



**NZ
ELECTORATE
BOUNDARY
REVIEW**

GUIDE TO THE 2019/20 BOUNDARY REVIEW

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THIS GUIDE EXPLAINS HOW WE REVIEW ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES

Part of New Zealand's parliamentary democracy is regularly reviewing the boundaries for electorates, or voting areas, used to elect electorate MPs. The Representation Commission has reviewed boundaries since 1887. We're an independent body, and our final report is binding upon Parliament.

Regular reviews happen to make sure electorates have about the same population to provide equal representation to New Zealanders.

The purpose of this guide is to explain how we review boundaries, including:

- the rules under Part 3 of the Electoral Act 1993
- the statutory criteria we use to draw the boundaries
- how you can have your say.

We'll finalise the new boundaries by April 2020, but they won't come into effect until the current parliamentary term ends. Any by-election during this parliamentary term will use the current boundaries. The new boundaries will apply for the 2020 and 2023 General Elections.

Judge Craig Thompson,
Chair of the Representation Commission

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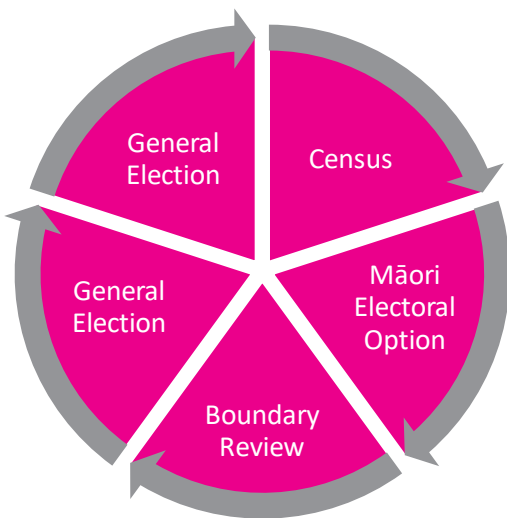
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Representation Commission is an independent body that reviews the electorate boundaries used for general elections and by-elections. We review boundaries every 5 years, after each Census and Māori Electoral Option.

The boundary review cycle

Our job is to give New Zealanders equal representation by making sure electorates have about the same number of people in them. We also make sure the names of electorates are still relevant.

Changes to the overall population of New Zealand and population movement within the country have the biggest impact on boundary changes. Public consultation also plays an important part in boundary reviews.



We have up to ten members

The Representation Commission has up to ten members. There are five officials with specialist knowledge and four members that Parliament chooses. Sitting MPs can't be members. Our chairperson is usually a current or retired judge.

Our current members are:

- Chairperson - Judge Craig Thompson
- Surveyor-General, Land Information New Zealand - Anselm Haanen
- Deputy Government Statistician, Stats NZ - Carol Slappendel
- Chief Electoral Officer, Electoral Commission - Alicia Wright
- Chairperson of the Local Government Commission - Brendan Duffy
- Government representative - Hon Rick Barker
- Opposition representative - Hon Roger Sowry

When we consider the boundaries of Māori electorates, our membership also includes:

- Deputy Chief Executive, Regional Partnerships for Te Puni Kōkiri - Di Grennell
- Government Māori representative - Moana Mackey
- Opposition Māori representative - Dan Te Kanawa

The Electoral Commission, Land Information New Zealand and Stats NZ support our work.

Local council boundaries

We are not responsible for local council boundary reviews. The Local Government Commission reviews local council boundaries. Find out more on the Local Government Commission's website www.lgc.govt.nz/local-government-boundaries



The boundary review starts in October 2019 and ends in April 2020

The timetable below shows the key dates of the boundary review.

23 September 2019	The Government Statistician releases the number of electorates and electoral population figures
October 2019	We meet to agree on the proposed boundaries
20 November 2019	We release the proposed boundaries
20 November to 20 December 2019	The public can make objections to the proposed boundaries
10 to 24 January 2020	The public can make counter-objections to any objections that were raised
10 to 19 February 2020	We hold public hearings of objections and counter-objections
April 2020	We publish our final report and the new electorate boundaries
2020 General Election	New electorate boundaries apply

We must produce our final report within 6 months of starting to deliberate on the proposed boundaries.

PREPARING FOR THE BOUNDARY REVIEW

To get the data we need for the review, the Government Statistician worked out how many Māori and general electorates there should be for the 2020 and 2023 General Elections. They also worked out the quotas – how many people should be in each electorate.

The Electoral Act 1993 sets out the rules for calculating the number of electorates and population quotas.

There will be 72 electorates for the 2020 and 2023 General Elections

There are currently 71 electorates – 64 general electorates and 7 Māori electorates. For the 2020 and 2023 General Elections there will be 72 electorates – 65 general electorates and 7 Māori electorates. The overall size of Parliament stays at 120, which means there will be one less list seat, a reduction from 49 to 48 list seats.

The table below shows the electoral populations, number of electorates and quotas for the 2019/20 boundary review.

Type of electorate	Electoral population	Number of electorates	Quota
North Island (General)	3,180,037	49	64,899
South Island (General)	1,047,321	16	65,458
Māori	473,077	7	67,582

The appendix at the end of this guide shows the population changes and the number of general and Māori electorates from 1993 to 2023.

The Electoral Act fixes the number of general electorates in the South Island at 16. The number of Māori and North Island general electorates can increase, decrease or stay the same depending on how many people live in them compared with how many people live in South Island general electorates.

How the Government Statistician worked out electoral populations

The Government Statistician used the results of the Census (held on 6 March 2018) and the Māori Electoral Option (held between 3 April and 2 August 2018) to work out the:

- Māori electoral population
- general electoral population of the South Island
- general electoral population of the North Island.

The Government Statistician didn't just use the number of registered voters because MPs represent everybody in New Zealand, not just those who have registered to vote.

The Government Statistician calculated the Māori electoral population with a statutory formula. This population includes:


- the number of people registered on the Māori rolls at the end of the Māori Electoral Option
- a proportion of people of Māori descent who are not registered as electors
- a proportion of people of Māori descent who are under the age of 18.

The general electoral population is the usually resident population at the last Census minus the Māori electoral population.

How the Government Statistician worked out the number of electorates and quotas

To calculate the number of electorates, the Government Statistician:

- divided the South Island general electoral population by 16 to work out the average electoral population for each South Island general electorate. This is the South Island quota
- divided the North Island general electoral population by the South Island quota to work out the number of general electorates for the North Island
- divided the Māori electoral population by the South Island quota to work out the number of Māori electorates.



The Government Statistician rounded the numbers of Māori and North Island general electorates to the nearest whole number.

Once the Government Statistician worked out the number of electorates, they worked out the average population for the North Island general and Māori electorates by dividing their total populations by their number of electorates. These average populations are the North Island and Māori quotas.

Learn more about how the Government Statistician works out electoral populations and the number of electorates on the Statistics New Zealand website.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/the-mathematics-of-electorate-allocation-in-new-zealand-based-on-the-outcome-of-the-2018-census-and-maori-electoral-option-2018>

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/deriving-the-2018-maori-descent-electoral-population>

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/number-of-electorates-and-electoral-populations-2018-census>

DRAWING THE BOUNDARIES

After the Government Statistician finishes their report on the electoral populations and number of electorates, they give that information to us to use for the boundary review.

We'll start deliberating the proposed boundaries in October

We'll meet in October 2019 to discuss and agree on the proposed boundaries and electorate names that we'll release for public consultation.

We'll work out boundaries using the total population of New Zealand

We use the population count from the Government Statistician to draw electorate boundaries. This is the population usually living in New Zealand, including children and those not eligible to enrol.

The population of each electorate must be within 5 percent of its quota

Each electorate needs to have about the same number of people in it to make sure they have equal representation in Parliament. The number of people in each electorate can't be more or less than 5 percent from the relevant quota.

Type of electorate	Quota	5% allowance
Māori	67,582	3,379
South Island (General)	65,458	3,273
North Island (General)	64,899	3,245

We also consider other factors

The Electoral Act says we must also consider:

- existing electorate boundaries
- communities of interest, including iwi affiliations in Māori electorates
- the infrastructure that links communities, such as main roads
- topographic features such as mountains and rivers
- any projected variation in the electoral populations over the next 5 years.

The Electoral Act doesn't say what weight we should give to these considerations, or how to resolve conflicts between them. We must decide how to balance them. The strict population limits mean it isn't always possible to meet all these criteria.

We review the names of electorates

As part of the boundary review, we must also confirm the names of the electorates. The Electoral Act doesn't give any criteria or guidance for naming electorates. We aim to make sure the names of electorates are current. Electorate names often reflect their communities, relevant geographic areas or features.

We'll publish our proposed boundaries in November

On 20 November we'll release our proposed boundaries to the public. You'll be able to see the reasons for our proposed changes and an interactive map of the current and proposed boundaries online at vote.nz.

You will also be able to inspect our maps and reasons for the proposed boundaries at:

- public libraries
- local council offices
- the Electoral Commission's offices, including local registrar of electors offices
- Te Puni Kōkiri offices.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Once we release our proposed boundaries, you get the opportunity to have your say.

We'll use the [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) website, local media, and national media to advertise when you can make objections and counter-objections.

You'll find key dates for the review on page 4 of this guide.

You can make objections to the proposed electorates

From 20 November 2019, you can make an objection to the proposed boundaries or electorate names.

You'll need to tell us the proposed electorate that contains the area you want to comment on and the reasons for your objection. If you're objecting to a boundary, base your objection on the statutory criteria we must use (on page 7). You can also include a suggested solution. You can attach extra documents to your objection if you need to.

If you'd like to comment on more than one geographic area, you'll need to complete a separate objection for each area.

We must get your objection by 5pm, 20 December 2019. We can't accept late objections.

You can make counter-objections to objections we get

From 10 January 2020, you can make a counter-objection to any of the objections we get.

Your counter-objection should explain why you disagree with the objection and can include your solution to the issue. You need to note the objection number in your counter-objection. You can attach extra documents to your counter-objection if you need to.

You need to complete a separate counter-objection for each issue you oppose.

We must get your counter-objection by 5pm, 24 January 2020. We can't accept late counter-objections.

You can make objections and counter-objections online, by email, or by post

You can make objections and counter-objections using the online submission tool at [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz), or in writing.

If you prefer to make your objection or counter-objection in writing, you can get a form from [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) or a place of inspection. Or you can contact us and ask for us to send you a form.

Send your written objections or counter-objections to us by email or post:

Email: representation.commission@elections.govt.nz

Postal address:

Representation Commission

PO Box 3220

Wellington 6140

Tell us if you want to present your objection or counter-objection in person

If you would like to present your objection or counter-objection to us in person at a public hearing, let us know when you send us your objection or counter-objection.

We'll consider all objections and counter-objections

We'll fully consider all objections and counter-objections we get before we finalise the boundaries.

We'll publish objections and counter-objections

We'll publish your objection or counter-objection, and your name or the name of the organisation you represent, online at [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz). We'll also include your name in our final report.

We won't publish your contact details. Keep your contact details separate from the main body of your submission to help us avoid publishing them.

We may not publish objections that don't relate to the proposed boundaries or names, or counter-objections that don't relate to an objection.

We'll hold public hearings in February 2020

We'll hold public hearings for objections and counter-objections in February 2020.

Making your objection or counter-objection to us in person gives you the opportunity to reinforce what you said in your written submission. It also gives us the opportunity to clarify points you raised in your submission.

If you've asked to present your submission in person, we'll contact you once the counter-objection period has closed. We'll give you an idea of how long you'll have to present your submission, including time for questions.

You may find out about the date of your hearing at short notice. If you can't attend the hearing you may be able to speak to us by phone.

We usually hold the hearings at courts, and they are open to the public and the news media. Where possible, we'll accommodate any accessibility needs you have.

The secretary to the Commission and a technical advisor will also be at the hearings. The technical advisor may use mapping software to pinpoint the area of an objection or counter-objection and show suggestions for alternative boundaries.

What happens when you present at a public hearing

When we're ready to hear from you, the Chairperson will invite you to sit at the table. At this stage you should introduce yourself and anyone who may be appearing with you. We'll ask you to discuss your submission. Because of time constraints, and because we'll have already studied your submission, you don't need to read your submission out.

You may table extra material at the public hearing, for example, if new information has become available. It's helpful if you can bring an extra copy of any material you give us at the public hearing for our records.

After presenting your submission, we'll usually have some questions or ask you to clarify points we're uncertain about.

PUBLISHING THE NEW BOUNDARIES

After the public hearings, we finalise the boundaries and names of the electorates and produce a final report and maps of the new boundaries.

We'll make the final boundaries public in April 2020

We'll make the report and maps public online at vote.nz in April 2020, on the same day we present them to the Governor-General. The report and maps are then tabled in Parliament.

Because we're an independent entity, Parliament doesn't have to approve the final report.

The new electorates will be in place for the next election

The new boundaries will come into effect at the end of the current parliamentary term. Any by-election during this parliamentary term will use the current boundaries. The new boundaries will apply for the 2020 and 2023 General Elections.

Voters will be reminded of any changes to their electorate in the run up to the 2020 General Election.

We can send you electronic copies of electorate maps

Once the new boundaries are public, we can send you electronic copies of individual electorate maps. The maps are in PDF format, and can be in size A1 or A4. Email us to ask for a map.

Email: representation.commission@elections.govt.nz

The next boundary review will happen after the next Census and Māori Electoral Option

The next boundary review is scheduled for after the 2023 Census and the 2024 Māori Electoral Option.

APPENDIX: ELECTORAL POPULATIONS AND ELECTORATES 1993 TO 2023

The table below shows the electoral populations and number of electorates for general elections from 1993 to 2023.

General election	Census and/or Option	Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	South Island quota	Māori electorates	South Island electorates	North Island electorates	List MPs ^a	Total number of MPs
1993					4	25	70	N/A	99
	1994	264,222	3,109,705 ^b	51,747					
1996					5	16	44	55	120
	1997	336,997	3,281,305	54,105					
1999					6	16	45	53	120
	2001	371,690	3,365,889	54,296					
2002					7	16	46	51	120
2005					7	16	46	51	121 ^c
	2006	417,081	3,610,866	57,562					
2008					7	16	47	50	122 ^c
2011					7	16	47	50	121 ^c
	2013	420,990	3,821,059	59,679					
2014					7	16	48	49	121 ^c
2017					7	16	48	49	120
	2018	473,077	4,226,678	65,458					
2020					7	16	49	48	120
2023					7	16	49	48	120

^a The number of list MPs is the size of Parliament (120) minus the total number of electorate districts.

^b The general electoral population was based on the results of the census taken on 5 March 1991.

^c At the 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014 general elections there was an overhang. An overhang occurs when a party wins more electorates than the total number of seats it would otherwise be allocated based on its share of party votes. The overhang (the number of seats above the party vote entitlement) is added to the usual 120 seats until the following general election.



**REPRESENTATION
COMMISSION**

TE KOMIHANA WHAKATAU ROHE PŌTI