26 February 2009

Hon Simon Power
Minister of Justice
(via Secretary for Justice)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICE ON THE 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

KEY ISSUES

Aim

The aim of the Chief Electoral Office (CEO) for the 2008 general election was to maintain public and political confidence in the administration of Parliamentary elections. This was achieved.

Voter satisfaction

Voter research shows a high level of public satisfaction with the service provided to voters by the Chief Electoral Office. The vast majority use the EasyVote card when they vote, consider the time spent in the polling place reasonable, find the ballot paper straightforward, and are satisfied with the timeliness of the results.

Improving training for Returning Officers and their staff was a key focus for 2008. Voters were very positive about politeness, efficiency and knowledge of staff.

Service to voters with disabilities

One of the CEO's priorities for the 2008 election was to improve its service to voters with disabilities and reduce their barriers to voting. Initiatives such as 'The Easy Guide to Voting' and the sign language DVD were well received.

Turnout

There was a 3% increase in the number of people voting in 2008 over 2005 (2,376,480 compared to 2,304,005) but overall turnout as a percentage of enrolled voters was slightly down (79.5% compared to 80.9%) and turnout of those on the Māori roll was down (62.4% compared to 67.1%).

Advance voting

One of the CEO's priorities was to improve its service to advance voters. Overall advance voting went well. However, currently New Zealanders must complete a declaration establishing a ground of eligibility to be able to vote in advance. This makes the advance voting process more complex and longer for voters. Consideration should be given to whether this requirement is still necessary.

Training of field staff

Substantially more training was provided to Returning Officers and their staff. Core training to Returning Officers and their operations and human resources managers was delivered at a temporary model electorate headquarters which allowed a more realistic hands-on training experience to be delivered than for previous elections. The length of training sessions for election day staff was significantly increased to better accommodate the material to be covered.

Feedback on the training from staff at all levels was positive. However, whilst a considerable improvement on 2005, there was still too much material to cover in the time available. Training remains a key area of attention for 2011.

Electoral Finance Act

The CEO was responsible for administering those parts of the Electoral Finance Act 2007 that related to electorate candidates. It published guidance for candidates immediately after the enactment of the legislation in December 2007 and updated guidance in June 2008. The CEO would provide a view on request to candidates and parties about the interpretation of the legislation or its application to particular facts. The CEO was always careful to make clear that this was the CEO's view only and that a Court might reach a different conclusion.

Looking forward

The CEO is reviewing its processes, procedures, forms, manuals and public information to improve its services to voters.

The Chief Electoral Office is preparing to conduct the citizens initiated referendum by post to be held between 31 July and 21 August on the question : "*Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?"*

Election Statistics

Some election statistics are included in the body and the annexes of this report (a list of Annexes is at page 20). Complete statistics can be found in the *Enrolment and Voting Statistics for the 2008 General Election* (E9) tabled in the House of Representatives on 12 February and on the website *www.electionresults.govt.nz*.

Robert Peden
Chief Electoral Officer

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AIM

1. The CEO's aim for the 2008 election was to maintain public and political confidence in the administration of Parliamentary elections. This was achieved.

2. We focused on:

    2.1. Improving the training for Returning Officers and their staff to enable them to deliver high quality services;

    2.2. Improving advance voting services;

    2.3. Identifying and meeting the needs of voters who face particular barriers to voting;

    2.4. Simplifying post-election day processes and procedures; and

    2.5. Ensuring our services have regard to the needs of Māori voters

3. (**Annex A** sets out achievements against the performance measures agreed with Secretary for Justice.)

LEGISLATION

4. In most respects the 2008 election was conducted on the same statutory basis as the two previous elections. One difference was the Electoral Finance Act 2007 which made significant changes to the election advertising and donations regime.

5. The CEO was responsible for administering those parts of the Electoral Finance Act that related to candidates (see paras 32 and 117 for discussion of our administration of the legislation).

6. There were also some changes to the Electoral Regulations 1996. The prescribed form for making special vote declarations was amended to reduce the chances of invalidity. The processes for numbering of the special declaration vote declaration form and accompanying envelope were also modified to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the processing of special declaration votes (see paras 69 an 89 for discussion).

PLANNING

7. Planning for the 2008 election within the CEO began immediately after its completion of the 2005 election. A business plan for the period 1 January 2006 through to 30 June 2009 was produced.

8. The key planning assumption was that the 2008 election would be held in the second half of 2008. Our strategy, planning and timetables reflected that assumption (15 November 2008 was the last possible date under the law). However, an early election is always a possibility and our planning also took account of that.

COMMUNICATIONS

Voters

9. The CEO, Electoral Enrolment Centre, and Electoral Commission worked closely together to ensure a consistent and integrated approach to information, advertising and outreach activity for the 2008 general election.

10. This included the EEC's Registrars of Electors and Election Fieldworkers informing and engaging with harder to reach voters about how, when and where to vote.

11. CEO retained the strategy adopted for the 2002 and 2005 elections of explaining to voters that the voting process could be easy if they followed a few simple steps. A list of CEO's publications is at **Annex B**.

12. The key messages were:–

    12.1. Enrol by Writ Day and get an EasyVote card in the mail – it will make voting easier on Election Day;

    12.2. Watch out for your EasyVote card in the mail – take it with you on Election Day;

    12.3. Vote close to home on Election Day – it's quicker and easier; and

    12.4. If you're not going to be in your electorate on Election Day vote in advance.

13. The CEO's primary communication channel was the EasyVote information pack delivered to 2.9 million voters in the eight days before election day. The pack contained all the information needed by voters – party lists, electorate candidates, advance voting and polling places, the EasyVote card, contact details, plus an explanation of MMP provided by the Electoral Commission.

14. Use of the EasyVote card by voters in 2008 was higher than 2005 (88% compared to 84%). 92% of voters were satisfied with the pack.

Information for voters with disabilities

15. The CEO, EEC, and Electoral Commission developed the Accessibility Action Plan for the 2008 general election in consultation with experts from the disability community. For CEO, the aim was to improve services provided at general elections for people with disabilities so that wherever possible they can vote independently and in secret, without experiencing barriers. One of the key priorities was to improve communication with voters with disabilities.

16. Consultation identified the need for better information for people with learning disabilities, more information about what help is available when voting and who can help, and information about voting options such as postal voting, advance voting and takeaway voting.

17. A simple 'plain english' and pictorial resource 'The Easy Guide to Voting' was developed for persons with learning and intellectual disabilities and their caregivers. The booklet, poster, and DVD were developed in consultation with the IHC and 'People First'

organisations. This initiative was very well received and although the target audience was people with intellectual disabilities, it had a much wider uptake.

18. Key publications were made available in accessible audio formats. Existing audio-visual material was made available for download including TV and radio advertising.

19. Information about voting was produced in a variety of formats including Braille, audio tape, and large print. Brochures and information about accessible polling places were distributed to disability groups throughout the country and articles were provided for newsletters and publications to reinforce the advance voting message.

20. A sign language DVD was produced in collaboration with the Deaf Association and explained both the enrolment and voting processes in sign language, captions and sound. It was well received by the Deaf community and was also used around the country by groups working with people with learning and intellectual disabilities.

21. 71% of voters with a disability said they were aware that they could vote in advance. The percentage of voters with a disability that voted in advance appears to have been similar to those without a disability. 59% of voters with a disability spent less than 5 minutes at the polling place and 88% less than 10 minutes. 57% were able to vote unassisted and 17% required the assistance of election day staff. 81% of voters with a disability recall specific disability targeted electoral information.

Information for Māori

22. The Chief Electoral Office's advertising was broadcast on Māori Television and iwi radio.

23. Before announcement of the election date a wallet-sized flyer prepared by the three electoral agencies "Me Takatū Kātahi Ka Pōti. He Māmā Noa Iho Pēra i te Kaute Tahi, Rua, Toru." ("Get Ready and Vote. It's as Easy as 123.") was available.

24. After announcement the core brochure "Te pōti i te Pōtitanga Whanui i 2008 – te tikanga ngāwari" ("Voting in the 2008 General Election – the easy way!") was available. This information was available through election field workers, Returning Officers and provided to organisations such as Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Kōhanga Reo and Māori Health providers. These brochures were also available from the elections website.

25. Media releases about key milestones were also translated into te reo Māori and provided to iwi media organisations. The Returning Officer for Waiariki was available for media interviews in Māori.

26. The CEO publication '*Information for Parliamentary Candidates and their financial agents'* was also made available in te reo Māori.

Information for ethnic communities

27. The core brochure "Voting in the 2008 General Election – the easy way!" was redesigned and available in 18 other languages – an additional five languages compared with 2005.

28. This information was available through election field workers, Returning Officers, community organisations and other outreach contacts.

29. Advertising with tailored messages was placed in targeted ethnic media including print publications, TV, radio and online.

30. It was also available from the elections website.

Public enquiries

31. Between 1 January 2008 and election day, the CEO and its 0800 voter information service handled 54,600 enquiries. 44,701 of these were received in the 3 months prior to the election. A breakdown is at **Annex C**.

Political parties and candidates

32. The Electoral Finance Act 2007 came into force on 20 December 2007 introducing new requirements for election advertising, expenditure and donations starting from 1 January 2008. The CEO published guidance material for electorate candidates and their financial agents immediately after the enactment of the legislation and updated guidance in June.

33. The CEO also briefed party secretaries and administrators on a range of practical issues including the bulk nomination system.

Information for the media

34. Between Announcement (12 September) and the declaration of the official results (22 November) the CEO dealt with 466 media enquiries including 87 on election day. The CEO provided media kits and briefed (in conjunction with the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Enrolment Centre) the Parliamentary press gallery on the election timetable and processes. Media were given direct access on election night to real-time results data from the Election Management System.

Website

35. The website of the three electoral agencies, *www.elections.org.nz* was revamped and refreshed for 2008. It has subsequently been rated as the number one government website by e-Gov Watch, the organisation that assesses sites on behalf of the State Services Commission. There were 852,034 visits to the website between Announcement and 31 December 2008.

36. A pared down website *www.ivotenz.org.nz* and a BEBO website were established to appeal to younger voters.

37. Election night results were made available on the CEO website *www.electionresults.govt.nz* within 2 minutes of their entry by Returning Officers into the Election Management System. There were 93,737 visits to the website over the 24 hour period from midday 8 to 9 November 2008 (76,211 in 2005).

COLLECTIVE INTEREST

38. The Electoral Act requires State Sector Chief Executives to take account of the Government's interest in a whole-of-Government approach to electoral administration when considering requests from the Chief Electoral Officer for assistance.

39. The CEO received good support from the public sector in the provision of staff and properties for the election.

40. One of the CEO's goals for the 2008 election was to appoint more public servants as Returning Officers and other senior election managers. This was seen as a means to mitigate some of the risks inherent in having to recruit and train a temporary field structure anew for each general election.

41. We succeeded in appointing 19 public servants on secondment to senior roles: 1 of the 5 regional managers, 8 of the 70 Returning Officers, and 10 of the 147 operations and human resources managers. In 2005, by contrast, we had 2 secondments. Staff came from the Ministries of Justice, Education, and Social Development, the Departments of Conservation and Corrections and Statistics New Zealand. Overall the secondees performed very well and proved the benefits of drawing upon the skills, experience and culture within the public service for finding senior electoral officials. This is an area the CEO intends to expand and improve upon for the 2011 election.

42. Five of the 33 electorate headquarters were provided from within the public sector at rentals substantially below commercial rates. Two further offers for use of accommodation were received (but declined for unsuitability) from another State Sector organisation. Offers of equipment, advice and contact details were provided by other organisations. In 2008, the CEO had to provide low-profile security at some polling places and headquarters for staff working late. Court staff from the Ministry of Justice assisted with security. The Ministry also provided valuable assistance in the areas of technology, property, security, human resources, and legal advice.

ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES

43. The Representation Commission convened in March 2007 and declared new boundaries for the 2008 and 2011 elections in September 2007. An additional general electorate (Botany) was created, making a total of 70 electorates - 63 general electorates and seven Māori electorates.

44. The Chief Electoral Officer is an ex officio member of the Commission and the CEO provides the Commission's administrative support.

ANNOUNCEMENT

45. The Prime Minister announced the key dates for the 2008 general election on 12 September 2008 which allowed the CEO 56 days to complete its preparations. Election day, 8 November 2008, was the second to last possible date for holding the election. **Annex D** sets out the key dates.

46. The last possible date for the next election is 7 January 2012.

NOMINATIONS

47. 522 electorate candidates and 593 list candidates were nominated with 19 parties contesting the party vote. Statistics on nominations are set out at **Annex E**.

Bulk nominations

48. Party secretaries of registered parties can lodge nominations of all their electorate candidates in a single schedule to the CEO. The CEO provided party administrators with training and a manual on using its secure on-line nomination service. 16 of the registered parties opted to bulk nominate their electorate candidates. Of those, 15 used the online facility. The process worked well. However, CEO will be reviewing the nomination forms to see if further improvements can be made to simplify the process.

Deadlines

49. Nominations closed at noon on 14 October 2008. The CEO completed the preparation of ballot papers that evening and printing of ballot papers began immediately so that advance and overseas voting could begin the following week.

High Court case

50. On 6 November 2008, the High Court in Wellington heard a claim against the Chief Electoral Officer by a person whose nomination to be an electorate candidate had been rejected. The Chief Electoral Officer had rejected the nomination because the person was not a registered elector at the statutory deadline and therefore was not eligible. The plaintiff claimed that the Chief Electoral Officer had acted unlawfully and sought an order to compel him to accept the nomination and include the plaintiff on the Napier ballot paper. The High Court rejected the plaintiff's claim, upholding the lawfulness of the Chief Electoral Officer's decision and commending the efforts that CEO nominations staff went to to assist the plaintiff (*Brett David Docherty v Robert Peden, Chief Electoral Officer* HC WN CIV 2008-485-2375).

ADVANCE VOTING

51. One of the CEO's goals for the 2008 general election was to improve its service to advance voters. At the 2005 election there had been a 49% increase in the number of people voting in advance and some advance voting facilities were insufficiently resourced for the increased demand. For 2008, planning was undertaken on the basis of further increases in the levels of advance voting, providing additional staff, increased opening hours, and more and better located advance voting places.

52. 267,078 voters voted in advance at the 2008 election (a 35% increase over 2005) or just over one in ten of all voters (11.2% compared to 8.6% in 2005). As in 2005, over 50% of advance votes were cast in the 3 days before Election Day. More information on advance voting is available at **Annex G.**

53. Overall, advance voting went well at the 2008 election. However, advance voting is clearly no longer a minor adjunct to Election Day. An increasing number of people want

to be able to vote in advance and we expect this to continue. This probably reflects the changing demands on people's time on Saturdays and growing awareness of the availability of advance voting. This trend is also being experienced in other jurisdictions such as Australia and the United States of America.

54. Eligibility to vote in advance in New Zealand is predicated on the basis that voters should vote on election day unless they have a good reason why they cannot. The Electoral Act sets out the grounds of eligibility and advance voters must complete a declaration establishing their ground of eligibility before they can vote. The requirement to complete a declaration makes the advance voting process more complex and longer for voters.

55. The CEO recommends that consideration be given to removing the requirement for voters to establish a ground of eligibility to be able to vote in advance. If voters prefer to vote in advance there is, in our view, no reason why they should not be able to.

OVERSEAS VOTING

56. Enhancements were made to the overseas voting paper download system to improve instructions for voters and to allow for the pre-population of some data to mitigate voter error.

57. Overseas voting increased to 33,278 compared to 28,145 in 2005. 75% of overseas votes were issued using the download system developed with the Electoral Enrolment Centre. The download system enables overseas voters who are on the roll to download their voting papers and return them by post or fax. 17,624 overseas voters chose to return their ballot papers by fax which was a 28% increase over 2005. Further statistics are at **Annex F**.

ELECTION DAY

Turnout and Voting

58. There was a 3% increase in the number of people voting in 2008 than in 2005 (2,376,480 compared to 2,304,005) but turnout as a percentage of those enrolled was down.

59. A similar voting pattern to 2005 occurred with 30% of voters voting in the first 2 hours (33% in 2005). See **Annex H** for turnout statistics from 1987 to 2008 and information on voter turnout by time of day.

60. 88% of voters took an EasyVote card with them when they voted. 88% of voters rated the location of polling places as excellent, 98% found the time spent in polling places reasonable with 79% not having to queue, 97% of voters rated polling place staff as excellent or very good for politeness and 96% for efficiency.

61. The CEO continued the distribution of "I have voted" sticker for voters to wear. Its purpose was to help advertise election day and encourage voters to vote. 39% of voters took a sticker and 51% of voters thought the stickers would prompt people to vote.

62. Non-voters were asked what their main reasons were for not voting. The main reasons given were that people had other commitments (17%), work commitments (10%), or that they forgot (10%). 79% of non-voters recalled receiving an EasyVote pack and 70% said they read or glanced through it. 83% said they knew the location of their nearest polling place. These results indicate that factors within the control of officials (such as access to polling places and information about the voting process) did not contribute to the level of non-voting. Further statistics from the survey of voters and non-voters is at **Annex I**.

Hospital voting

63. The CEO aimed to improve its services in large hospitals on election day for 2008 and hospital voting appears to have gone well. In 2005 there had been problems, particularly at Auckland Hospital, with patients not being able to vote on the day.

64. For 2008, mobile voting teams went through all large hospitals on election day. In addition, Auckland, Middlemore, Waikato, Wellington and Christchurch hospitals had polling places for staff, visitors and mobile patients. As in previous elections, advance voting teams went through hospitals issuing votes to patients in the 2 weeks leading up to election day.

Special voting

65. People who are not on the printed roll, or will be outside their electorate or overseas on election day can still vote by way of special vote. Unlike most jurisdictions, New Zealanders can vote at any polling place in the country. But if they vote outside their electorate they must make a special vote. If a voter cannot get to an advance voting or polling place in person they can apply to vote by post or arrange to have their ballot papers delivered to them. Voters overseas can vote by downloading their papers from the election website and faxing them back. The voter has to complete a declaration indicating their grounds for casting a special declaration vote.

66. Special voting is a key factor in the accessibility of New Zealand's electoral system. However, the special voting process is complex for both voters and election officials. Special votes take significantly longer than ordinary votes to issue and process. Some voters and witnesses find the declaration form difficult to complete. Errors can result in special votes being disallowed. The rules for allowing or disallowing special declaration votes are complex. Processing special declaration votes is one of the most time-consuming components of the official count.

67. 270,965 special votes were cast or 11.4% of the total vote (10.8% in 2005).

68. 50,455 (18.6%) candidate special votes were disallowed (17.4%) in 2005. Of these, 30,938 had their party votes only allowed (25,520 in 2005) because they had voted on the wrong ballot paper. 19,517 (7.2%) party special votes were disallowed (7.2% in 2005). The vast majority of special votes that were disallowed (91.6%) were disallowed because the voter was not on any roll (92.0% in 2005).

69. For 2008, the prescribed declaration form was modified to change the order in which the 'grounds' section appeared, in order to reduce the risk of the voter not completing this section of the form. These changes appear to have been successful in reducing the

number of incidents of this by 34% to 305. In 2005, 460 takeaway and postal votes were disallowed because the voter failed to indicate a ground as required by the Electoral Regulations 1996 ("the regulations") when completing the declaration. Unless the voter has grounds to cast a special vote or advance vote, and indicates which of the grounds he or she is relying on, the voter's declaration will be invalid and both the party vote and the electorate vote must be disallowed.

70. The CEO intends to look for additional ways to simplify the administration of special voting to make it easier for special voters, to reduce the number of special votes disallowed, and to improve the accuracy of special vote processing by officials.

Reducing barriers to Māori

71. Ordinary Māori voting facilities were made available at all polling places within the Māori electorate. The proportion of voters on the Māori roll making an ordinary vote was 86%, the same percentage as in 2005.

72. 97% of Māori recalled receiving an EasyVote card and 85% reported reading or glancing through it. 84% took the EasyVote card with them when voting (79% in 2005).

73. Māori reported a high level of satisfaction with the voting process with 98% saying the amount of time they spent in the polling place was reasonable. 91% rated the convenience of polling places as excellent and 86% rated the politeness of polling day staff as excellent. 75% of Māori voters rated the layout of the ballot paper as excellent. 80% found the instructions for casting a vote excellent. Further statistics from the survey of voters are at **Annex I**.

Ballot papers and rolls at polling places

74. The CEO printed approximately 4 million ordinary ballot papers plus 2.7 million special ballot papers. This number is necessary because voters can vote at any polling place. The challenge for Returning Officers is predicting how many ballot papers to have at each polling place. Returning Officers are instructed to supply generously. Mobile managers, employed by Returning Officers to monitor polling places, carry extra supplies to top up polling places that are running low. This is more difficult to manage in rural electorates where polling places can be isolated.

75. Few supply problems were reported on election day in 2008. Two polling places in Maungakiekie ran out of ordinary ballot papers for the Tāmaki electorate for a period of approximately 40 minutes. Voters were issued special ballot papers until supplies were replenished.

76. An advance voting facility in the Hunua electorate ran low of Māori electorate ballot papers and photocopied ballot papers were issued until additional ballot papers were delivered in the afternoon.

77. CEO had reports of three instances where polling day staff had mistakenly issued voters on the Māori roll with general electorate ballot papers.

78. In the Ōtaki electorate, there were two instances reported of voters being issued an Ōhariu electorate ballot paper due to a printing error. These incidents resulted in the voter's party vote counting, but their electorate vote being invalid.

79. While the vast majority of voters were very satisfied with the service they received on election day, the problems described above show there is always room for improvement. CEO will continue to focus on improving staff training on matters such as the issuing of votes and the management of supplies.

Understanding of the voting process and MMP

80. Most voters found the ballot paper easy to use. 79% of voters rated the ballot paper as excellent for ease of finding the party and candidate for whom they wished to vote. 0.51% of party votes and 1.09% of candidate votes were informal (that is, the voter's intention could not be ascertained).

81. An analysis of informal votes undertaken by the CEO during the official count showed that most voters who cast informal votes did so purposefully and not by mistake [see **Annex I** for results of this analysis].

82. 29.6% of voters split[1] their vote (28.7% in 2005). A nationwide summary of the split voting analysis is at **Annex K**. A more detailed analysis is available in the *Enrolment and Voting Statistics for the 2008 General Election* (E9) tabled in the House of Representatives on 12 February 2009 and on the website *www.electionresults.govt.nz*.

83. The low levels of informal voting, the results of the CEO's analysis of informal votes, and the levels of split voting, indicate that voters understand the voting process and MMP.

Preliminary count

84. The performance measures for the timeliness of the preliminary count were exceeded with the results of advance voting reported by 8.05pm, 86% of polling places reported by 10.00pm and 99.80% by 11.30pm. 90% of voters were satisfied with the timing of results (78% in 2005).

85. The progress of the preliminary count is set out at **Annex L**, the advance vote results at **Annex M**, and the election night results at **Annex N**.

POST ELECTION DAY PROCESSES

86. The post election day processes are prescribed by legislation. Returning Officers must –

    86.1 Scrutinise the rolls for their electorate and records of special voting and investigate cases of apparent dual voting. The ballot papers of dual voters must be found and excluded from the official count – a time-consuming process;

[1] That is, allocated their electorate vote to a candidate who did not represent the party to which they allocated their party vote.

86.2 Check the qualification of special voters, where necessary with the assistance of Registrars of Electors, and the validity of their declarations;

86.3 Allow party vote only votes where the voter has used the wrong ballot paper;

86.4 Check the decisions on the formality of ordinary and advance votes;

86.5 Recount the ordinary and advance votes; and

86.6 Count the special votes.

87. The 14 day timetable for the declaration of the official results is determined by these tasks. The Electoral Act provides that the deadline for special votes to be in the hands of Returning Officers is ten days after election day. Special vote processing cannot be completed before this time. The Returning Officer forwards the results of the completed official count for their electorate to the Chief Electoral Officer. Further checks are carried out by the CEO before the official results are declared.

88. Special vote processing procedures and instructions for staff were reviewed following the 2005 election to make them as simple and streamlined as possible.

89. A modification to the regulations was made to allow special vote declaration forms and envelopes to be physically attached to each other and pre-numbered before they are issued to the voter. This replaced the previous process which required the form and envelope to be stamped manually during the processing of special declaration votes. Returning Officers have attested to the success of this change in improving the processing of special votes.

90. New functions were introduced in the CEO's Election Management System to improve the processing of special declaration votes. These enhancements were successful in improving accuracy and efficiency.

91. The performance measures for the timely and accurate completion of the official count were achieved. The Chief Electoral Officer declared the results of the official count in the *Gazette* on 22 November 2008 (see **Annex O** for official results). No applications for recounts were made and the writ was returned on 27 November 2008. The Chief Electoral Officer formally allocated the list seats on 27 November 2008 and list members were declared elected by a notice published in the *Gazette* that afternoon.

Election petition

92. An election petition challenging the election of the Member of Parliament for Selwyn was brought on the grounds that National Party Selwyn candidate selection process was unlawful. The petition is currently before the Court.

Identification of dual voters

93. Returning Officers undertake preliminary investigations of apparent dual voters during the official count. Where it appears that a voter has deliberately voted more than once, the CEO refers the voter to the police.

94. The CEO, in consultation with the police, revised its processes and procedures for investigating apparent dual voters at the 2008 election to improve the quality of the information referred to the police and the chances of a successful prosecution.

95. 58 apparent dual voters have been referred to the police (21 in 2005).

Candidates' returns of election expenses and donations

96. The statutory deadline for filing returns of electorate candidate election expenses and donations is 10 March 2009. The CEO did not receive any relinquished, anonymous or overseas candidate donations or contributions greater than $1,000 under sections 30 and 32 of the Electoral Finance Act 2007.

ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY FIELD STRUCTURE

97. One of the challenges with administering Parliamentary elections is the absence of a permanent field structure. It is necessary for each election to recruit and train staff, find Returning Officers' headquarters, and roll out the information and communication systems.

Recruitment of field staff

98. The CEO's field recruitment process seeks to meet the public service requirements of openness and transparency and the exigencies of recruiting large numbers of temporary staff, the majority of whom are employed for one day. The more senior the position being filled, the more rigorous the process used. All applicants had to complete a written application and election day staff positions were advertised.

99. Regional Managers were appointed in December 2006. Returning Officers were recruited in late 2007 and commenced work in January 2008. 15,532 people across the country were employed to work in polling places on election day. Some of these people also worked in electorate headquarters before and/or after election day. In total there were 4,264 staff who worked in electorate headquarters on a casual basis. The appointment and training of polling place staff and most headquarters staff cannot be completed until the date of the election has been announced.

100. Pay rates for election day staff were increased for the first time since 2002 and additional training was provided to Polling Place Managers. The combined effect of this was an increase of approximately $28 per employee.

Returning Officers' electorate headquarters

101. Finding suitable premises was difficult and expensive because of a buoyant property market and the fact that about 500 square metres was required for each Returning Officer for 10 months. The objective was to have premises secured by March 2008 and this was achieved. Returning Officers were housed in 33 sites around the country. There are administrative advantages in Returning Officers sharing headquarters even though this means some Returning Officers are located outside their electorates.

General Election Technology Programme

102. An IT Steering Committee including IT specialists from the Ministry of Justice oversaw the design, build and management of the general election technology infrastructure. Returning Officers' headquarters were connected to a secure communications network which hosted the CEO's election management system ("EMS") and intranet. Setting up Returning Officers headquarters and connecting them to the system was a major exercise taking some 7 weeks to complete.

103. EMS was significantly improved for the 2008 election. As well as managing election results recording, the nomination process and data for ballot papers and the EasyVote pack, it captures information about polling places, staff and supplies. It is used to generate ballot papers for printing, determine polling place staff structures, allocate staff to polling places, provide payroll information, and determine the distribution of hundreds of tons of field supplies. New functionality was added to the system for recording advance voting information, processing special votes, and for recording information on the delivery and retrieval of equipment to Polling Places.

104. A CEO intranet system was developed for the 2008 election to enhance communication and information sharing between National Office and the field. The intranet provided one central, consistent resource for operations manuals, forms, training manuals, contact numbers, etc. The intranet also contained a web-mapping system that allowed staff to review and analyse the locations of advance voting facilities and polling places.

105. 7 operational tests and dress rehearsals for Election Night were held between May and October 2008.

Training for Returning Officers, Operations Managers and Human Resource Managers

106. Substantially more training was delivered to Returning Officers and their staff. Returning Officers attended 3 days of induction training in February 2008. Returning Officers and their operations and human resources managers attended training for 4 days in June 2008. The February and June training was delivered nationally at a model electorate headquarters established in Porirua. This enabled a more realistic hands-on training experience to be delivered than for previous elections. The training was developed and delivered with considerable assistance from experienced field staff. Use was also made of film footage of the 2005 election as a training tool.

107. Because over 200 staff attended the June training, it was delivered over two 4-day sessions. The training site was also used as the actual headquarters for the Ōhariu, Mana, and Ōtaki electorates. As part of developing the training sessions, a 2 day train-the-trainer session, as well as a complete dress rehearsal of the session was conducted.

108. An increased focus was placed on follow-up training at a Regional level. Each Regional Manager conducted training sessions at regional meetings with their teams from July to October 2008.

Training for Election Day Staff

109. Election day staff training is critical to the success of a Parliamentary election and is a major logistical exercise. Almost 16,000 staff need to be trained in the two weeks before

election day. Their role, as well as being constitutionally important, is complex and demanding. It happens once every three years and there is only one chance to get election day right. Because many election day staff work during the week, training is generally delivered in the evenings or weekend.

110. For the 2008 election the length of training sessions were significantly increased to better accommodate the material to be covered. Ordinary issuing officers received 2 hours, special issuing officers 3 hours and Polling Place Managers four and a half hours.

111. Feedback on the training from staff at all levels was positive. However, whilst a considerable improvement on 2005, we are still trying to cover too much material in the time available. Training remains a key area of attention for 2011.

FINANCE

112. Final figures are being completed. We expect to come within budget.

ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

113. The CEO and its 0800 voter information service handled 54,629 enquiries and complaints between 1 January and 31 December 2008, including 44,712 in the 3 months immediately preceding election day.

114. Most were enquiries about advance voting (24%), overseas voting (7%), special voting (15%), election day (13%), and recruitment (13%). Of the enquiries and complaints to CEO, 22% were from parties and candidates, 10% from the media, and 68% from the public and other organizations.

115. Most enquiries to the 0800 service were resolved on the spot with more complex enquiries and complaints being referred to the CEO. 87.1% of enquiries to the CEO were resolved within 5 working days and 92.6% within 10 working days. Average resolution time was 3.7 days.

116. If the CEO received a request for information or advice on the application of electoral legislation, we provided a view. We also provided our view on the application of the legislation to a particular fact situation.

Electoral finance

117. The CEO responded to 392 enquiries and 90 complaints related to election advertising, expenditure and donations by candidates and parties. CEO's approach was to respond to queries from candidates and their parties about the application of the electoral finance rules, in the same way as we would provide a view about the application of any of the other rules relating to the election. Where queries indicated the need for a general advisory, an advisory was issued to all parties, often as a joint advisory with the Electoral Commission. For example, advisories were issued about vehicle signage and bumper stickers, re-used materials (including hoarding timber), MP vehicle signage, phone polling and canvassing, and party lapel badges.

Election day

118. The CEO received 252 complaints on or about election day itself. Enquiries and complaints received by Returning Officers in the field were either dealt with at a local level or referred to CEO. Most of the complaints about election day were about matters that annoy voters but are not offences (for example the presence of scrutineers in polling places, the wearing of party rosettes on election day, and party officials offering voters assistance to get to polling places). However, three incidents were referred to the police.

119. There were a large number of complaints about the delivery of election material on election day. It is an offence under section 197 of the Electoral Act for election advertising to be delivered on election day. New Zealand Post wrote to all political parties and candidates on 21 October 2008 explaining the rules prohibiting delivery of election material on election day. New Zealand Post advised parties and candidates to lodge their election related material for delivery by Tuesday 4 November 2008 to avoid contravening the Act. This was based on New Zealand Post's delivery targets of one to three working days. It appears that although parties provided their material to New Zealand Post for delivery before the deadline advised in New Zealand Post's letter, there were a number of incidents in which the election related material was delivered on election day in breach of the Act. Because the breaches appear to have been inadvertent, I did not refer them to the Police. However, I have recommended that New Zealand Post reviews the cut-off point for the acceptance of election related material for the 2011 election. I would also recommend that political parties that lodge election material with New Zealand Post close to the deadline clearly state on the material that it is election material so that there is the possibility that it can be intercepted by postal staff if it is not delivered within the target delivery time.

Scrutineers

120. Scrutineers perform an important role in ensuring the integrity of the voting process - a role often misunderstood by voters. There appears to have been an increased presence of scrutineers at polling places in 2008. The CEO received 93 complaints from members of the public about the presence of scrutineers in polling places wearing party rosettes.

121. Some complainants appear to have been unable to distinguish between scrutineers and electoral officials. Encouraging scrutineers to wear the official scrutineer badge provided by the Chief Electoral Office may reduce voter confusion. CEO will strengthen training for staff about the use of the badges. Wearing them is not compulsory under the current law.

122. A number of incidents indicate that CEO needs to improve information for scrutineers about their role and rules regarding matters such as assisted voting. Guidance material for scrutineers will be improved for 2011.

123. A complaint was received on election day involving a candidate entering polling places to deliver lunches to scrutineers. The CEO investigated this matter. The Returning Officer had mistakenly advised the candidate that this would be acceptable. It is not appropriate for a candidate to enter a polling place on election day for any purpose other than to vote. The candidate was advised of this and immediately stopped the visits. CEO will be strengthening its instructions and training for staff to clarify this.

124. The legislative provisions concerning the appointment of scrutineers is complex, inconsistent and scattered throughout the Electoral Act and Electoral Regulations. A review to consolidate and reconcile the provisions would simplify the rules for parties, candidates, and officials. CEO will also look at administrative ways to simplify the appointment process by providing better training and forms.

Administration

125. The CEO received 44 complaints relating to its service. Complaints before polling day related mainly to advance voting facility opening hours and locations, information about the role and appointment of scrutineers, assisted voting, and voting for people from remote locations within New Zealand. Most of the complaints on election day related to polling place staff, signage, and assisted voting. Some of these issues will be addressed through staff training and a review of guidance material.

126. Further details about the complaints and enquiries are attached in **Annex C**.

LOOKING AHEAD

Legislative change

127. New electoral finance rules introduced by the Electoral Amendment Act 2009 mean that guidance for candidates will need to be updated to prepare for the possibility of a by-election.

Citizens Initiated Referendum

128. Preparations are under way for the conduct of the citizens initiated referendum to be held by post from 31 July to 21 August 2009 on the question: "*Should a smack as part of good parental correction be a criminal offence in New Zealand?"*. The postal referendum will be the first nationwide postal ballot conducted under the Referenda (Postal Voting) Act 2000. Regulations will need to be promulgated to give effect to the provisions of the Act and its administration, for example, prescribing forms and processes for applying for replacement voting papers, and voting by fax and dictation.

Administrative improvement

129. The CEO is reviewing its processes, procedures, forms, manuals and public information with a particular focus on simplifying the special voting process, improving the advance voting service, further improving its service to voters with disabilities, and improving training for field staff, improving information for scrutineers, and services for voters in remote locations in New Zealand. It is possible that improvements identified through this work might require amendment to legislation or regulations to implement them.

Recruitment for 2011

130. The recruitment of Returning Officers and headquarters staff for the 2011 general election will be complicated by the fact that the next Census is also scheduled to take place in 2011. Many of the same people that work on the Census also work on the election. Preparations for recruitment and training will need to be managed in close consultation with Statistics New Zealand to manage this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that you –

Note that the 2008 general election was conducted in accordance with the law and in a manner which maintained public and political confidence in the administration of Parliamentary elections;

Note that the performance measures for conducting the 2008 general election were achieved;

Note that there was a high level of voter satisfaction with the conduct of the election and the timeliness of results;

Note that the CEO is reviewing its processes, procedures, forms, manuals and public information to improve its service to voters;

Note that CEO recommends that consideration be given to removing the requirement for voters to establish a ground of eligibility to be able to vote in advance; and

Refer this report to the Justice and Electoral Committee for consideration as part of its inquiry into the 2008 general election.

Robert Peden
Chief Electoral Officer

LIST OF ANNEXES

1 Annex A: Achievements against performance measures agreed with Secretary for Justice for conduct of 2008 election.

2 Annex B: List of publications by title produced for the 2008 general election

4 Annex C: Enquiries and complaints 2008

5 Annex D: Key election dates

6 Annex E: Statistics on nominations

7 Annex F: Overseas voting statistics

8. Annex G: Advance Voting

9. Annex H: New Zealand General Elections: Turnout 1987 – 2008.

10. Annex I: Extract from survey of voters and non-voters

11. Annex J Informal vote analysis – 2008 general election

12. Annex K: Split voting analysis – nationwide summary

13. Annex L: Election Night Count Progress

14. Annex M: Advance vote results

15. Annex N: Preliminary Election Night Results

16. Annex O: Official Results 2008 General Election

Annex A

Achievement against Performance Measures

Applicable to Conduct of 2008 general election	
Quantity, Quality, Timeliness	*Achieved*
Advance Voting Facilities AVFs provided from 8 days after nomination day. (Tue 14 Oct + 8 days = Wed 22 Oct) AVFs are correctly rated for access by voters with disabilities in accordance with standards set by the Barrier Free New Zealand Trust. Download facilities for overseas voters are provided from 8 days after nomination day. (Tue 14 Oct + 8 days = Wed 22 Oct)	Achieved, opened Wed 22 Oct Achieved Achieved, downloading available from Wed 22 Oct
Polling Places Approximately 2,700 polling places are provided in New Zealand. Polling places are correctly rated for access by voters with disabilities in accordance with standards set by the Barrier Free New Zealand Trust. All polling places within a Māori electorate issue ordinary votes for that electorate.	Achieved. There were 2686 provided in 2008 Achieved Achieved
EasyVote Information Packs All packs are delivered by election day minus 4 days. (Sat 8 Nov – 4 days = Tue 4 Nov) 75% of voters use EasyVote Card.	Exceeded. All packs delivered to voters by NZ Post by 1 Nov. Exceeded. 88% of voters used the card.
Election Day – Results Entry 100% of advance ordinary votes are entered by 8.30 pm. 50% of polling place results are entered by 10pm and the balance by 11.30 pm.	Achieved. 100% entered by 8:05pm. Exceeded. 86% of polling places entered by 10pm.

Applicable to Conduct of 2008 general election	
Quantity, Quality, Timeliness	*Achieved*
Declaration – Official Results Official results declared on election day plus 14 days. (Sat 8 Nov + 14 days = Sat 22 Nov)	Achieved
Recounts District Court Judge satisfied with assistance provided by Chief Electoral Office.	Not applicable.
Declaration – Election of List Members Election of list members declared by Election Day plus 21 days (if no recounts). (Sat 8 Nov + 21 days = Sat 29 Nov)	Achieved. Declared on 27 November.
Return of Writ Writ returned no later than 50 days after issue (subject to recounts). (Wed 8 Oct + 50 days = Thu 27 Nov)	Achieved
Dual/Multiple Voting Plural votes are identified and extracted. Appropriate referrals to Police within 5 weeks of complaint.	Achieved Achieved. 58 complaints referred to Police.
Complaints Simple complaints actioned within 24 hours. Appropriate referrals to Police within 5 weeks of complaint.	Achieved. Achieved. 3 complaints referred to Police
Market Research - Feedback Post-election market research results reflect high satisfaction by majority of respondents.	Achieved - consistently over 90%

Annex B

List of Publications by Title
Prepared for the 2008 General Election

Enrolling and Voting at the General Election – The Easy Way (DVD in New Zealand sign language)

Get Ready and Vote - it's as easy as 123 (brochure)
Published in English and Māori (joint publication with EEC and EC)

Get Ready and Vote. The Easy Guide to Voting. (plain English booklet)

Get Ready and Vote at the General Election – the Easy Way: People with disabilities talk about voting (DVD)

Going to be overseas on election day? (brochure)

Guide for Managers of Hospitals and Rest Homes (brochure)

Information for Justices of the Peace (brochure)

Information for Parliamentary Candidates and their financial agents (booklet)
Published in English and Māori

Information for Scrutineers (brochure)
Published in English and Māori

Information for Secretaries of Registered Political Parties (booklet)

Instructions for voters overseas (brochure)

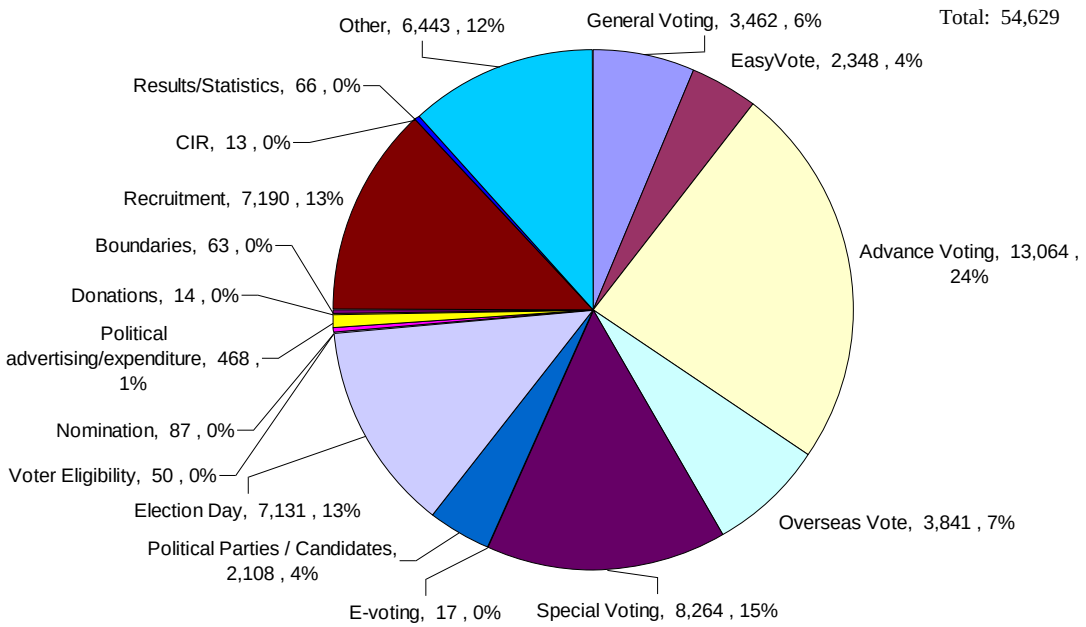
List of overseas posts

Unable to get to a polling place on election day? (brochure)
Also published in large print, audio format and braille.

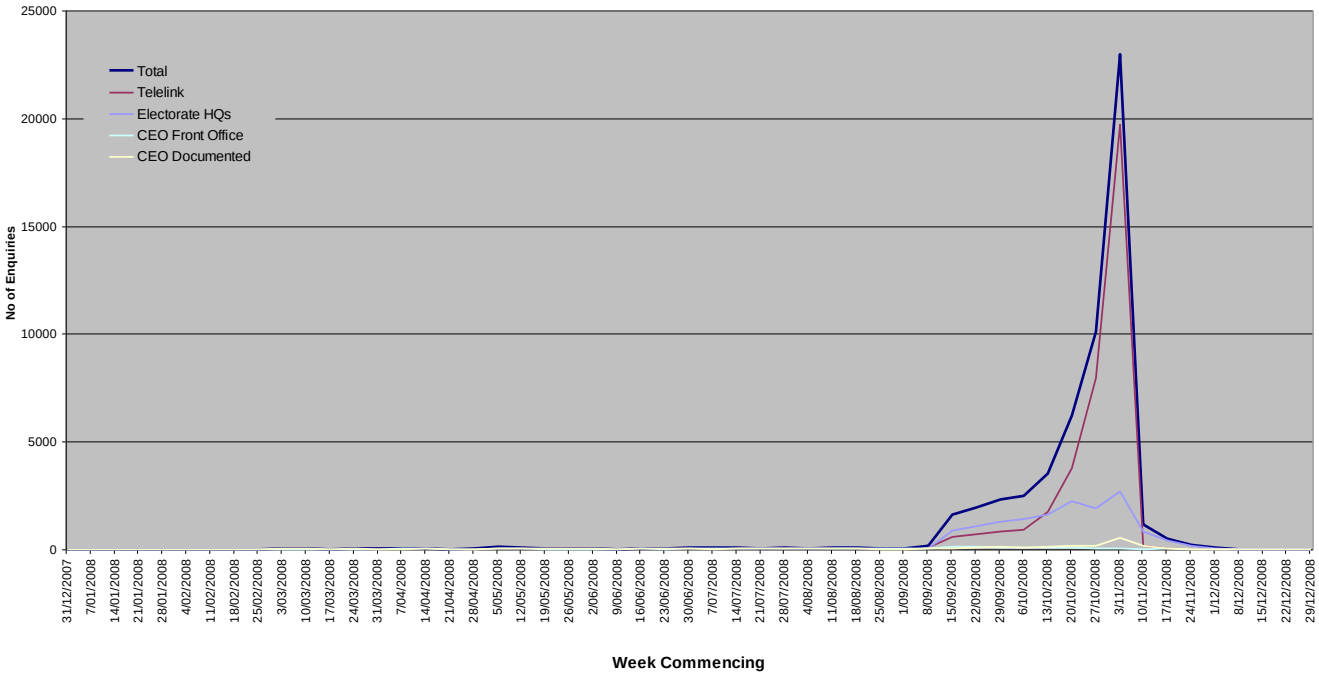
Voting in the 2008 general election – the easy way (brochure)
Published in English, Māori, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Cook Island Māori, Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Niuean, Punjabi, Samoan, Somali, Thai, Tongan, Tokelauan and Vietnamese.
Also published in audio format, braille and large print.

Voting on election day is easy (poster).

Enquiries Received by Category - 2008



Enquiries Received by Week, by Organisation - 2008



Annex D

Key Election Dates

12 September	Announcement by PM
3 October	Dissolution of Parliament
8 October	Writ Day
14 October	Nomination Day
22 October	Advance and overseas voting commences
8 November	Polling Day and preliminary results
22 November	Official Results
27 November	Due date for return of writ

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex E

Statistics on Nominations

Candidates at 2008 Election

Candidates of Party contesting Party Vote	
Dual candidates	433
List only candidates	160
Electorate only candidates	53
	646
Candidates representing other parties	13
Independent candidates	23
Total: 682	

General Nomination Statistics

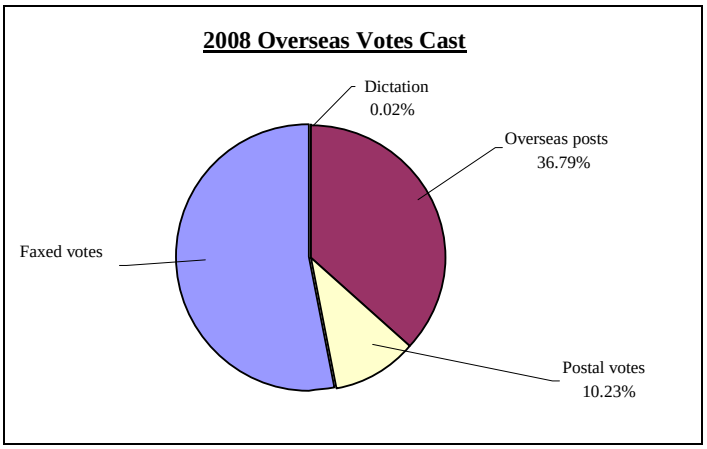
Category	**2008**	**2005**
Parties contesting party vote	19	19
Total number of parties standing candidates	29	27
Male candidates	488 (72%)	523 (71%)
Female candidates	194 (28%)	216 (29%)
Total number of candidates	682	739
List only candidates	160	142
Electorate only candidates	89	72
Dual candidates	433	525
Average number of electorate candidates per electorate	7.5	8.7

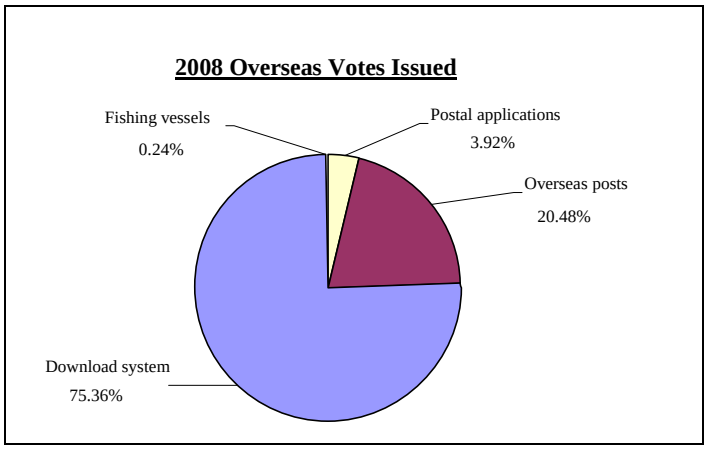
Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex F

Overseas Voting Statistics

	2008 Votes Issued	2008 Votes Cast
Postal applications	1,636	
Overseas posts	**8,553**	**12,243**
Download system	**31,477**	
Fishing vessels	**101**	
Postal votes		**3,404**
Faxed votes		**17,624**
Dictation		**7**
TOTAL	**41,767**	**33,278**

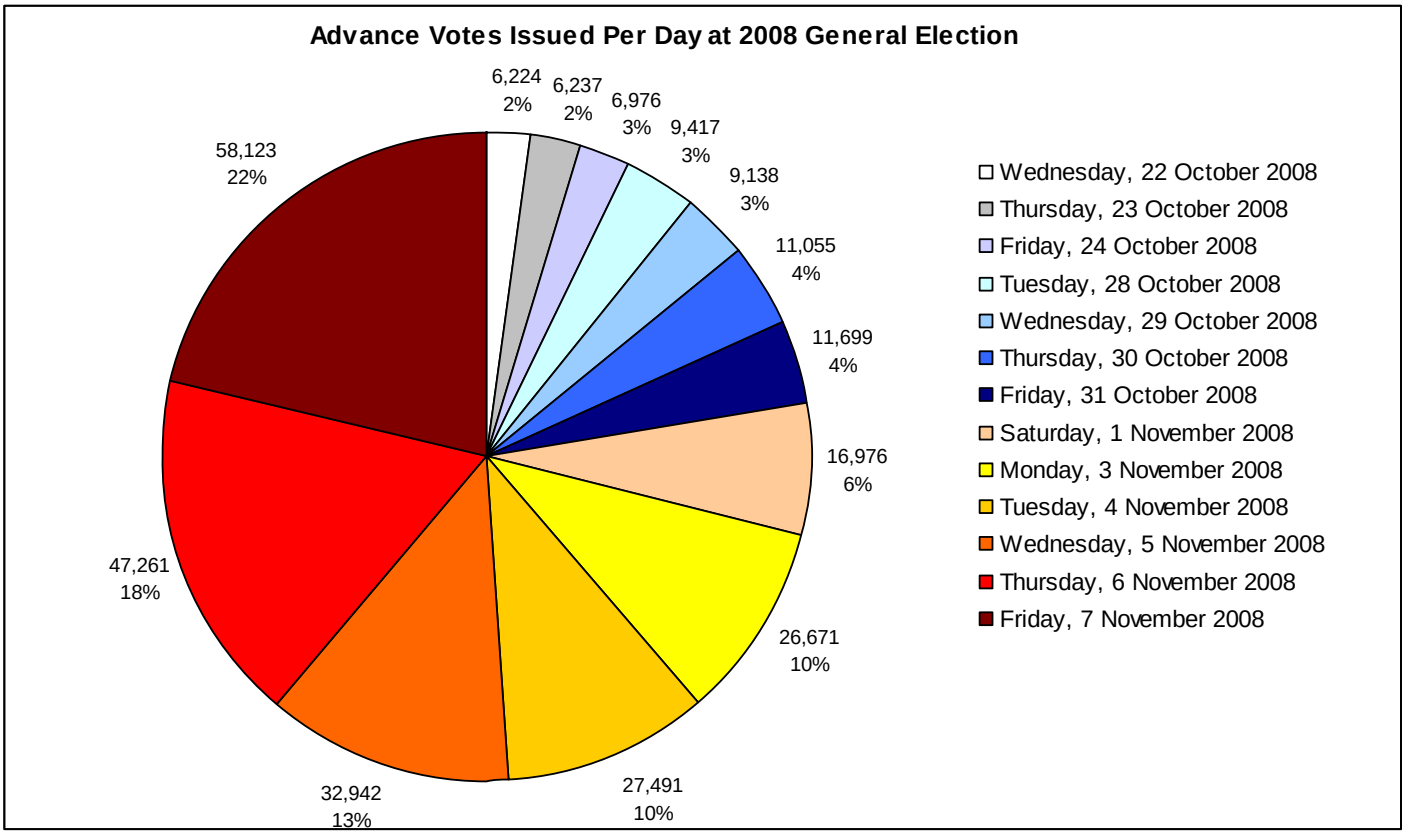


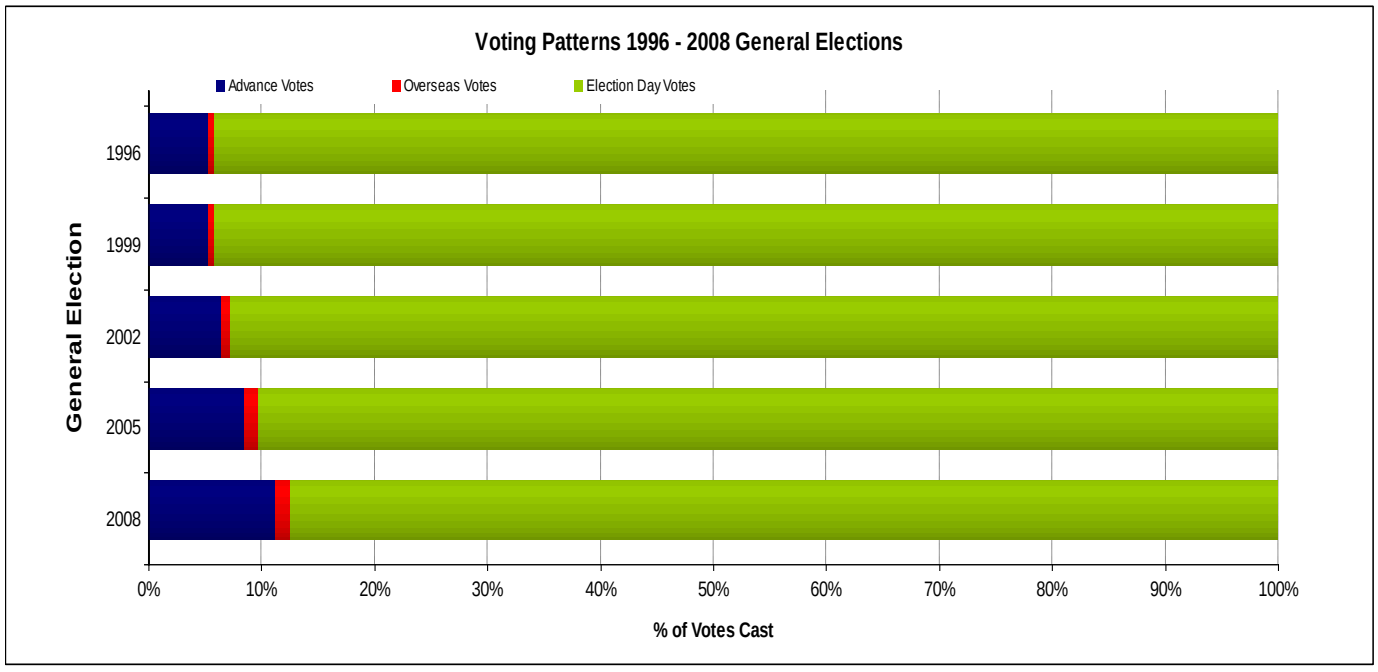


2008 COMPARED TO 2005

26% increase in number of overseas votes **issued** in 2008 compared to 2005.
18% increase in number of overseas votes **cast** in 2008 compared to 2005.
28% increase in number of overseas votes **returned by fax** in 2008 compared to 2005.
49% decrease in **amount paid** by CEO for overseas posts in 2008 compared to 2005. ($99,670 in 2008, $195,551 in 2005).
11 additional overseas posts were used in 2008 compared to 2005.

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice


Advance Votes Issued Per Day at 2008 General Election
6,224
2%
6,237
2%
6,976
3%
9,417
3%
9,138
3%
11,055
4%
11,699
4%
16,976
6%
26,671
10%
27,491
10%
32,942
13%
47,261
18%
58,123
22%
Wednesday, 22 October 2008
Thursday, 23 October 2008
Friday, 24 October 2008
Tuesday, 28 October 2008
Wednesday, 29 October 2008
Thursday, 30 October 2008
Friday, 31 October 2008
Saturday, 1 November 2008
Monday, 3 November 2008
Tuesday, 4 November 2008
Wednesday, 5 November 2008
Thursday, 6 November 2008
Friday, 7 November 2008


Voting Patterns 1996 - 2008 General Elections
Advance Votes
Overseas Votes
Election Day Votes
General Election
1996
1999
2002
2005
2008
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
% of Votes Cast

Annex H

New Zealand General Elections: Turnout 1987 – 2008

Year	Roll	% of estimated voting age population on roll	Total votes cast	Turnout as % voting age population	Turnout as % of those on roll
1987	General		1,823,448		89.52
	Māori		59,946		77.02
	Overall	92.64	1,883,394	82.50	89.06
1990	General		1,822,529		86.00
	Māori		54,586		65.75
	Overall	91.74	1,877,115	78.20	85.24
1993	General		1,908,954		85.99
	Māori		69,138		68.06
	Overall	92.64	1,978,092	78.93	85.20
1996	General		2,025,005		88.95
	Māori		110,170		77.62
	Overall	91.53	2,135,175	80.80	88.28
1999	General		2,014,644		85.73
	Māori		112,621		70.65
	Overall	91.06	2,127,265	77.19	84.77
2002	General		1,943,659		78.50
	Māori		111,745		57.57
	Overall	94.17	2,055,404	72.49	76.98
2005	General		2,164,495		82.01
	Māori		139,510		67.07
	Overall	95.22	2,304,005	77.05	80.92
2008	General		2,233,146		80.88
	Māori		143,334		62.41
	Overall	95.31	2,376,480	75.73	79.46

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Extract from Survey of Voters and Non-Voters

Annex I

Sample			All Voters	Māori Voters	Non-Voters	Adv Voters –
Māori	278	Ordinary Vote	95%	96%		77%
Non-Māori	1231	Special Vote	5%	4%		23%
Total	1509					
		Voted same place 2005	51%	46%		11%
		Voting time				
		before 11am	30%	29%		17%
		11-1pm	26%	26%		35%
		1-3pm	21%	19%		19%
		3-5pm	15%	16%		13%
		5-7pm	8%	10%		11%
		Queued	21%	17%		33%
		Didn't queue	79%	83%		67%
		Took EasyVote card	88%	84%		76%
		Time in polling place				
		under 5 minutes	71%	74%		55%
		5-10 minutes	21%	19%		26%
		reasonable time	98%	98%		92%
		Rating of Polling Place (very good to excellent)				
		Convenience	98%	98%		89%
		Outside Signage	88%	92%		71%
		Layout	92%	93%		86%
		How well-equipped was booth	97%	97%		92%
		Privacy	91%	85%		85%
		Staff - politeness	97%	96%		95%
		- ability to answer questions (excluding don't know)	95%	96%		97%
		- efficiency	96%	95%		91%
		Decision not to vote (timing)				
		Election Day			48%	
		1 week before			16%	
		more than 1 month before			19%	
		Recall advertising	81%	77%	74%	88%
		Heard advertising on EV card	58%	64%	42%	60%
		Heard advertising on advance voting	73%	69%	45%	72%
		Satisfied/very satisifed with layout of ballot paper	93%	92%		90%
		Recall receiving pack	98%	97%	79%	96%
		(Of those who received it) Read or glanced at pack	88%	89%	70%	85%
		Satisfied/very satisfied with pack	92%	94%	66%	93%
		Followed results on Election Night	72%	69%	47%	70%
		- on television	97%	96%	84%	92%
		Satisfied with timeliness (or better)	90%	85%	78%	84%

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex J

Informal Vote Analysis – 2008 General Election

At the 2008 general election, 268 informal ballots were sampled from ten randomly selected polling places from two urban and two semi-rural electorates in the Christchurch area.

Reason for informality Informal Votes Analysis for 2008 General Election	Percentage of informal ballot papers	Deliberately informal (D) or informal by mistake (M)
Blank ballot paper	6.7%	D
Crossed out on both candidate and party sides of ballot paper	2.2%	D
Blank or crossed out party vote, valid candidate	9.7%	D
Blank or crossed out candidate vote, valid party	50.4%	D
Total non-votes	***69.0%***	
Two options marked on one side, blank on the other	17.2%	M
Two options marked on one side, one or two options marked on the other	11.2%	M
Total two-ticks	***28.4%***	
More than two options marked on one or both sides of the ballot	2.6%	M
Total two or more	***31.0%***	
Candidates or parties numbered starting 1, 2, etc	0.0%	M
Informal for other reasons	0.0%	D

Percentage deliberate informals	**69%**
Percentage informals due to voter mistake	**31%**

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex K

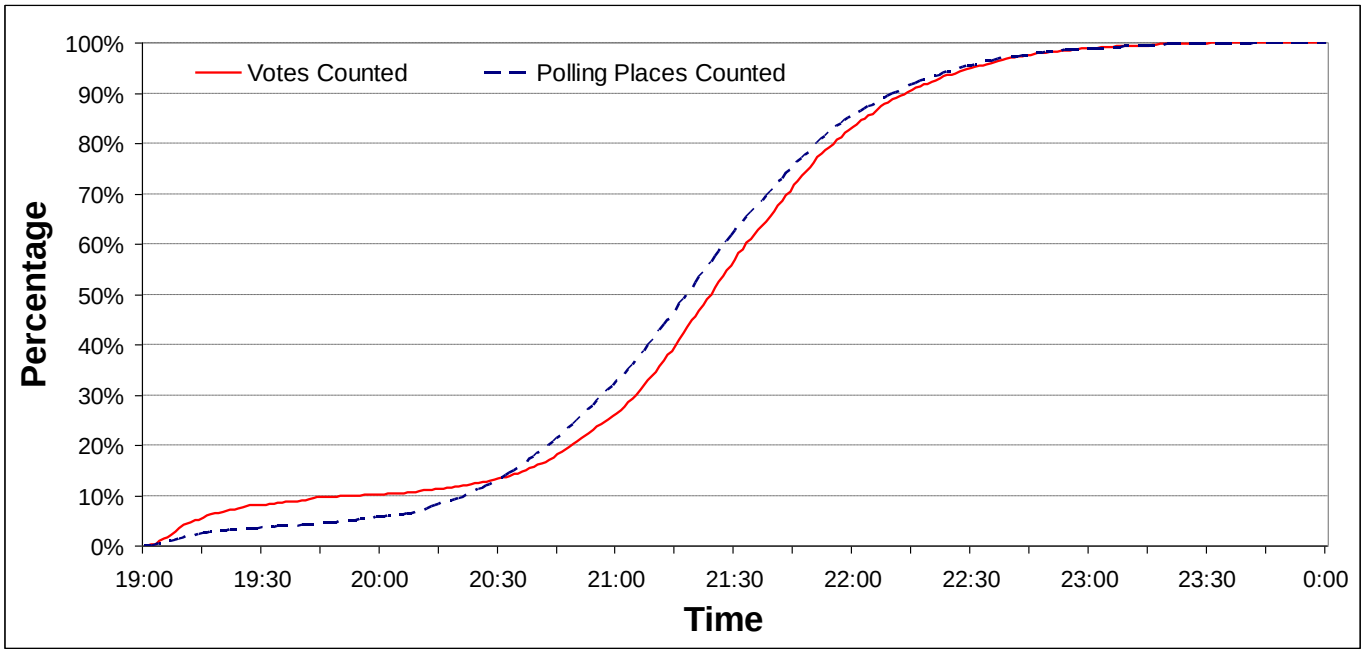
Split Voting Analysis – Nationwide Summary

Party	Total Party Votes	Non Split Candidate votes		Split Candidate votes	
		Votes	%	Votes	%
ACT New Zealand	85,496	13,987	16.36	71,509	83.64
Alliance	1,909	287	15.03	1,622	84.97
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	9,515	681	7.16	8,834	92.84
Democrats for Social Credit	1,208	391	32.37	817	67.63
Family Party	8,176	1,675	20.49	6,501	79.51
Green Party	157,613	52,491	33.30	105,122	66.70
Jim Anderton's Progressive	21,241	4,756	22.39	16,485	77.61
Kiwi Party	12,755	4,817	37.77	7,938	62.23
Labour Party	796,880	617,276	77.46	179,604	22.54
Libertarianz	1,176	298	25.34	878	74.66
Māori Party	55,980	34,002	60.74	21,978	39.26
National Party	1,053,398	900,567	85.49	152,831	14.51
New Zealand First Party	95,356	17,221	18.06	78,135	81.94
New Zealand Pacific Party	8,640	4,494	52.01	4,146	47.99
RAM - Residents Action Movement	465	115	24.73	350	75.27
The Bill and Ben Party	13,016	0	0.00	13,016	100.00
The Republic of New Zealand Party	313	31	9.90	282	90.10
United Future	20,497	4,962	24.21	15,535	75.79
Workers Party	932	75	8.05	857	91.95
Informal Party Votes	11,970	281	2.35	11,689	97.65
Total Party Votes and Percentages	2,356,536	1,658,407	70.37	698,129	29.63

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex L

Election Night Count Progress



Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex M

Advance Vote Results

Party	Party Votes	% Votes	Electorate Seats	List Seats	Total Seats
National Party	114,648	48.52	43	19	62
Labour Party	74,753	31.64	19	22	41
Green Party	14,527	6.15	0	8	8
Māori Party	5,004	2.12	5	0	5
ACT New Zealand	7,778	3.29	1	3	4
Jim Anderton's Progressive	2,000	0.85	1	0	1
United Future	1,965	0.83	1	0	1
New Zealand First Party	10,969	4.64	0	0	0
Kiwi Party	1,533	0.65	0	0	0
Family Party	674	0.29	0	0	0
New Zealand Pacific Party	669	0.28	0	0	0
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	593	0.25	0	0	0
The Bill and Ben Party	560	0.24	0	0	0
Alliance	203	0.09	0	0	0
Democrats for Social Credit	124	0.05	0	0	0
Workers Party	111	0.05	0	0	0
Libertarianz	100	0.04	0	0	0
RAM - Residents Action Movement	41	0.02	0	0	0
The Republic of New Zealand Party	31	0.01	0	0	0
			70	52	122

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex N

Preliminary Election Night Results

Party	Party Votes	% Votes	Electorate Seats	List Seats	Total Seats
National Party	951,145	45.45	41	18	59
Labour Party	706,666	33.77	21	22	43
Green Party	134,622	6.43	0	8	8
ACT New Zealand	77,843	3.72	1	4	5
Māori Party	46,894	2.24	5	0	5
Jim Anderton's Progressive	19,536	0.93	1	0	1
United Future	18,629	0.89	1	0	1
New Zealand First Party	88,072	4.21	0	0	0
Kiwi Party	11,659	0.56	0	0	0
The Bill and Ben Party	10,738	0.51	0	0	0
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	7,589	0.36	0	0	0
New Zealand Pacific Party	6,991	0.33	0	0	0
Family Party	6,973	0.33	0	0	0
Alliance	1,721	0.08	0	0	0
Democrats for Social Credit	1,112	0.05	0	0	0
Libertarianz	1,070	0.05	0	0	0
Workers Party	824	0.04	0	0	0
RAM - Residents Action Movement	405	0.02	0	0	0
The Republic of New Zealand Party	298	0.01	0	0	0
			70	52	122

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice

Annex O

Official Results 2008 General Election

Party	Party Votes	% Votes	Electorate Seats	List Seats	Total Seats
National Party	1,053,398	44.93	41	17	58
Labour Party	796,880	33.99	21	22	43
Green Party	157,613	6.72	0	9	9
ACT New Zealand	85,496	3.65	1	4	5
Mäori Party	55,980	2.39	5	0	5
Jim Anderton's Progressive	21,241	0.91	1	0	1
United Future	20,497	0.87	1	0	1
New Zealand First Party	95,356	4.07	0	0	0
The Bill and Ben Party	13,016	0.56	0	0	0
Kiwi Party	12,755	0.54	0	0	0
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	9,515	0.41	0	0	0
New Zealand Pacific Party	8,640	0.37	0	0	0
Family Party	8,176	0.35	0	0	0
Alliance	1,909	0.08	0	0	0
Democrats for Social Credit	1,208	0.05	0	0	0
Libertarianz	1,176	0.05	0	0	0
Workers Party	932	0.04	0	0	0
RAM - Residents Action Movement	465	0.02	0	0	0
The Republic of New Zealand Party	313	0.01	0	0	0
			70	52	122

Source: Chief Electoral Office, Ministry of Justice