

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **The vote is split between MMP and FPP**

Nearly half of New Zealanders say they prefer the first past the post electoral system rather than the current MMP system, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

The poll found 46 percent of New Zealanders preferred the first past the post voting system, compared with 41 percent who supported the MMP (Mixed Member Proportional representation) system. A further 11 percent didn't know, and three percent would prefer another system.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said the results showed that while we have held MMP general elections since 1996, New Zealanders were still divided about the best way of electing the government.

MMP was introduced after a 1993 referendum, in which MMP received 54 percent of the votes and first past the post 46 percent.

Mr Kalafatelis said that in the latest poll, that support for first past the post was strongest in older age groups.

“Younger Kiwis are more supportive of MMP with 53 percent of those aged 15 to 29 preferring it, and 23 percent preferring first past the post. In contrast, 59 percent of voters aged over 60 years prefer first past the post, compared to 28 percent who prefer MMP.

“However, it is important to note that nearly a quarter (23 percent) of those aged 15 to 29 years did not know what system they would prefer.

When 15 to 17 year olds are taken out of the mix, and we focus on all eligible electors only, younger voters aged 18 to 29 still prefer MMP and the ‘don't knows’ are still high,” Mr Kalafatelis said.

The Research New Zealand polling of a national, random sample of 500 was conducted by telephone between 7 August and 14 August.



The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 7 August and 14 August. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.4 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

**Participants were asked:** *Would you prefer that we voted for the government using the first past the post system or the current MMP system?'*

**Table 1: Preference for the first past the post system or the current MMP system**

*Would you prefer that we voted for the government using the first past the post system or the current MMP system?*

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	90	75	101	106	128
	%	%	%	%	%	%
First past the post	46	23	43	47	59	59
MMP	41	53	43	48	33	28
Other	3	1	4	0	5	4
Don't know	11	23	10	5	3	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

**Table 2: Preference for the first past the post system or the current MMP system - by those aged 18+**

*Would you prefer that we voted for the government using the first past the post system or the current MMP system?*

	Total	18 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	483*	73	75	101	106	128
	%	%	%	%	%	%
First past the post	47	25	43	47	59	59
MMP	41	55	43	48	33	28
Other	3	2	4	0	5	4
Don't know	9	18	10	5	3	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

\*Sub-sample based on those who are aged 18 years or more.

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