

# Boards of Trustees Parent Candidates and Elected Representatives 2001 An Analysis of Gender and Ethnicity

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The 2001 elections for parent representatives were held in around 2,570 state and state integrated schools on or soon after 30 March 2001. Returning officers completed survey forms on the gender, ethnicity and previous board of trustees experience of the candidates. The information on candidates was summarised in a report in July 2001 and is also compared in this report with the available data on elected parent representatives from the Ministry of Education database as at August 2001.

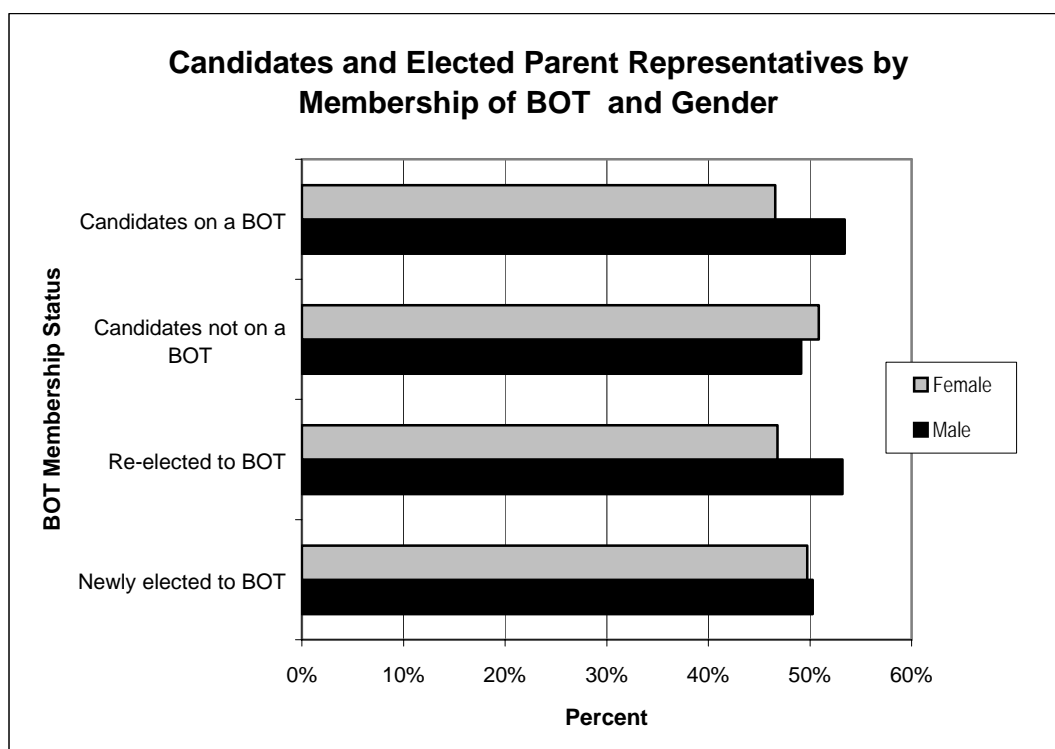
Over 95% of schools responded to the survey on candidates standing for election as parent representatives for the 2001 board of trustees elections. The total number of candidates for these schools was just over 16,800. The number of board of trustees members identified as elected parent representatives on the Ministry of Education database is around 12,300.

## Gender

Just over half (51%) of all candidates standing for election as parent representatives for the 2001 board of trustees elections were male and 49% were female. This was very close to the proportions of elected parent representatives who were male (52%) and female (48%) as at August 2001. The proportions of elected parent representatives by gender in 2001 was exactly the same as it was in 1998.

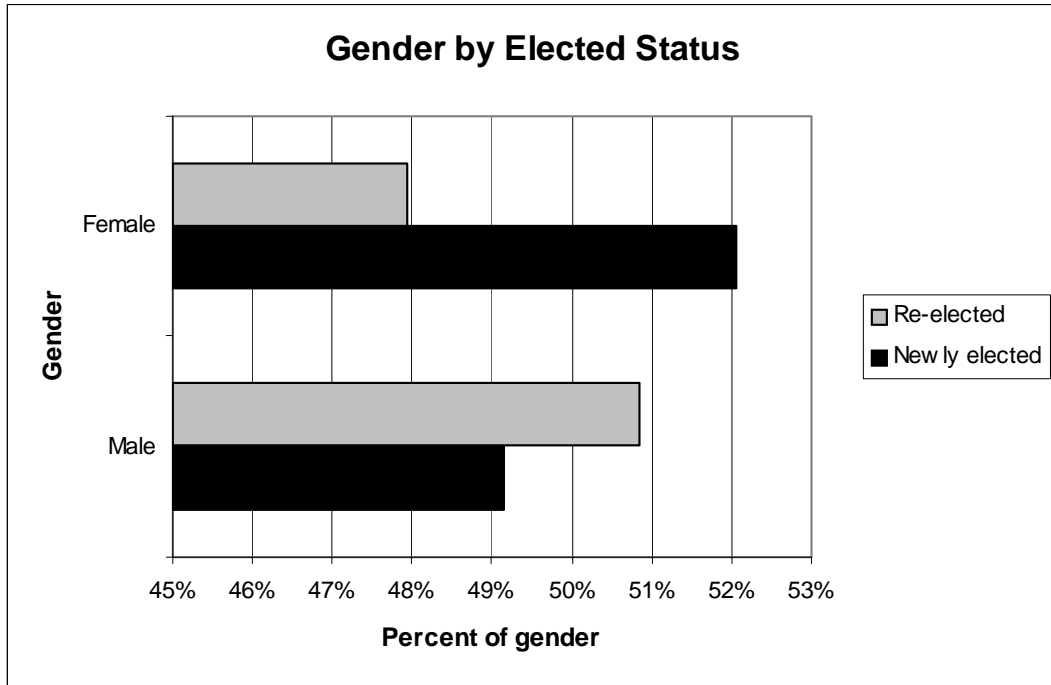
The proportions of both males and females re-elected to a board of trustees were the same as the proportions of male and female candidates standing for election who were already members of a board – 53% were male and 47% were female. Males and females both made up 50% of those board members who were newly elected. Fifty percent was slightly higher than the proportion of male candidates not currently on a board (49%) and slightly lower than the proportion of female candidates not currently on a board (51%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Males were slightly more likely to be re-elected than females - 51% of males had been elected to a board of trustees for at least a second term but only 48% of females were in this category. Forty-nine percent of males were newly elected to a board in 2001, as were 52% of females (Figure 2). These percentages were exactly the same in 1998 for females, for males in 1998 52% had been re-elected and 48% were newly elected.

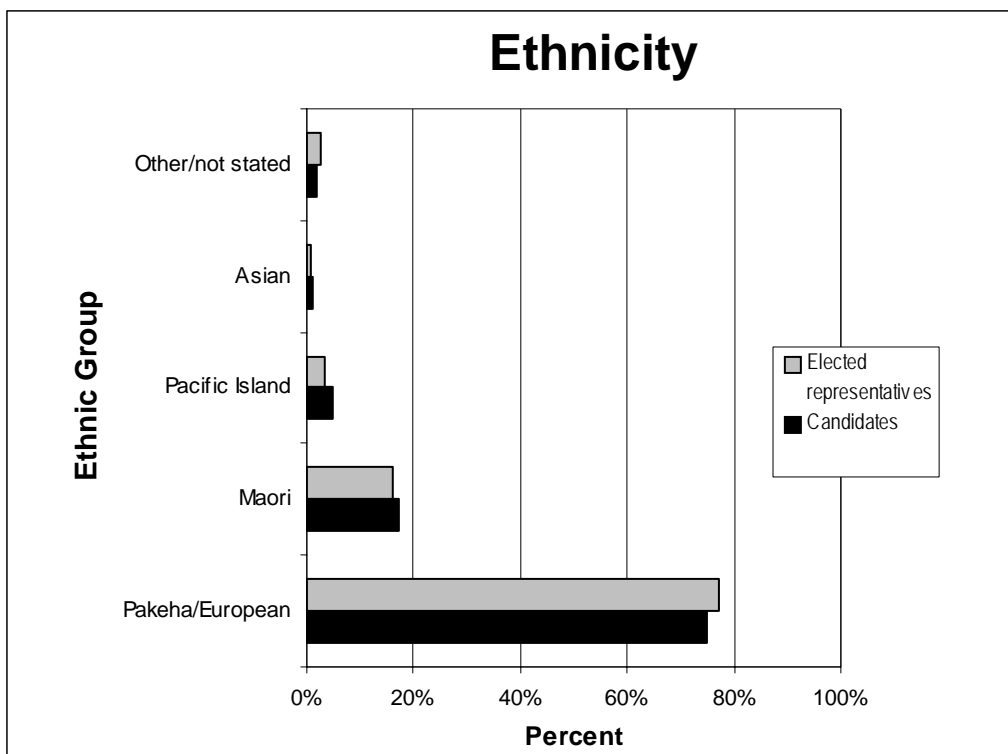
**Figure 2**



**Ethnicity**

The ethnic breakdown of those elected onto boards of trustees as parent representatives largely reflects the composition of those standing for election (Figure 3). The percentage those elected onto boards identified as NZ European/Pakeha (77%) is slightly higher than the percentage

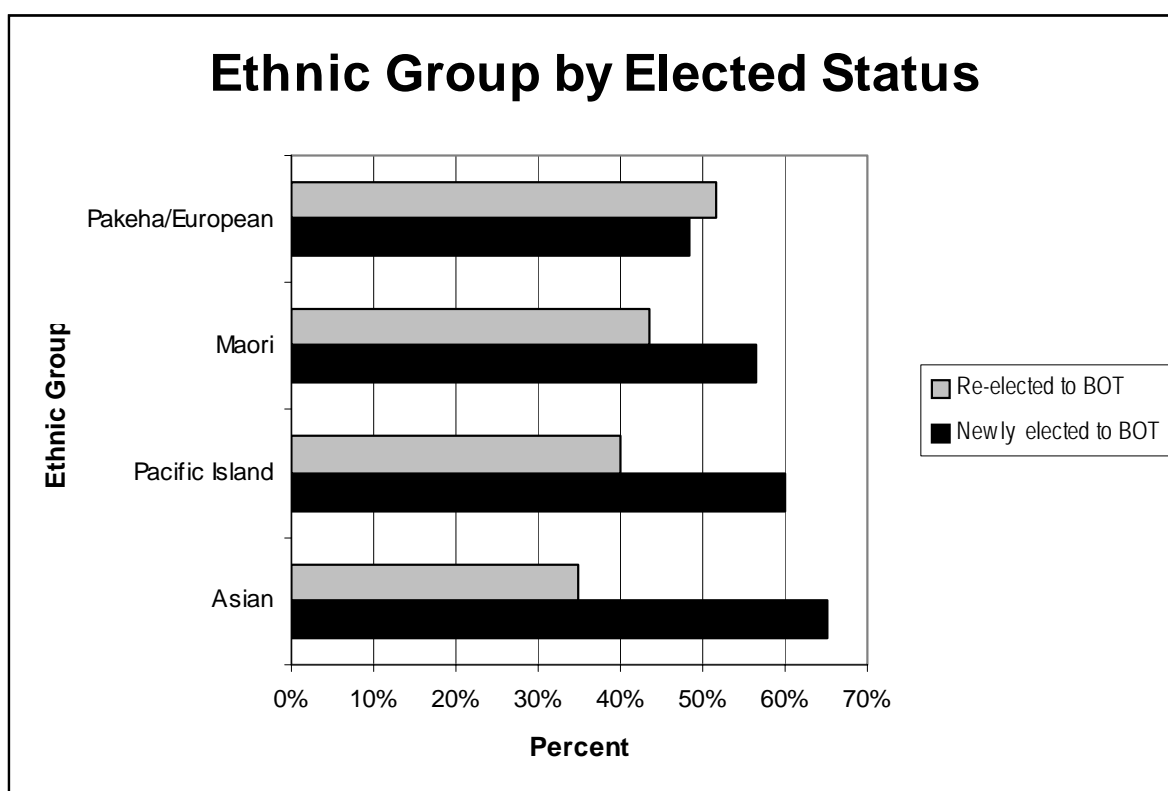
**Figure 3**



standing for election (75%). Maori made up 16% of those elected as parent representatives and 17% of candidates, Pacific Islands people 3% of those elected but 5% of candidates and Asians accounted for 1% of both elected parents and candidates. The final 3% of elected parent representatives and 2% of candidates was the group identified with ethnicity Other or Not Stated.

After the 1998 BOT elections 80% of elected parent representatives identified as NZ European/Pakeha as did 76% of candidates. Fourteen percent of elected parents were Maori as were 15% of candidates and 3% of elected parents were of Pacific Islands ethnic groups along with 4% of candidates.

**Figure 4**

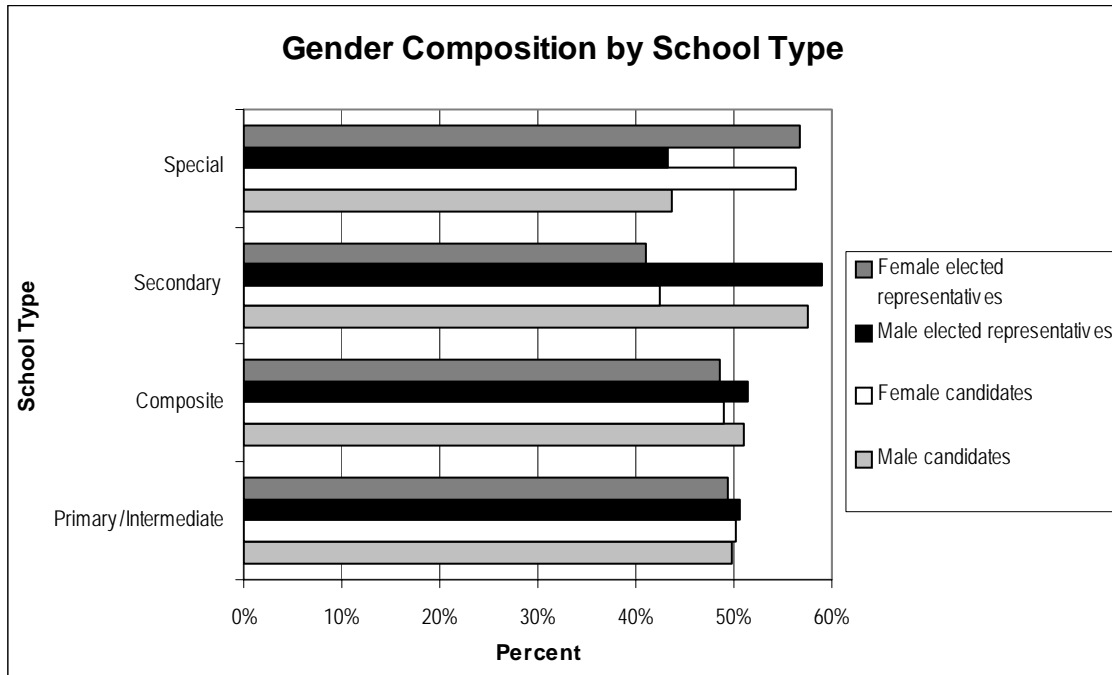


Over half (52%) of NZ European/ Pakeha elected parent representatives on boards had been re-elected - that is they were current board members at the time of the 2001 elections. For the other main ethnic groups between 34% (Asian) and 44% (Maori) of elected parent representatives were re-elected. Data on the previous experience of candidates for the 2001 elections was collected only by gender not by ethnic group so no comparison can be made between the proportions of candidates and elected parents by ethnic group and board membership.

### Gender Composition

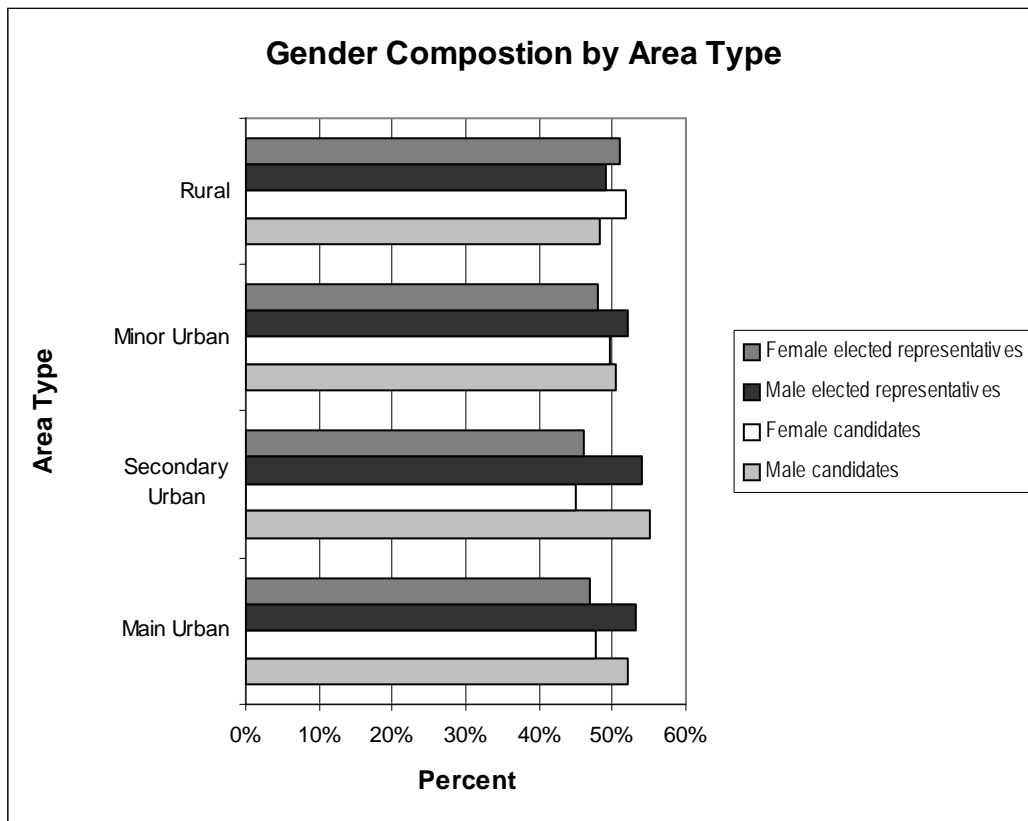
The following graphs and tables look at gender composition within school types, area types, regions, decile ratings and ethnic group to determine if there are any obvious differences in the proportions of each gender between elected parent representatives and candidates.

**Figure 5**



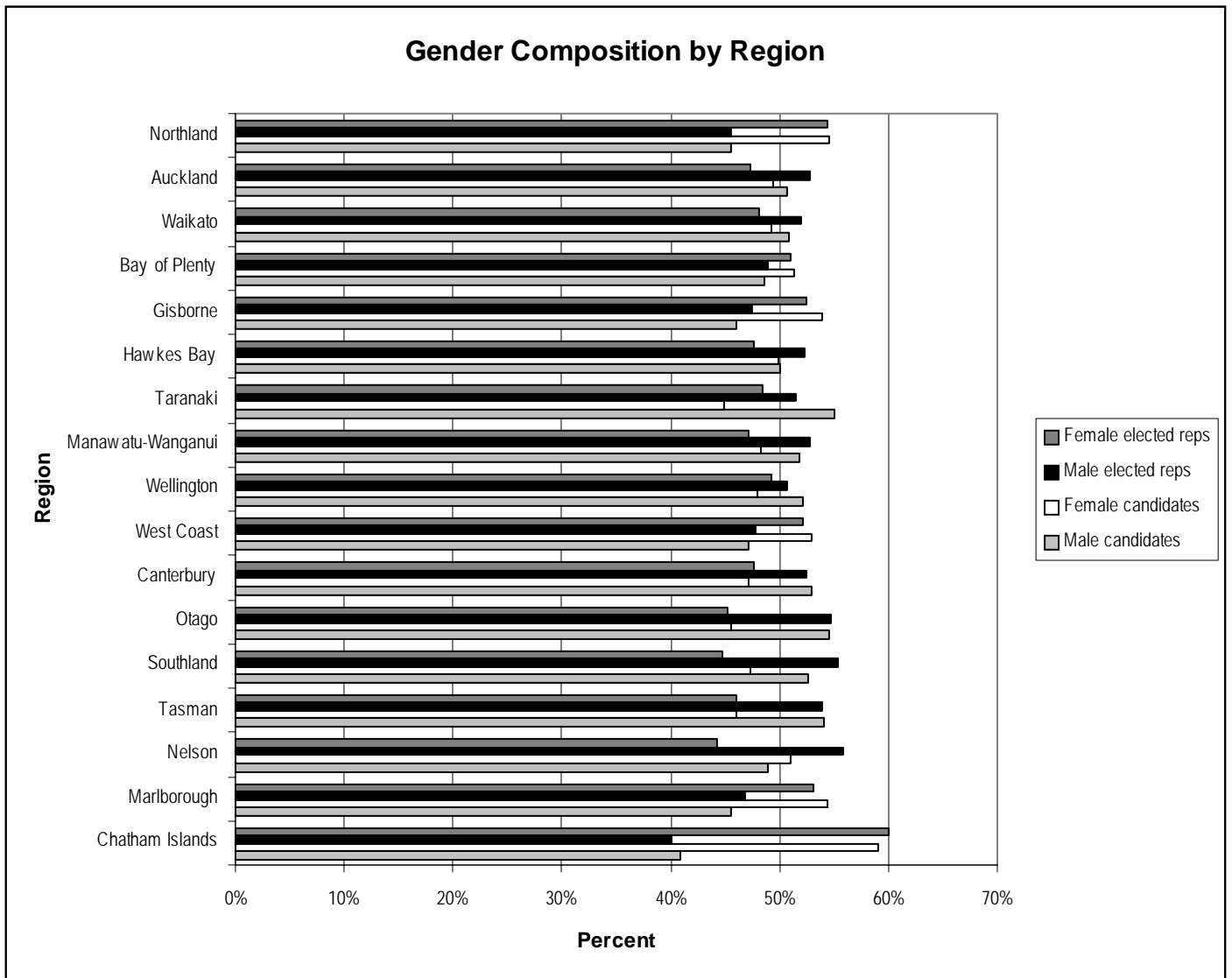
At secondary and composite schools there were more male than female candidates and elected representatives (Figure 5). In special schools there were more female than male candidates and elected representatives. Primary and intermediate schools had slightly more female than male candidates but the opposite was true for their elected parent representatives. Although the differences were very small, it was only in special schools that females had a greater chance than males of being elected.

**Figure 6**



In rural areas there were more female than male candidates and elected parent representatives but in the other area types there were more male than female candidates and elected parent representatives (Figure 6). It was only in Secondary Urban areas that females had a greater chance than males of being elected.

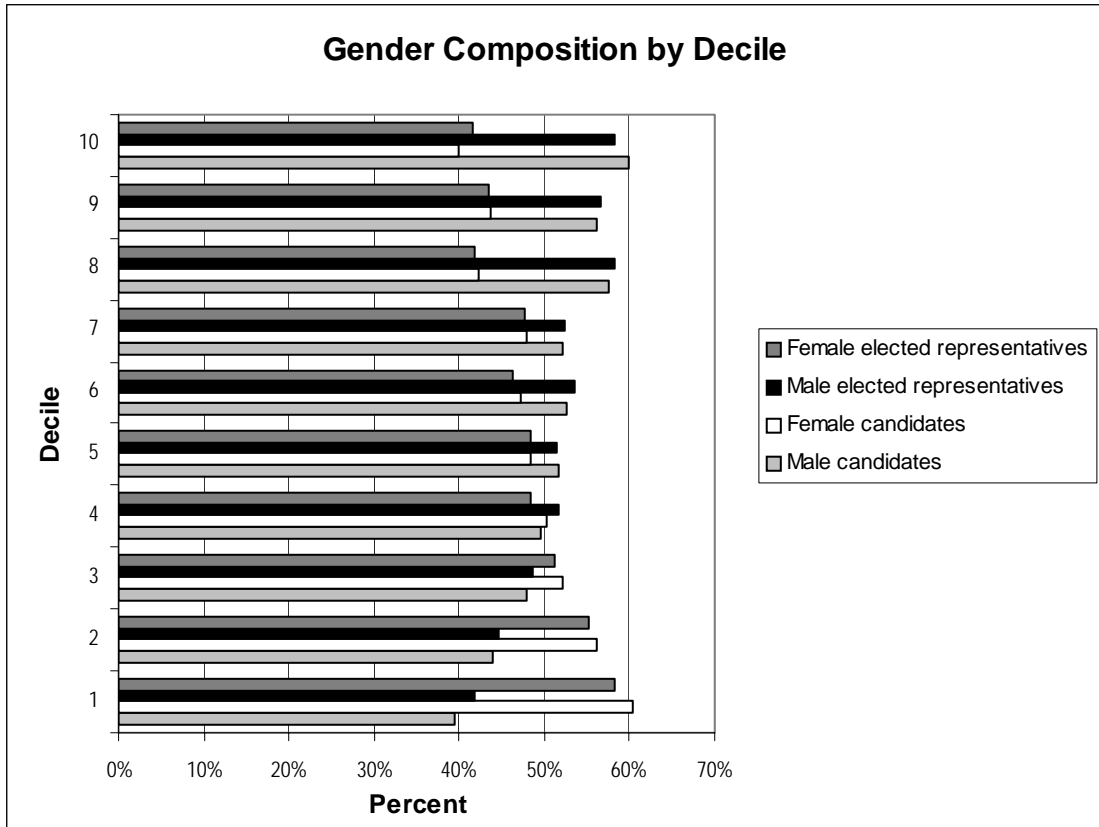
**Figure 7**



In the 10 regions of New Zealand where male candidates outnumbered female candidates, the number of male elected parent representatives was higher than the number of female elected parent representatives (Figure 7). In the 5 of the 6 regions where females comprised over half of the candidates, females also made up more than half of those elected, but in the Nelson region 51% of candidates were female and only 44% of the elected parent representatives were female. In Taranaki and Wellington females had a greater chance than males of being elected.

At schools with Decile ratings of 1 to 3 there were more female than male candidates and elected parent representatives (Figure 8). Decile 4 schools had an equal number of male and female candidates but 52% of the elected parents were male. In schools with Decile ratings of 5 to 10 there were more male than female candidates and elected parent representatives. Although the proportions of males and females elected to boards of Decile 10 schools followed the same pattern as the candidates, females had a greater chance than males of being elected.

**Figure 8**



Maori and Pacific Island ethnic groups had more female than male candidates and elected parent representatives (Figure 9). NZ European/Pakeha and Asian ethnic groups had more male than female candidates and elected parent representatives.

**Figure 9**

