GET READY AND VOTE.
THE EASY READ GUIDE TO VOTING.
Developed with input from People First
New Zealand, Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi
About this booklet.

This booklet has information about how to vote in a general election.
About a general election.

A general election means you can choose to vote for the people and parties who will:

- be in Parliament
- make decisions that affect your life.

Parliament is all the people and parties who have been chosen in the election.

Some of the parties in Parliament will form the Government.

The New Zealand Government decides on things that affect your life like schools, hospitals and roads.

In New Zealand a general election usually happens every 3 years.
In a general election you get 2 votes to choose the:

1. Political group you want to be the New Zealand Government.
2. Person you want to represent your local area in Parliament.

A political group is also called a political party.

The person you want to represent your local area in Parliament is also called a Member of Parliament.
You have to be enrolled if you want to vote in a general election. To get enrolled you have to fill in an enrolment form.

About choosing who to vote for.

It is your choice who you want to vote for. Nobody is allowed to tell you who to vote for.

Here is a list of where you could find more information to help you choose who to vote for:

- newspaper
- television
- radio
- internet
- public meetings
- your friends and family

About getting enrolled to vote.

You have to be enrolled if you want to vote in a general election. To get enrolled you have to fill in an enrolment form.
To get an enrolment form you can:

- Call 0800 36 76 56
- Text your name and address to 3676
- Visit www.elections.org.nz

When you fill in an enrolment form your name will go on the electoral roll.

The electoral roll is the list of all the people who have enrolled to vote.

If you are Māori and enrolling for the first time, you get to choose if you want to be on the Māori or the General roll.

The enrolment form will ask for information about you.

It is important to put the right information on the enrolment form.
After you have enrolled to vote your name will go on the electoral roll.

If you are worried about your safety if your name goes on the electoral roll, you can ask to go on the unpublished roll.

Your personal details will be kept private.

If you need help to put your information on the enrolment form ask someone to help you.
In New Zealand you must be enrolled to vote if you:

- are 18 years or older, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year at some time in your life, and
- are a New Zealand citizen who is living in New Zealand now, or
- are a permanent resident who is living in New Zealand now.

You must update your information on the electoral roll if you:

- move to a different place
- change your name

Who can get enrolled to vote?

You can enrol to vote on any day before the general election happens.

You cannot enrol to vote on the day the general election happens.
About how you can vote.

Election day is the date when the election happens.

You can vote:

• on election day
• before election day

Voting places are open for 2 weeks before election day.

You can vote at any voting place in New Zealand.

There will be someone at the voting place to show you what to do.

If you are enrolled to vote you will get an information pack in the mail 2 weeks before the election happens. The information pack has:

• your EasyVote card
• where to vote
• when to vote
• a list of people to choose from
• a list of political groups to choose from
The person who works at the voting place will:

- find your name on the electoral roll
- cross your name off the electoral roll
- give your voting paper to you

If you do not have an EasyVote card you will have to tell the person who works at the voting place your:

- full name
- address

When you go to a voting place take your EasyVote card with you.
Give your EasyVote card to the person that works at the voting place.
You can vote without your EasyVote card but it will take longer.
After you get your voting paper take it behind the voting screen.

On your voting paper put a tick by the name of the:
  • political group you want to be the New Zealand Government
  • the person you want to represent your local area in Parliament

After you tick your voting paper:
  • fold it in half
  • put it in the ballot box
Voting support.

You can get support to vote from a:
• friend
• person in your family
• person who works at the voting place

A support person is allowed to:
• go with you behind the voting screen
• read out loud the words on the voting paper
• tick the voting paper if you ask them to

A support person is not allowed to tell you who to vote for.
More information about general elections.

To get more information about how to enrol and vote in general elections you can:

- Visit www.elections.org.nz
- Call 0800 36 76 56