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Access 2026: Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election

Summary

Adapted in 2026 by Accessible Formats Service, Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

Transcriber's Note: The logo at the top of the page is Electoral Commission — Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri.

Access 2026: Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election

Summary

There is a General Election in 2026. Election day is **Saturday 7 November 2026.**

Access 2026 is an action plan that outlines the things being done to make the 2026 General Election accessible to Deaf and disabled people, tāngata Turi, tāngata whaikaha Māori, and their whānau, carers and communities.

It has information on the accessible services available to support people to take part in the 2026 General Election.

The Access 2026 action plan has 5 **areas for action** and 20 **actions** overall. The **areas for action** relate to a different part of the election process.

This large print document is a summary of Access 2026 and will look at the 5 areas for action and the actions.

If you want to know more about each action you can find the full Access 2026 plan on elections.nz/Access2026

You can also find Access 2026 in other accessible formats on elections.nz/Access2026

You can ask a family member, friend or support person to read the full Access 2026 plan with you.

Access 2026 has been written by the Electoral Commission | Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri.

The Electoral Commission runs New Zealand's parliamentary elections and keeps the electoral rolls up to date.

About the 2026 General Election

A **general election** is when you can vote for the people and parties who you want to represent you in Parliament.

To vote in the 2026 General Election, you will need to be enrolled by **midnight, Sunday 25 October 2026**.

You can vote from **Monday 26 October 2026** through to **7pm** on election day, **Saturday 7 November 2026**.

You can find information on enrolling and voting in accessible formats on vote.nz/accessible-2026

Area 1: Staffing the election

This area focuses on actions to hire and train people to work at the 2026 General Election.

There are 2 actions in this area.

Action 1: Recruit the temporary election workforce for the 2026 General Election.

The Commission hires over 20,000 people to fill 28,000 roles to deliver the election. Anyone can apply for these jobs.

Jobs are listed on work.elections.nz from July to October 2026.

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

The Commission trains the people who work at the election.

This training is done throughout 2026 up to election day on 7 November 2026.

Area 2: Understanding the election

This area focuses on actions to provide Deaf and disabled people information about enrolling, voting and the 2026 General Election.

There are 5 actions in this area.

Action 3: Provide accessible and inclusive advertising and public information campaigns in 2026.

The campaigns give people information about how to enrol and vote in the 2026 General Election.

The information is shared on TV, social media and posters on the street.

The advertising is published in the months before election day on 7 November 2026.

Action 4: Provide accessible information on the Commission's digital channels.

Accessible information is shared on 2 websites: vote.nz and elections.nz and 4 social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Action 5: Engage with Deaf and disabled people and disability organisations about the upcoming election.

The Commission meets with the Deaf and disabled community around the country to provide information and resources about the 2026 General Election.

This will happen throughout 2026.

Action 6: Provide New Zealand Sign Language interpreters at media conferences during election year.

The Commission sometimes holds events for journalists to ask questions about the 2026 General Election. New Zealand Sign Language interpreters will be at these events.

They are not public events to attend, but they are recorded and published on elections.nz for people to watch later.

Action 7: Provide updated alternate format resources on enrolling, voting and the 2026 General Election.

The Commission produces alternate format resources on enrolling, voting, the Māori Electoral Option and the 2026 General Election.

This information is available in English and te reo Māori (the Māori language).

Alternate format information can be downloaded or watched on vote.nz/accessible-2026

Area 3: Enrolling to vote

This area covers actions to support:

- Deaf and disabled people to enrol to vote

- Tāngata Turi and tāngata whaikaha Māori make their roll choice for the Māori Electoral Option.

There are 5 actions in this area.

Action 8: Provide accessible options for people who need support to enrol or update their enrolment details.

If you can't enrol or update your details online on vote.nz/enrol, there are always other accessible options available.

Deaf and disabled people, and people who are unwell, can access these enrolment options.

1. Fill in an accessible enrolment form

A large print enrolment form can be downloaded from vote.nz/enrolment-information-in-accessible-formats, completed and returned by:

- uploading it to vote.nz/upload
- emailing it to enrol@vote.nz
- posting it to: **Electoral Commission, FREEPOST 2 ENROL, PO Box 190, Wellington 6140.**

2. Someone can support you to complete your form

You can ask someone, such as a friend or family member, to support you to complete an enrolment form or to complete the form for you.

You will still need to sign the form before returning it to the Commission.

More information on this option can be found on vote.nz/need-help-to-enrol

3. Act on behalf of someone

If someone can't complete an enrolment form because of a physical or mental impairment, they can give permission for someone to act on their behalf.

The person acting on behalf must complete and sign:

- an enrolment form for the person enrolling
- a 'Signing on behalf' form that includes their details.

Once the forms are completed, they can be returned to the Commission to process.

Download the forms and find more information on vote.nz/need-help-to-enrol

Action 9: Provide enrolment and other election services to those experiencing homelessness.

The Commission has ongoing partnerships with city missions, shelters and other organisations to provide enrolment services to those experiencing homelessness.

More information on enrolling to vote if you're experiencing homelessness can be found on vote.nz/are-you-eligible-to-enrol-and-vote

Action 10: Provide accessible enrolment options and support at mobile enrolment pop-ups.

Mobile enrolment teams are travelling around New Zealand between April and October 2026 to support communities to enrol and check their enrolment details.

The locations of the pop-ups are updated weekly on vote.nz/enrolment-in-your-community and the Commission's social media channels.

Action 11: Provide accessible enrolment options and support at enrolment hubs.

Enrolment hubs will be set up in different cities across New Zealand in September and October 2026 to support people

to enrol and get information about the 2026 General Election.

Details on the enrolment hub locations will be shared on vote.nz and on social media closer to the time.

Action 12: Send accessible email and text messages to prompt people enrolled to vote to check or update their details.

The Commission will send emails and texts to some people during 2026 to remind them to check and update their enrolment details.

More information about these communications can be found on vote.nz/communications-from-the-electoral-commission

Area 4: Voting in the election

This area covers actions to support Deaf and disabled people to vote in the 2026 General Election.

There are 7 actions in this area.

Action 13: Provide accessible voting places in each electorate.

A voting place is where you go to vote. They are set up in your community at places like schools or a community centre.

A list of all voting places will be published on vote.nz one month before election day.

There will be an interactive map that you can use to find your nearest voting place and see how it is accessible.

You can vote at voting places from **Monday 26 October** to **7pm** on election day, **Saturday 7 November 2026**.

Action 14: Provide accessible voting options for people who are unable to get to a voting place.

These options can support Deaf and disabled people, those who are unwell, or those in a care home to vote. More information on these can be found on vote.nz

1. Someone collects your voting papers for you

You can authorise, or give permission, for someone to pick up your voting papers from a voting place for you.

They can also take your voting papers back to a voting place once you've voted to submit them.

To do this, you will need to fill in a form to give them permission. You can download the form from vote.nz/cant-get-to-a-voting-place

2. Advance voting teams visiting care homes and hospitals

Teams of Commission staff provide voting services to people in care homes and hospitals.

These services are organised in advance by Electorate Managers (people who are in charge of delivering voting services in each electorate).

Action 15: Provide the telephone dictation voting service for voters who are blind, partially blind or have a physical disability that means they cannot mark their voting paper without assistance.

The telephone dictation service is a way of voting over the phone.

Registrations for the telephone dictation service will open on **Monday 5 October** and close **12pm, Saturday 7 November 2026**.

You can register by:

- calling **0800 028 028** and selecting **option 1**, or
- emailing dictation@vote.nz.

Voting opens for those who've registered for the dictation service on **Wednesday 21 October** and closes at **7pm** on election day, **Saturday 7 November 2026**.

It is secure and private as the person taking your vote will not know who you are.

Find out more about the dictation service at vote.nz/dictation

Action 16: Support where pōti Māori to provide an accessible voting place and experience for voters.

Where pōti Māori are voting places set up to provide voting services that uphold the mana, dignity and autonomy of all voters, including tāngata Turi and tāngata whaikaha Māori.

These voting places are set up in culturally significant and welcoming locations for Māori.

A list of all where pōti Māori locations will be published on vote.nz one month before election day.

Action 17: Provide Deaf-enabled voting places to support Deaf voters.

Select voting places will be set up and staffed with on-site New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreters.

A list of the voting places with NZSL interpreters will be published on vote.nz one month before election day.

Action 18: Provide select quiet voting places to support neurodivergent voters.

Quiet voting places are a new service to support the neurodivergent community. They aim to be low sensory environments for people to vote in.

A list of the quiet voting place locations will be published on [vote.nz](https://www.vote.nz) one month before election day.

Action 19: Provide an accessible email to voters to deliver their EasyVote card ahead of the 2026 General Election.

People who have enrolled to vote by **4 October 2026** will receive an EasyVote card.

Voters can bring in their EasyVote card to the voting place, show it to the voting place staff, and get their voting papers issued quickly. You don't need an EasyVote card to vote but it makes voting faster.

EasyVote cards will be sent by email to voters who have provided their email address as part of their enrolment details.

Voters who have just provided their postal address will receive their EasyVote card by a letter in the post.

Voters who are on the unpublished roll will receive a voting slip by a letter in the post. The voting slip is like an EasyVote card.

Voters will receive their EasyVote card from mid-October 2026 before voting starts on 26 October.

More information about receiving the EasyVote card by email will can be found on vote.nz/communications-from-the-electoral-commission

Area 5: Supporting candidates

This area covers actions to support Deaf and disabled candidates standing in the 2026 General Election.

There is 1 action in this area.

Action 20: Administer the Election Access Fund Te Tomokanga — Pūtea Whakatapoko Pōtitanga.

The Election Access Fund financially supports disabled people who want to be candidates in the 2026 General Election.

More information about the Fund can be found on elections.nz/election-access-fund

You can find information about the Election Access Fund in alternate formats on elections.nz/application-guidelines-in-alternate-formats

End of Access 2026: Accessibility Action Plan for the 2026 General Election