

MEDIA RELEASE

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Should New Zealand become a republic?

The question of whether New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State has recently been raised again. A Research New Zealand poll conducted in November 2008, found that New Zealanders were divided in their views.

In November 2008, 42 percent of New Zealanders supported the idea that New Zealand should become a republic, with 48 percent against.

Today the support for this suggestion is even less with 32 percent of New Zealanders agreeing with the suggestion and 53 percent disagreeing. 'The substantial drop in support for *The Republic of New Zealand* is unlikely to have come about by chance', Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis said. 'The recent visit by HRH Prince William may well have been a factor'.

More males (38 percent) than females (28 percent) supported the suggestion that New Zealand should become a republic. Those under 35 years of age were also more likely to favour New Zealand becoming a republic (35 percent) as opposed to those who are 55 years or over (29 percent)

Interestingly, the current poll has found that the support for New Zealand becoming a republic is higher among Māori and Pacific People, both at 42 percent than among NZ Europeans at 31 percent.

Support for *The Republic of New Zealand* is highest among those living in the Upper North Island at 40 percent and lowest among those living in the South Island at 26 percent.

The Research New Zealand poll was conducted between 16 and 25 February 2010 December.

The Research New Zealand poll of 756 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 16 and 25 February. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.3 % (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 organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.



Respondents were asked: *New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and our current Head of State is the Queen of England. It has been suggested that New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State. Do you agree or disagree that New Zealand should become a republic?*

Table 1: Should New Zealand become a republic - by gender

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and our current Head of State is the Queen of England. It has been suggested that New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State. Do you agree or disagree that New Zealand should become a republic?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	756	333	423
	%	%	%
Yes, I agree, New Zealand should become a republic	32	38	28
No, I disagree, New Zealand should not become a republic	53	49	56
Don't know	15	13	16
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Should New Zealand become a republic - by age

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and our current Head of State is the Queen of England. It has been suggested that New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State. Do you agree or disagree that New Zealand should become a republic?

	Total	15 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	756	170	301	285
	%	%	%	%
Yes, I agree, New Zealand should become a republic	32	35	33	29
No, I disagree, New Zealand should not become a republic	53	47	51	62
Don't know	15	18	16	9
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 3: Should New Zealand become a republic - by ethnicity

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and our current Head of State is the Queen of England. It has been suggested that New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State. Do you agree or disagree that New Zealand should become a republic?

	Total	NZ European/ Other	Maori/	Pacific
Base =	756 %	451 %	202 %	103 %
Yes, I agree, New Zealand should become a republic	32	31	42	42
No, I disagree, New Zealand should not become a republic	53	54	47	43
Don't know	15	15	11	15
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 4: Should New Zealand become a republic - by area

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy and our current Head of State is the Queen of England. It has been suggested that New Zealand should become a republic with a New Zealander as the Head of State. Do you agree or disagree that New Zealand should become a republic?

	Total	Upper North Island	Lower North Island	South Island
Base =	754 %	238 %	306 %	210 %
Yes, I agree, New Zealand should become a republic	32	40	33	26
No, I disagree, New Zealand should not become a republic	53	42	54	61
Don't know	15	18	13	13
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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