



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

2026 **GENERAL ELECTION** Election Service Plan

September 2026

Milestones and key activity

September 2026



7 September

Candidate nominations open



Throughout September

Enrolment reminder SMS sent

November 2026



6 November

Last day of advance voting.
All election advertising must end.



7 November

Election Day



27 November

Official results declared

August 2026



6 August

Last day for Māori to change rolls



From 17 August

Enrolment update packs sent



From 31 August to 2 September

Enrolment reminder email sent

October 2026



1 October

Dissolution of Parliament



4 October

Writ Day



5 October

Registrations for telephone
dictation voting open



Noon 8 October

Nominations for candidates close



14 October

Delivery of digital EasyVote email starts
Delivery of EasyVote postal packs starts



21 October

Overseas and telephone dictation voting start



24 October

Delivery of EasyVote postal packs complete
Delivery of digital EasyVote email complete



25 October

Last day to enrol to vote in the election



26 October

Advance voting starts

December 2026



3 December

Last for the return of the writ



Foreword

The 2026 General Election will be held on Saturday 7 November and is one of New Zealand's largest public events.

The Electoral Commission is focused on making sure eligible New Zealanders understand the changes to this year's election to support them to enrol and vote.

For the 2026 General Election, key changes are being introduced. This includes an earlier enrolment deadline, more digital communications to voters, and stronger quality assurance checks of enrolment, election delivery and results.

Delivering a general election is a significant logistical exercise. Our planning for the election has considered how to best provide services and information to voters. I am proud of our staff who have undertaken significant planning and preparation to deliver a successful election.

This service plan sets out how we will deliver the general election. It covers the key election milestones, voter information and services, and post-election activities to declare a result.

It outlines the measures in place to achieve a high standard of service for voters, parties and candidates.

A key focus this year is to drive early enrolment as the single most important behaviour change ahead of the election.

Another key focus is to improve the integrity checks in place following the 2024 report of the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG).

Work undertaken to implement the Auditor-General's recommendations and strengthen the integrity of election processes includes improving checks, reviewing and upgrading instruction manuals, additional training for the post-election period and ensuring sufficient equipment for election staff.

We are committed to ensuring that voters can trust, value and take part in the general election.

Chief Electoral Officer

Karl Le Quesne



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2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Key Dates

7 August	Regulated period for election advertising expenses begins.
5 September	Electoral hoardings up to 3 square metres can go up, subject to local authority rules about location. Hoardings may be larger or put up earlier subject to local council rules.
7 September	Candidate nominations open.
1 October	Dissolution of Parliament – the official end of the parliamentary term.
4 October	Writ day – the Governor General issues formal direction to the Electoral Commission to hold the election. Voters enrolled by writ day will be sent an EasyVote card by email or post and can cast an ordinary vote. Parties and candidates can start to advertise on TV and radio from writ day.
5 October	Registration for the telephone dictation service opens.
Noon, 8 October	Nominations day – deadline for party secretaries to get their bulk nomination schedules and party lists and the deadline for candidates using the individual nomination process to get their nomination forms and deposits to us.
21 October	Overseas voting starts. Telephone dictation voting starts.
25 October	Last day to enrol to vote in the election.
26 October	Advance voting starts. No campaigning within 10 metres of advance voting places. Candidates and political parties cannot give away free food, drink or entertainment within 100 metres of the entrance to a voting place.
6 November	Advance voting ends. Regulated period ends – last day campaigning is allowed and signs must be taken down by midnight.
7 November	Election day - Voting places open from 9am to 7pm. Registration for the telephone dictation service closes noon. Election night - Preliminary election results released progressively from 7pm on electionresults.govt.nz
27 November	Official results for the 2026 General Election.
3 December	Last day for the return of the writ (subject to any recounts).
14 January 2027	Last day for Parliament to meet.
9 March 2027	Deadline for returns of candidates' election expenses, donations and loans and for registered third parties to file expense returns.



1. Introduction

1.1. About us

The Electoral Commission Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri is an independent Crown entity responsible for running New Zealand's parliamentary elections and keeping the electoral rolls up to date.

Our name Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri means 'the guardian of the choice' and reflects our responsibility as kaitiaki (guardian) of New Zealand's electoral system.

We administer the rules in the Electoral Act 1993 for parliamentary elections and the electoral rolls.

Our purpose is to administer New Zealand's electoral system impartially, efficiently, effectively, and in a way that:

- facilitates participation in parliamentary democracy
- promotes understanding of the electoral system, and
- maintains confidence in the administration of the electoral system.

1.2. Environmental context for the 2026 General Election

This year, key changes are being introduced that will change how the Commission delivers services to New Zealanders. These include modernising electoral services through more digital communications to voters, as well as legislative changes that will affect how people enrol and vote.

A significant change is the need to be enrolled before voting starts. Voters need to be enrolled by midnight, Sunday 25 October.

These changes arrive in the context of significant changes in the way people consume information and an increased risk of inaccurate information. In this environment, building confidence in both the Electoral Commission and the integrity of our electoral system is more critical than ever.



2. What's new

2.1. Implementation of Auditor-General's recommendations

The Auditor-General completed a review of vote counting errors in the 2023 General Election. The errors were corrected and the results republished on 9 November 2023.

The Commission welcomed the Auditor-General's report and is committed to fully implementing the recommendations to strengthen the way votes are recorded, counted and checked.

Work undertaken includes:

- a comprehensive internal review of the delivery of the 2023 General Election and post-election period
- adopting a new assurance framework
- audits of post-election and enrolment processes to identify any further gaps or improvements
- reviewing operating manuals and training to improve the implementation of quality assurance controls during delivery of elections
- prioritising improvements to post-election processes to ensure the integrity and timeliness of the official count
- approving short-term changes to strengthen the official count process for any by-election required before a full review of post-election processes is completed.

More information on our progress on the OAG's recommendations can be found on elections.nz

2.2. Changes to enrolment

Changes to the Electoral Act 1993 now mean that enrolment closes 13 days before election day. This change means voters will need to be enrolled before voting begins.

The Commission's focus in 2026 is on ensuring people enrol early so they can vote. We are strongly encouraging people to enrol or update their details by 4 October to make voting easier for them. Anyone who enrolls after 4 October will need to cast a special vote.

2.3. Electorate boundary changes

The Representation Commission reviewed and redrew electorate names and boundaries in 2025 to ensure each electorate has about the same number of people living in it.

Nineteen electorates remained unchanged and the boundaries of 49 general and 3 Māori electorates were adjusted. About 720,000 people will vote in a different electorate at the 2026 General Election.

2.4. Digital communications

This election voters will see more communications from the Commission by email or SMS text message. This change recognises the need to communicate with people through the digital channels they use every day.

We will send key communications including the Māori Electoral Option and enrolment update packs by post, with follow up reminders sent by email or SMS.

EasyVote cards will be sent by email if we have the person's email address, and by post if we do not. This will help to ensure more people have their EasyVote card before the start of voting.

Party list and candidate information will be available on vote.nz

2.5. Other legislative changes

Several other legislative changes have also been implemented for the 2026 General Election, including:

- setting an advance voting period of 12 days in the law
- disqualifying all sentenced prisoners from voting
- increasing the size of the Electoral Commission Board from 3 to up to 7 members
- increasing the disclosure threshold for party donations from \$5,000 to \$6,000
- extending the timeframe for disclosing large donations from 10 to 20 working days in election years
- changes to deadlines for candidate nominations and party registrations
- changes to promoter statement requirements for election advertising
- changes to the Constitution Act 1986 to ensure continuity of executive government in the event of a delay to the return of the writ
- strengthening the rules around 'treating'
- making it an offence to use incentives to influence a person's electoral roll choice
- no longer sending voting papers to overseas voters by post from New Zealand or returning voting papers to New Zealand by post.

2.6. Prisoner voting

The rules about who can enrol and vote from prison have changed. People who are on remand can enrol and vote.

People serving a prison sentence of less than 3 years can enrol and vote if the offences a person was sentenced for occurred before 20 December 2025.

Anyone else serving a prison sentence cannot enrol and vote while they're in prison. They can enrol and vote once they've been released.



3. Venue and resources

Many venues, and a large volume of materials, equipment and technology are required to support delivery of enrolment and voting services for the general election.

3.1. Selecting voting places

The Commission seeks to use voting places that are easy for voters to access, are reasonably priced, safe and politically neutral.

The Commission seeks feedback from registered political parties on the proposed locations of voting places before confirming the final list of advance and election day voting places.

3.2. Voting place equipment

In preparation for the general election, the Commission will distribute materials to each of the advance and election day voting places. This includes:

- 14,695 voting screens
- 22,272 ballot boxes
- Over 2,700 voting places
- 24,000 electoral rolls

The Commission will oversee printing and distribution of 6,056,500 ordinary and 3,641,000 special vote voting papers from the close of nominations on Thursday 8 October, to the start of advance voting on Monday 26 October.

3.3. Whare pōti Māori

The Commission will engage with local communities to establish Whare pōti Māori voting places in venues familiar to local voters such as marae and kura.

Anyone can vote at a Whare pōti Māori voting place. Voting services will be provided in both te reo Māori and English.

3.4. Electorate headquarters

Electorate Managers establish temporary electorate headquarters in each electorate to support the distribution and return of supplies and equipment.

3.5. Election systems

The delivery of an election relies on several critical technology assets including software used for payroll, recruitment, finance, and custom-developed software used for election management and enrolment activities.

The Commission's Election Management System (EMS) is the primary system used to support the administrative processes necessary to deliver an election.

The Commission also maintains an enrolment system to manage the integrity of the electoral roll. These systems are critical to produce enrolment update and EasyVote letters, printed electoral rolls, ballot papers and to qualify special votes.

3.6. Enrolment processing centres

From late July, the Commission will bring on an additional 200 enrolment staff to help process new enrolments and update voters' enrolment details received by mail or our digital channels.

3.7. Community information and education

The Commission's Strategic Engagement and Partnership team will work with other government agencies, community groups and local networks to share information and resources about the Māori Electoral Option and enrolling and voting in the 2026 General Election.



4. Election workforce

Voting services are delivered under a regionally managed model, with locally employed temporary election workers responsible for providing election services in each electorate. For 2026, the Commission expects to receive about 50,000 applications to employ 22,000 staff for 28,000 temporary roles.

4.1. Recruitment

Our workforce strategy is to ensure the Commission attracts the right number of staff with the appropriate skills and experience needed to effectively deliver the general election. Our workforce will reflect, work in and be trusted by their local communities.

4.2. Contingent workforce

The Commission plans for potential recruitment shortfalls and other events that may impact on the availability of people to work in the election.





5. Enrolment activities

This year voters need to be enrolled before voting starts. People cannot enrol and vote at the same time.

Electoral rolls are printed to provide a list of voters who are enrolled as at writ day, Sunday 4 October and sent to voting places.

The names and addresses of all voters who enrol or update their details after writ day and by the close of enrolment on Sunday 25 October, are added to the master used to qualify special votes during the official count.

Unpublished electoral roll

Anyone who is concerned about their personal safety, or that of their family, can apply to go on the confidential unpublished roll.

Details of people on the unpublished roll will not be included on printed electoral rolls at voting places. Voters on the unpublished roll will need to make a special vote.

Dormant roll

Anyone who has moved addresses and hasn't updated their enrolment details may be placed on the dormant roll if we haven't been able to reach them at their registered address. They will need to update their address with us to be added back to the main roll. Going on the dormant roll does not affect a voter's roll type (Māori or general).

People on the dormant roll are still eligible to vote but won't appear on the printed roll at voting places. This means they will have to make a special vote. If their new address is in a different electorate to their old address, it may also mean that only their party vote will count.

Eligibility to enrol and vote

You're eligible to enrol and vote if you are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or resident for electoral purposes, and you've lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

You're a resident for electoral purposes if you're living in New Zealand lawfully and you're not required to leave within a specified time.

17 year olds that will turn 18 on or before election day are eligible to enrol and will be automatically added to the electoral roll when they turn 18 if they apply before the 25 October enrolment deadline.

5.1. Enrolling or updating details

Voters can enrol or update their details online at vote.nz using a New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

Voters can free call 0800 36 76 56 or free text their name and address to 3676 to have an enrolment form sent to them.

5.2. Māori Electoral Option

The Māori Electoral Option is the choice for Māori of which electoral roll to be on: Māori roll or general roll.

The choice affects which candidates Māori can vote for in parliamentary elections and local elections. The choice also helps determine the number of Māori and general electorates.

For the 2026 General Election, the last chance to change rolls is midnight, 6 August.

Māori enrolling for the first time can choose what roll to be on until the close of enrolment on 25 October.

5.3. Enrolment strategy

The Commission has developed an enrolment strategy to respond to the earlier close of the electoral roll at midnight Sunday 25 October.

The four objectives of the strategy are to ensure:

- voters are aware of the changes in advance and know what to do to ensure they are eligible to vote
- potential for confusion and misunderstanding at voting places is mitigated
- public and other stakeholders are reassured that they will continue to have access to the information and facilities they need to vote
- systems and processes are robust and ready to manage anticipated changes in voter behaviour.

A summary of the enrolment strategy is attached as Appendix 1.



6. Candidates and parties

For the general election, the Commission works closely with political party secretaries and electorate candidates to facilitate the nominations process and support compliance with legislative obligations.

6.1. Political party registration

The Commission is responsible for registering political parties and logos. The Commission provides guidance and supports parties with the application process to ensure they meet the legal requirements for registration.

The Commission maintains a public register of political parties at elections.nz

6.2. Third party promoters

Anyone who publishes advertising about a candidate, party or election issue, but who is not a candidate or party themselves, is a third party promoter.

Third party promoters are required to register with the Commission if they spend, or intend to spend, over \$17,000 incl. GST on election advertising during the regulated period for the general election.

The Commission maintains a list of registered third party promoters and publishes expense returns on its website at elections.nz

6.3. Broadcasting allocation

The Commission is required to allocate money appropriated by Parliament to enable registered political parties to broadcast election programmes and publish election advertising, free of charge, during the election period for a general election.

The amount of money appropriated by Parliament for political party broadcasting election programmes and election advertising for the 2026 General Election is \$3,605,000 plus GST (\$4,145,750 incl. GST).

6.4. Candidate engagement and support

The Commission provides advice on request to candidates, parties, and others in the run-up to the election on the election advertising rules. This includes providing advisory opinions on whether an advertisement is an election advertisement for the purposes of the Electoral Act. Our opinions are our interpretation of the Act and are not legal advice.

6.5. Scrutineers

Scrutineers play an important role in providing independent assurance to voters that elections are being conducted fairly. Scrutineers are appointed by candidates and play an important role in maintaining the integrity of the electoral system.

6.6. Nominations

Candidate nominations for the general election are open from Monday 7 September to noon Thursday 8 October. After nominations close, we'll publish the names of all candidates and their parties (or independents) for the election and party lists on vote.nz

6.7. Candidate returns

After a general election, all candidates are required to file a return of donations, expenses and loans. Candidate returns for the general election are due Tuesday 9 March 2027. The Commission provides guidance and templates to candidates to support their compliance and publishes returns on its website at elections.nz

6.8. Election Access Fund - Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga

The Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga — Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga supports disabled people to stand as candidates in parliamentary general elections and by-elections. It is open to eligible candidates for the general election.

The Commission supports candidates through the application process and facilitates an independent panel to review the applications.





7. Voting period

7.1. Voting paper generation and quality assurance

Voting papers are produced for every general election and care is taken at each step along the way to keep them secure and protect the secrecy of votes.

The candidates that will stand in the election are confirmed about a month out from election day. Voting papers are then printed for each electorate listing the candidates and parties people can vote for.

7.2. Advance voting

Advance voting will be open from Monday 26 October until Friday 6 November. The days and hours advance voting places are open vary. Locations and opening hours of advance voting places will be available at vote.nz or by calling free on 0800 36 76 56 from 2 October.

7.3. Election day voting

Voting on election day, Saturday 7 November, will be available from 9am to 7pm. This includes telephone dictation voting. There will be more than 2,300 voting places open on election day. Locations and opening hours will be available at vote.nz or by calling free on 0800 36 76 56. A searchable map is available at vote.nz to help voters find their nearest voting place.

7.4. Voting services for people who can't get to a voting place

Anyone who is unable to vote in person can ask someone to bring them their voting papers or apply for voting papers to be sent to them in the post.

If there's no one who can collect voting papers on someone's behalf, the Commission may be able to deliver them.

7.5. Overseas voting services

The Commission also provides voting services to New Zealanders who are living, working or travelling overseas.

To vote from overseas, voters must be enrolled by midnight, Sunday 25 October (NZ time). Voters who are overseas can vote from Wednesday 21 October until 7pm, Saturday 7 November (NZ time).

7.6. Remote voting services

Information about our remote voting services is sent to agencies that may have personnel in remote locations such as the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In many cases, personnel who will be in a remote location can vote in advance or use overseas voting services. If these are not accessible, voters can apply to vote using our remote voting services.

Overseas voting places are not open on 7 November. Overseas voting place opening hours and locations will be available on vote.nz

7.7. Voters can get help to read or mark their voting papers

A friend, whānau member, or someone working at the voting place can help a voter to read or mark their voting paper. They can't tell a voter who they should vote for.

7.8. Accessible voting services

The Commission is committed to accessibility, inclusion, and reducing barriers for Deaf and disabled people taking part in elections.

Access 2026: Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election lists the accessible services available to support Deaf and disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and tāngata Turi, and their whānau, carers and communities to take part in the 2026 General Election.

Access 2026 is available to download at elections.nz/access2026

7.9. Telephone dictation voting

A voter who is blind, partially blind or has a physical disability that means they can't mark their voting paper without help can vote using the telephone dictation service. Eligible voters need to register to use this service even if they've used it at previous elections.

Voting with the telephone dictation service opens on Wednesday 21 October and will close at 7pm (NZT) on election day, Saturday 7 November 2026.

7.10. EasyVote

EasyVote cards will be sent to everyone who is correctly enrolled to vote by 4 October. EasyVote information will include a personalised EasyVote card, which makes voting quicker and easier, and a list of the candidates for their electorate. People can vote without an EasyVote card.

This year, the Commission will be sending EasyVote cards via email where voters have provided us with an email address.



8. Post election activities

8.1. Preliminary count

Preliminary counts of ordinary votes will be released progressively on election night from 7pm at electionresults.govt.nz

Most election night counts take place at voting places after they have closed. It is expected that results for 50% of all ordinary votes will be released by 10pm, 80% by 11pm, 90% by 11:30pm and 95% will be released by midnight on election day.

Preliminary results on election night will be published online as they come in on electionresults.govt.nz and a separate media feed.

8.2. Scrutiny of the rolls

The scrutiny of the rolls, and the names of voters removed from the rolls after writ day, identifies which votes have to be removed from the official count. This includes where the:

- vote was cast before election day and the voter has died
- voter was not eligible to vote in the election
- voter has voted more than once (dual votes). Where a voter appears to have voted more than once, their votes are not included in the official count and people who vote more than once may be referred to Police.

8.3. Processing and checking special votes

After election day, special votes are processed. To process a special vote, we must:

- check the declaration has been correctly completed by the voter and witnessed
- check the special voter's enrolment to confirm they are qualified to vote.

8.4. Official count

As with the preliminary count, the official count is conducted by hand. We do not use vote counting machines. The official count involves counting ordinary votes again and counting special votes. Integrity checks are carried out by the Commission to identify any errors.

8.5. Declaration of official results

When the official count is final, the Chief Electoral Officer declares the official election results by publishing a notice in the New Zealand Gazette.

Official results for the general election will be published on electionresults.govt.nz, a media release summarising the results will be sent and the Chief Electoral Officer will hold a media conference.

8.6. Return of the writ

The writ is a formal written direction for an election to be held. The 2026 General Election writ will be issued on writ day, 4 October. After any recounts, the Commission will print the names of successful electorate candidates on the writ before it is returned to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. It will then allocate list seats in the presence of any party scrutineers and declare by Gazette Notice the election of list members of Parliament.

8.7. Secure storage and destruction of voting papers

After the official count, the voting papers are sealed in envelopes and put in boxes closed with tamper-proof seals.

The Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives arranges for the boxes to be held in secure storage for six months after the election in case the voting papers are needed for a legal challenge. After this date they are securely destroyed.





9. Communication, education and information

The Commission is committed to ensuring all voters have the information they need to take part in the 2026 General Election. We deliver a broad range of activities to raise awareness of how to enrol and vote and to support voters to participate.

9.1. Public information programme (communication campaign)

The Commission's public information programme is the information and advertising that we provide for New Zealanders about the 2026 General Election.

Key parts of the programme are to provide New Zealanders information on:

- the Māori Electoral Option
- recruitment
- inaccurate information about how to enrol and vote
- enrolling
- voting.

Our primary goal is to effectively inform all eligible voters about the 2026 General Election, with a particular emphasis on fostering understanding and providing clarity on processes that have changed since the previous general election.

The public information programme delivers information across multiple channels including advertising, social media, stakeholder, media and community engagement.

9.2. Media

The Commission will provide media briefings in March and August focussing on enrolment and election delivery, along with proactive media releases to support the key phases of the public information and education campaign.

9.3. Social media

The Commission has official social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube and shares organic and paid content about the general election regularly.

We actively review and moderate all activity and comments in line with our social media terms of use. We respond to public enquiries and point people to our other sources of information as appropriate.

9.4. Websites

The Commission's websites vote.nz, elections.nz, and electionresults.govt.nz are the primary sources of information about the general election. All advertising, collateral and digital resources about enrolling and voting will direct people to vote.nz.

A new section on vote.nz will provide high-level updates on tasks completed during the post-election period for the official count, adding another layer of transparency to the results.

Elections.nz provides information on our democratic process, including how MMP works, donation returns from parties, party news and media releases, and statistics about enrolling and voting.

Preliminary and official results will be published at electionresults.govt.nz.

9.5. Customer enquiries - 0800 services

The Commission's 0800 service is a free service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer public enquiries. Enquiries that cannot be answered at the 0800 service are escalated to the Commission's customer services team.

9.6. Alternate format resources

Information about the general election, enrolling, voting and for the Māori Electoral Option is available in alternate formats so it is accessible to Deaf and disabled people.

Information for those with vision impairments is available in large print, Braille and audio formats via the Blind Low Vision NZ's Telephone Information Service.

Easy Read guides for the general election and Māori Electoral Option are also available.

New Zealand Sign Language videos are available on vote.nz and the Commission's YouTube channel.

9.7. Resources for communities to share

We will produce a range of physical and digital resources about enrolling and voting. Materials will be produced in English, te reo Māori, and 29 other languages and will point to vote.nz for more information.

9.8. Inaccurate information

One of the Commission's roles is to ensure that voters have clear information about the conduct of the election, including how people enrol and vote. If inaccurate information appears on these matters, the Commission will seek to correct it.

We have a [Facts About New Zealand Elections](#) page on vote.nz where we can address incorrect information that might be circulating about enrolling and voting.

The Commission is also delivering specific messages to remind people to slow down and check the information they have in front of them. This activity will direct people to vote.nz so they can get election facts straight from a trusted source.

9.9. Kids Voting

Kids Voting – Te Pōti a Ngā Tamariki is the Commission's civics and citizenship education programme. The programme is delivered during the general election year to support teachers and students to understand and engage with the real electoral process happening around them.

The programme is available for all students from Year 0 to Year 13 and is a fun, free and easy way for students to learn about New Zealand's democracy and how to exercise their right to vote.

Teaching resources help teachers to build their students' understanding how voting works and encourage them to take part in a mock election. Resources align with the New Zealand Social Sciences Curriculum and level 5 of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.



10. Election Integrity

10.1. Justices of the Peace

Independent Justices of the Peace are present during the official count, which takes place after election day. During the official count, certificates of results are signed by Electorate Managers, and witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, to declare that results are complete and final.

10.2. Election protocols

The general election protocols set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the Electoral Commission and government agencies for the delivery and support of the General Election.

The inter-agency protocols for the 2026 General Election are published online and available here: elections.nz/guidance-and-rules/election-protocols/

10.3. Evaluation of election services

After each general election, the Commission conducts a survey of voters and non-voters.

The survey aims to:

- measure voter satisfaction and confidence in the electoral system
- determine levels of understanding of the voting process
- identify barriers to voting.

The report focuses on the survey results at a total population level, as well as for those groups with historically lower levels of engagement with the voting process – including Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian peoples, young people (18-29), disabled people and non-voters.

Where possible the report will compare 2026 results with those from the 2023 and 2020 General Elections.

10.4. Post-election reporting

Within six months of the return of the writ for the general election, the Commission must present its statutory report on the general election to Parliament to support the Justice Committee Inquiry into the 2026 General Election. The report will recommend legislation and other changes to help ensure trust and confidence in New Zealand's general elections is maintained.

2026 General Election enrolment strategy

Enrolment has changed for the 2026 General Election

This year you need to be enrolled before voting starts.

- ✓ The Electoral Commission is committed to giving people trusted and timely information and making it easy for people to enrol and update their details.
- ✓ Our enrolment strategy sets out how we will ensure that New Zealanders will have enrolled or updated their details by **midnight 25 October**, so they are ready to vote.

? What people need to know to vote this year

4 October: Enrol by this date and get an EasyVote card to make voting faster and easier

25 October: Enrol before midnight to be able to vote in the 2026 General Election

26 October: Advance voting opens

7 November: Election day



What we want to achieve

94.7%

enrolment rate ahead of
voting starting on 26 October



Enable more people to cast
an ordinary vote by enrolling
before 4 October



What are we doing

We'll use a wide range of ways to let people know when and how to enrol including greater use of emails and texts. We will use radio, television and related streaming services, social media, as well as meeting people face to face in communities.

We're also making sure we're using innovative new ways to reach communities with lower enrolment rates.

Our key activities are:

- ✉ 3.6 million letters delivered to enrolled voters
- ✉ 2 million emails and 785,000 text reminders to voters to check or update their details
- 👥 \$689,483 granted to 37 community groups and organisations to promote enrolment at a local level
- 🚚 Mobile enrolment hubs in regional and rural locations
- 📍 Up to 10 enrolment hubs in high traffic areas in urban centres
- 📡 Nationwide public information and education programme
- 👤 Face-to-face community engagement
- 🎓 A youth focussed set of activities, including in schools and tertiary providers
- 🏠 Multiple ways to enrol including online, by paper and through community events

Everyone can play a role in promoting enrolment by 25 October 2026.

Resources providing information on enrolling and voting are available for communities, candidates and parties to share.

Check **vote.nz** to download or order resources. People can enrol or check their details at **vote.nz** or call freephone **0800 36 76 56**.



