

Media Kit

2017 General Election



2017 Media Kit

The 2017 Media Kit provides journalists with information to use in their daily coverage of the election campaign including the election timetable, useful statistics, a guide to the Electoral Commission website, and answers to frequently asked questions on enrolment and voting.

It sits alongside the 2017 Media Handbook available at www.elections.org.nz which provides a detailed summary of the rules and obligations for broadcasters and publishers, particularly around election advertising.

Media contact details

Clare Pasley is the first point of contact for all media enquiries around the 2017 General Election.

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Quick guides to filming in voting places and election day coverage

Filming in voting places

The media can arrange filming at voting places during advance voting and on election day through the Electoral Commission. If you know you're going to be filming a party leader going to vote, or you want footage and photos of voting, contact us as early as you can so we can get it cleared.

Media organisations can take photos or film at a voting place so long as:

- The Returning Officer approves. Media should contact the Electoral Commission at least a day ahead to arrange this.
- No photographs are taken of voters actually completing their ballot papers or showing how a person voted.
- Photographers and camera crews do not disrupt voters from voting, or officials from their duties.
- No interviews are conducted in or near the voting place.

News coverage on election day

Voters should be free from interference on election day Saturday 23 September. For that reason, political parties cannot campaign on the day and the media cannot publish stories or advertising likely to influence voters.

- It's okay to refer to the election, for example, a news item noting that it's election day and when results will be available.
- BUT news items must not include any words or visual images that are likely to influence voters about how they should vote.
- Newspapers published after 6pm on the day before election day are treated as being published on election day.
- Election material posted on websites before election day can remain, but the material cannot be added to or promoted on election day.

Reporting the election results

Results will be released progressively from 7.00pm on 23 September on www.electionresults.govt.nz.

This is a live feed as results are entered and will show the % of voting places counted. Targets for the release of results are by:

- 8.30pm, all advance vote results (counting of advance votes starts earlier in the day)
- 10.00pm, results from 50% of voting places
- 11.30pm, results from 100% of voting places

The count on election night provides the preliminary results. The official count will be conducted over the following two weeks and the official results, including special declaration votes and overseas votes, will be declared on 7 October.



2017 General Election Timetable

Date	Activity
Friday 23 June	Regulated period for General Election advertising expenses begins The three month period before election day. Party, candidate and third party election expense limits apply for advertising published during this period.
Monday 26 June	Enrolment update campaign begins. Enrolment update packs sent to all enrolled voters.
Tuesday 22 August	Dissolution of Parliament Last day for registration of parties/logos with the Electoral Commission.
Wednesday 23 August	Writ Day Governor General issues formal direction to the Electoral Commission to hold the election. Electoral Rolls close for printing. Voters enrolled after this date cast special declaration votes. Candidate and party television and radio advertising may start.
Thursday 24 August	Nominations open Advertising calling for individual nominations of electorate candidates.
Monday 28 August Noon	Bulk Nominations Due Deadline for registered political parties to bulk nominate their electorate candidates to the Electoral Commission. Party Lists Deadline for political parties to submit list candidates to the Electoral Commission.
Tuesday 29 August Noon	Individual Nominations Deadline for individual nominations of electorate candidates to Returning Officers.
Wednesday 30 August 2.00pm target	Candidate Information Names of all electorate and list candidates released by the Electoral Commission. Media can request contact details including e-mail addresses and phone numbers for candidates from 2pm. Voting Place and Advance Voting Place details available
Wednesday 6 September	Overseas Voting starts Overseas voters can download voting papers from www.elections.org.nz , vote by post or vote in person at many overseas posts.
Monday 11 September	Voting opens in New Zealand Voters can vote at an advance voting place. They can also enrol at an advance voting place. EasyVote Information Packs mailed out Enrolled voters sent an EasyVote card and information pack this week. Mail out starts on Monday 11 September.

Date	Activity
Friday 22 September	Last day to enrol for the election Regulated period ends at midnight All election advertising must end and signs must be taken down before midnight.
Saturday 23 September	Election day Voting places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. No campaigning is allowed on election day.
Saturday 23 September	Election Night Preliminary results released progressively from 7.00pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.30pm all advance vote results • 10.00pm results from 50% of voting places • 11.30pm results from 100% of voting places
Saturday 7 October 2.00pm target	Official Results for General Election declared including special declaration votes
Wednesday 11 October	Deadline for applications for Judicial Recount
Thursday 12 October	Return of Writ by Electoral Commission showing successful electorate candidates* Declaration of Election of List Members*
Monday 6 November	Last day for election petition to be filed An election petition is a legal challenge to the election of electorate or list candidates.
Thursday 23 November	Last day for Parliament to meet
Monday 11 December	Broadcasting allocation invoices due Deadline for parties to submit invoices for broadcasting allocation costs to the Electoral Commission.
Tuesday 23 January 2018	Deadline for Returns of Third Party Election Expenses to the Electoral Commission Deadline for Returns of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations to the Electoral Commission
Wednesday 21 February 2018	Deadline for Returns of Party Election Expenses and Broadcasting Allocation returns to the Electoral Commission

*If recount required, then return of writ, final results, and election of list members will be delayed by 4-5 days.

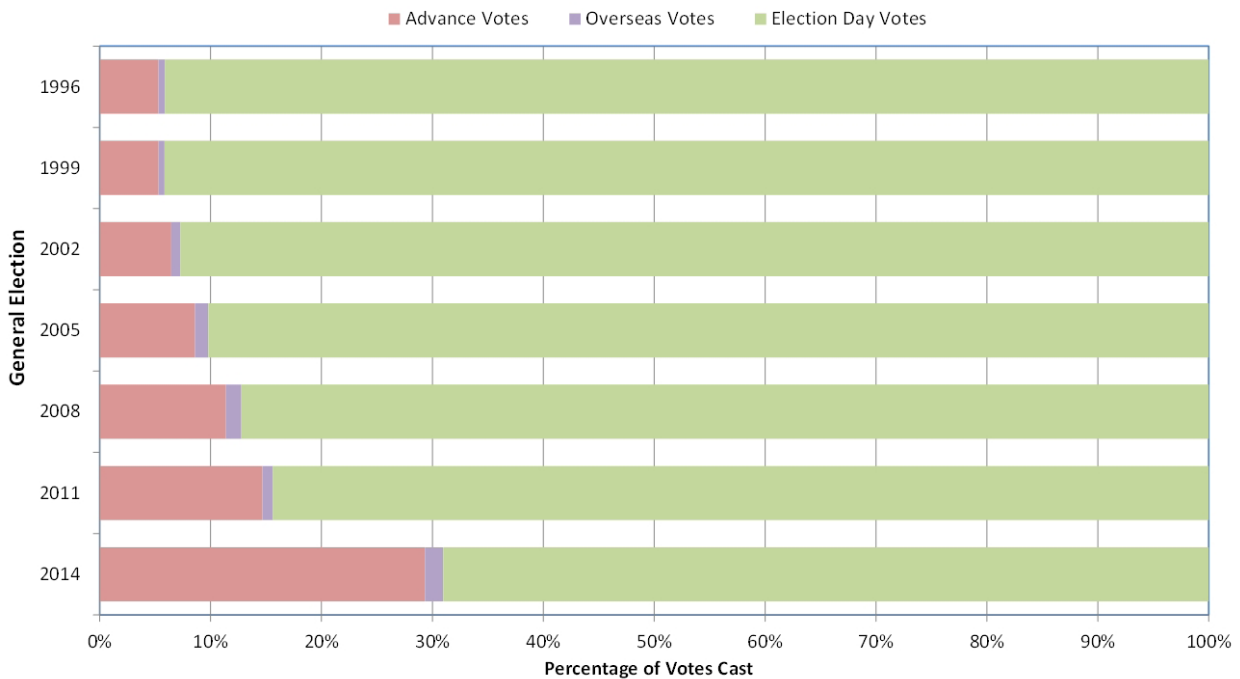
Election Statistics

Total Voting	2014	2011	2008	2005	2002
Number enrolled	3,140,417	3,070,847	2,990,759	2,847,396	2,670,030
Total votes cast	2,446,297	2,278,989	2,376,480	2,304,005	2,055,404
Number of informal votes* cast - Party	10,857	19,872	11,970	10,561	8,631
Number of informal votes* cast - Candidates	27,886	53,332	25,332	24,801	26,529
Turnout (% enrolled)	77.90%	74.21%	79.46%	80.92%	76.98%
Advance voting					
Number of advance votes	702,137	324,336	267,078	197,938	132,609
Percentage of voters	28.7%	14.2%	11.24%	8.59%	6.45%
Overseas voting					
Number of overseas votes cast	40,132	21,496	33,278	28,145	17,760
Top five overseas polling places (votes issued)	London (3,736) Melbourne (716) Perth (549) Gold Coast (447) Brisbane (420)	London (1,134) Apia (442) Melbourne -VEC (359) Melbourne -AEC (178) Sydney (161)	London (2,964) Melbourne (603) Sydney (594) Rarotonga (372) Apia (361)	London (3,402) Sydney (657) Melbourne (533) Brisbane (442) Apia (346)	London (2,881) Sydney (790) Melbourne (395) Brisbane (384) Apia (334)
Māori voting					
No. of voters on Māori roll	239,941	233,100	229,666	208,003	194,114
No. of votes in Māori electorates	156,147	135,734	143,334	139,510	111,745
Turnout (Māori roll)	65.08%	58.23%	62.41%	67.07%	57.57%

Special votes					
	2014	2011	2008	2005	2002
Number of special votes cast	331,005	263,469	270,965	248,677	218,846
Percentage of total votes cast	13.5%	11.56%	11.40%	10.79%	10.65%
Number of special votes disallowed	28,811	21,263	19,517	17,815	15,156
Number of special votes disallowed – as percentage of special votes cast	8.70%	8.07%	7.2%	7.16%	6.93%

*Informal votes are where the voter's intention is not clear

Voting Patterns 1996 - 2014 General Elections





Growth in advance voting

Based on the growth of advance voting over the last two elections, as many as half of voters may vote before election day this year. In 2014, 29.3% of votes were cast in advance compared with 14.7% in 2011. To accommodate the growth, the Commission is looking at setting up about a hundred more advance voting places.

People don't need a reason to vote in advance, and for many, it provides a convenient option when they know they'll be away, working or busy on election day.

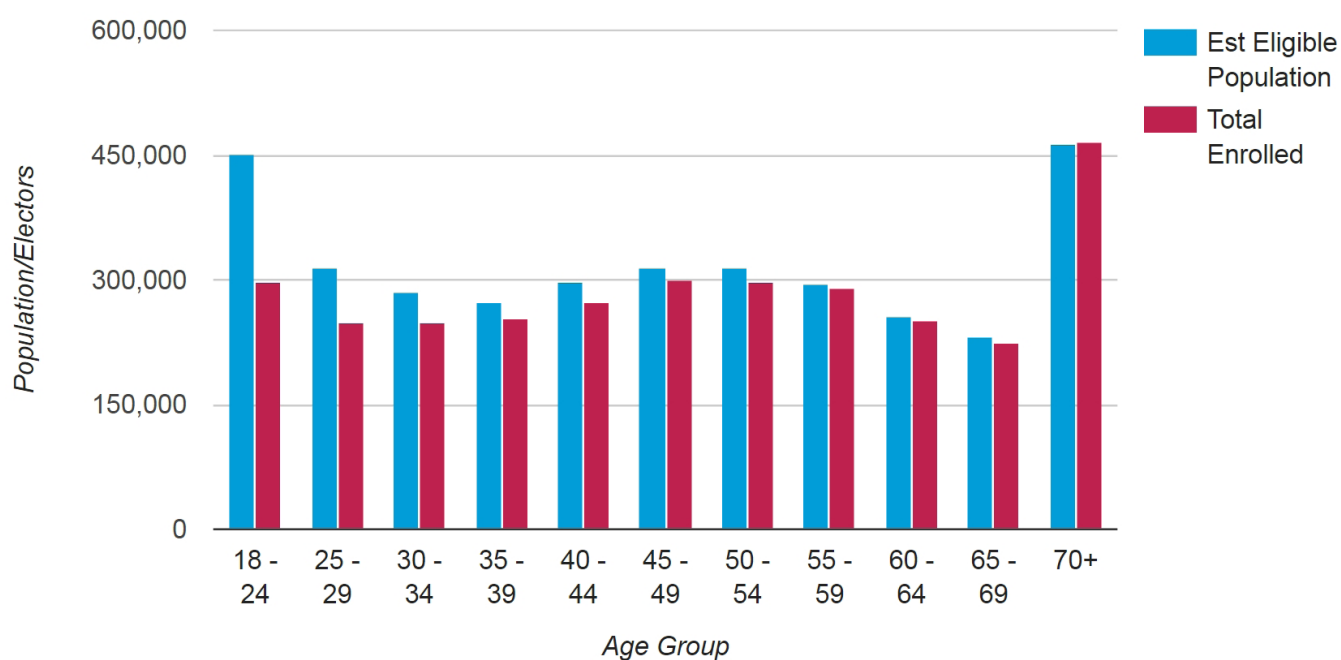
This year, for the first time, people will be able to check if they are enrolled, enrol or update their details at advance voting places before they vote. This will help reduce the number of votes disallowed because voters are not enrolled.

Note, there is a campaign buffer zone around advance voting places. Campaign activity is prohibited inside advance voting places and within 10 metres of their entrance.

2017 Enrolment Statistics, 30 April 2017

The percentages of enrolled voters in this table have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Enrolment figures are updated at the end of each month at <http://www.elections.org.nz/research-statistics/enrolment-statistics-electorate>

Age	Est Eligible Population	General Roll	Māori Roll	Total Enrolled	Difference	% Enrolled (rounded)
18 - 24	452,070	265,078	31,776	296,854	155,216	66%
25 - 29	314,100	220,438	27,283	247,721	66,379	79%
30 - 34	286,210	223,443	24,130	247,573	38,637	87%
35 - 39	272,280	230,385	23,392	253,777	18,503	93%
40 - 44	296,910	248,308	23,710	272,018	24,892	92%
45 - 49	315,390	276,361	23,944	300,305	15,085	95%
50 - 54	314,930	276,484	22,218	298,702	16,228	95%
55 - 59	294,340	270,507	20,072	290,579	3,761	99%
60 - 64	255,340	235,592	14,704	250,296	5,044	98%
65 - 69	232,200	214,587	10,546	225,133	7,067	97%
70+	463,810	450,860	14,743	465,603	-1,793	100%
Total	3,497,580	2,912,043	236,518	3,148,561	349,019	90%



Youth voting - the statistics

Participation in elections has been falling over the past three decades for all age groups and figures from 2014 show voters in the 18 to 39 age groups have the lowest enrolment and turnout rates.

Enrolment of 18-24 year olds fell from 82% in 2005 to 77% in 2014. For 25-29 year olds it fell from 96% to 82% and for 30-39 year olds it fell from 97% to 92%. (Enrolment figures on election day.)

Out of those enrolled, 63% of 18-24 year olds, 62% of 25-29 year olds and 70% of 30-39 year olds turned out to vote in 2014. That compares with an average turnout of 83% for voters aged 40 and over.



International Voter Turnout - Parliamentary Elections

Country	Date	Turnout %	Date	Turnout %	Date	Turnout %
Australia*	2016	91.01	2013	93.23	2010	93.22
Austria	2013	74.91	2008	78.81	2006	78.49
Belgium*	2014	89.37	2010	89.22	2007	91.08
Canada	2015	68.28	2011	61.11	2008	59.52
Denmark	2015	85.89	2011	87.74	2007	86.59
Finland	2015	66.85	2011	67.37	2007	65.02
France	2012	55.40	2007	59.98	2002	60.32
Germany	2013	71.53	2009	70.78	2005	77.65
Ireland	2016	65.09	2011	69.90	2007	67.03
Italy	2013	75.19	2008	80.54	2006	83.62
Japan	2014	52.66	2012	59.32	2009	69.27
Netherlands	2017	81.93	2012	74.56	2010	75.40
New Zealand	2014	77.90	2011	74.21	2008	79.46
Norway	2013	78.23	2009	76.37	2005	77.44
Sweden	2014	85.81	2010	84.63	2006	81.99
Switzerland	2015	48.40	2011	49.10	2007	48.28
U.S.A (Parliamentary)	2016	68.29**	2014	42.50	2012	64.44
U.S.A (Presidential)	2016	68.29**	2012	66.66	2008	70.33
United Kingdom	2015	66.12	2010	65.77	2005	61.36

The voter turnout is defined as the percentage of registered voters who actually voted.

* Indicates Compulsory Voting

** Unofficial results

Source: International IDEA Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance www.idea.int

2014 General Election Results Summary

Party	Party Votes	% Votes	Electorate Seats	List Seats	Total Seats
National Party	1,131,501	47.04	41	19	60
Labour Party	604,535	25.13	27	5	32
Green Party	257,359	10.70	0	14	14
New Zealand First Party	208,300	8.66	0	11	11
Māori Party	31,849	1.32	1	1	2
ACT New Zealand	16,689	0.69	1	0	1
United Future	5,286	0.22	1	0	1
Conservative	95,598	3.97	0	0	0
Internet MANA	34,094	1.42	0	0	0
Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	10,961	0.46	0	0	0
Ban1080	5,113	0.21	0	0	0
Democrats for Social Credit	1,730	0.07	0	0	0
The Civilian Party	1,096	0.05	0	0	0
NZ Independent Coalition	872	0.04	0	0	0
Focus New Zealand	639	0.03	0	0	0
			71	50	121

Electorates by numbers

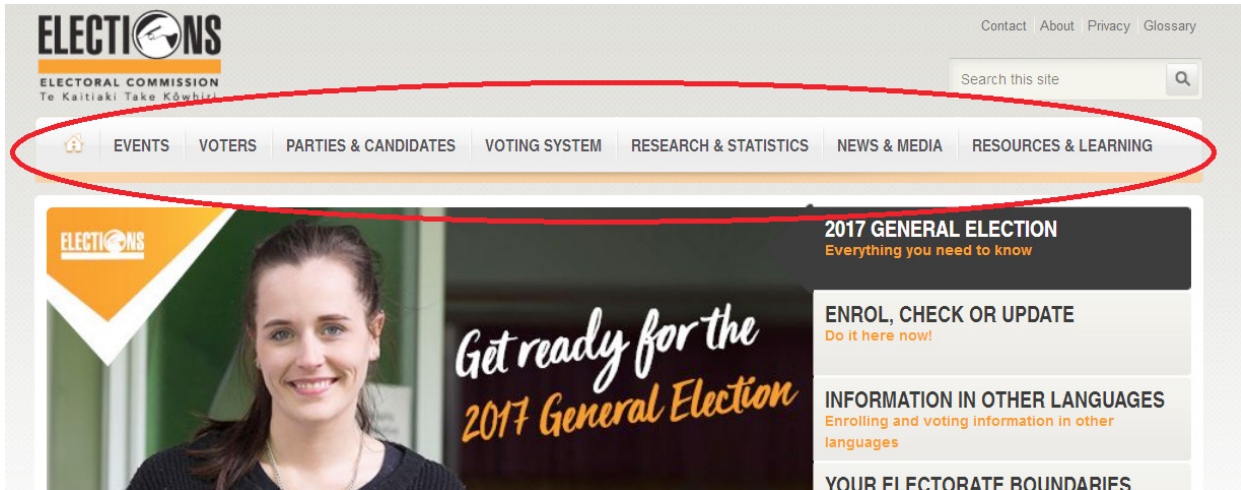
- There are 71 electorates – 64 general electorates and 7 Maori electorates.
- The Tauranga electorate had the highest enrolment for the 2014 election. About 99% of the estimated eligible population was enrolled.
- In Auckland Central, 43% of people eligible to enrol are 18-29 years old.
- In Otaki on the Kapiti Coast, 34% of people eligible to enrol are 65 years and over.

Did you know...

- Voter fraud is rare. There were 126 cases in 2014 out of 2,446,297 votes cast.
- People find voting easy. In 2014 92% of voters were satisfied or very satisfied with their voting experience.
- 17,600 voters are on the unpublished roll to protect their personal safety.
- Turnout of enrolled voters increased 3.7% at the last election.

Guide to finding information on the website

The Electoral Commission website has information and data journalists can use during the campaign that is easy to access at www.elections.org.nz.



Events

Under "Events" you will find information on the 2017 General Election including:

- The election timetable
- 2017 General Election Handbooks with campaign rules and guidelines for candidates, parties, third parties, the media and scrutineers – use these for clarification of campaign rules

Go to Past Events – 2014 General Election for information from the last election including:

- 2014 voter turnout statistics for the whole country and each electorate, broken down by age and Maori descent
- The Electoral Commission's report on the 2014 General Election including comment on voter participation and advance voting trends
- The 2014 Voter and Non-Voter Survey – research on voting patterns at the last election. The breakdown includes information on voters who are Maori, Pasifika, Asian, those aged 18-24, people with disabilities and non-voters

Voters

Information for voters on enrolment and voting including:

- How to enrol
- "Find my electorate" tool with maps of electorate boundaries

Parties and candidates

Use this section to look for information about parties, candidates and third parties. It includes:

- The register of political parties. It lists all parties registered with the Commission, the party logo, contact details for the party secretary, and the party rules
- Declarations of donations to parties, including donations of over \$30,000

Voting system

Includes information on how MMP works and a MMP seat allocation calculator.

Research and Statistics

- A link to previous election results at www.electionresults.govt.nz
- Current enrolment figures for the whole country and each electorate

News and Media

This section includes recent and archived media releases, as well as advisories on applications made to the Commission for the registration of parties and logos, and decisions made by the Commission.

Resources and Learning

You'll find information in this section on the Kids Voting programme and teaching resources supporting civics education in schools.

2017 General Election media questions and answers

Enrolling to vote

Who can enrol to vote?

Only those who are enrolled can vote in the general election. In New Zealand people must enrol if they:

- are 18 years or older, and
- are a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in their life.

For the purposes of enrolling to vote, a permanent resident is someone who does not have to leave New Zealand by a set date.

Is enrolling compulsory?

Yes. It is a legal requirement to enrol to be registered on the Electoral Roll. However, voting is not compulsory in New Zealand.

Which electorate should a person enrol in?

The electorate where the person last resided for one month or more. Those who have had to temporarily or occasionally move away from home for work or study, or because of a natural disaster, may still enrol at the address they call home even though they may have been away from this address for more than one month.

What can cause someone to be removed from the roll?

The main reason people are removed from the roll is if they have moved and not updated their address details by re-enrolling. The Commission will send out enrolment update packs to enrolled voters and if packs are “returned to sender”, after making enquiries where practicable, those voters are taken off the electoral roll.

There are a number of other circumstances that can cause someone to be removed from the roll including being imprisoned following a criminal conviction.

How do people enrol?

Voters can enrol or update their details by filling in an enrolment form. They can get an enrolment form online at www.elections.org.nz, by calling Freephone 0800 36 76 56, or by free texting 3676. Enrolment forms are also available at PostShops, and this year, people will be able to enrol at an advance voting place.

How can people find out what electorate they are in?

People can check their enrolment details at www.elections.org.nz, which will tell them what electorate they are enrolled in. Maps of all electorates are available on the website. People can also check the electoral rolls at PostShops and public libraries.

How will people know if their electorate has changed?

There are no changes to electorate boundaries for the 2017 General Election. The last time the boundaries were adjusted was before the 2014 election. The next review is due to be held in 2019 after the Census and Māori Electoral Option.

What's the difference between the General Roll and the Māori Roll?

Māori voters can choose to go on the General Roll or the Māori Roll either when enrolling for the first time, or during the Māori Electoral Option which is held every five years.

Voters on the General Roll vote for an MP in a general electorate, and voters on the Māori Roll vote for an MP in a Māori electorate. The type of roll voters are on makes no difference to who they can vote for with their party vote.

Voting

When can people vote?

Voting starts in New Zealand on Monday 11 September when advance voting places open and goes through until election day on 23 September.

Who can vote in the election?

Anyone eligible who is enrolled by 22 September, the day before election day, can vote in the election. Voters who enrol by Wednesday 23 August will receive an EasyVote information pack about a week before the election. The pack will include a personalised EasyVote card which will make voting quicker.

What about people who will be away from home at the time of the election?

People can vote at any voting place in the country, but if they are voting outside their electorate they will need to complete a special vote. Information on when and where people can vote will be available from Wednesday 30 August at www.elections.org.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

How many voting places will there be?

Approximately 400 advance voting places will be open from 11 September, and there'll be approximately 2,500 voting places open on election day, 23 September.

Why can't people vote online?

We don't have online voting in New Zealand. It's up to Parliament to make decisions about changes to the voting system, like online voting.

Overseas voting

What happens if people are overseas at election time?

People who are overseas during the election can still vote. From 6 September, voters who are overseas can download voting papers from www.elections.org.nz, apply for postal voting by emailing overseas@elections.org.nz, or vote at an overseas post. A list of participating overseas posts will be available on the website or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

Voters planning trips overseas close to election day can cast an advance vote before they go from Monday 11 September.

Can overseas voters vote electronically?

Overseas voters cannot vote online, but they can electronically return photographed or scanned copies of their voting papers through the “Overseas Upload” application available at www.elections.org.nz.

Election Results

When will the election results be announced?

Preliminary results will be released progressively from 7.00pm on 23 September on www.electionresults.govt.nz. Targets for release by:

- 8.30pm advance vote results
- 10.00pm results from 50% of voting places
- 11.30pm results from 100% of voting places

These are targets, not guarantees.

The official results are expected to be declared by 2.00pm Saturday 7 October.

Where can we get the results from?

Election results will be available progressively and in real time from 7.00pm on 23 September at www.electionresults.govt.nz.

Candidates and Parties

Who can be a candidate?

Candidates must be enrolled as a voter and be a New Zealand citizen. Candidates do not need to be enrolled in the electorate they are seeking election for.

How does the nomination process work?

There are two ways that electorate candidates are nominated. Registered political parties can lodge a bulk nomination for all their electorate candidates with the Electoral Commission, or individual nominations can be made to the Returning Officer in an electorate.

List candidates are nominated by registered political parties supplying a party list to the Electoral Commission.

When is the deadline for nominations?

Electorate candidates must be nominated by:

- midday on Monday 28 August – for bulk nominations to the Electoral Commission
- midday on Tuesday 29 August – for individual nominations to the Returning Officer for the electorate.

Party lists must be supplied by:

- midday on Monday 28 August to the Electoral Commission.

When will the candidates be announced?

Candidates for the General Election will be announced by 2.00pm Wednesday 30 August. Contact details for candidates will be available to media on request.

Campaign Rules

For a full explanation of campaign rules, refer to the 2017 Election Handbooks on the Commission website.

What process will the Electoral Commission take in relation to advertising and expenditure complaints?

The Electoral Commission will consider complaints regarding party, candidate and third party advertising. The Electoral Commission will not discuss the specifics of a complaint or issue while it is being considered.

The Electoral Commission provides general guidance to parties, candidates and third parties in handbooks available on the Commission's website.

The Electoral Commission encourages candidates, parties, third parties, publishers and broadcasters to contact us if they have any questions about the application of the election advertising and expenditure rules to activities they are planning.

What happens if rules are broken?

If a potential breach is brought to our attention, we will look into it. If we believe there has been a breach, we'll forward it to the Police to follow up. We are not an enforcement agency so cannot prosecute or fine people – that is up to the Police.

What is election advertising?

An election advertisement is an advertisement in any medium that may reasonably be regarded as either encouraging or persuading voters to vote or not vote for a candidate or party, or type of candidate or party.

All election advertisements must state the name and address of the promoter. The promoter is the person who has initiated or instigated the advertisement.

When can election advertising run?

Election advertising (other than election programmes on TV and radio) can run anytime except election day. The cost of advertising for parties, candidates and third parties is counted as an election expense during **the regulated period** from 23 June to 22 September. Election advertising is covered by the Electoral Act.

Separate to this are election programmes for parties and candidates paid for out of the broadcasting allocation. Candidates can also broadcast using their own funds within their \$26,200 election expense limit. Party and candidate election programmes can only be broadcast on radio and television in the month before an election from Wednesday 23 August to Friday 22 September – known as **the election period**.

Election programmes (covered by the Broadcasting Act) are programmes broadcast on radio or television that encourage or persuade voters to vote, or not to vote, for a party or candidate or notifies meetings in connection with an election.

Note, third parties (lobby groups) are able to broadcast election advertising at any time except election day.

What is the broadcasting allocation?

Political parties can apply for public funding for election programmes on radio and television. Funds can also be used for advertising on the internet. The Electoral Commission decides how the funds will be allocated. The 2017 allocation is \$3,605,000 (plus GST).

Due to a 2017 law change, there will no longer be free time provided by Television New Zealand and Radio New Zealand for party opening and closing addresses.

What obligations do broadcasters have?

Broadcasters are responsible for ensuring election programmes are within the law and comply with broadcasting standards. For more information, see the 2017 Media Handbook.

What are the spending limits for parties and candidates?

The maximum amount a party's election expenses can total during the regulated period is \$1,115,000 plus \$26,200 per electorate contested by the party including GST.

Election expenses for candidates during the regulated period must not exceed \$26,200 including GST.

What about third parties?

Third parties must register with the Electoral Commission if they intend to spend more than \$12,600 including GST on election advertising during the regulated period.

The maximum amount a registered third party's election expenses can total during the regulated period is \$315,000 including GST.

What about editorial content and views expressed in the media?

There are exemptions to election advertising rules including the following:

- Editorial content including news stories and current affairs programmes.
- Personal political views stated by an individual on social media, on demand, podcasts etc where no payment is involved.
- A pure "get out and vote" message is not an election advertisement and is not an election expense, but it should include a promoter statement.

What are the rules for social media?

Social media is subject to the same rules as other media platforms. There is guidance on the use of social media on our website at <http://www.elections.org.nz/parties-candidates/all-participants/use-social-media>. Points to note:

- Prior to election day, the publication of personal political views by an individual on the internet and other electronic media are exempt from the rules around election advertising, as long the individual is not being paid to publish those views.
- The election day ban on publishing material likely to influence voters applies to websites and social media.
- The Commission recommends hiding comments added to threads, and where possible, disabling comment functions on election material on election day before 7pm.

- The Commission asks that no photos be taken inside voting places, including selfies for social media posts. If you are going to take an “I’ve voted” photo, please do it well away from the voting place and don’t say who you’ve voted for.

What if fake news features in the campaign?

The role of the Electoral Commission is to look at whether material meets the requirements of the Electoral Act. It is not our role to check the veracity of statements made during the campaign. If people are concerned that statements have been made that aren’t true, there are other agencies they can complain to – the Broadcasting Standards Authority, Advertising Standards Authority and the Press Council. There is also an offence under the Electoral Act for a person to knowingly publish a false statement to influence voters in the two days before election day and on election day.

If the Commission became aware of false information on enrolment or voting, then we would consider using our media and social media channels to correct it.

Where can I find information on donations to parties?

Parties file donation returns every year and these are published on the Commission website. Parties must disclose donations of more than \$15,000 in the annual return.

Party donations of \$30,000 or more must be declared within ten working days of receipt of the donation and the name of the donor and the amount will be published on the Commission website.

Candidate donations of more than \$1,500 must be declared in the candidate’s return of expenses and donations following the General Election.

What are the rules around election signs?

Local authorities decide where and when election signs can go up.

Rules vary between councils, so the Electoral Act allows election signs up to 3 square metres in size to be put up from Saturday 22 July. They can’t go up anywhere though - local authority rules still apply after this date, including where signs can be located.

Election signs need to include a promoter statement. They must be covered up or removed by midnight on 22 September.

Election day rules and media coverage

The Electoral Act prohibits campaigning of any kind on election day. The general intention of the Electoral Act is to leave voters alone from midnight until 7pm on election day so they can vote without interference.

What are the rules for candidates and parties?

On election day parties, party supporters and candidates must:

- Cover up or take down all election signs.
- Cover up or place away from public view vehicles advertising parties or candidates (this includes bumper stickers).
- Not distribute any campaign material.
- Not distribute or display anything showing political party or candidate names.
- Not post any new material on websites. Election material does not have to be removed from a website on election day as long as the material is only made available to people who voluntarily access it. Advertisements promoting the website must not be published on election day.
- Not display clothing (such as T-shirts) promoting a party or candidate.

Parties, party supporters, candidates may:

- Wear party lapel badges (including rosettes) in public bearing the party's name, emblem, slogan or logo (but not the candidate's name).
- Wear lapel badges (including rosettes) in public bearing the name of the group.
- Display streamers, rosettes, ribbons and similar items in party colours on people or vehicles.
- Contact voters to offer help to get to a voting place. They must not say or do anything that influences voters as to the party or candidate they should or should not vote for.
- Display fixed signs exhibited before voting day on party headquarters including party names, slogans or logos that do not relate specifically to the election campaign.
- Keep election material on a website on election day as long as the material is only made available to people who voluntarily access it. New material must not be posted on the website on election day. Advertisements promoting the website must not be published on election day.

What are the rules for scrutineers?

Scrutineers may be appointed by candidates to observe the issuing of votes during advance voting, election day and the preliminary count on election day.

- Scrutineers may wear party lapel badges.
- They must not communicate with voters.
- When the electoral official reads out from the electoral roll the line and page number of the voter the scrutineer is entitled to record this.

What are the rules for the media?

- All election advertising and other statements, by anybody including the media, which could influence voters cannot be published or broadcast on election day.

- Newspapers published after 6pm on the day before election day are treated as being published on election day.
- No opinion polling of voters can be carried out on election day.
- News stories posted on websites before election day can remain, as long as the website is not advertised on election day.
- News media can broadcast a statement having direct or indirect reference to the 2017 General Election, for example, a news item noting that it is election day and when results will be available.
- News items must not include any words or visual images that are likely to influence voters about how they should vote.
- Care should be taken with any items that show any candidates or include interviews with any candidates. If in any doubt, broadcasters should delay broadcasting the item until after the voting places close at 7pm.

What photo and filming opportunities are there for the media on election day?

Media organisations can take photos or film at a voting place as long as:

- The Returning Officer approves. Media must contact the Electoral Commission before election day to arrange this.
- No photographs or footage is taken of voters actually completing their ballot papers or showing how a person voted.
- Photographers or camera crews do not disrupt voters from voting, or officials from their duties.
- No undue delays are caused to voters.
- No interviews are conducted in or near the voting place.