

MEDIA RELEASE

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MMP more popular post election

Support for the MMP electoral system has increased since last month's General Election but there is still significant support for first past the post, Research New Zealand polling shows.

A poll taken just days after the November 8 General Election has found that 53 percent of New Zealanders favoured MMP (Mixed Member Proportional representation), with 35 percent saying they favoured first past the post.

A similar poll taken in August, prior to the election, found 46 percent of those asked favoured MMP and 41 percent first past the post, Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said.

Support for MMP remains strongest among younger voters, Mr Kalafatelis said.

"MMP was most likely to be supported by those aged 15 to 29 (69 percent) compared with 45 percent of those aged over 60", Mr Kalafatelis said.

People living in households earning more than \$70,000 a year were more likely to support first past the post (42 percent) compared to 31 percent of households who have an annual income of less than \$40,000.

"While MMP has increased in popularity and it is favoured by the majority, there is still significant support for the first past the post system. We are far from having overwhelming support for the way we elect our Government," Mr Kalafatelis said.

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

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 10 November and 13 November.

The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 10 and 13 November. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (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.



Respondents were asked: *Thinking about the recent general election, would you prefer that we voted for the Government using the current MMP system or first past the post?*

Table 1: Preference for FPP or MMP, by age

Thinking about the recent general election, would you prefer that we voted for the Government using the current MMP system or first past the post?

	Aug 2008		Nov 2008				
	Total	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	500	81	70	108	93	148
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
MMP	46	53	69	50	52	49	45
First past the post	41	35	13	38	39	43	40
Other	3	3	0	0	4	2	9
Don't know	11	9	18	11	5	6	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Preference for FPP or MMP, by household income

Thinking about the recent general election, would you prefer that we voted for the Government using the current MMP system or first past the post?

	Aug 2008		Nov 2008			
	Total	Total	Under \$40,000	40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	500	500	172	120	159	49
	%	%	%	%	%	%
MMP	53	54	54	57	50	50
First past the post	35	31	31	30	42	32
Other	3	2	2	5	3	3
Don't know	9	12	12	8	5	15
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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