Voting from overseas

If you are overseas you can still vote. From Wednesday 6 September you can get your voting papers in the following ways:

- Download voting papers from elections.org.nz
- Ask us for postal voting papers
- Vote at overseas posts in many countries. Check elections.org.nz for the locations of overseas posts.

Need help to vote?

If you need help to read or mark your voting paper, a friend, family member or an electoral official can help. That person can go behind the voting screen with you, and can read out the words and information on the voting paper. They can also mark the voting paper for you according to your instructions. But they can’t tell you who you should vote for.

Voters who are blind, partially blind, or have another disability that means they are unable to mark the voting paper without assistance can vote by telephone dictation.

More information

For more information about enrolling and voting:

- Visit elections.org.nz
- Call 0800 36 76 56
- Visit facebook.com/ivoteNZ

If you know someone this information would help, please tell them about it.

Information about enrolling and voting is available in 27 languages at elections.org.nz/languages.
You can enrol right up to Friday 22 September, including at any advance voting place, but not on election day itself.

Enrolling or updating your details is easy. To get an enrolment form:
- Visit elections.org.nz
- Call free 0800 36 76 56
- Freetext your name and address to 3676
- Go into any PostShop

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

You can vote from Monday 11 September to Friday 22 September at any advance voting place. You can also enrol, check or update your details at the same time.

On election day, Saturday 23 September, all voting places will be open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. You must be enrolled by Friday 22 September. You cannot enrol on election day itself.

Information about where and when to vote, and who you can vote for, will be available from Wednesday 30 August at elections.org.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56. It will also be included in your EasyVote pack.

You can vote at any voting place in the country, but you may need to fill in an extra form if you vote outside your electorate.

You need to be enrolled to vote

Only people who are enrolled can vote in the General Election.

You must enrol if you:
- 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 your life.

Enrol by 23 August and you will be sent everything you need to make voting easy, including your personalised EasyVote card. Your EasyVote card will make voting faster and easier.

You can enrol after 23 August but you won’t get your EasyVote card.

Voting in the 2017 General Election

You can vote from Monday 11 September to Friday 22 September at any advance voting place. You can also enrol, check or update your details at the same time.

On election day, Saturday 23 September, all voting places will be open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. You must be enrolled by Friday 22 September. You cannot enrol on election day itself.

Information about where and when to vote, and who you can vote for, will be available from Wednesday 30 August at elections.org.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56. It will also be included in your EasyVote pack.

You can vote at any voting place in the country, but you may need to fill in an extra form if you vote outside your electorate.

How to vote

If you have an EasyVote card take it with you when you go to vote and give it to the person issuing your voting paper. It will help them find you on the electoral roll. They will ask you to confirm your name and give you your voting paper.

If you don’t have an EasyVote card, you will need to tell the person issuing your vote your full name and address.

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

Take your voting paper to the private voting screen. Each voter has a party vote and an electorate vote. On your voting paper, place a tick by the name of the political party of your choice and a tick by the name of the candidate you would most like to represent your local area.

You get to choose from the same list of political parties whether you are on the General roll or Māori roll.

If you are on the Māori roll you will vote for a candidate standing in a Māori electorate and if you are on the General roll you will vote for a candidate standing in a General electorate.

Can’t get to a voting place?

If you are in a rest home or hospital, the Electoral Commission will send teams to deliver voting services. If you are unable to get to a voting place you can get help to vote. You can find out more at elections.org.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

The party vote largely decides the total number of seats each political party gets in Parliament. Parties with a bigger share of the party vote will get more seats in Parliament.