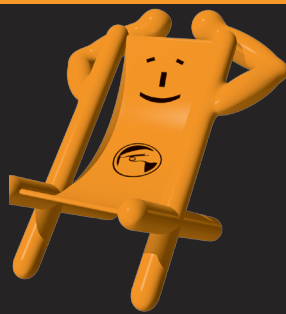


Media Kit

2008
General Election



www.elections.org.nz

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ELECTI**ONS**

2008 General Election Media Information

This Media Information Kit from the Chief Electoral Office contains background material to help with media coverage of the 2008 General Election.

It includes:

- key dates
- voting and turnout statistics from previous elections and
- resources relating to voting and campaigning.

Further information is available from www.elections.org.nz and election results from www.electionresults.govt.nz.

Please contact us if you have any inquiries.



Robert Peden
Chief Electoral Officer

2008 General Election Media Information

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Election Timetable* for 2008 General Election - At a Glance *presumes no recounts

Disolution of Parliament	Writ Day	Bulk Nominations Due	Nomination Day	Advance Voting Starts	Overseas Voting Starts	Last Day for Enrollment
Friday 3 October	Wednesday 8 October	Noon Monday 13 October	Noon Tuesday 14 October	Wednesday 22 October	Wednesday 22 October	Friday 7 November
Election Day	Preliminary Results Released	Declaration of Official Results	Application for Recount Expires	Last Day for Return of Writ	Declaration of List Members	Last Day for Parliament to Meet
Saturday 8 November	After 7.00pm Saturday 8 November	By 2.00pm Saturday 22 November	Wednesday 26 November	Thursday 27 November (Writ returned with successful electorate candidates)	Friday 28 November (if no recount)	Thursday 8 January 2009

2008 General Election Timetable

Date	Activity
Friday 3 October	Dissolution of Parliament
Tuesday 7 October	Last day for registration of parties/logos by the Electoral Commission
Wednesday 8 October	<p>Writ Day Governor General issues formal direction to the Chief Electoral Officer to hold the election Electoral Rolls close for printing Voters enrolled after this date cast special declaration votes</p>
Thursday 9 October	<p>Nominations called for by Public Notice Advertising calling for individual nominations of electorate candidates</p>
Monday 13 October Noon	<p>Bulk Nominations Deadline for registered political parties to bulk nominate their electorate candidates to the Chief Electoral Officer.</p>
Tuesday 14 October Noon	<p>Party Lists Deadline for political parties to submit list candidates to the Chief Electoral Officer</p> <p>Individual Nominations Deadline for individual nominations of electorate candidates to Returning Officers</p>
Wednesday 15 October 2.00pm target	<p>Candidate Information Names of all electorate and list candidates released by Chief Electoral Officer. Production of ballot paper begins.</p>
Thursday 16 October 2.00pm target	Polling Place and Advance Voting Place details available
Friday 17 October	Last day for listing third parties by the Electoral Commission
Wednesday 22 October	<p>Advance Voting starts in New Zealand Advance voting available for voters who are away from home or unable to get to a polling place on Election Day</p>
Wednesday 22 October	<p>Overseas Voting starts Overseas voters can download voting papers from www.elections.org.nz, vote by post or vote in person at 64 overseas posts in 44 countries.</p>
Saturday 1 November	<p>EasyVote Information Packs available Information packs with EasyVote card sent to voters enrolled by 8 October</p>

2008 General Election Timetable

Friday 7 November	Enrolments cease Last day to enrol for the election Advance Voting ceases at 6.00pm
Friday 7 November Midnight	All election advertising ceases and election signs taken down
Saturday 8 November	Election Day Polling places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday 8 November	Election Night Preliminary results released progressively from 7.00pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 8.30pm all advance vote results • by 10.00pm results from 50% of polling places • by 11.30pm results from 100% of polling places
Saturday 22 November 2.00pm target	Official Results declared (including special declaration votes)
Wednesday 26 November	Deadline for applications for Judicial Recount
Thursday 27 November	Return of Writ by Chief Electoral Officer showing successful electorate candidates*
Friday 28 November	Declaration of Election of List Members *
Friday 12 December	Deadline for Broadcaster Returns of Election Programmes to the Electoral Commission
Tuesday 3 March 2009	Deadline for Returns of Party Election Expenses to the Electoral Commission*
Tuesday 10 March 2009	Deadline for Returns of Third Party Election Expenses and Donations to the Electoral Commission
Tuesday 10 March 2009	Deadline for Returns of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations to Chief Electoral Officer

*if recount required, then return of writ, final results, election of list members and deadline for returns of party election expenses will be delayed by 4-5 days.

Electorate Boundaries for the 2008 General Election

The 2008 General Election will be run under new electorate boundaries. There will be 70 electorates (one more than 2005): 63 general electorates and seven Māori electorates.

Seven electorates have had no change to their boundaries

Five general electorates (Whangarei, North Shore, Northcote, Tauranga, Kaikōura) and two Māori electorates (Te Tai Tokerau and Waiariki) retain the same boundaries used in the 2002 and 2005 general elections.

Botany is the new additional electorate

The Botany electorate in the south of Auckland comprises much of the Botany Community Board areas including the proposed new town centre of Flat Bush.

Nine electorates have new names

1. **Papakura** – replaces parts of the Clevedon, Port Waikato and Manurewa electorates. The Papakura electorate is centred on the Papakura urban area and includes Kingseat and Clarks Beach to the west. To the north it includes the suburbs of Wattle Downs, Mahia Park, and the suburbs of Manurewa East and The Gardens to the east of the motorway.
2. **Hunua** – replaces parts of the Clevedon and the existing Port Waikato electorates including the towns of Clevedon, Maraetai, Tuakau, Pukekohe, Waiuku and up to Manukau Heads.
3. **Waikato** – replaces parts of the Piako, Coromandel, Hamilton West and Taranaki King Country electorates. The Piako electorate disappears.
4. **Ōhariu** - replaces Ohariu-Belmont with the Belmont area shifted into the Rimutaka electorate.
5. **Selwyn** – replaces parts of the Waimakariri, Banks Peninsula and Rakaia electorates.
6. **Port Hills** – is the new name for the revised Banks Peninsula electorate with most of the peninsula area itself transferred to Selwyn.
7. **Rangitata** – replaces parts of the Aoraki and Rakaia electorates. It includes Timaru City, Temuka, Orari and Ashburton up to the Rakaia River. Pleasant Point and its immediate surrounds are included in this electorate. The Rakaia electorate disappears.
8. **Waitaki** - replaces parts of the Otago and Aoraki electorates. The Waitaki electorate includes all of the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Districts as well as the northern portion of Queenstown Lakes District around Wanaka and a portion of the Timaru District (excluding Timaru City) around Paeroa and Geraldine. The Aoraki and Otago electorates disappear.
9. **Hauraki-Waikato** – replaces the Tainui electorate and includes population from the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate from the southern part of Manurewa. The people from Ngati Maniapoto (formerly in the Tainui electorate) will be in the Te Tai Hauāuru electorate with the people of Ngati Raukawa.

Election Statistics

Total Voting	2005	2002	1999
Number enrolled	2,847,396	2,670,030	2,509,365
Total votes cast	2,304,005	2,055,404	2,127,265
Number of informal votes* cast - Party	10,561	8,631	19,887
Number of informal votes* cast - Candidates	24,801	26,529	37,908
Turnout (all voters)	80.92%	76.98%	84.77%
Special Voting			
Number of special votes cast	248,677	218,846	262,226
Percentage of total votes cast	10.79%	10.65%	12.33%
Electorate with the most special votes	Wellington Central	Wellington Central	Wellington Central
Number of special votes disallowed	17,815	15,156	41,884
Number of special votes disallowed - as percentage of special votes cast	7.16%	6.93%	15.97%
Overseas Voting			
Number of Overseas votes cast	28,145	17,760	11,531
Top five overseas polling places	London (3,402) Sydney (657) Melbourne (533) Brisbane (442) Apia (346)	London (2,881) Sydney (790) Melbourne (395) Brisbane (384) Apia (334)	London (4,171) Sydney (1,445) Melbourne (1,058) Brisbane (946) Perth (412)
Advance Voting			
Number of Advance Votes	197,938	132,609	112,904
Percentage of voters	8.59%	6.45%	5.31%
Māori Roll			
Number of voters on Māori Roll	208,003	194,114	159,400
Number of votes in Māori electorates	139,510	111,745	112,621
Turnout (Māori roll)	67.07%	57.57%	70.65%

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

New Zealand Voter Turnout 2005 - 1987

Year	Roll	% of estimated voting age population on the roll	Total votes cast	Turnout as % of voting age population	Turnout as % of those on roll
1987	General		1,823,448		89.52
	Māori		59,946		77.02
	Overall	92.64	1,883,394	82.50	89.06
1990	General		1,822,529		86.00
	Māori		54,586		65.75
	Overall	91.74	1,877,115	78.20	85.24
1993	General		1,908,954		85.99
	Māori		69,138		68.06
	Overall	92.64	1,978,092	78.93	85.20
1996	General		2,025,005		88.28
	Māori		110,170		77.62
	Overall	91.53	2,135,175	80.80	88.21
1999	General		2,014,644		85.73
	Māori		112,621		70.65
	Overall	91.06	2,127,265	77.19	84.77
2002	General		1,943,659		78.50
	Māori		111,745		57.57
	Overall	94.17	2,055,404	72.50	76.98
2005	General		2,164,495		82.01
	Māori		139,510		67.07
	Overall	95.22	2,304,005	77.05	80.92

International Voter Turnout

COUNTRY	Last Three Elections						Turnout %
	AVERAGE %	Date	Turnout %	Date	Turnout %	Date	
Australia*	94.8	2007	95.2	2004	94.3	2001	94.9
Belgium*	91.36	2007	91.9%	2003	91.6%	1999	90.6
Denmark	86.06	2007	86.6	2005	84.5	2001	87.1
Italy	82.63	2006	83.6	2001	81.4	1996	82.9
Sweden	81.16	2006	82	2002	80.1	1998	81.4
France (Presidential)	81.13	2007	84	2002	79.7	1995	79.7
New Zealand	80.9	2005	80.9	2002	77	1999	84.8
Netherlands	79.83	2006	80.4	2003	80	2002	79.1
Germany	79.66	2005	77.7	2002	79.1	1998	82.2
Norway	77.06	2005	77.4	2001	75.5	1997	78.3
Austria (Presidential)	75.63	2004	71.6	1998	74.4	1992	80.9
Iceland (Presidential)	73.86	2004	62.9	1996	85.9	1988	72.8
U.S.A (Presidential)	69.66	2000	67.4	1996	63.4	1992	78.2
Ireland (Presidential)	65.23	1997	46.7	1990	64.1	1973	47.6
United Kingdom	64.1	2005	61.4	2001	59.4	1997	71.5
Canada	62.33	2006	64.9	2004	60.9	2000	61.2
Finland (Presidential)	61.96	2006	74	2000	76.8	1994	77
Japan	52.8	2007	58.6	2005	67.5	2003	59.8
Switzerland	45.56	2007	48.3	2003	45.2	1999	43.2

* Indicates Compulsory Voting

Source: International IDEA Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Advance Votes Compared to Election Night and Official Counts

Party Votes 2005	Jim						United NZ	Other	
	Act New Zealand	Green Party	Anderton's Progressive Coalition	Labour Party	Māori Party	National Party			New Zealand First
Advance Vote %	1.69	4.81	1.06	36.81	1.60	43.51	6.13	3.04	1.34
Election Night Count %	1.52	5.07	1.21	40.74	1.98	39.63	5.84	2.72	1.29
Official Count %	1.51	5.30	1.16	41.10	2.12	39.1	5.72	2.67	1.32

Party Votes 2002	Jim						United NZ	Other
	Act New Zealand	Green Party	Anderton's Progressive Coalition	Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First		
Advance Vote %	7.38	5.60	1.77	40.13	24.41	10.95	5.58	4.18
Election Night Count %	7.08	6.49	1.75	41.36	21.08	10.60	6.82	4.82
Official Count %	7.14	7.00	1.70	41.26	20.93	10.38	6.69	4.90

Party Votes 1999	Jim						United NZ	Other
	Act New Zealand	Alliance	Green Party	Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First		
Advance Vote %	8.43	7.54	3.96	35.13	34.32	4.97	0.50	5.14
Election Night Count %	7.00	7.80	4.90	39.00	30.60	4.30	0.50	5.90
Official Count %	7.04	7.74	5.16	38.74	30.50	4.26	0.54	6.03

Party Votes 1996	Jim						United NZ	Other
	Act New Zealand	Alliance	Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First	United NZ		
Advance Vote %	6.01	10.00	25.69	38.09	12.67	0.97	6.57	
Election Night Count %	6.17	10.12	28.27	34.13	13.13	0.91	7.27	
Official Count %	6.10	10.10	28.19	33.84	13.35	0.88	7.54	

2008 General Election Official Results

The official results for the 2008 general election will be declared 14 days after election day, by 2.00pm Saturday 8 November. This timetable is determined by the tasks Returning Officers must complete under the Electoral Act before the Chief Electoral Officer can declare the official results.

Scrutiny of the rolls

Returning Officers must scrutinise the rolls. This involves marking off on a copy of the electoral roll the names of those who voted in the Returning Officer's electorate. This marked roll becomes the Master Roll and is available for public inspection after the election.

This process identifies any voters who appear to have voted more than once. If someone has voted more than once their ballot papers are excluded from the official count.

Processing of special votes

The processing of special declaration votes takes place after election day.

The declarations of all special voters must be checked to ensure they were eligible to make a special vote. This includes checking if they were enrolled.

Where Returning Officers cannot find a special voter's name on the electoral roll, their declaration is forwarded to the Registrar of Electors who carries out more extensive checks. The Registrar of Electors advises whether the voter was enrolled.

All special voters are marked off the Master Roll or added to a list of voters not on the roll.

The deadline for special votes to be in the hands of Returning Officers is ten days after election day. Special vote processing **cannot**, therefore, be completed before this point. Special votes delivered after this must be disallowed.

Valid special votes are admitted to the official count. This includes "Party Vote Only" special votes. These special votes arise where a special voter votes in the wrong electorate. For example, they might be registered in the Rongotai electorate but cast a special vote for the Wellington Central electorate. In this case, the voter's electorate vote is disallowed (because they were not eligible to vote in the Wellington Central electorate contest) but their party vote will count (because they are registered on an electoral roll).

2008 General Election Official Results

In 2005, 248,677 or just over 10 % of voters cast a special vote. Of these:

- 25,520 were Party Vote only or 10.2% (i.e. the electorate vote did not count)
- 17,815 or 7% of special votes were disallowed on both the candidate and party side of the ballot paper (16,396 or 92% of these were disallowed because the voter was not on the roll).

Official count

All ballot papers counted on election night are checked again to ensure the voter's intention is clear and then recounted. All valid special votes are counted.

The Returning Officer forwards the results of the completed official count for their electorate to the Chief Electoral Officer. Further checks are carried out by the Chief Electoral Office before the official results are declared.

Responsibilities of the Electoral Agencies

Responsibility	Electoral Enrolment Centre	Electoral Commission	Chief Electoral Office	Ministry of Justice
Information for electors on enrolment	✓			
Enrolment of voters (opportunity and encouragement)	✓			
Conduct of voter enrolment inquiry exercises prior to major electoral events	✓			
Production/maintenance of electoral rolls and habitation indexes	✓			
Supply of electronic lists of electors & walk lists (residences with no enrolment) to parties, MPs and candidates	✓			
Hosting of the elections website	✓			
Conduct of Māori Electoral Option	✓			
Verifying, by sample, that signatures on citizen initiated referendum petitions are those of enrolled electors	✓			
Supply of lists of qualified electors to Courts for jury rolls	✓			
Supply of enrolment details of consenting electors of Māori descent to the Māori Affiliation Service	✓			
Registration of political parties/logos		✓		
Listing third parties		✓		
Receiving notification of appointment of financial agents		✓	✓	
Allocation to parties of election broadcasting time and money; payment of parties' election broadcasting accounts; receipt of broadcasters' returns of election programmes		✓		
Supervision of annual returns of donations and returns of election expenses - political parties		✓		
Supervision of returns of donations and returns of election expenses - third parties		✓		
Administration of donations protected from disclosure		✓		
Supervising compliance with the general rules governing election advertisements		✓	✓	
Public education and information on electoral matters		✓		
Conduct of Parliamentary general elections and by-elections				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information to voters, parties and candidates 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> receipt of writ 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> designation and staffing of polling places 			✓	

Responsibilities of the Electoral Agencies

Responsibility	Electoral Enrolment Centre	Electoral Commission	Chief Electoral Office	Ministry of Justice
• calling for and receipt of nominations (including bulk nominations)			✓	
• acceptance or rejection of party lists (general elections)			✓	
• ballot papers-production			✓	
• voting (advance, on election day)			✓	
• scrutiny of rolls and identification of dual votes			✓	
• preliminary and official counts			✓	
• qualification of special votes	✓		✓	
• declaration of results			✓	
• recounts			✓	
• return of writ			✓	
• allocation of members from party lists (general elections)			✓	
• supervision of returns of candidate expenses and returns of donations			✓	
Conduct of referendum (government initiated and citizen initiated)			✓	
Filling vacancies from the party list			✓	
Membership of the independent Representation Commission (electoral boundaries)			✓	
Administration of the Electoral Act and the Electoral Finance Act 2007 (including policy advice to Ministers)				✓
Advice to Select Committees	✓	✓	✓	✓

Voting

Who can vote in the election?

Anyone eligible who is enrolled by 7 November, the day before Election Day can vote in the election. Voters who enrol by Wednesday 8 October will receive an EasyVote information pack about a week before the election. The pack will include voting information along with an EasyVote card. Voters are encouraged to take their EasyVote card with them on Election Day as it will make voting easier.

Enrolment forms are available by calling 0800 36 76 56, freetexting name and address to 3676, from www.elections.org.nz or at PostShops. People can also enrol online, but will be required to sign the enrolment form.

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 all PostShops and public libraries.

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

Voters who will be away in the period starting Wednesday 22 October or who can't get to a polling place on Election Day can vote in advance. Information on advance voting places will be available from 16 October by calling 0800 35 76 56 or visiting www.elections.org.nz. This information will also be in the EasyVote information pack that will be sent to enrolled voters in the week before Election Day.

Where can people go to get information about polling places?

A list of polling places will be available from the elections website www.elections.org.nz, by calling 0800 36 76 56, or in the EasyVote information pack sent to all voters who are enrolled.

What happens if people don't receive an EasyVote card? Can they still vote?

People who don't receive an EasyVote card can still vote as long as they are enrolled by 8 October. People who enrol after then should receive a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer instead of an EasyVote card that they can take with them when they go to vote.

How many polling places will there be?

There will be approximately 2,700 polling places for the election.

2008 General Election - Questions and Answers

Overseas Voting

What happens if people are overseas at the time?

People who are overseas during the election can still vote. Voters going overseas can cast an advance vote before they go in the period starting Wednesday 22 October.

Voters who will be overseas during the voting period can download voting papers from the elections website www.elections.org.nz or pick up voting papers from overseas posts. A list of participating overseas posts is available at the website or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

Can overseas voters vote electronically?

No, overseas voters cannot vote electronically or return their votes by email. But they can return their voting papers by fax to +64 4 494 2300.

Election Results

When will the election results be announced?

Preliminary results will be released progressively from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz. Targets for release:

by 8.30pm	all advance votes
by 10.00pm	results from 50% of polling places
by 11.30pm	results from 100% of polling places.

These are targets, not guarantees.

The official results are expected to be declared by 2.00pm Saturday 22 November.

Where can we get the results from?

Election results will be available progressively and in real time from 7pm on 8 November 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:

Bulk nominations – registered political parties can nominate all the candidates representing the party at one time by lodging a bulk nomination schedule with the Chief Electoral Officer. (This system is used by most registered parties).

2008 General Election - Questions and Answers

Individual nominations – individual nominations can be made by two voters in the electorate lodging an individual nomination paper with the electorate Returning Officer.

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

When is the deadline for nominations?

Electorate candidates must be nominated by:

- noon on Monday 13 October – for bulk nominations to the Chief Electoral Office
- noon on Tuesday 14 October – for individual nominations to the Returning Officer for the electorate.

Party lists must be supplied by:

- noon on Tuesday 14 October to the Chief Electoral Office.

When will the candidates be announced?

Candidates for the general election will be announced by 2.00pm Wednesday 15 October.

Campaign Rules

What process will the Chief Electoral Office take in relation to campaign and finance complaints?

The Chief Electoral Officer will consider complaints referred to him and drawn to his attention regarding candidate advertising.

He will not discuss the specifics of a complaint or issue while it is being considered.

The Chief Electoral Officer has provided general guidance to candidates in documents: Information for Candidates and their Financial Agents. A copy of this document is in this pack, and on www.elections.org.nz.

We encourage candidates or parties to contact us if they have any questions about the application of the candidate campaign rules to activities they are planning.

General rules regarding election advertising and expenditure

Electorate candidates must appoint a financial agent to administer their election expenses and donations. If they do not appoint someone else they will be deemed to have appointed themselves.

Election advertisements by electorate candidates must state the name and address of the candidate's financial agent.

Electorate candidates may only advertise on radio or television from Wednesday 8 October to Friday 7 November.

The maximum amount of an electorate candidate's election expenses is \$20,000 including GST.

2008 General Election - Questions and Answers

Election expenses are the costs of advertising undertaken from 1 January 2008 to the close of polling day that:

- can reasonably be regarded as either encouraging voters to vote for the candidate, or discouraging voters from voting for another candidate; and
- is undertaken by or with the authority of the candidate or the candidate's financial agent.

Candidates have to disclose candidate donations of more than \$1,000. Further information about the rules is in the Information for Parliamentary Candidates and their Financial Agents guide.

Candidate financial agents will be required to file a return of candidate election expenses and donations by 10 March 2009.

What activity is allowed on election day?

Campaigning on election day is a criminal offence.

Before election day all election advertising that can be seen from a public place must be removed or covered.

Signs on vehicles, including bumper stickers, must be covered or removed.

Delivery of election material that arrives on election day is prohibited.

A statement, party name, logo, slogan or emblem on party or campaign headquarters may remain on polling day if it does not refer specifically to the election campaign.

Election material does not have to be removed from a website on election day, as long as the material is only available to people who voluntarily access it. New material must not be posted on the website on election day.

Candidates and supporters may wear party lapel badges in public on election day. Clothing (such as T-shirts) promoting the party or candidate must not be displayed on election day.

More information is detailed in the Information for Parliamentary Candidates and their Financial Agents guide.