



Your guide to voting in the 2026 General Election.

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Transcriber's Note: The logo at the top of the page is
Electoral Commission—Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri.

Your guide to voting in the 2026 General Election

What to expect and how to vote in 2026

Make sure you're enrolled and your details are up to date.

To vote in the 2026 General Election, you need to be enrolled by **midnight, Sunday 25 October**. You won't be able to enrol or update your details once voting starts on **Monday 26 October**.

You must enrol if you are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or resident for electoral purposes, and you've 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.

Enrol, check or update your details online

Enrolling isn't something you do once. You need to keep your enrolment up to date so you're ready to vote.

It's easy to enrol, check or update your details online at vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

You can also:

- Call **0800 36 76 56** to ask for an enrolment form, or
- Free text your name and address to **3676** to be sent an enrolment form in the mail.

Your EasyVote card

If you enrol by **Sunday 4 October**, you'll be sent an EasyVote card.

If you've given us your email address, you'll get your EasyVote card by email.

If we only have your postal address, you'll get it in the post.

If you're on the unpublished roll, you'll be sent a voting slip in the post.

Your EasyVote card makes voting faster and easier.

You can still vote without it, but it may take a little longer at the voting place.

If you enrol after **Sunday 4 October** but before **midnight, Sunday 25 October**, you won't get an EasyVote card.

When and where to vote

You don't need to wait until election day to vote.

Voting opens: Monday 26 October

Voting closes: 7pm on election day, Saturday 7 November

Voting places are open from **Monday 26 October** to **Saturday 7 November**.

You can find information about voting places including the days and hours that they're open, on vote.nz or by calling **0800 36 76 56**.

On election day, **Saturday 7 November**, all voting places will be open from **9am to 7pm**.

How to vote

1. Bring your EasyVote card

Take your EasyVote card or voting slip with you as it will make voting faster.

If you received your EasyVote card by email, you can bring your device with you and show us your card on the screen.

If you prefer, you can download it, print it out, or screenshot your card before you go to the voting place.

Your EasyVote card has your details on it, and only you can use it.

You can still vote if you don't have your EasyVote card with you when you go to vote.

2. There will be someone at the voting place to help you

Election workers at your voting place will show you what to do and where to go.

3. Vote in the general election

In a general election, you get two votes—a party vote and an electorate vote.

Your party vote

Your party vote is for the political party you want to support.

This vote largely decides the total number of seats each political party gets in Parliament. Parties with a bigger share of the party vote will get more seats in Parliament.

You can choose from the same list of political parties whether you're on the general roll or Māori roll.

On your voting paper, place a tick by the name of the political party of your choice.

Your electorate vote

Your electorate vote is to choose the candidate you would like to be the member of Parliament (MP) for the area you live in.

If you're on the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate standing in a Māori electorate.

If you're on the general roll, you will vote for a candidate standing in a general electorate.

On your voting paper, place a tick by the name of the candidate you would most like to represent your local area.

The candidate with the most votes will become your electorate MP.

This proportion of the party votes = The same proportion of seats in Parliament

4. Place your voting paper in the ballot box provided

And that's it—you've voted!

Can't get to a voting place?

If you can't get to a voting place, for example, because of illness, age or disability, you can get support to vote.

If you're in a care home, your local Electorate Manager will contact your care home to arrange voting services.

If you can't get to a voting place because you're in hospital, a friend or whānau member can bring you your voting papers from **Monday 26 October**.

Find out more at vote.nz or call **0800 36 76 56** to talk over your options.

Voting from overseas

If you'll be in Aotearoa New Zealand when voting starts on **Monday 26 October**, it's easier to vote before you leave.

If you're voting from overseas, you must be enrolled by **midnight, Sunday 25 October (NZ time)**. You can enrol or update your details at vote.nz

You can vote from overseas from **Wednesday 21 October** until **7pm, Saturday 7 November (NZ time)**.

The easiest and quickest way to vote from overseas is to download and complete your voting papers and then upload them at vote.nz

You may also be able to vote in person at an overseas voting place. A list of overseas voting places will be available at vote.nz

If these options don't work for you, please email overseas@vote.nz or call **+64 9 909 4182** (international call rates may apply) for help.

Need help to read or mark your voting papers?

A friend, whānau member, or someone working at the voting place can help you to read or mark your voting paper. That person can:

- go behind the voting screen with you
- read out the words and information on the voting paper

- mark the voting paper for you if you ask them to.

They can't tell you who you should vote for.

If you're blind, partially blind or have a physical disability that means you can't mark your voting paper without help, you can vote using the telephone dictation service.

You need to register to use this service. You can register from **5 October** by calling **0800 028 028** and select **option 1** to register or emailing dictation@vote.nz

Visit vote.nz/dictation to find out more about this service.

Want more information?

- Visit vote.nz
- Call **0800 36 76 56**

Information about enrolling and voting is also available in other languages and alternate formats at vote.nz

Share this information with your whānau and friends and help them get ready to vote.

End of Your guide to voting in the 2026 General Election.

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