



Get ready to enrol and vote in the 2026 General Election

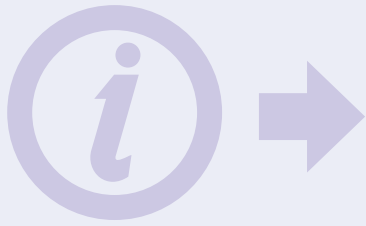
The Easy Read guide to enrolling and voting



Developed with input from
People First New Zealand, Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



About this booklet



This booklet has information about how to:

- enrol to vote
- vote in the 2026 General Election.



About the 2026 General Election



There is a General Election on:

Saturday 7 November.



You need to be enrolled to vote in the General Election by:

midnight Sunday 25 October.



Voting in the General Election starts on:

Monday 26 October.



The last day to vote is:

Saturday 7 November.

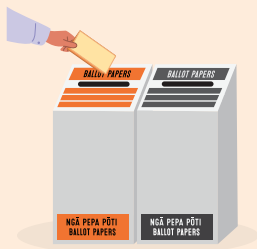
About General Elections



This year there is a **General Election** in New Zealand.

A **General Election** is the time when you can **vote** for the people you want to make important decisions about:

- things that affect your life
- the country you live in.



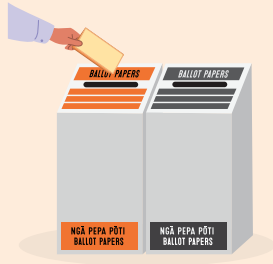
When you **vote** you have your say about who you think should be in **Government**.

The **Government** decides on things that affect your life like:

- schools
- hospitals
- roads.



About General Elections

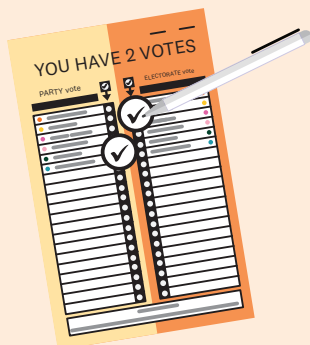


A **General Election** happens every 3 years.

At the **General Election** you can vote for the people who will:

- be in **Parliament**
- make decisions that affect your life.

Parliament is made up of all of the people and **political parties** who have been chosen in the General Election.



In a General Election you get 2 votes to choose the:

1. **political party** you want to be in Government
2. person you want to represent your **electorate** in Parliament.

Your **electorate** is the area where you live.

There is more information about electorates on page 18.

About General Elections



A **political party** is a group of people that want to be in Government.

They share the same ideas about how New Zealand should work.

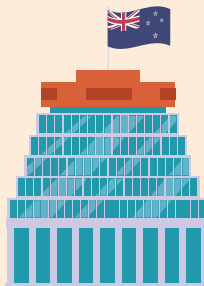


Some of the parties in Parliament will form the Government.



The people you can vote for in an election are called **candidates**.

The **candidate** with the most votes in an electorate is elected to Parliament.



If you are elected to Parliament you are called a **member of Parliament**.

MP is a short way of saying member of Parliament.

About General Elections



An **MP** is someone who:

- works in Parliament
- works to **represent** the people of New Zealand
- usually represents a political party.

Represent means to stand or speak for someone.

Enrolling to vote



To vote in the General Election you need to be **enrolled**.

Being **enrolled** means you are on a list of people who can vote called the electoral roll.

To be enrolled you need to fill out a form with your **personal information**.



Your **personal information** includes:

- your name
- the date you were born
- the address where you live
- your email address
- your mobile phone number.

It is important to put down the right information.

Enrolling to vote



In New Zealand there are some rules about who must enrol to vote.



You must enrol to vote if all of these things are true about you.

You are:

- 18 years or older
- have lived in New Zealand for more than 1 year in your life
- are either a:
 - **New Zealand citizen**
 - or
 - **resident for electoral purposes.**



Enrolling to vote



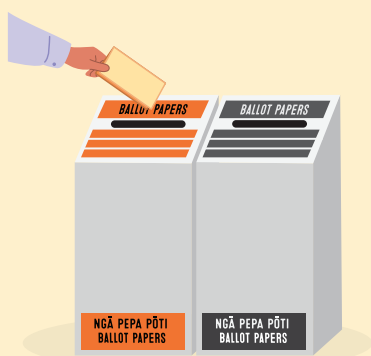
A **New Zealand citizen** is someone who can get a New Zealand passport.

Most New Zealand citizens were born in New Zealand.

A **resident for electoral purposes** is someone who:

- lives in New Zealand legally
- does not have to leave New Zealand by a certain date.

Enrolling to vote - how to enrol



To enrol you can:

- go to the website at:
vote.nz
or
- fill in a paper enrolment form and return it to the **Electoral Commission**.

The **Electoral Commission** runs the General Election.

The **Electoral Commission** also registers voters so they can vote at the General Election.



To return your enrolment form you can:

- upload your completed form to the website:
vote.nz
- Email your form to:
enrol@vote.nz
- Send your form to the Electoral Commission by post to:

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FREEPOST 2 ENROL
PO BOX 190
Wellington 6140

Enrolling to vote - how to enrol



If you want to be sent an enrolment form in the mail:

- call **0800 36 76 56**
- text your name and address to **3676**

It will not cost you any money to call or text these numbers.

Enrolling to vote - how to enrol



If you enrol online you will need a **form of ID** like a:

- New Zealand driver licence
- New Zealand passport
- **RealMe verified identity.**



A **form of ID** is an official document that you can use to prove who you are.

A **RealMe verified identity** is a type of computer account run by the government where they have checked your information to make sure it is true.

Getting support to enrol



You can ask a support person to help you fill out your enrolment form.

You can ask someone like:

- a friend
- a family member.



You can ask them to:

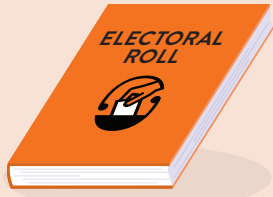
- support you to complete your enrolment form
- complete your form for you.

You will need to sign the form yourself.



Your support person can also assist you to enrol online.

Electoral roll



When you are enrolled to vote your name is printed on the **electoral roll**.

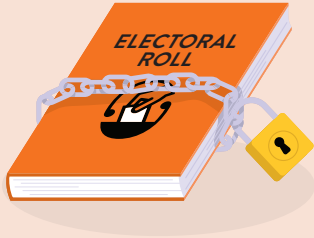
The **electoral roll** is a list of all the people in New Zealand who have enrolled to vote.



The electoral roll is **public**.

Being **public** means that other people can see it at places like libraries.

Unpublished roll



If it is not safe for your name and address to be made public on the electoral roll you can ask to go on the **unpublished roll**.

The **unpublished roll** is private.

Nobody can see your personal details.



If you want more information about how to be on the unpublished roll you can:

- visit our website:

vote.nz

- call:

0800 36 76 56

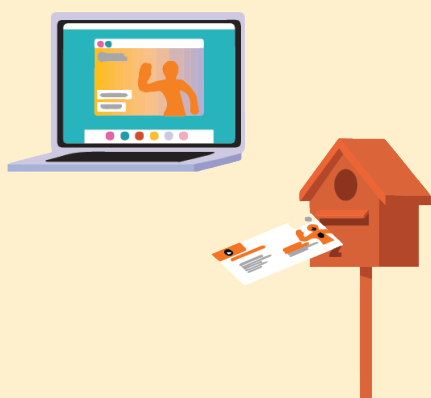


Enrolling to vote - how to update your details



You must update your information on the electoral roll if you:

- move house
- change your name.



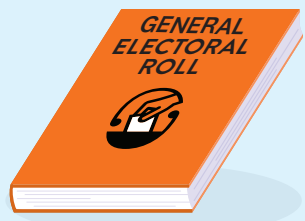
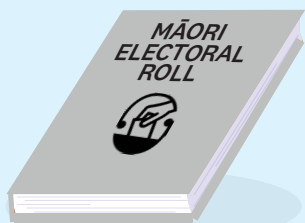
To update your information you can:

- go to the website at:
vote.nz
- fill in a paper enrolment form and send it back to the Electoral Commission.



It is important to keep your information up to date.

Roll choice



In New Zealand there are 2 electoral rolls.

If you are Māori you can choose which electoral roll you want to be on:

- the **Māori roll** that is open to voters who are Māori
- the **general roll** that is open to all voters.

No one can be on both rolls at the same time.



This choice is called the **Māori Electoral Option**.

If you are not Māori you will be on the general roll.



No one is allowed to tell you what roll to choose.

It is your choice.

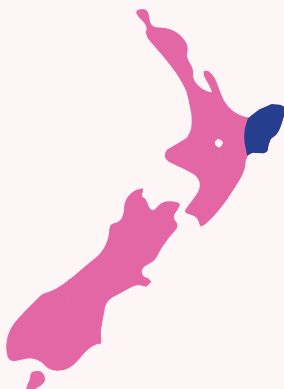
Electorates



New Zealand is **divided** into voting areas called electorates.

Divided means it is split into parts.

When you enrol to vote you are also enrolled in the electorate where you live.



There are 2 kinds of electorates:

- **Māori electorates**
- **general electorates.**



A **Māori electorate** is a voting area where only people who are on the Māori electoral roll can vote.

A **general electorate** is a voting area where only people who are on the general electoral roll can vote.

Electorates



Everywhere in New Zealand is in:

- a Māori electorate and
- a general electorate.



In New Zealand there are currently:

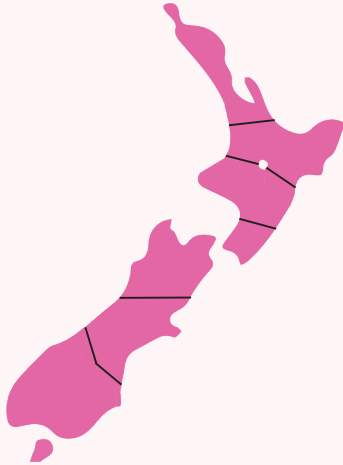
- 7 Māori electorates
- 64 general electorates.



Electorates:

- are not always the same size
but
- they usually have about the same number of people in them.

Electorate boundaries



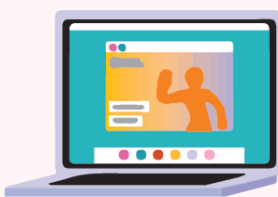
The **boundaries** of electorates can change or move over time.

Boundaries means the edges of the area of land that makes up an electorate.



Two things that can affect where the boundaries of electorates are:

- how many people choose to be on the Māori roll
- which places those people live in.



Some electorates have changed.

You should check what electorate you are enrolled in before you vote.



You can do this:

- on our website:

vote.nz

- call:

0800 36 76 56

Voting in the 2026 General Election



You can vote in the 2026 General Election if you are enrolled by:

midnight Sunday 25 October.



Voting in the 2026 General Election starts on:

Monday 26 October.



Voting in the 2026 General Election closes on election day at:

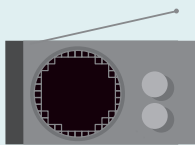
7pm Saturday 7 November.

Voting in the 2026 General Election



It is your choice who you want to vote for in the General Election.

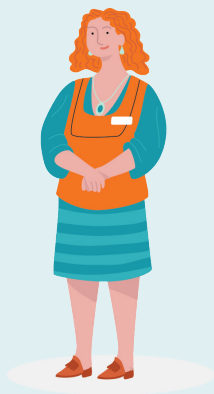
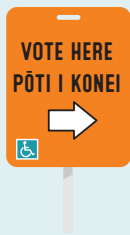
Nobody is allowed to tell you who to vote for.



Here is a list of where you could find more information to help you choose who to vote for:

- newspaper
- television
- radio
- public meetings
- your friends
- your family.

Voting in the 2026 General Election



You can vote at any voting place in New Zealand.

There will be someone at the voting place to show you what to do.

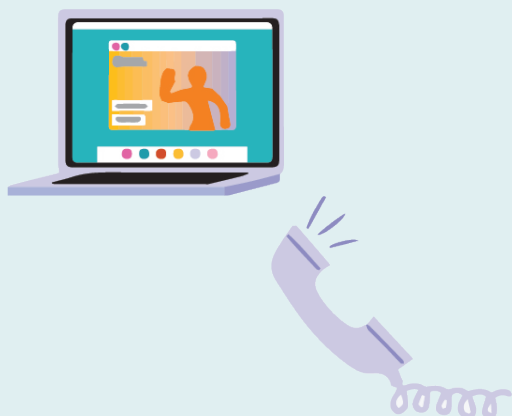


A **voting place** is where you go to vote.

Voting places are set up in your community at places like:

- a school
- a community centre
- a shopping mall.

It is easier and faster to vote close to where you live.



You can still vote if you cannot go to a voting place near where you live.

You can find a list of voting places:

- online
vote.nz
- call:

0800 36 76 56

Voting in the 2026 General Election

It is important to check the opening hours of the voting place before you go to vote.



The times when voting places are open might change each day.



On election day:

Saturday 7 November

voting places will be open from:

- 9am
- to
- 7pm.

Voting in the 2026 General Election - EasyVote



If you are enrolled by:

- **Sunday 4 October**

you will be sent an **EasyVote** card:

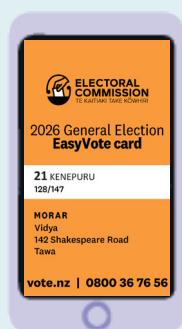
- in the mail
- or
- by email.



An **EasyVote** card makes voting faster and easier when you go to a voting place.

You can use:

- a paper EasyVote card if you were sent one by post
- an email with your EasyVote card on your phone or tablet.



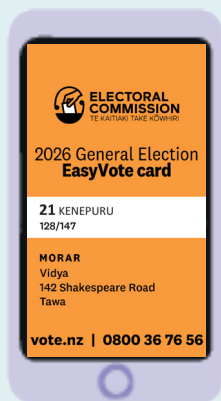
You can vote without an EasyVote card but it will take longer.

Voting in the 2026 General Election - EasyVote



When you go to a voting place take your EasyVote card with you.

You do not need to bring your ID.



If you got your EasyVote card by email you will need to:

1. Take your phone or tablet with you when you go to a voting place.
2. Show the person at the voting place your EasyVote card.

You can also:

- use a screenshot of your card
- print out your card.

Voting in the 2026 General Election - EasyVote



Give your EasyVote card to the person that works at the voting place.

They will:

- find your name on the electoral roll
- give you your **voting paper**.

A **voting paper** is the piece of paper you fill out when you vote.

Voting in the 2026 General Election

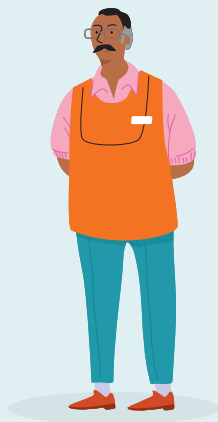


When you go to vote you might need to cast a **special vote**.

You cast a **special vote** if your name is not on the printed electoral roll at a voting place.

This could happen if you:

- are voting outside of your electorate
- enrolled to vote after **4 October**
- are enrolled on the unpublished roll.



To do a **special vote** you will need to tell the person who works at the voting place your:

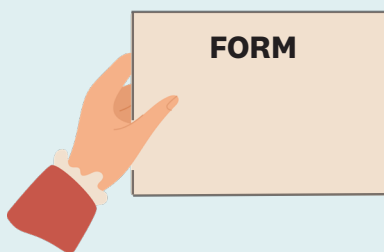
- name
- address of where you live.

If you are casting a special vote you will need to fill out another form.

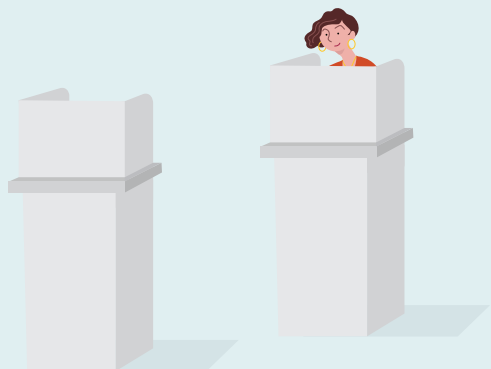
This form helps us count your vote.

The person who works at the voting place will show you what to do.

Once you have filled in the form you will be issued your voting paper.



Voting in the 2026 General Election



Once you have your voting paper you will take it behind a **voting screen**.

A **voting screen** is a place in the voting place where a voter goes to mark the voting paper in private.



On your voting paper there are two sides.

On the left side of the voting paper tick the circle next to:

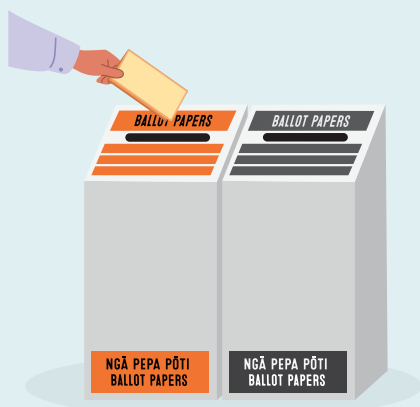
- the political party you want to be in Government.

On the right side of the voting paper tick the circle next to:

- the person you want to represent your electorate in Parliament.

If you make a mistake you can ask the voting place staff for a new voting paper.

Voting in the 2026 General Election



When you have finished marking your voting paper:

- fold it in half
- put it into the **ballot box**.

A **ballot box** is a closed box where voters put their voting papers.



If you are voting in a general electorate the box will be orange.

If you have chosen to vote in a Māori electorate the box will be grey.



You have voted!

You can leave the voting place.

There will be someone at the voting place to show you what to do.

Support to vote in the 2026 General Election



If you need help to vote you can get support from a:

- friend
- family member
- person who works in the voting place.



A support person can:

- go behind the voting screen with you
- read out the words and information on the voting papers
- tick the voting paper if you ask them to.



A support person is not allowed to tell you who to vote for.

Support to vote in the 2026 General Election



You can still vote in the General Election if you cannot get to a voting place.

You may not be able to get to a voting place because:

- you are ill
- you find it hard to move around.



You can ask someone to collect your voting papers for you.

You will need to download a form from:

- **vote.nz**

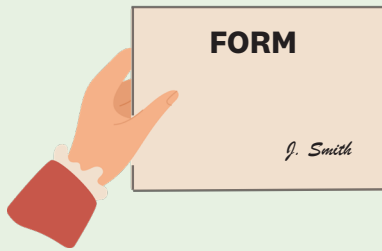


On the form you will need to write:

- your first name
- your last name
- your phone number
- the address of where you live.

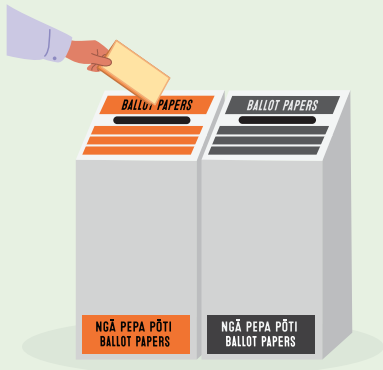
You need to sign the form to show that your support person can pick up your voting papers for you.

Support to vote in the 2026 General Election

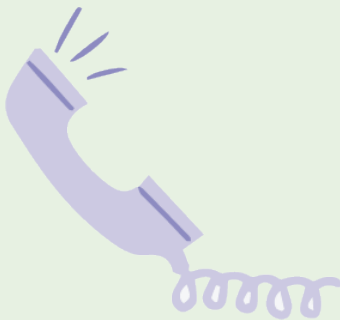


Give the form to someone to take to a voting place for you.

They will bring your voting papers to you to complete.



Your support person can take your completed voting papers back to the voting place to submit your vote.

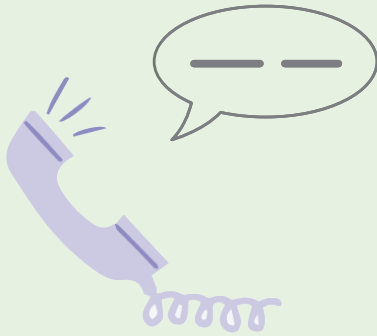


If there is no one who can collect your voting papers for you we may be able to deliver them.

Call the Electoral Commission on:

◦ **0800 36 76 56**

Support to vote in the 2026 General Election



You can vote using the telephone dictation service if you:

- are blind
- have low vision or find it hard to see
- have a disability that means you cannot mark your voting paper.



The telephone dictation service is a way of voting over the phone.

Someone will read out the voting information for you.

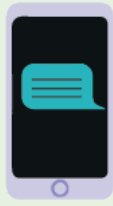
When you tell them your vote they will mark and submit your voting paper for you.



The telephone dictation service is secure and private.

The person taking your vote will not know who you are.

Support to vote in the 2026 General Election



To sign up for the telephone dictation service you need to:

- call **0800 36 76 56**
- choose **option 1.**



Registrations open on:

Monday 5 October.



Find out more about the telephone dictation voting service at:

vote.nz/dictation

Where to find more information



The early **election results** will be announced after voting closes on election day.

This will be after **7 pm** on **Saturday 7 November**.

Election results are when the votes are counted and parties and candidates with the most votes are announced.

Final results will be announced on **Friday 27 November**.

You can find the results online at:

- **electionsresults.govt.nz**

Where to find more information



Our website has more information about enrolling and voting.

The website address is **vote.nz**

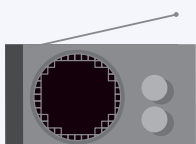
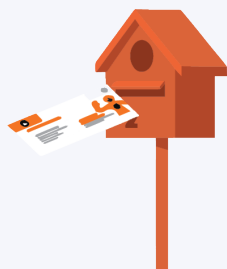


You can also call us with any questions you have on:

- **0800 36 76 56**

It will not cost you any money to call this number.

Where to find more information



Here is a list of where you might find more information about the General Election:

- a letter in the post
- websites
- social media
- newspaper
- television
- radio
- public meetings
- at school or work
- your friends
- your family.



34-42 Manners Street,
PO Box 3220, Wellington 6140.