

TE TINO RANGATIRATANGA REGISTER

What is the tino rangatiratanga register about?

Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga i Nga Hahi is inviting all Maori voters, and all other voters of good will

- not to vote on election day, and
- instead of voting, to sign a Tino Rangatiratanga register

Do people have to do both?

No, but we hope they will. Anyone who doesn't vote is still showing they have no confidence in Pakeha politics, whether they have signed the Register or not.

Can people sign the register AND vote?

We hope they wouldn't, because it would make a nonsense of supporting te tino rangatiratanga. But there is nothing we could do to stop them.

Is it illegal not to vote?

NO. There is a difference between not registering to vote, and not voting on election day. The electoral law says it's illegal not to register on the electoral roll. But there's no law which says people have to vote on election day. And that's what Te Runanga is asking people not to do.

What is the Tino Rangatiratanga register?

It is a form which has a place for a person's name, address, iwi/hapu/other (for non-Maori), gender, and signature. Each form can take about 10 names. Every form sent out is numbered, and a record is kept of who they are sent to and received back from. If a number of forms are sent to one person, whanau or group they will also be sent a form to keep track of who they give them out to and get them back from. Te Runanga will keep the completed register forms in safe custody.

What is the purpose of the Tino Rangatiratanga Register?

It's main purpose is to provide our people with a positive feeling about not voting, and prompt them to believe that there can be alternatives. The number of people who actually sign the register isn't really important. Nor is the effect it has on the election result. After all, we can claim the support of all Maori who don't vote.

Is the Register legal?

YES. There is nothing illegal about collecting signatures for the register, except on election day itself. You should also avoid advertising the register in the 3 days before the election.

What about on election day itself?

There's nothing to stop people signing the register on election day itself. This year that's Saturday, 27 October. But it's not a good idea, for legal and safety reasons, to go out and actively collect signatures on election day. And you would be asking for trouble if you set up a special place like a register booth or boycott booth for people to come and sign on election day. In fact, we recommend that you don't do anything publicly with the Register on that day, or anything in public on election day which looks as though you're trying to influence how someone votes - or doesn't vote.