose	Depends	Refused	Unsure
ALL	750	64%	26%	2%	0%	8%
AREA						
Auckland	241	66%	21%	2%	0%	11%
Provincial	350	64%	28%	1%	1%	6%
Christchurch	82	64%	21%	1%	0%	14%
Wellington	77	54%	39%	2%	0%	5%
Rural	149	67%	24%	2%	2%	5%
SEX						
Male	359	66%	25%	2%	1%	6%
Female	391	61%	27%	1%	1%	10%
AGE GROUP						
Under 30	157	66%	20%	1%	0%	13%
30-44	225	60%	29%	1%	0%	10%
45-59	196	68%	25%	1%	1%	5%
60 Plus	172	61%	30%	3%	1%	5%
OCCUPATION						
Professionals, Managers	163	63%	32%	1%	0%	4%
Technicians, Associates	80	59%	29%	3%	1%	8%
Clerks & Sales	114	65%	24%	2%	0%	9%
Blue collar	128	71%	25%	0%	0%	4%
Students	40	48%	30%	0%	0%	22%
Retired	104	69%	23%	2%	1%	5%
Homemaker	54	64%	23%	2%	0%	11%
Not employed	44	51%	26%	4%	2%	17%
Self employed	20	67%	13%	0%	7%	13%
PERSONAL INCOME						
Less than \$15,000	119	57%	26%	1%	1%	15%
\$15,001-25,000	101	58%	30%	1%	0%	11%
\$25,001-30,000	67	67%	26%	0%	0%	7%
\$30,001-40,000	97	65%	26%	2%	1%	6%
\$40,001-50,000	82	65%	24%	3%	0%	8%
\$50,001-70,000	97	69%	25%	2%	0%	4%
More than \$70,000	104	66%	31%	0%	1%	2%
ETHNICITY						
Pacific Island	35	58%	28%	0%	0%	14%
Maori	82	66%	24%	0%	0%	10%
Non Maori/Non PI	634	64%	26%	2%	1%	7%
PREFER MMP OR FPP SYSTEM						
MMP	306	51%	44%	1%	0%	4%
FPP	304	81%	12%	3%	1%	3%
REFERENDUM TO KEEP OR CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM						
Support	478	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Oppose	196	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S FROM 120 TO 100						
Support	555	69%	22%	2%	1%	6%
Oppose	137	50%	40%	1%	0%	9%

Supplementary Tables cont'd

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S TO AROUND ONE HUNDRED

Do you support or oppose reducing the number of MP's from around one hundred and twenty to one hundred?

	Base	Support	Oppose	Depends	Refused	Unsure
ALL	750	74%	18%	1%	0%	7%
AREA						
Auckland	241	75%	18%	0%	0%	7%
Provincial	350	77%	16%	1%	0%	6%
Christchurch	82	71%	22%	0%	0%	7%
Wellington	77	62%	26%	1%	0%	11%
Rural	149	82%	12%	1%	1%	4%
SEX						
Male	359	75%	20%	1%	0%	4%
Female	391	73%	17%	0%	0%	10%
AGE GROUP						
Under 30	157	71%	18%	0%	1%	10%
30-44	225	69%	21%	1%	0%	9%
45-59	196	76%	18%	2%	0%	4%
60 Plus	172	80%	14%	0%	0%	6%
OCCUPATION						
Professionals, Managers	163	70%	21%	2%	0%	7%
Technicians, Associates	80	69%	20%	1%	0%	10%
Clerks & Sales	114	69%	23%	0%	0%	8%
Blue collar	128	85%	12%	0%	0%	3%
Students	40	56%	24%	0%	4%	16%
Retired	104	82%	12%	0%	0%	6%
Homemaker	54	81%	11%	0%	0%	8%
Not employed	44	68%	26%	0%	0%	6%
Self employed	20	77%	18%	0%	0%	5%
PERSONAL INCOME						
Less than \$15,000	119	75%	18%	0%	1%	6%
\$15,001-25,000	101	74%	22%	0%	0%	4%
\$25,001-30,000	67	72%	19%	1%	0%	8%
\$30,001-40,000	97	75%	21%	0%	0%	4%
\$40,001-50,000	82	76%	11%	2%	0%	11%
\$50,001-70,000	97	77%	17%	0%	0%	6%
More than \$70,000	104	71%	22%	1%	0%	6%
ETHNICITY						
Pacific Island	35	74%	19%	0%	0%	7%
Maori	82	71%	24%	1%	0%	4%
Non Maori/Non PI	634	75%	17%	1%	0%	7%
PREFER MMP OR FPP SYSTEM						
MMP	306	64%	29%	1%	0%	6%
FPP	304	88%	8%	0%	0%	4%
REFERENDUM TO KEEP OR CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM						
Support	478	80%	14%	1%	0%	5%
Oppose	196	63%	28%	1%	0%	8%
REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S FROM 120 TO 100						
Support	555	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Oppose	137	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%

Supplementary Tables cont'd

STILL SUPPORT REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S IF REPRESENTATION NOT FULLY PROPORTIONAL

Would you support reducing the number of MP's by twenty if it meant that the representation of parties in the House would no longer be fully proportional?

	Base	Yes	No	Unsure
ALL	555	69%	23%	8%
AREA				
Auckland	180	67%	23%	10%
Provincial	269	73%	20%	7%
Christchurch	58	58%	34%	8%
Wellington	48	62%	30%	8%
Rural	122	71%	20%	9%
SEX				
Male	269	75%	17%	8%
Female	285	62%	29%	9%
AGE GROUP				
Under 30	111	64%	32%	4%
30-44	156	67%	24%	9%
45-59	150	71%	23%	6%
60 Plus	138	72%	15%	13%
OCCUPATION				
Professionals, Managers	113	75%	22%	3%
Technicians, Associates	55	65%	27%	8%
Clerks & Sales	78	69%	23%	8%
Blue collar	109	72%	20%	8%
Students	22	47%	53%	0%
Retired	85	70%	16%	14%
Homemaker	44	58%	28%	14%
Not employed	30	62%	20%	18%
Self employed	16	76%	24%	0%
PERSONAL INCOME				
Less than \$15,000	89	63%	25%	12%
\$15,001-25,000	75	63%	27%	10%
\$25,001-30,000	48	51%	39%	10%
\$30,001-40,000	73	67%	26%	7%
\$40,001-50,000	63	81%	8%	11%
\$50,001-70,000	75	71%	22%	7%
More than \$70,000	75	81%	16%	3%
ETHNICITY				
Pacific Island	26	77%	17%	6%
Maori	58	55%	32%	13%
Non Maori/Non PI	472	70%	22%	8%
PREFER MMP OR FPP SYSTEM				
MMP	196	58%	36%	6%
FPP	267	79%	14%	7%
REFERENDUM TO KEEP OR CHANGE VOTING SYSTEM				
Support	383	72%	21%	7%
Oppose	123	56%	35%	9%
REDUCING NUMBER OF MP'S FROM 120 TO 100				
Support	555	69%	23%	8%
Oppose	0	0%	0%	0%