

A guide to the neurodivergent voting places for the 2026 General Election

The Electoral Commission and Autism NZ have partnered to provide three quiet voting places for the 2026 General Election.

These voting places are in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch on **Sunday 1 November** from **10am – 2pm**.

Location addresses, electorate details and photos of what each voting place looks like can be found on [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz)

How are these voting places low sensory environments?

The quiet voting places support the neurodivergent community to vote in a low sensory space that supports their needs. This is a sensory friendly environment for neurodivergent adults and whānau members of neurodivergent children to vote in.

The voting place will aim to be as quiet as possible. Sensory tools to support regulation will also be available, and you are welcome to bring your own.

Each voting place will have a separate quiet space so you can take a break if needed, or if it gets too busy or noisy.

What happens when I go to vote at a quiet voting place?

An Autism NZ staff member will be a Voting Place Manager in each location. They understand the needs of the autistic and neurodivergent community and can support you when voting.

When you arrive at the voting place, you'll be greeted by a Voter Assistant. They are there to support you through the voting process.

Step 1: Checking your EasyVote card

The Voter Assistant will ask you if you have an EasyVote card. You will have an EasyVote card if you enrolled by 4 October. It will have been sent to you in the post or by email.

If you have a card as a letter, paper card or on your digital device, show it to the Voter Assistant. It's okay if you don't have an EasyVote card. You can still vote without one.

If you don't have a card, the Voter Assistant will ask you for your name, your month of birth and address. They will use this to find you on the electronic electoral roll and see if you're enrolled.

Once they've found you on the roll, they will write some details onto a purple card and hand it to you for you to give to the Issuing Officer.

Step 2: Getting your voting paper

If you have an EasyVote card, or have been given the purple card, you will be directed to a table with an Issuing Officer behind it. You may have to queue for a few minutes if that Issuing Officer is busy helping another voter.

The Issuing Officer will ask you for your EasyVote card or the purple card. Please show your card to the Issuing Officer.

They will find your name in the printed electoral roll and rule a line next to your name. You will then be issued a voting paper and be shown where to go to vote.

Special Votes

If the voting place staff can't find you on the printed electoral roll at the voting place, you may need to complete a special vote.

This might happen if you enrolled to vote after 4 October, are on the unpublished electoral roll or are voting outside of your electorate.

You get the same choices to vote for if you cast a special vote as other voters. It just means you need to fill in an extra form.

The form asks for your name and the reason why you are doing a special vote, such as "My name is not on the printed roll for this electorate or has been wrongly deleted." You also must sign and date the declaration form.

Step 3: Casting your vote

When you're ready to vote, you will be directed to a tall cardboard booth that you stand behind to cast your vote. You can take as much time as you need to vote.

There will be orange marker pens inside the booth that you can use to fill in your voting paper.

On your voting paper, place a tick by the political party you support, and a tick by the person you want to be your MP and represent your area. These are your party and electorate votes.

Once you've put your ticks on the ballot paper, fold it in half and put it in the ballot box. This is a cardboard box with slots in the top and the name of your electorate. Find the box with your electorate's name on it and put your voting paper in the slot.

That's it – you've voted!

Need support to vote?

If you haven't voted before, or don't know what to do – don't worry, there will be people there who can help you.

You can ask any staff member wearing bright orange vests for support to vote if you need it.

You can also ask someone you trust, such as a friend or family member, for help to vote. They can't tell you who to vote for – that's your choice.

If you make a mistake, please let our staff know before you put it in the ballot box. You can be issued another voting paper to replace it.

Feedback and future voting places for the neurodivergent community

After you vote, there will be a feedback questionnaire about the quiet voting place experience to fill in if you would like. Completing the questionnaire is voluntary, you don't have to if you don't want to.

There will be hard copies of the questionnaire or a QR code to fill it in online.

This will help the Commission and Autism NZ understand what worked well and what can be done better next time.

Contact

If you have questions about what to expect at the Autism NZ voting places, please email [**research@autismnz.org.nz**](mailto:research@autismnz.org.nz)

How to vote

Read the following Easy Read pages for more information about voting.

For the full Easy Read guide to the 2026 General Election, visit [**vote.nz**](https://www.vote.nz)

Voting in the 2026 General Election - EasyVote



If you are enrolled by:

- **Sunday 4 October**

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

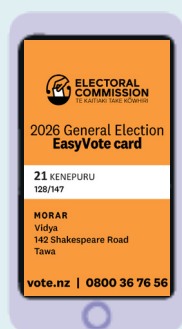
- in the mail
- or
- by email.



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.



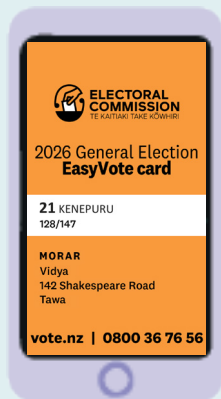
You can vote without an EasyVote card but it will take longer.

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

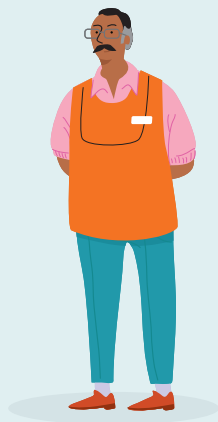


When you go to vote you might need to cast a **special vote**.

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:

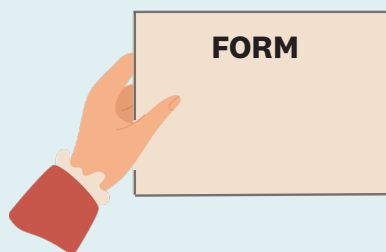
- name
- address of where you live.

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

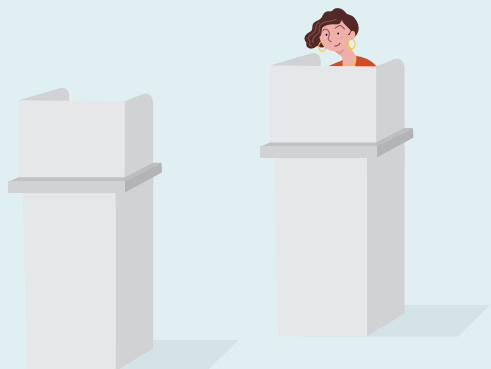
This form helps us count your vote.

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:

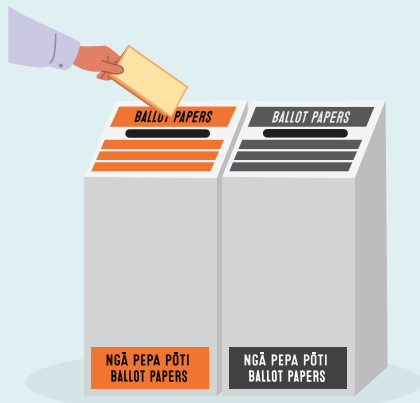
- the political party you want to be in Government.

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.