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Get ready to enrol to vote

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Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

Transcriber's Note: The logo at the top of the page is:
ELECTORAL COMMISSION, TE KAITIAKI TAKE
KŌWHIRI

Get ready to enrol to vote

Why enrol to vote?

If you're enrolled to vote, you get to have a say in general elections, local elections and referendums.

Elections are your chance to have a say about who represents you in Parliament or in your local council on the issues that you care about.

Make sure your voice is heard by enrolling to vote.

Who can enrol to vote?

You must enrol if you:

- are 18 years or older, and
- are a New Zealand citizen or resident for electoral purposes, and
- have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

You're a resident for electoral purposes if you're living in New Zealand lawfully and you're not required to leave within a specified time. This includes someone on a resident visa.

If you're Australian, Niuean, Tokelauan or a Cook Islander, you can enrol if you have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more.

Are you overseas?

If you live overseas you can enrol to vote if you:

- are 18 years or older, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than 12 months continuously at some time in your life, and
- you are either: a New Zealand citizen and have been in New Zealand within the past 3 years, OR a resident for electoral purposes and have been in New Zealand within the past 12 months.

You can apply to enrol once you turn 17.

When you turn 18, you'll be automatically enrolled and you'll be ready to vote.

Enrolling to vote if you are Māori

If you're of Māori descent and enrolling for the first time, you choose which electoral roll you're on: the Māori roll or the general roll.

Your roll choice decides:

- which electorate you vote in
- the candidates you can choose from.

Once you're enrolled, you can change the roll you're on anytime, except:

- in the 3 months before a general election or the local elections held every 3 years
- before a parliamentary by-election if the change would move you into the electorate where the by-election is being held.

What does your roll choice mean for you?

In a general election, if you choose the general roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a general electorate.

If you choose the Māori roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a Māori electorate. You can vote for the same list of political parties, whichever roll you're on.

The roll you choose may affect who you can vote for at local elections. If you choose the Māori roll, and your local council has a Māori ward or constituency, you'll vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for candidates in the general ward or constituency.

Concerned about your personal safety?

If you're concerned about your personal safety, or that of your family, you can apply to go on the confidential

unpublished roll. We'll keep your enrolment details secure and we won't give them to anyone.

If you're on the unpublished roll, your details won't be included on printed electoral rolls and you won't be able to check or update your details online.

When you vote you'll have to complete a special vote and fill in an extra form with your voting paper to confirm the electorate where you're enrolled to vote.

Go to vote.nz or call **0800 36 76 56** for more information and an application form.

How do I enrol?

It's easy to enrol or update your details. You can:

- enrol online at vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity
- call free **0800 36 76 56** or freetext your name and address to 3676 to get an enrolment form sent to you.

Once completed, sign and return the form to us. When you've enrolled, your name will go on the electoral roll. The electoral roll is a list of people who can vote in elections. You must be on the electoral roll to vote.

You need to update your details every time you move house.

Make sure we have your email address and your mobile number so we can contact you about enrolling and voting.

When you enrol for the first time or update any of your details, we'll send you a letter or email to check your details are correct.

Need help to enrol?

You can ask someone you know, such as a friend or family member, to help you complete your enrolment form, or to complete your form for you.

You need to sign the form.

If you know someone who can't complete and sign their enrolment form because of a physical or mental impairment, you may be able to help.

Want more information?

For more information about enrolling and voting:

- visit [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz)
- call **0800 36 76 56**

Information about enrolling and voting is available in multiple languages and other alternate formats at [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz)

End of Get ready to enrol to vote

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