

# NEW PLYMOUTH PETITION - MAORI SEATS ON COUNCIL

The New Plymouth District Council has voted to introduce Maori Wards and Maori seats at the next election. This was against the wishes of the wider community.

One councillor resigned as a result of the decision.

This controversial proposal can be challenged by locals through a binding referendum.

The Nelson community successfully challenged a similar decision by their council a few years ago, by overwhelmingly voting against Maori Wards in a binding referendum. Other councils, such as the Far North District Council have decided that it is residents and ratepayers who should decide on whether race-based seats are introduced, since it is such an important constitutional change. Accordingly, they are holding a referendum on the issue next year.

Local New Plymouth resident Hugh Johnson has launched a petition calling for a binding referendum on whether or not Maori Wards and Maori seats should be introduced.

He needs around 3,500 signatures by 2 March 2015.

**If you are a resident of New Plymouth and want to have the people decide this very important democratic issue, then please print the petition form below.**

Please try to fill up the form by encouraging others (neighbours, family, friends, workmates) to sign as well, then mail signed form to: "Petitions", 27 Liardet Street, New Plymouth

If you live outside the New Plymouth area, please bring this information to the attention of your New Plymouth contacts (family, friends etc) so that they can take part in this critical democratic process.

## CRITICAL INFORMATION

1. **Only people eligible to vote for the NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT MAYOR can sign this petition.**

It will be checked by the Chief Electoral Officer.

2. (a) All that is required here is your name, your address and your signature. This petition is demanding a referendum. 3500 signatures are required to force the New Plymouth District Council to hold a referendum.

(b) If this petition is successful, the wording of the referendum to be held next year, is:

"Should a Maori Ward be established in the New Plymouth District?"

PETITION FORMS CAN BE DELIVERED OR POSTED TO: "Petitions" 27 Liardet Street, New Plymouth"

**PETITION FORMS NEED TO BE RECEIVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS IT IS HOPED TO LODGE THE PETITION WITH THE COUNCIL BEFORE CHRISTMAS.**

Thank you for your participation.

