

Botany By-Election Media Information

A Parliamentary by-election will be held in the Botany electorate on Saturday 5 March 2011.

Polling places will be open from 9.00am to 7.00pm on the day. Preliminary results are expected to be available from www.electionresults.govt.nz from 7.00pm on election day.

Enclosed is background information on the by-election:

- **Timeline** for the Botany By-election
- **Enrolment Information**
- **Candidate and Party Vote statistics** for the Botany electorate for the 2008 General Election
- **Campaigning Rules Information**
- **Questions and Answers**

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www.electionresults.govt.nz

The elections Freephone number for the public is 0800 36 76 56.

5 March 2011 Botany By-election Timetable

Date	Activity
14 December 2010	By-election date announced
17 December 2010	Lists of people enrolled in the Botany electorate as at 14 December 2010 produced and available for public inspection Enrolment drive for Botany by-election underway
Tuesday 1 February 2011	Writ Day Governor General issues direction to the Electoral Commission to conduct a by-election in Botany Last day for enrolment before Electoral Rolls close for printing Voters enrolled after this date cast a special declaration vote
Wednesday 2 February	Nominations open for candidates in the Botany by-election
Tuesday 8 February 2011 Noon Deadline	Nominations close for candidates in the Botany by-election
4.00pm Target	Botany by-election candidates announced by Electoral Commission Information on where to vote available from www.elections.org.nz
Wednesday 16 February 2011	Advance Voting starts in the Botany electorate and at Registrars of Electors Offices around the country Overseas Voting starts
Saturday 26 February	EasyVote information packs available for those enrolled in the Botany electorate
Friday 4 March 2011	Enrolments close All political advertising ceases and election signs taken down by midnight
Saturday 5 March	Botany By-election held Polling places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. Polling places will be located in the Botany electorate Preliminary Results progressively available from 7.00pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release are: - by 7.30pm all advance vote results - by 9.00pm results from 50% of polling places - by 10.00pm results from 100% of polling places. These are targets not guarantees.
Wednesday 16 March 2011 Noon Target	Official Results declared (including special declaration and overseas votes)
Monday 21 March 2011	Deadline for applications for judicial recount
Wednesday 23 March 2011	Last day for Return of Writ. The Electoral Commission expects to return the writ naming the successful candidate on Tuesday 22 March (presuming no recount).

Enrolment

Only people eligible to vote and enrolled in the Botany electorate can vote in the by-election.

Everyone enrolled by Tuesday 1 February 2011 will get an EasyVote pack which includes an EasyVote card in the mail. People who enrol after this but before the final deadline of Friday 4 March 2011 will need to cast a Special Declaration Vote.

People are eligible to enrol in the Botany electorate if they:

- ✓ are 18 years or over;
- ✓ are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who has lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months; and
- ✓ have been living in the Botany electorate for one month or more.

Enrolling is easy. Enrolment forms are available

- ✓ from the elections website www.elections.org.nz
- ✓ by free texting your name and address to 3676
- ✓ from any PostShop or by calling 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56)

People can also check their details and enrol online at www.elections.org.nz.

As at 30 November 2010 42,015 people or 90.37% of the estimated eligible voting population were enrolled for the Botany Electorate.

There are also 1,362 people enrolled on the Māori Roll who live within the Botany Electorate boundaries but as they are on the Māori Roll they are not eligible to vote in this by-election.

A breakdown of enrolment statistics nationally and by electorate is available from <http://www.elections.org.nz/ages/>

Botany Electorate Statistics 2008

Enrolments	41, 969
Total votes cast	32, 019
Turnout	76.29%
Number of special votes cast	3,228
Number of advance ordinary votes	2,789
Number of overseas votes	409
Winning candidate majority	10,872

Botany Electorate Results 2008 General Election

Electorate Votes		Party Votes			
Candidate	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes	Party	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes
CARTER, Judy	428	1.38	United Future	220	0.70
CHEAM, Racheal	304	0.98	Jim Anderton's Progressive	217	0.69
COOPER, Peter	1,226	3.97	Green Party	756	2.39
KAN, Simon	212	0.69	Kiwi Party	125	0.40
SUBRAMANIAN, Raj	140	0.45			
TAWA, Koro	6,510	21.06	Labour Party	7,958	25.18
WANG, Kenneth	4,717	15.26	ACT New Zealand	1,528	4.84
WONG, Pansy	17,382	56.22	National Party	19,355	61.25
			Alliance	8	0.03
			Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	62	0.20
			Democrats for Social Credit	2	0.01
			Family Party	166	0.53
			Libertarianz	10	0.03
			Māori Party	98	0.31
			New Zealand First Party	678	2.15
			New Zealand Pacific Party	295	0.93
			RAM - Residents Action Movement	6	0.02
			The Bill and Ben Party	98	0.31
			The Republic of New Zealand Party	7	0.02
			Workers Party	13	0.04
Candidate Informals	386		Party Informals	131	
Totals	31,733		Totals	31,305	

Botany By-Election - Questions and Answers

Enrolment

1. Who can enrol to vote in the Botany by-election?

To enrol to vote in the Botany by-election people must:

- ✓ be 18 years or over;
- ✓ be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who has lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months; and
- ✓ have been living in the Botany electorate for one month or more.

2. What are the enrolment deadlines?

Everyone enrolled by Tuesday 1 February 2011 will get an EasyVote pack which includes an EasyVote card in the mail.

People who enrol after this but before the final deadline of Friday 4 March 2011 will need to cast a Special Declaration Vote.

3. Can people enrolled on the Māori electoral roll living in Botany vote?

No. The by-election is to select the Member of Parliament for the General Electorate of Botany. Only those people on the Botany electoral roll are eligible to vote.

4. Are people enrolled to vote in the Botany electorate but living overseas eligible to vote?

Those aged 18 or older and who are either: a New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand in the past three years, or a New Zealand permanent resident who has been in New Zealand in the past 12 months, and the Botany electorate is where they last lived for a month or more in New Zealand are eligible to enrol and to vote in the by-election.

5. How do people enrol?

Enrolment forms are available

- ✓ from the elections website www.elections.org.nz
- ✓ by free texting your name and address to 3676
- ✓ from any PostShop or by calling 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 36 76 56)

People can also check their details and enrol online at www.elections.org.nz.

Voting

1. Who can vote in the Botany by-election?

Only people eligible, and enrolled in the Botany electorate can vote in the by-election. They must be enrolled to vote by Friday 4 March, the day before election day.

2. Where can people vote?

On election day people can vote at one of the polling places within the Botany electorate boundaries. Where possible the polling places for the 2008 General Election will be used.

There will be no polling places outside the Botany electorate on election day.

People who can't vote in the electorate on election day can vote in advance at an advance voting place in the electorate or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country or at the Electoral Commission in Wellington.

3. When can people vote?

Polling places in the Botany electorate are open from 9.00am to 7.00pm on election day – Saturday 5 March 2011.

People who need to vote in advance, those going overseas or those overseas already can vote from Wednesday 16 February 2011.

4. Where will the polling places be?

The number of polling places inside the Botany electorate and their locations are being finalised now. Where possible the polling place locations used in Botany for the 2008 General Election will be used for the 5 March by-election.

5. How many polling places will there be?

Polling places are being finalised now. There are expected to be a similar number of polling places in the electorate as there were for the 2008 General Election.

6. Will there be an EasyVote pack?

Yes. Voter information packs will be sent during the week before election day to everyone who was enrolled by 1 February. These packs will include

- the candidates for the Botany by-election
- advance voting places and
- the polling places for the Botany electorate.

The packs will also include a personalised *EasyVote* card. This will have

- the person's name,
- their address, and
- the page and line number where they appear on the Botany electoral roll.

7. What if a person doesn't get an EasyVote card, can they still vote?

Yes, but they must be enrolled for their vote to count. The EasyVote card has been designed to make the voting process easier, but people can vote without it.

8. Will there be a party vote and an electorate vote?

The by-election is to elect a new Member of Parliament for the Botany electorate.

There is only one vote in the by-election, the vote for the electorate candidate.

9. Where do voters find out information about where, when and how to vote?

Information on where, when and how to vote is contained in the EasyVote pack.

Information is also available from www.elections.org.nz or 0800 36 76 56. Copies of brochures are also available by calling the 0800 number or emailing vote@elections.org.nz.

VOTING – BEFORE SATURDAY 5 MARCH 2011

10. What do people do if they are not in the Botany electorate on Saturday 5 March 2011?

People can vote in advance from Wednesday 16 February either in the electorate, or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country or at the Electoral Commission in Wellington.

11. Will people be able to vote outside their electorate on election day?

No. Voting facilities will only be available in the electorate on election day.

If someone is going to be outside their electorate on Saturday 5 March they will have to vote in advance.

12. What do people do if they are overseas on Saturday 5 March?

There are four ways people going overseas can vote:

1. make an advance vote before leaving New Zealand from Wednesday 16 February
2. can download voting papers from the internet www.elections.org.nz
3. apply for postal voting papers
4. vote in person at an overseas post accepting votes for the by-election.

Voting papers need to be posted or faxed back, NOT e-mailed.

13. What if a person can't get to a polling place on 5 March?

Options include:

- voting in advance
- applying for a postal vote
- arranging for another person to collect the voting papers from a polling place or advance voting place.

14. What options are available for a person in a rest home?

If a person is in a rest home in the Botany electorate, the Botany Returning Officer will send someone to take their vote.

If a person can't get to a polling place because they are sick, infirm or have a disability, help may be available by contacting the Botany Returning Officer.

15. What are the boundaries of the Botany electorate?

The Botany electorate extends from Botany Downs in the north, through East Tamaki Heights to Flat Bush in the south. Its western border extends to the Tamaki River.

Maps of the electorate can be viewed on <http://www.elections.org.nz/mapping/>

Candidates

1. Who can be a candidate in the Botany by-election?

To be a candidate, you must be enrolled in any electorate, be a New Zealand citizen and not be disqualified from enrolling.

2. What is the nomination process?

Two people enrolled in the Botany electorate must nominate the candidate by lodging an individual nomination paper with the Botany Returning Officer by noon on nomination day Tuesday 8 February 2011.

3. What are the election expense rules?

Detailed information is contained in the Electoral Commission's *"Information for Parliamentary Candidates - By-Elections"* guide and the Electoral Act 1993. New rules governing the regulated period and the candidate expense limit will be in force from 1 January 2011 and apply to the Botany election.

Election expenses are primarily advertising and other publicity costs during the regulated period that:

- Encourage or appear to encourage voters to vote for the candidate: or
- Discourage or appear to discourage voters from voting for another candidate.

The regulated period for the Botany by-election is from 19 January 2011 to 4 March 2011 being the period from day after the Speaker is expected to give public notice of the vacancy in the Gazette to the day before election day.

Rules include:

- The amount candidates can incur in election expenses in the regulated period for the by-election will be limited to \$50,000 (inc GST).
- Candidates (or their agent) must give written authorisation before any advertisement promoting their election can be published.
- The advertisement must state the name and business or residential address of the person directing it to be published.
- Campaigning is forbidden on the day of the by-election.

4. What are the rules relating to donations?

Candidate donations and contributions to donations of more than \$1,000 must be declared. Candidates are not allowed to keep anonymous or overseas donations of more than \$1,000.

5. Are there limits on how much can be spent on campaigning?

Yes. A maximum of \$50,000 (including gst).

6. Are there broadcasting allocations?

There are no broadcasting allocations. These only apply to party campaigning.

7. Are candidate's required to appoint a financial agent?

No. This is no longer a requirement.