

2026 BROADCASTING ALLOCATION – VARIATION

1. The Electoral Commission (the Commission) released its 2026 Broadcasting Allocation decision on 7 May 2026. That decision should be read alongside this variation decision.
2. Section 80 of the Broadcasting Act 1989 (the Act) gives the Commission power to vary its original allocation of money to political parties for the broadcasting of election programmes and election advertising. Section 80 reads:

80 Electoral Commission may vary allocation

- (1) The Electoral Commission may vary a decision made under section 79 if a party to which an amount of money is allocated -
 - (a) does not accept that allocation; or
 - (b) ceases to be registered; or
 - (c) fails to submit a list of candidates for election under section 127 of the Electoral Act 1993; or
 - (d) fails to comply with any conditions imposed by the Electoral Commission under section 79(1)(b).
 - (2) The Electoral Commission may also vary a decision made under section 79 if there has been a significant change in the relationship between a party that has received an allocation of money and any other party.
 - (3) The Electoral Commission may vary a decision made under section 79 without affording any party the opportunity to –
 - (a) meet with the Electoral Commission; or
 - (b) comment on the proposed variation.
 - (4) In varying a decision made under section 79, the Electoral Commission must have regard to –
 - (a) the views of parties received in the course of consultations undertaken in accordance with section 77; and
 - (b) the matters specified in sections 78 and 79(3).
 - (5) If an allocation of money made to a party has been spent (in whole or in part), the Electoral Commission must not vary that allocation unless –
 - (a) the registration of the party is cancelled under section 70 of the Electoral Act 1993; or
 - (b) the party secretary has failed to submit a list of candidates for election under section 127 of the Electoral Act 1993.
3. Parties must have been registered by the dissolution or expiry of Parliament to continue to be eligible for an allocation of broadcasting money in accordance with section 78(1)(b) of the Act. However, in accordance with section 64 of the Electoral Act 1993, a party which intends to apply for registration must be registered before the start of the regulated period for the election. For the 2026 General Election, this meant eligible parties must have been registered before 7 August 2026.

4. The following parties (together referred to as the “ineligible parties”) were given an allocation in the Commission’s Broadcasting Allocation Decision of 7 May 2026 but have failed to be registered by 7 August 2026:
 - Change New Zealand
 - People's Party New Zealand Incorporated.
5. As the ineligible parties are not registered as political parties by the start of the regulated period, they are no longer eligible to receive an allocation of money for the broadcasting of election programmes.
6. Free Palestine and New Zealand Loyal have become registered political parties since the Commission's initial allocation decision and remain eligible parties.
7. There are now fifteen parties continuing to be eligible for an allocation. A total of \$157,774 of the amount previously allocated to the now ineligible parties is therefore available for reallocation.
8. At this stage of the electoral cycle, eleven weeks from start of voting, and in the present circumstances where other more significant changes are not at issue, in fairness to all those receiving an allocation, the Commission considers its power to vary the allocation includes the ability to maintain or increase, but not reduce, any allocation.
9. Having again considered all applicable criteria, the Commission has decided to allocate the remaining funds proportionately to all of the eligible parties based on the adjusted percentages that each party received as a result of the initial allocation decision of 7 May 2026.
10. The following table sets out the revised allocations to those parties who remain eligible for the broadcasting allocation for the 2026 General Election. Parties are reminded that the amounts allocated by the Commission include GST.

Variation of Broadcasting Allocation Decision for the 2026 General Election

	Political Party	Original Allocation (inclusive of GST)	Varied Allocation (inclusive of GST)
Parties eligible for share of broadcasting allocation	The New Zealand National Party	\$1,079,514	\$1,122,209
	New Zealand Labour Party	\$913,435	\$949,566
	The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand	\$394,438	\$410,042
	ACT New Zealand	\$332,158	\$345,254
	New Zealand First Party	\$290,639	\$302,157
	Te Pāti Māori	\$228,359	\$237,384
	Opportunity Party	\$114,179	\$118,755
	New Zealand Loyal	\$83,040	\$86,306
	Animal Justice Party Aotearoa New Zealand	\$78,887	\$82,011
	Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	\$78,887	\$82,011
	Conservative Party NZ	\$78,887	\$82,011
	Free Palestine	\$78,887	\$82,011
	NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party	\$78,887	\$82,011
	Vision New Zealand	\$78,887	\$82,011
	Women's Rights Party	\$78,887	\$82,011
Parties not eligible for allocation	Change New Zealand *	\$78,887	\$0
	People's Party New Zealand Incorporated *	\$78,887	\$0
	TOTAL allocated	\$4,145,745	\$4,145,750
	TOTAL available	\$4,145,750	\$4,145,750

* These parties are not eligible for an allocation as they were not registered as at the start of the regulated period, 7 August 2026.

11. As referred to in the original allocation decision of 7 May, in accordance with section 74 of the Act parties may only use their allocation to buy advertising time on television and radio, buy advertising on the internet, and pay for the production costs of television, radio and internet advertising.
12. Currently registered parties must remain registered at the date of dissolution of Parliament (1 October 2026). If they become unregistered, they will not be eligible for an allocation, and the amounts allocated to them will be available for reallocation. Parties must also submit a party list by noon on 8 October 2026 to remain eligible for an allocation. The Commission may consider a further variation of the allocation to the then eligible political parties after the date of dissolution of Parliament and after the last date for submitting a party list.

Dated: 7 August 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the Commission:



Hon Simon Moore KC
Chair
Pou Kaiāwhā
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri



Jane Meares
Deputy Chair
Pou Kaiāwhā
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri



Karl Le Quesne
Chief Electoral Officer
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