

one member one vote

Last year NZNO changed to a more direct, democratic voting system called “one member one vote”. This brief one-pager summarises what the changes mean for members interested in the voting process for constitutional and policy remits. There is more detailed information at www.nzno.org.nz/omov.

What has changed?

Before the change votes could only be cast by representatives and delegates from the Regional Councils; the Colleges and Sections; the National Student Unit; Te Rūnanga; the Membership Committee; and Te Poari. Now every financial member has a vote on constitutional and policy remits.

Why the change?

It's about fairness and better democracy. In the past one delegate/representative could have several votes counted depending on the number of groups they belonged to. Larger Regional Councils representing more members had stronger voting power than smaller regions, yet voting decisions were being made by a small number of delegates/representatives.

The 'one member one vote' system will make sure members have more say in decision making. The new process, introduced in 2019, should also make voting more visible to members and encourage greater engagement.

How is voting different in practice?

Voting on policy and constitutional remits will now take place by ballot via electronic or postal voting before the AGM, with results being announced at the AGM.

Has the process for submitting remits changed?

The process and timeline for submitting remits have not changed. However, debates over remits no longer occur at the AGM. Instead, key issues should be discussed with your member group representatives, Te Rūnanga and/or your delegate as remits are being developed for submission.

While developing remits, you should clearly identify the problem you hope to solve and how to solve it – including considering the implications of your remit and any risks involved. This will ensure that the intention and content of the remit are clear and well-considered.

As before, the Remit Committee will identify constitutional remits that affect Te Rūnanga and check their consistency with Ngā Ture (the constitution of Te Rūnanga). Such remits will be presented for endorsement at Hui ā-Tau before members vote on them.

Where can I learn more?

Correspondence to members (2018-2019):

www.nzno.org.nz/omov

NZNO guide to preparing remits (2020):

www.nzno.org.nz/resources/nzno_publications#9_2787

Constitutional remit template (2020):

www.nzno.org.nz/resources/nzno_publications#9_3815

Policy remit template (2020):

www.nzno.org.nz/resources/nzno_publications#9_3816