



Access 2026

Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election

Summary



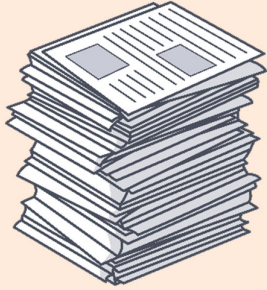
Developed with input from
People First New Zealand, Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



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Before you start



This is a long document.

It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



You might want to read only the parts that are important to you.



Some other things you can do to make it easier are:

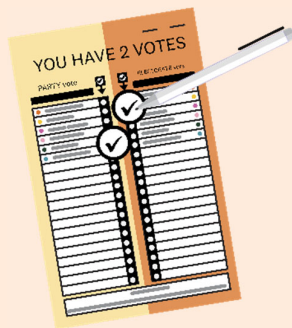
- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is by the
Electoral Commission.

One thing that the
Electoral Commission does is
run **general elections.**



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

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

When you **vote** you get to have your
say about who you think should win
the election.

About this Easy Read



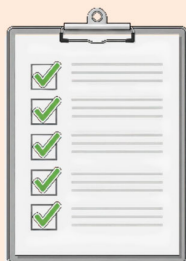
This Easy Read is a **summary** of
**Access 2026: Accessibility Action Plan
for the 2026 General Election.**

In this document Access 2026: Accessibility
Action Plan for the 2026 General Election
will be called **Access 2026.**



A **summary:**

- is shorter than the main document
- tells you the important ideas.



Access 2026 has:

- 5 focus areas with actions
- 20 **actions.**



Actions are the things Access 2026
says will be done.

About this Easy Read



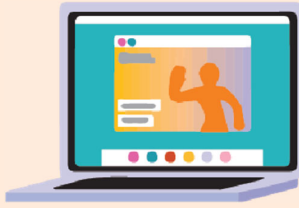
Access 2026 has information about what is being done to make the 2026 General Election **accessible** to:

- Deaf people
- disabled people
- tāngata Turi / Māori Deaf people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- people who support disabled people like:
 - whānau / families
 - carers
 - communities.



Accessible is when things can be used by everyone including disabled people.

About this Easy Read



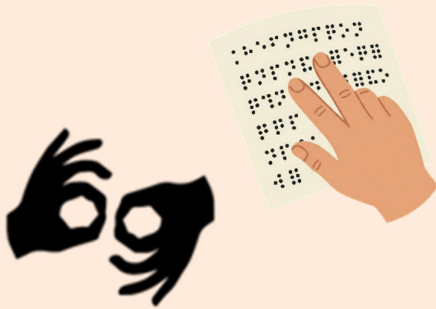
The full Access 2026 document is available at this website:

elections.nz/Access2026



A summary of Access 2026 has been made in five **alternate formats**:

- audio
- Braille
- Easy Read
- large print
- New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL.



Alternate formats are different ways to communicate information to people.



The full Access 2026 plan is **not** in Easy Read.

About the 2026 General Election



There is a general election in 2026.



To vote in the 2026 General Election you need to be enrolled by:

midnight on Sunday 25 October.



Voting in the General Election starts on:

Monday 26 October.



Voting closes on election day at:

7pm on Saturday 7 November.



You can find Easy Read information about the 2026 General Election in a document called:

Get ready to enrol and vote in the 2026 General Election.

You can find the Easy Read guide at this website:

vote.nz/accessible-2026

Area 1: Staffing the election



This area is about the actions to:

- hire people to work at the election
- train people to work at the election.

There are **2 actions** in this area.



Action 1: Recruit the temporary election workforce.

The Electoral Commission will hire over 20 thousand people to work at the election.

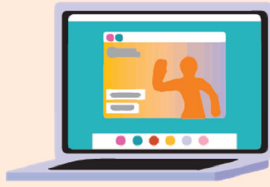
The **workforce** are all the people who work in the same kind of job.



These jobs are temporary which mean they only last for a short time.

Anyone can apply for these jobs.

Area 1: Staffing the election



The jobs are listed at this website:

work.elections.nz



The jobs are listed between:

July and **October 2026**.



Action 2: Provide accessible training to the temporary election workforce.

The Electoral Commission will do accessible training for people who work at the election during 2026.

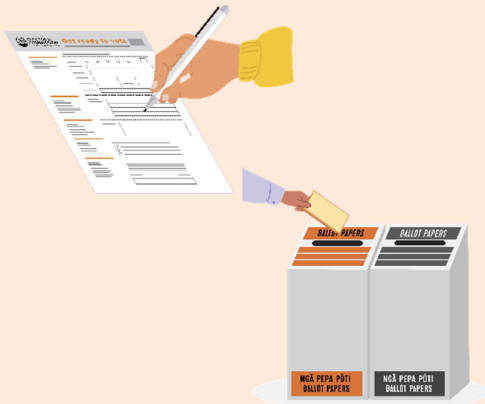
Area 2: Understanding the election



This area is about the actions to provide information about the election to:

- Deaf people
- disabled people.

There are **5 actions** in this area.



Action 1: Provide accessible information.

This action is about making sure everyone knows how to:

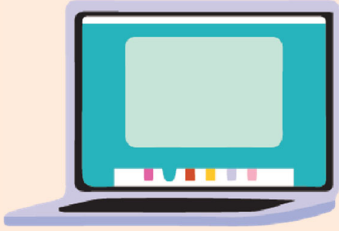
- enrol to vote
- vote in the 2026 General Election.



This will be done through advertising on:

- television / TV
- social media like Facebook
- posters you can see on the street.

Area 2: Understanding the election



Action 2: Provide accessible digital information.

Digital means on the:

- computer
- internet.



Information will be shared on 2 websites:

- **vote.nz**
- **elections.nz**



Information will be shared on 4 social media places:

- **Facebook**
- **Instagram**
- **LinkedIn**
- **YouTube.**

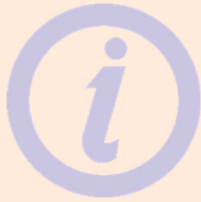
Area 2: Understanding the election



Action 3: Meet with disabled people.

The Electoral Commission will meet with:

- Deaf people
- disabled people
- disability organisations.



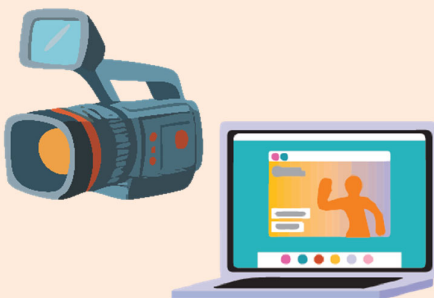
The Electoral Commission will give Deaf and disabled communities information about the 2026 General Election.



Action 4: Have New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL interpreters at media events.

The Electoral Commission sometimes hold events for journalists to ask questions about the election.

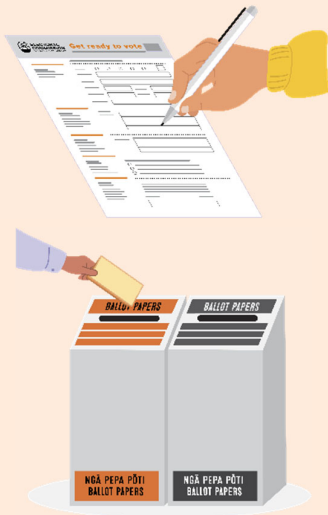
NZSL interpreters will be at these events.



These events are recorded.

You can watch the recordings at this website:
elections.nz

Area 2: Understanding the election



Action 5: Provide information in alternate formats.

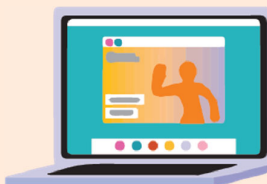
The Electoral Commission will have information in alternate formats about:

- enrolling
- voting
- the 2026 General Election.



This information will be available in:

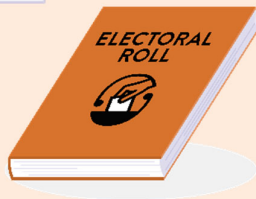
- English
- te reo Māori / the Māori language.



You can find this information at this website:

vote.nz/accessible-2026

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



This area is about the actions to support:

- Deaf and disabled people to enrol to vote
- tāngata Turi and tāngata whaikaha Māori to choose their electoral roll.

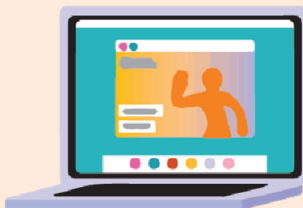
There are **5 actions** in this area.



Action 1: Provide accessible options to enrol.

The Electoral Commission has options to support people to:

- enrol
- update their enrolment details.



Option 1: Large print enrolment form.

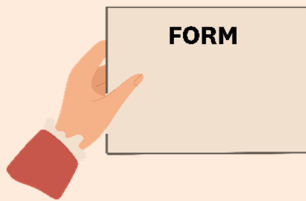
A large print enrolment form can be downloaded from this website:

vote.nz



You can complete the form with your personal details and sign it before sending it back to the Electoral Commission.

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



Option 2: Get support to fill in your form.

You can ask someone to support you to fill in your enrolment form like a:

- friend
- family member.

You must sign the enrolment form before sending it back to the Electoral Commission.



Option 3: Act on behalf of someone.

Act on behalf means a person does something for someone else like fill in a form.



Someone can fill in your enrolment form if you have a:

- physical impairment
- mental impairment.

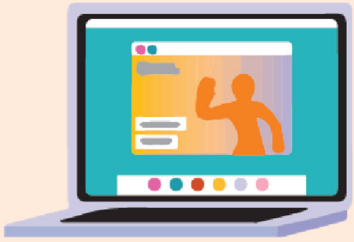
The person acting on your behalf must fill in:

- your enrolment form
- an extra form with their details.



They must sign the forms and send them back to the Electoral Commission.

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



If you use one of these options to enrol you can send back your filled in enrolments form/s by:

- uploading to this website:

vote.nz/upload

- emailing this email address:

enrol@vote.nz

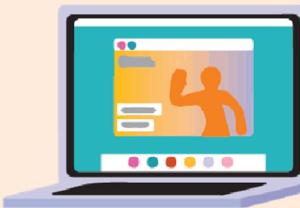
- posting to:

Electoral Commission

FREEPOST 2 ENROL

PO Box 190

Wellington 6140.



You can find more information about these enrolment options at this website:

vote.nz/need-help-to-enrol

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



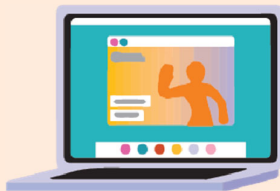
Action 2: Provide support to people who are homeless.

The Electoral Commission is working with:

- city missions
- shelters
- other organisations that support people who are homeless.

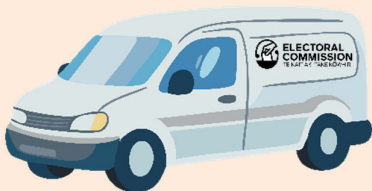


This work supports people who are homeless to enrol.



If you are experiencing homelessness you can find information about enrolling at this website:

vote.nz



Action 3: Provide accessible support at mobile enrolment pop-ups.

A **mobile pop up** is a place that:

- runs for a short time
- moves around.

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



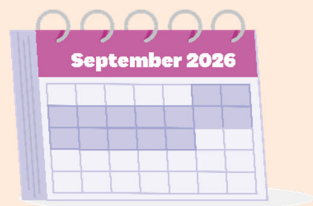
Pop-ups are happening at places like:

- libraries
- community events.



Teams are travelling around New Zealand until October 2026 to:

- support communities to enrol
- check enrolment details.



Action 4: Provide accessible enrolment support at enrolment hubs.

Enrolment hubs will be set up in busy shopping malls in cities around New Zealand in:

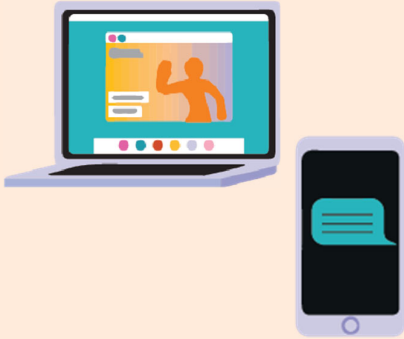
- September 2026
- October 2026.



An **enrolment hub** is where you can go to get accessible:

- support to enrol
- information about the election.

Area 3: Enrolling to vote



You can find information about where the **mobile enrolment pop-ups** and **enrolment hubs** will be on:

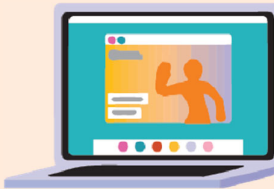
- our website: **vote.nz**
- social media like **Facebook**.



Action 5: Accessible ways of reminding people to check their enrolment.

The Electoral Commission will send reminders about enrolment to some people during 2026 by accessible:

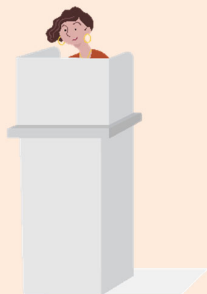
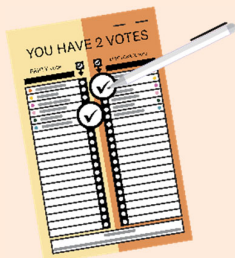
- emails
- texts.



You can find more information at this website:

vote.nz

Area 4: Voting in the election



This focus area is about supporting Deaf and disabled people to vote in the 2026 General Election.

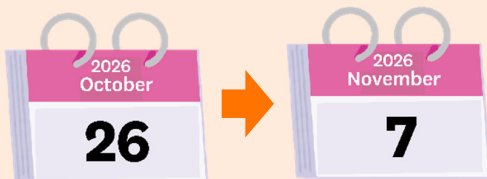
There are **7 actions** in this area.



Action 1: Provide accessible voting places.

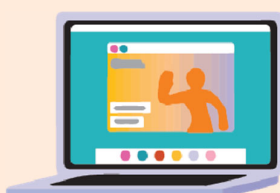
The place where you vote during the election might be at a:

- school
- community centre.



You can vote:

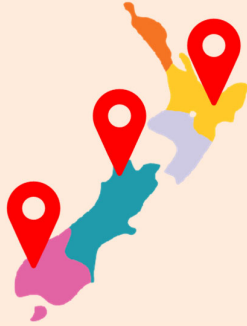
- from **Monday 26 October**
- to **7pm** on **Saturday 7 November**.



A list of all voting places in your community will be put out 1 month before election day at this website:

vote.nz

Area 4: Voting in the election



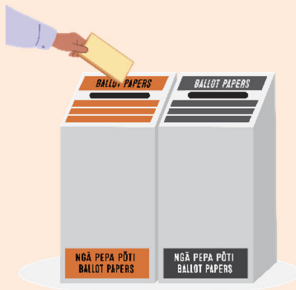
There will be an **interactive map** on this website that will support you to:

- find your nearest voting place
- check if it is accessible for you.



An **interactive map** is a map that you can:

- click around on
- zoom in and out on
- type in information like your address to find a nearby voting place.



Action 2: Provide accessible ways of voting for people who cannot go to a voting place.

The Electoral Commission has options to support people to vote.

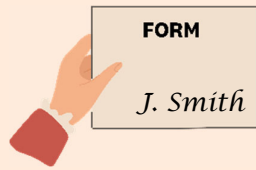


Option 1: Someone gets your voting papers for you.

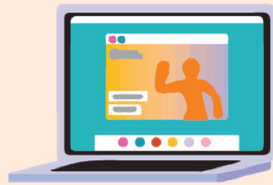
Someone can pick up your voting papers from a voting place for you.

This person can also take your voting papers back to the voting place after you have voted.

Area 4: Voting in the election



You will need to fill in a form for this to happen.



This form will be available closer to the election at this website:

vote.nz

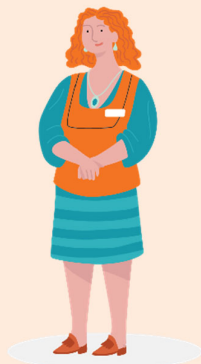


Option 2: Voting teams.

Voting teams will visit people in:

- care homes
- hospitals.

These voting services will be organised by **Electorate Managers**.



An **Electorate Manager** is:

- someone who works for the Electoral Commission
- in charge of doing voting services in their area.

Area 4: Voting in the election



Action 3: Provide voting services by telephone dictation.

Telephone dictation is a way of voting over the phone for people who:

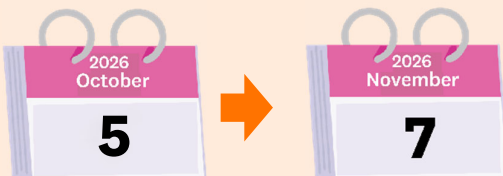
- are blind
- have low vision
- need support to mark their voting papers because of a physical disability.



Voting by telephone dictation is:

- secure
- private.

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



You can sign up to use the telephone dictation service:

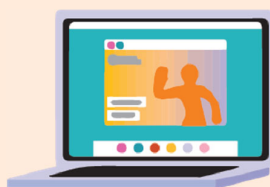
- from **Monday 5 October**
- to **12pm on Saturday 7 November.**

Area 4: Voting in the election



You can sign up to the telephone dictation service by:

- calling **0800 028 028** and choosing **option 1**
- emailing **dictation@vote.nz**



You can find more information about the telephone dictation services at this website:

vote.nz/dictation



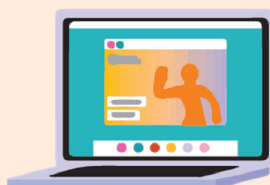
Action 4: Support whare pōti Māori to be accessible voting places.

Whare pōti Māori are voting places set up in familiar places for Māori like marae.



Whare pōti Māori will be welcoming places for:

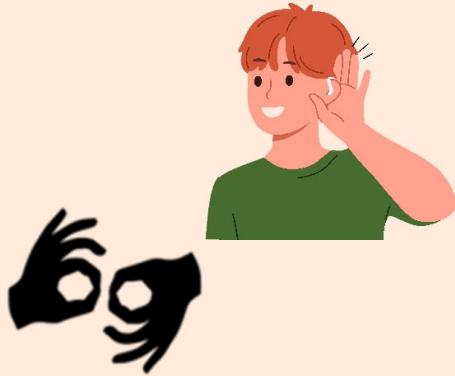
- tāngata Turi / Māori Deaf people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people.



A list of whare pōti Māori locations will be put up 1 month before election day at this website:

vote.nz

Area 4: Voting in the election

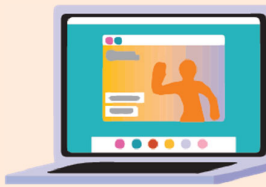


Action 5: Provide voting places that support Deaf people.

Some voting places will have New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL interpreters.

A list of voting places with NZSL interpreters will be available 1 month before election day at this website:

vote.nz



Action 6: Provide quiet voting places to support neurodivergent voters.

Neurodivergent people have brains that process information and work differently to other brains.



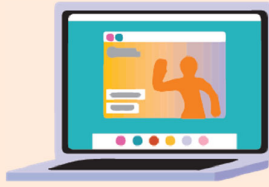
Quiet voting places will be **low sensory environments** for people to vote in.



Low sensory environments means that a place has:

- not much noise
- the lights turned down low
- not many people in it.

Area 4: Voting in the election



A list of quiet voting place locations will be put up 1 month before election day at this website:

vote.nz



Action 7: Provide the EasyVote card by accessible email.

People who have enrolled by **4 October 2026** will get an **EasyVote card**.



An **EasyVote card**:

- has your details on it
- makes it faster and easier for staff at a voting place to give you your voting papers.



You do not need an EasyVote card to vote.

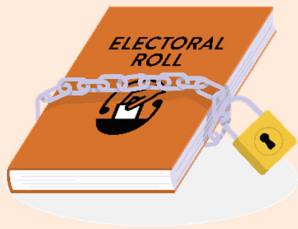


EasyVote cards will be sent by accessible email to people who gave their email address when they enrolled.

Area 4: Voting in the election



People who only gave their postal address when they enrolled will get their EasyVote card in the post.



Voters who are on the **unpublished roll** will get a voting slip in the post.

The **unpublished roll** is private. Nobody can see your personal details.

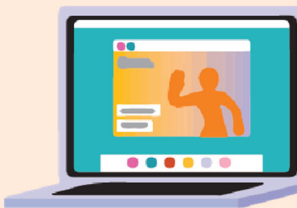


The voting slip for people on the unpublished roll works like an EasyVote card.



Voters will get their EasyVote card:

- from the middle of October 2026
- before voting starts.



You can find more information about getting your EasyVote card by email at this website:

vote.nz

Area 5: Supporting election candidates



This focus area is about supporting **candidates** in the 2026 General Election who are:

- Deaf
- disabled.

There is **1 action** in this area.



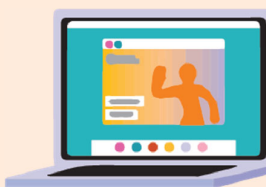
The people you can vote for in an election are called **candidates**.

A candidate represents the area where you live. This is called an **electorate**.



Action 1: Provide the Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga.

The Election Access Fund gives disabled candidates money to support them to run in the 2026 General Election.



There is more information about the Election Access Fund in Easy Read at this website:

elections.nz



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