



2025 Auckland local election voter turnout

Who did and did not vote?

Introduction

New Zealand local elections are held every three years, with the most recent election for Auckland Council taking place between 9 September and 11 October 2025.

This short report provides information on who voted in the 2025 Auckland Council elections (referred to as voter turnout) in terms of age, Māori descent status, local board area, neighbourhood area (SA2), and relative socio-economic deprivation.¹ This report replicates similar analyses conducted in 2019² and 2022³ and therefore provides an opportunity to reflect on changes over time.⁴

The results shown here are based on final election results as they stood in November 2025. Subsequently, the Manukau District Court declared the results for the Papatoetoe subdivision of the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board void, due to allegations of voter fraud. A new election is being held for this subdivision between 9 March and 9 April 2026.

Based on the main election results (which include the 2025 Papatoetoe subdivision results), there were 1,199,907 registered electors in Auckland, of whom 345,004 (29%) voted. This proportion is lower than in the previous two elections (35% in both 2019 and 2022).

In New Zealand, people are eligible to enrol and vote if they are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or resident for electoral purposes, and have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in their life. Eligible voters must be enrolled on the Electoral Roll however voting is not compulsory.

¹ Data was sourced from the Electoral Commission and Independent Election Services Limited. Information on other ethnic groups is not available as ethnic group identification is not recorded in the Electoral Roll.

² <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2019-auckland-local-election-voter-turnout-who-did-and-did-not-vote/>

³ <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2022-auckland-local-election-voter-turnout-who-did-and-did-not-vote/>

⁴ Please note that specific turnout figures are not fully comparable, as the 2019 dataset was received prior to the inclusion of special votes, while the 2022 and 2025 datasets are more complete as they include special votes.

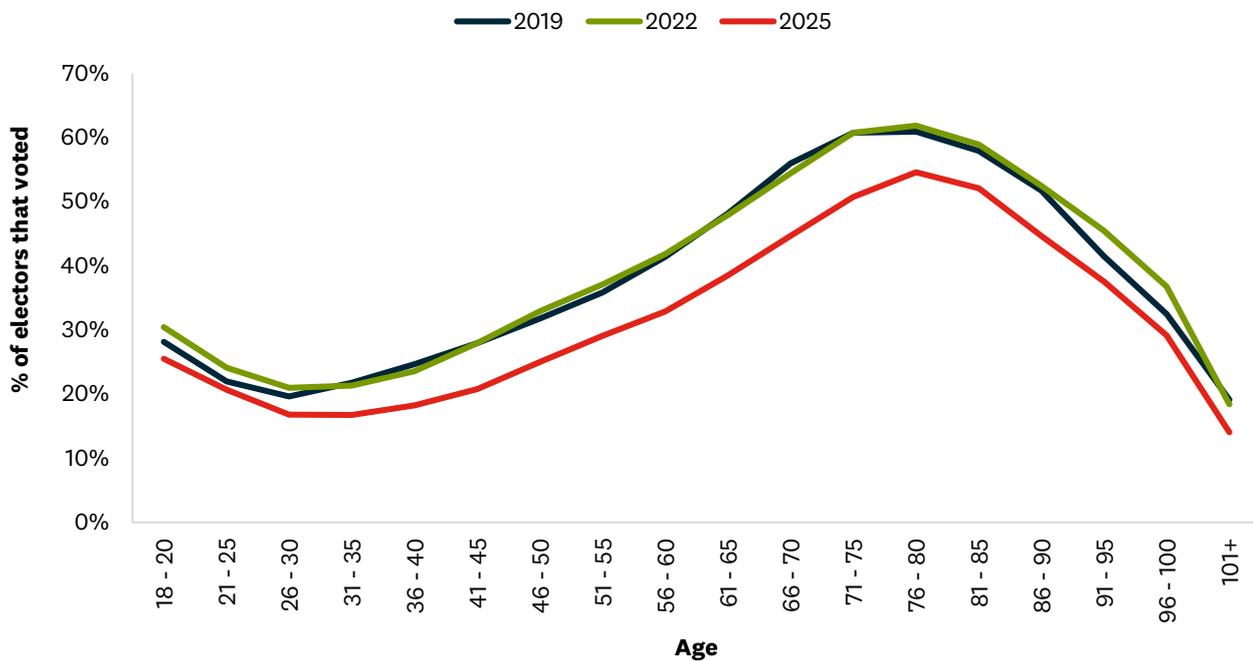
Younger Aucklanders were less likely to vote

An elector's age has a strong bearing on whether they are likely to vote.

Voter turnout was lowest for those aged between 26 and 35 years (17% of eligible electors in this age group voted) and increased with age, reaching a high of 55 per cent amongst those aged 76 to 80. These age trends are consistent when compared with the 2019 and 2022 elections.

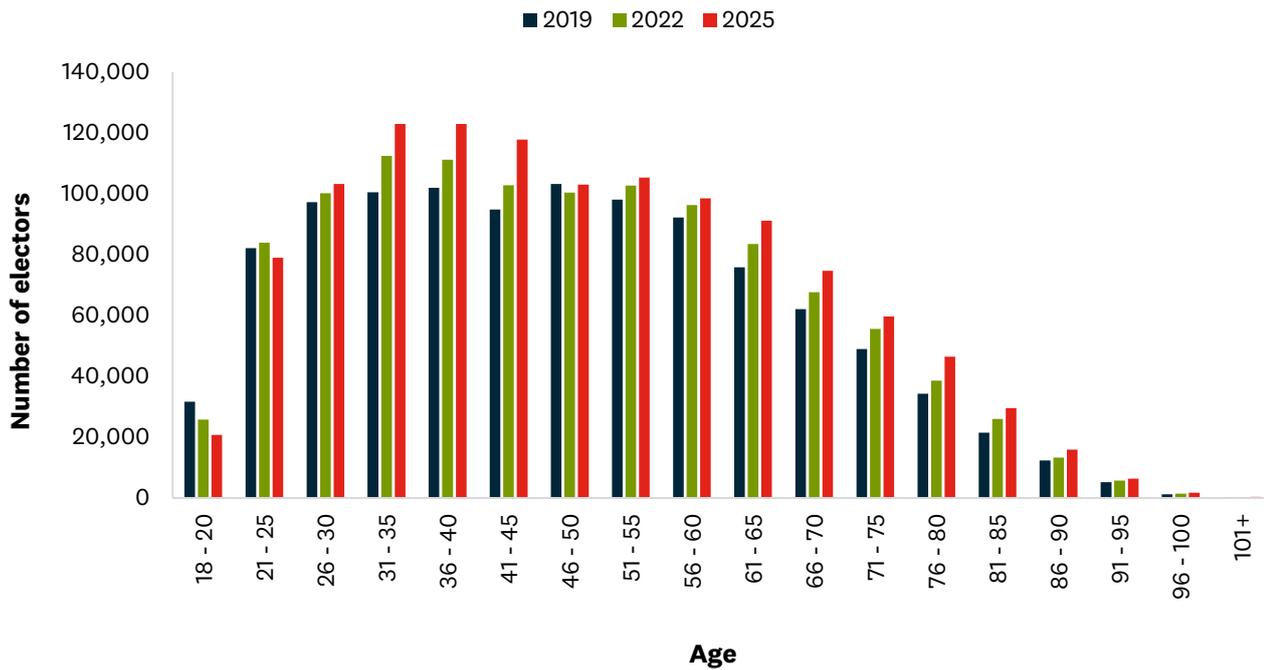
Although turnout was lowest among younger people, examining changes over time shows a substantial decline in voter turnout for those aged 61 to 75. In 2019, 54 per cent of electors in this age group voted, compared to 44 per cent in 2025.

Figure 1. Voter turnout by age (2019, 2022, and 2025 elections)



Not only were young people less likely to vote compared to older people, but there has been a decline in the numbers of younger people. In 2019, there were 31,691 electors in Auckland aged under 20 years old, which decreased to 20,791 electors in 2025. This represents a 34 per cent decrease of Auckland electors in this age group. Enrolment increased for most age groups older than 25 years.

Figure 2. Number of electors in Auckland by age group (2019, 2022, 2025)



Comparing enrolment numbers on the Electoral Roll with 2018 and 2023 Census figures further suggests there was a significant decrease in enrolment in the under 20 age group between the 2019 and 2025 elections:

- According to the 2018 Census, there were 64,587 Aucklanders aged 18-20 years old. The 31,691 electors in this age group in 2019 represented **49 per cent** of this population.
- However, according to the 2023 Census, there were 62,574 Aucklanders aged 18-20 years old. The 20,791 electors in 2025 represented only **33 per cent** of this population.

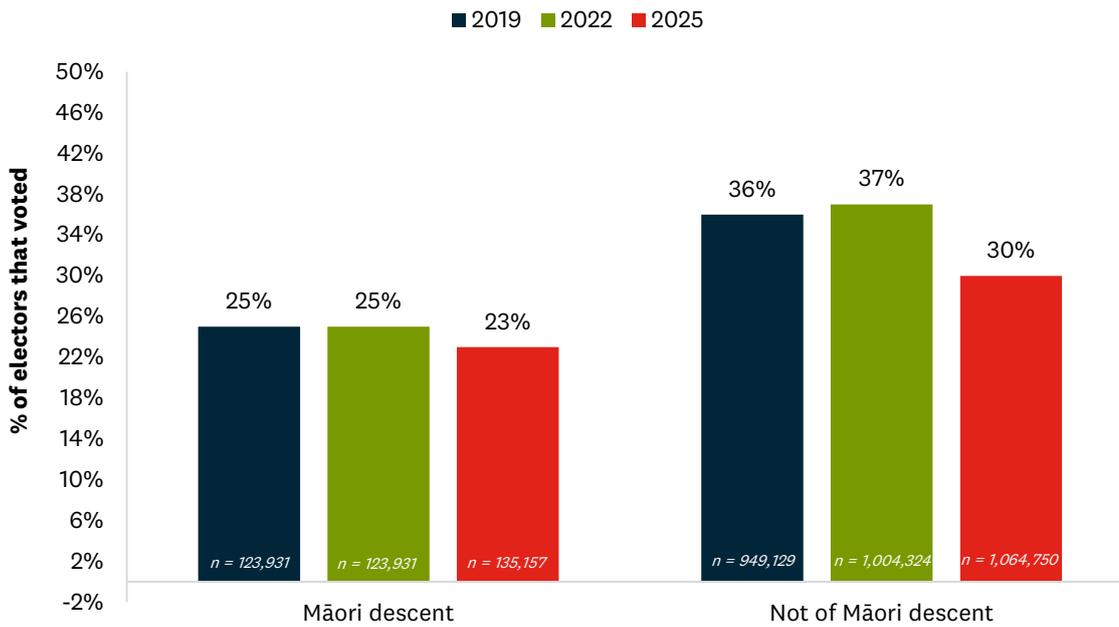
Decline in voting among electors of non-Māori descent

Electors are asked whether they are of Māori descent when enrolling, and if so, can choose to enrol on either the general roll or the Māori roll. In 2025, there were 135,157 Auckland electors of Māori descent.

In 2025, 23 per cent of those of Māori descent voted, compared with 30 per cent of those who are not of Māori descent. This is a 7-percentage point difference, which is a considerably smaller difference than in 2022 (25% voter turnout among electors of Māori descent and 37% voter turnout among electors not of Māori descent). See Figure 3.

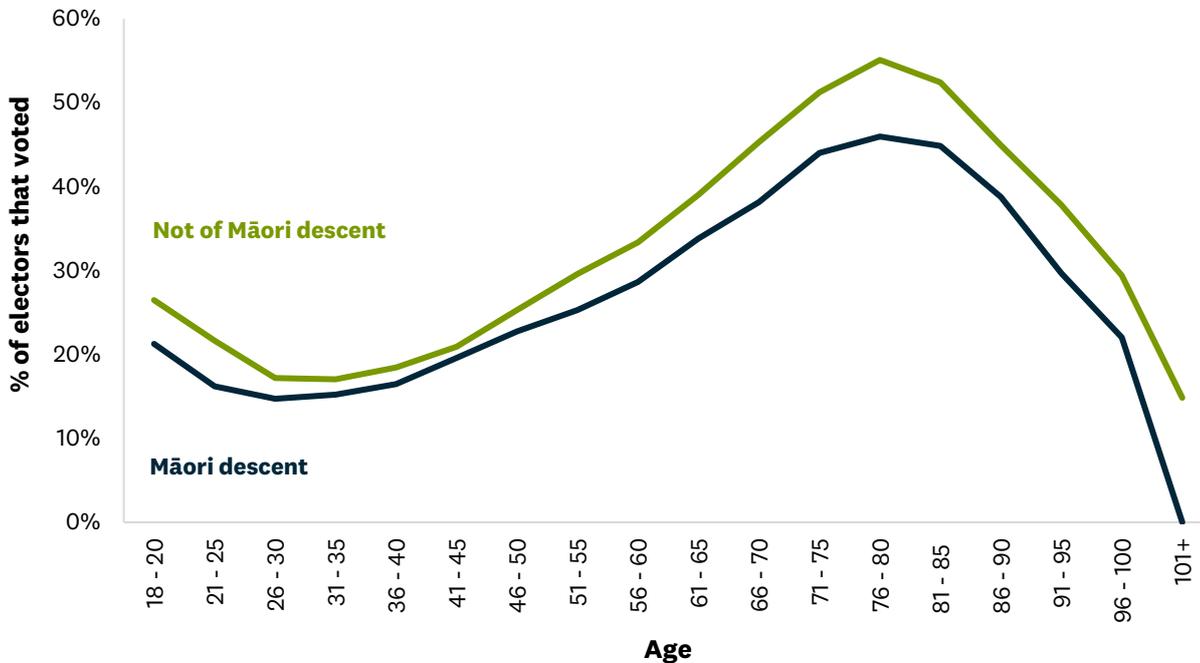
Over time, there has been a shift in voter turnout among those not of Māori descent. Comparing the two most recent elections (2022 and 2025), there was a minimal change in voter turnout among electors of Māori descent (a 2-percentage point decline). However, there was a larger change in voter turnout among electors of non-Māori descent (7-percentage point difference). See Figure 3.

Figure 3. Voter turnout by Māori and non-Māori descent (2019, 2022, and 2025 elections)



Further analysis shows that the approximately 7-percentage point difference between electors of Māori descent and those not of Māori descent differed based on age. There were larger disparities in voting turnout between Māori and non-Māori electors aged over 70 years, and much smaller differences between those aged 26-50 years.

Figure 4. Voter turnout by age and Māori descent indicator (2025 elections)



Turnout varies dramatically across Auckland’s local boards

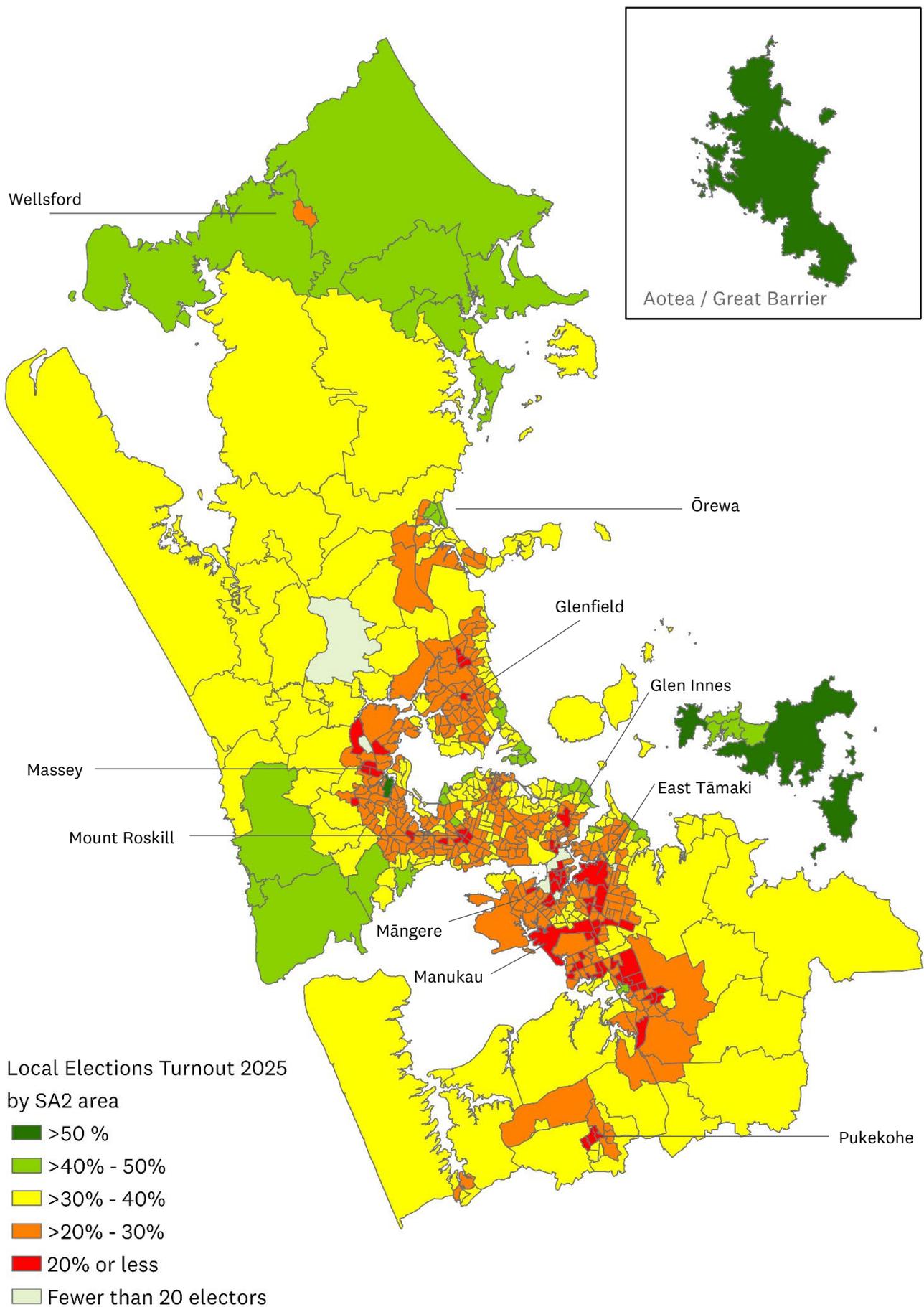
As Table 1 shows, voter turnout was notably higher in the northern Local Board Areas, such as Rodney and Devonport-Takapuna, and rural and coastal areas also tended to have higher turnout than other parts of Auckland. Turnout was lower in southern and western areas of Auckland, particularly in Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Papakura Local Board Areas.

Table 1. Voter turnout by Local Board (2025)

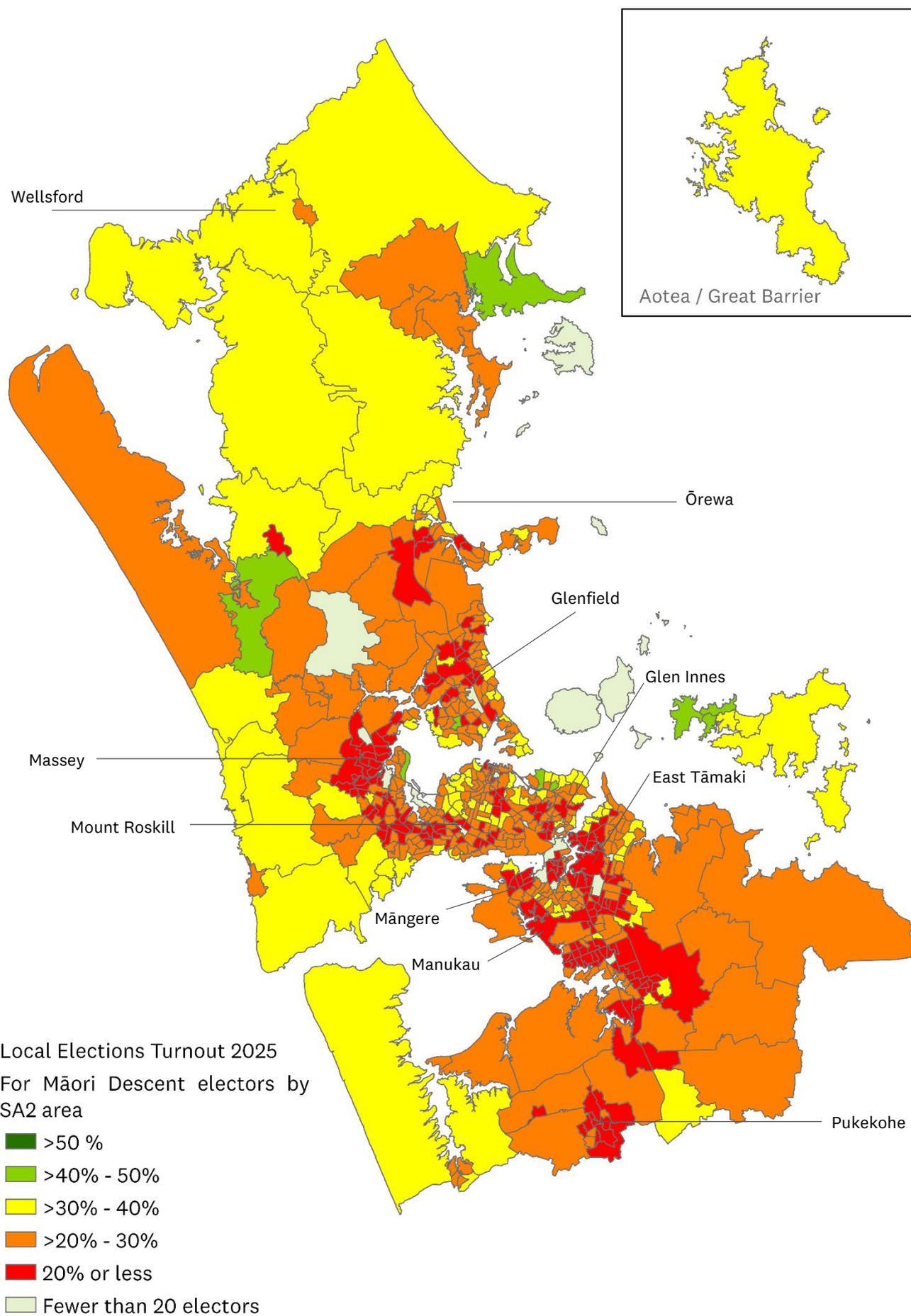
Local Board	Number of electors who voted	Number of electors who did not vote	Total number of electors in this Local Board	Percentage who voted
Aotea/Great Barrier	490	427	917	53%
Waiheke	3586	3710	7296	49%
Rodney	20,089	36,103	56,192	36%
Devonport-Takapuna	15,251	29,123	44,374	34%
Ōrākei	23,396	44,685	68,081	34%
Hibiscus and Bays	28,578	56,899	85,477	33%
Waitākere Ranges	13,191	26,909	40,100	33%
Franklin	19,036	40,762	59,798	32%
Waitematā	17,745	40,203	57,948	31%
Albert-Eden	21,858	52,334	74,192	29%
Howick	32,124	80,904	113,028	28%
Kaipātiki	18,221	46,893	65,114	28%
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	15,580	43,424	59,004	26%
Upper Harbour	14,247	40,575	54,822	26%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	14,530	41,577	56,107	26%
Puketāpapa	11,431	32,743	44,174	26%
Whau	14,948	44,187	59,135	25%
Henderson-Massey	21,649	65,287	86,936	25%
Manurewa	15,725	50,036	65,761	24%
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	12,703	42,033	54,736	23%
Papakura	10,626	36,053	46,679	23%
Unknown local board	0	36	36	Not applicable
Total	345,004	854,903	1,199,907	29%

Three maps are provided on the following pages, showing turnout at Statistical Area 2 (SA2) areas for all electors, and for those of Māori descent and not of Māori descent separately. These areas are smaller than local boards and broadly reflect neighbourhoods.

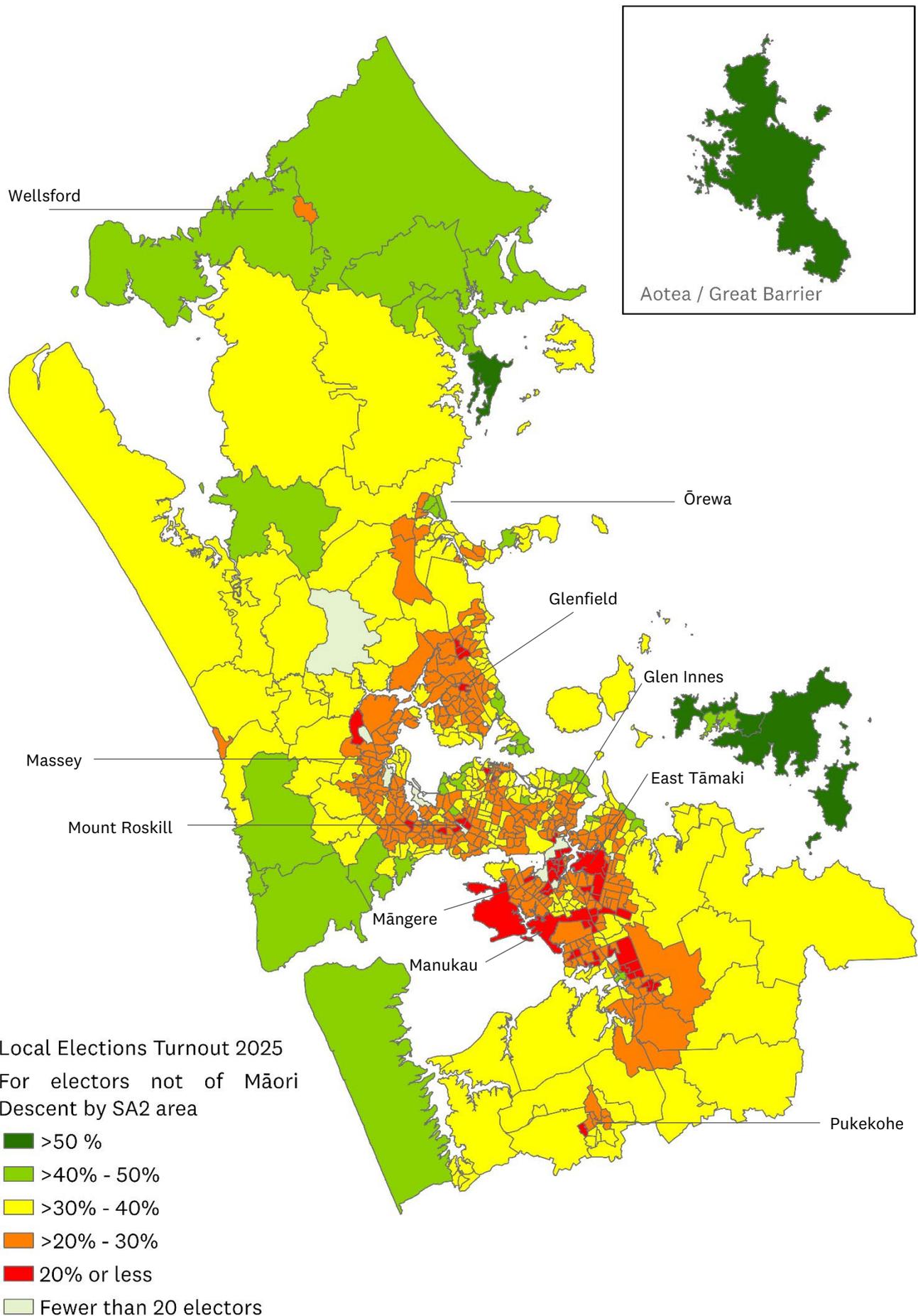
Proportion of all electors who voted, 2025 Auckland Council elections, by Statistical Area 2 (SA2)



Proportion of electors of Māori descent who voted, 2025 Auckland Council elections, by Statistical Area 2 (SA2)



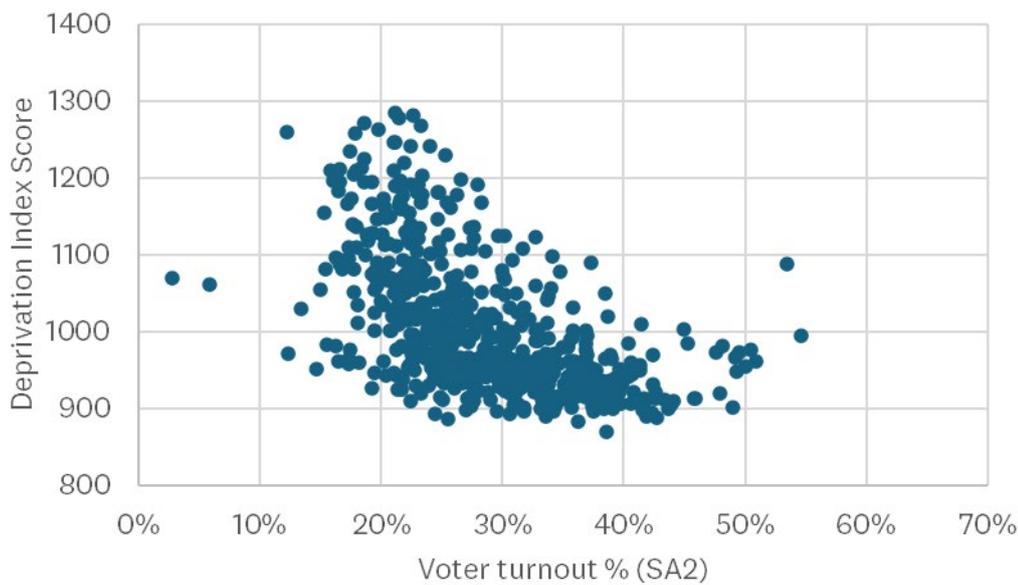
Proportion of electors not of Māori descent who voted, 2025 Auckland Council elections, by Statistical Area 2 (SA2)



Voter turnout is lower in socio-economically deprived neighbourhoods

The maps of turnout across Auckland presented on the following pages mirror the distribution of relative socio-economic deprivation across Auckland. Plotting each neighbourhood's 2023 New Zealand Deprivation Index⁵ score against voter turnout shows that there is a moderate negative correlation between the two ($r = -0.57$). That is, people living in areas with higher socio-economic deprivation were less likely to vote than those living in lower deprivation areas.

Figure 5. Voter turnout by the 2023 New Zealand Deprivation Index



Note: Higher deprivation index scores reflect higher levels of neighbourhood deprivation.

⁵ 'Neighbourhood' is represented by Statistical Area 1 level information in this analysis.

See <https://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/departments/publichealth/research/hirp/otago020194.html> for more detail about the NZ Deprivation Index.

Similarities with previous voter turnout (2019 and 2022)

As this report shows, overall voter turnout in Auckland declined between 2019 and 2025. Patterns of turnout by age were almost identical to previous elections, with younger people much less likely to vote than older people. The difference between Māori and non-Māori voter turnout diminished between 2022 and 2025, due to a decline in non-Māori voter turnout. Turnout across neighbourhoods (SA2) is similar, although the relationship between SA2 and voter turnout weakened.

Implications

The voter turnout statistics presented here continue to reveal stark discrepancies in who is and is not voting across Auckland.

A range of interrelated factors may be contributing to these discrepancies, including:⁶⁷⁸

- Differences in family and work commitments and an ability to pay attention to local politics, in light of other life priorities
- Differences in the perceived relevance of local government to the everyday life of different communities
- The complexity of the local government system and voting process, along with differences in knowledge about local government across communities in Auckland
- For some communities, a lack of identification with and ability to see one's identity reflected in the local governance system
- A distrust of and disengagement from the local government system, particularly amongst Māori
- The existence of a social norm of non-voting in some families, neighbourhoods and communities.

Although the causes for different levels of voter engagement across Auckland are complex and difficult to fix, the information contained in this report will provide useful assistance to those looking to increase voting in different communities across Auckland.

Report information

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Date

February 2026

⁶ Asquith et al. (2021). Voting in New Zealand local government elections: The need to encourage greater voter turnout. *Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance*, 24, 79-97. <https://doi.org/10.5130/cjlg.vi24.7541>

⁷ Foster, J. and Taylor, D. (2019). Voter turnout decline in New Zealand: A critical review of the literature and suggestions for future research. *New Zealand Sociology*, 34(1), 1-26. <https://search.informit.org/doi/abs/10.3316/informit.456643931441294>

⁸ Stats NZ. (2018). *Voting and political participation*. Retrieved from stats.govt.nz.

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