

AUT Voting (and Housing) Survey 2016

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This report is based on an on-line sample of Auckland adults, carried out by UMR in early September 2016. The data are weighted (gender, age, ethnicity, 2015 national voting) and with missing values have been excluded. Open-ended follow up responses still being coded.

The report covers:

- Background characteristics
- Voting preferences
- Electoral preferences
- Issues relevant to Elections
- Satisfactions with aspects of Auckland

The data largely replicates the results of the 2013 survey reported in *Supercity?* Report: see- <http://www.supercityproject.aut.ac.nz/>.

Level of interest in Local Election: although only a small proportion (20% 8-10) report being very interested, the average is just over the mid-point (5) on the scale. Although nearly a third report less interest since the amalgamation over two-thirds of those who reported changing their level of interest have increased their interest.

Auckland as a (Great) Place to live: There is strong support for seeing Auckland as a great place to live: the average is 6.65 and with over one third in the top 3 categories. However, while a third considered Auckland a worse place to live since amalgamation only one tenth thought it was a better place. Three-quarters thought Auckland's recent growth was too great and only a handful thought it was too slow.

		Column N %
How interested are you in Local Government politics?	1 - Not at all interested	12.8%
	2	5.7%
	3	8.9%
	4	7.7%
	5	19.3%
	6	12.7%
	7	13.7%
	8	9.9%
	9	3.1%
	10 - Very interested	6.3%
	Ave.	5.2 (2.57)
Are you now:	More interested in Local Government politics	70.8%
	Less interested in Local Government politics	29.2%
Using a scale from 1 to 10 how would you rate Auckland as a place to live?	1 – Don't think Auckland is a great place to live at all	3.0%
	2	1.9%
	3	5.1%
	4	6.1%
	5	13.3%
	6	11.6%
	7	22.0%
	8	18.1%
	9	6.1%
	10 - Think Auckland is a great place to live	13.0%
	Ave.	6.65 (2.24)
Since the amalgamation into the Auckland Council, do you think Auckland is now:	A better place to live	10.4%
	About the same/ No different	53.5%
	A worse place to live	36.1%
In your opinion, do you think the population growth of Auckland in the last few years has been:	Too much	76.3%
	About right	22.8%
	Too little	0.9%

<i>How satisfied are you with:</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
-Auckland's beaches	7.18	2.136
-Auckland Council facilities such as community halls and community centres	6.51	2.094
-City-wide events	6.66	2.128
-Library services	7.75	2.055
-Parks and reserves run by the Auckland Council	7.08	2.066
-Recreational facilities	6.86	2.004
-Public transport within Auckland	5.27	2.623
-Disposal and treatment of wastewater	6.43	2.250
-The amount of council information available to you	6.08	2.201
-Auckland now being a single Council rather than several different councils previously	5.14	2.658

Satisfactions with Auckland range from library services, beaches and parks/reserves through recreational facilities, city-wide events and community facilities, to was eater, amount of council information available public transport, and finally the combined Council, although at least the last is still over the half-way mark.

<i>How satisfied are you with: ordered</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Std. Deviation</i>
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How satisfied are you with: -	Auckland's beaches	Auckland Council facilities such as community halls and community centres	City-wide events	Library services	Recreational facilities	Parks and reserves run by the Auckland Council	Public transport within Auckland	Disposal and treatment of wastewater	The amount of council information available to you	Auckland now being a single Council rather than several different councils previously
1 - Not satisfied at all	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%	1.0%	1.4%	2.0%	11.4%	3.5%	3.5%	15.6%
2	1.7%	3.2%	2.3%	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	7.6%	2.8%	2.9%	5.8%
3	3.9%	3.6%	3.7%	1.8%	2.8%	2.3%	8.9%	4.1%	6.5%	6.8%
4	3.5%	5.8%	5.6%	2.0%	5.5%	4.1%	9.6%	6.7%	9.6%	8.1%
5	9.3%	16.0%	15.1%	9.5%	13.1%	11.9%	13.9%	16.9%	16.0%	17.3%
6	9.4%	15.1%	14.9%	10.0%	14.7%	11.3%	13.8%	14.9%	16.4%	13.0%
7	19.7%	19.0%	21.0%	15.0%	20.4%	19.3%	13.4%	16.2%	18.0%	13.2%
8	22.0%	18.6%	14.4%	16.6%	19.2%	22.6%	9.7%	16.1%	13.3%	9.5%
9	14.7%	9.8%	10.7%	16.7%	12.1%	12.6%	5.3%	9.8%	7.8%	5.4%
10 - Very satisfied	13.7%	6.8%	10.2%	26.3%	9.2%	12.3%	6.3%	9.0%	3.5%	5.3%

Under 2//3rd had heard of the *Unitary plan* and a third claimed at least some knowledge of it. Again, the average rating hovers not far above the midpoint and barely 1-in-6 are highly positive about the plan. On the other hand confidence in AC rates below the average. In terms of the balance of power between Auckland Council and central government opinion was broadly split into thirds: a near-majority thought the balance fine, and a third that it was tipped too much in AC's favour with the remaining one quarter wanting more regional power.

Auckland Planning etc.		Column N %
Have you heard of Auckland Council's Unitary Plan?	Yes	60.2%
	No	39.8%
How much would you say you know about the Auckland Council's Unitary Plan?	A lot	2.5%
	A fair amount	30.6%
	Not that much	48.4%
	Hardly anything	18.5%
Regardless of your overall knowledge, what is your view of the Auckland Council's Unitary plan?	1 – Very negative	6.4%
	2	4.4%
	3	8.9%
	4	9.5%
	5	26.5%
	6	15.7%
	7	14.4%
	8	9.6%
	9	1.5%
	10 – Very positive	3.1%
	Ave.	5.29 (2.1)
How much confidence do you have in the Auckland Council?	1 - Not at all confident	12.2%
	2	8.2%
	3	12.8%
	4	12.5%
	5	20.0%
	6	11.5%
	7	14.3%
	8	5.3%
	9	1.9%
	10 - Very confident	1.3%
	Ave.	4.59 (2.2)
Which of the following is closest to you view?	Auckland Council is too powerful and Central Government needs more power	32.9%
	The balance is about right	44.4%
	Central Government is too powerful and Auckland Council needs more power	22.7%

Views on Auckland governance performance tend to be on the negative side, apart from agreement that involvement in the arts has been good: mayoral performance and receiving value from rates are the least valued.

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:-	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
The Auckland governance reforms have benefited the region as a whole	804	4.86	2.307
The Auckland governance reforms have benefited your local community	817	4.76	2.280
There are many opportunities for active participation and involvement in the arts	827	6.00	2.157
The mayor (Len Brown) has been an effective leader of Auckland Council	919	4.19	2.616
You have received good value for money from your rates	855	4.22	2.428

Intention to Vote: Only one half indicate they're certain to vote in the elections.

Mayoral Candidate Preferences: There are several ways of measuring level of support for mayoral candidates. Of those with an already-made choice 60%. Amongst those leaning towards a candidate the proportions are similar – although more towards ‘minor candidates’. If calculated on the basis of all respondents (including non-decideds) the support for Goff decreases to just over a third.

Reasons for Supporting Mayoral Candidate: many of the responses were not readily codeable, but experience was the overwhelming written-in response, coupled with lack of knowledge of other candidates.

‘Local Party’ Preferences: When asked about voting for councillors from particular local party groupings most plumped for some of each: with only one quarter restricting themselves to ‘independents’. Of groupings deserving support Labour and C&R attracted a substantial degree of support, with City Vision trailing at quite a low proportion.

		Column N %	Alternative Measure
How certain are you to vote in the 2016 Local Elections?	Definitely	49.7%	
	Probably	21.0%	
	Might or might not	16.8%	
	Probably not	8.3%	
	Definitely not	4.2%	
Currently have intention	Yes	45.8%	
	Leaning	13.8%	
	Neither	40.4%	
Who do you intend to vote for mayor?/ Lean	Phil Goff	60.6%	54.5%
	Victoria Crone	20.8%	16.9%
	Penny Bright	2.7%	4.5%

	David Hay	1.6%	2.1%
	Adam Holland	0.7%	1.1%
	John Palino	5.6%	6.6%
	Tyrone Raumati	0.7%	3.9%
	Mark Thomas	3.2%	5.4%
	Other (please specify)	4.1%	5.0%
Intention + Lean (Total/decideds)	Phil Goff	35.3	59.2
	Victoria Crone	11.9	19.9
	Penny Bright	1.9	3.2
	David Hay	1.0	1.7
	Adam Holland	.5	.8
	John Palino	3.5	5.9
	Tyrone Raumati	.8	1.4
	Mark Thomas	2.2	3.7
	Other (please specify)	2.5	4.3
Are you inclined to vote for:	Independent candidates	24.0%	
	Electoral groupings/ party candidate	22.4%	
	Some of each	53.6%	
Which electoral grouping are you likely to support?	Citizens and Ratepayers	30.6%	
	City Vision	7.5%	
	Community and Residents	18.1%	
	Labour	41.1%	
	Other (please specify)	2.8%	

\$Mayor1 Frequencies: those already chosen preference

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
Mayoral Support Reasons ^a	Roading Congestion	10	1.7%	2.3%
	Public Transport	12	2.1%	2.8%
	The Auckland Economy	11	1.9%	2.6%
	Rates	26	4.5%	6.1%
	Housing	10	1.7%	2.3%
	Crime and Safety	1	0.2%	0.2%
	Social Issues	39	6.8%	9.1%
	Political Experience	128	22.4%	29.8%
	Lack of Knowledge of Other Candidates	38	6.6%	8.9%
	Other	297	51.9%	69.2%
	Total	572	100.0%	133.3%

a. Group

\$Mayor2 Frequencies: Reasons for NOT supporting

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
Leaning Reasons ^a	Rates	1	0.7%	0.8%
	Social Issues	2	1.4%	1.6%
	Political Experience	26	18.6%	20.8%
	Lack of Knowledge of Other Candidates	25	17.9%	20.0%
	Other	86	61.4%	68.8%
Total		140	100.0%	112.0%

a. Group

Issues relevant to voters – and others – included those listed in the table. Another quarter indicated there were other issues.

How relevant will the following issues be when deciding your vote? ordered	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
-Crime and safety	978	8.21	1.931
-Housing	975	8.16	2.157
-Roading congestion	973	8.12	1.961
-Rates	957	7.94	2.205
-The Auckland economy	971	7.82	1.992
-Public transport	974	7.78	2.163
-Social issues	968	7.33	2.177
Valid N (listwise)	933		

	Column N %
Are there any other important issues? No	73.7%
Yes (Please specify)	26.3%

\$OtherIssues Frequencies

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
\$OtherIssues ^a	Roading Congestion	17	4.9%	6.8%
	Public Transport	28	8.1%	11.2%
	The Auckland Economy	4	1.2%	1.6%
	Rates/Over-expenditure	20	5.8%	8.0%
	Housing	28	8.1%	11.2%
	Crime and Safety	16	4.6%	6.4%

Social Issues	20	5.8%	8.0%
Environment/Pollution	21	6.1%	8.4%
Community Development	21	6.1%	8.4%
Infrastructure	25	7.2%	10.0%
Education	16	4.6%	6.4%
Poverty/Homelessness	16	4.6%	6.4%
Wages	6	1.7%	2.4%
Child and Youth Concerns	9	2.6%	3.6%
Animal Welfare	6	1.7%	2.4%
Auckland Council Management	21	6.1%	8.4%
Immigration/Population	20	5.8%	8.0%
Healthcare	10	2.9%	4.0%
Other	42	12.1%	16.9%
Total	346	100.0%	139.0%

a. Group

Support for Maori seats runs at about a third, with full support for the Maori Statutory Board running at about half that although just under a majority support it in broader terms.

The 2014 party voting profile fits that of that election: National double Labour's vote.

60% claimed to have voted in the 2013 local elections (as opposed to the 35% who actually did). Over half reported having supported Len Brown while a quarter had supported Palino.

		Column N %
Should there be specific Maori seats on the Auckland Council?	Yes, there SHOULD BE specific Maori seats	32.3%
	No, there SHOULD NOT be specific Maori seats	67.7%
As you may be aware there is a Maori Statutory Board which is independent of Auckland Council. Do you think this is a good idea?	Yes, good idea	17.0%
	Yes, partly a good idea	30.6%
Which party did you vote for in the 2014 General Election?	No, not a good idea	52.4%
	National	39.3%
	Labour	21.2%
	Green	7.3%
	NZ First	6.0%
	Maori	2.0%
	Mana	1.8%
	ACT	1.8%
	United Future	0.7%
	Other	2.5%

	Did not vote	17.5%
Did you vote in the 2013 Local Election?	Yes	60.9%
	No	39.1%
Which of the following mayoralty candidates did you vote for in 2013?	Len Brown	56.9%
	John Palino	26.1%
	Stephen Berry	5.5%
	Penny Bright	8.3%
	John Minto	3.2%