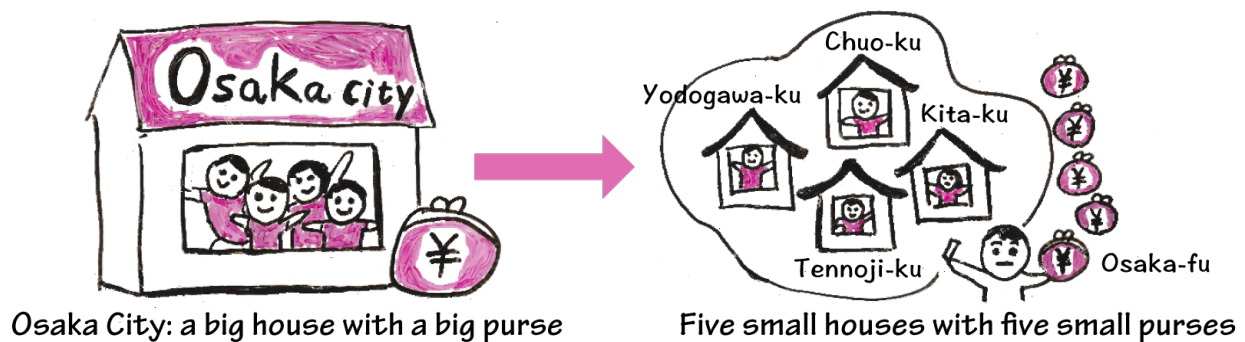


# To foreign residents living in Osaka City

## Are you aware of the upcoming referendum on the “Osaka Metropolis Plan” (establishing special wards)?

Osaka City is an ordinance-designated city, which means that it has more authority than other cities and is regarded as the equivalent of a prefectural government.

However, there is a proposal to abolish Osaka City and reorganize it into special wards (local governments under the jurisdiction of Osaka Prefecture, currently envisioned to be divided into four special wards) like Tokyo’s 23 wards. And a referendum on the proposal (residents’ vote on setting up special wards) is scheduled for November 1.



Foreign residents in Osaka City are not allowed to participate in this referendum because only those with voting rights can participate. Our citizen group, “MINJU” (All People’s Referendum) in the meantime, has requested the Diet and the Osaka City Council to allow foreign residents to vote as well, but it has not been successful.

However, the abolition of Osaka City and its reorganization into special wards will also have a great impact on the lives of foreign residents in areas such as education, welfare, transportation, and the environment. Therefore, we are conducting a questionnaire survey asking foreigners (who cannot participate in the referendum) if they have interest in the referendum, and what kinds of interests and opinions they have for the future of Osaka City. Please read the information on the back of this page and complete the survey.

### Please fill out the attached survey.

We will announce the results of the survey to the public at a press conference, on our website, and through SNS after the referendum has been voted on. We would like the results to be made public so that the opinions of those unable to vote will be clearly conveyed. Whatever the outcome may be, we would like to continue our activities so that foreign residents will be able to join us in creating a more multicultural Osaka.

## みんなで住民投票！ MINJU (All People’s Referendum)!

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# What will happen if Osaka City is abolished and changed into four special wards?

## FACTS we know

1. Osaka City and its 24 wards will be abolished and changed into four wards: Yodogawa-ku, Kita-ku, Chuo-ku, and Tennoji-ku. We will never ever recover Osaka City.
2. There will be no Osaka City Mayor nor Osaka City Council. Instead, there will be 4 special ward chiefs and 4 ward councils (elected by voting).
3. Osaka City's current monetary and property ownership will be divided among Osaka Prefecture and the special 4 wards. Municipal taxes, property taxes, corporate citizen taxes, and money from the state will be directed to Osaka Prefecture and 80% of it will be divided among the 4 wards. Osaka City has assets: facilities, land and savings. The facilities and land will be owned by the respective wards where they are located, whereas savings will be divided among the 4 wards.
4. Osaka City's city planning jurisdiction will be taken over by the special wards' small scale planning and maintenance services within the respective wards. The jurisdiction of larger plans beyond the ward and city boundaries will be under Osaka Prefecture.
5. Osaka-fu (prefecture) will not become Osaka-to (metropolis). A new law would be necessary to create Osaka-to (metropolis).

## FORECAST: The divided opinions we anticipate

Issues	Favorable opinions	Unfavorable opinions
Dual administration	The dual administrations of Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City will be eliminated. The special wards have as much authority as "core cities." If they properly divide their roles between the prefecture and special wards, they can streamline their work. For example, wards can take care of the basic resident services and Osaka Prefecture can be engaged in broader city plans.	Abolishing Osaka City and creating a prefecture and special ward system does not mean the end of the dual administration. The special wards have below municipal authority and don't even have power to supply water, sewerage, fire, and emergency services on their own. Special wards have limited financial resources and authority. It will be difficult to determine their local issues on their own. The administration will become ineffective.
Services for residents	The same resident services will be maintained for 10 years. Residents can elect their ward chiefs and ward council members by voting. The elected council members can respond to residents' needs better. As the saying goes, "the nearer, the better." The nearer the relationships are, the better services can be supplied.	It's not clear what kinds of services residents will be able to receive after 10 years. Some of the projects, such as care insurance and care businesses, will be commissioned to some office unions, which will create a triple administration. The projects which have been administered under 24 wards will be under 4 wards, resulting in unsatisfactory responses to local residents' needs.
Development and economy	Broader regional development can be pushed with speed and stimulate the economy. In order to revitalize the post-covid-19 economy, Osaka Prefecture and City should be united.	It will prevent the administration from being able to reflect public opinion on large scale development projects such as the casino and IR (Integrated Resort). Abolishing Osaka City at a time of extreme difficulty under the corona pandemic will only disrupt people's lives and hinder economic revitalization.
Finance	The tax revenue reduction due to the corona pandemic is difficult to calculate. Even if it is affected by the pandemic, the cost reduction and new business (IR) will help make the special zone's finances in the black.	The financial situation will deteriorate due to the cost of splitting Osaka City into special wards, the decrease in tax revenue, and the increase in expenditure due to the corona pandemic. Expenses for city swimming pools, welfare centers for the elderly, and the Child-Rearing Plazas will be reduced.

\*There has been no discussion about policies for foreign residents and residential services for foreigners.