

Voting in the 2008 General Election

The
easy
way



IF YOU'RE NOT ENROLLED – ENROL NOW!

You have to be enrolled to vote

Enrolling is easy. Get an enrolment form now from:

- www.elections.org.nz
- Freetext 3676 (text your name and address)
- Freephone 0800 36 76 56
- any PostShop.



YOU CAN'T ENROL ON ELECTION DAY

Make voting easier

If you enrol by about a month before election day the Chief Electoral Officer will send you an EasyVote information pack about a week before election day.

The pack will give you all the information you need to vote in the election – the name of your electorate, who your local and party candidates are, when and where you can go to vote and information on MMP.

It will also include your personal EasyVote card to take with you when you vote.

If you are of Māori descent you may be enrolled for a Māori electorate or for a general electorate, depending on the choice you made when you enrolled or at the last Māori Electoral Option. You cannot change your choice until the next Māori Electoral Option due in 2012.

If you enrol late, you can still vote

- You will have to complete a special declaration vote.
- You will not receive an EasyVote card but you should receive a letter to take with you when you vote.

ELECTION DAY IS ALWAYS A SATURDAY.

It's best to vote close to home

- You will have to complete a special declaration vote.
- If you're not going to be in your electorate on election day, you can still vote at any polling place by completing a special declaration vote, which will take longer. Take your EasyVote card with you if you have one.

VOTING IN ADVANCE IS AN OPTION

If you're not going to be in your electorate or can't get to a polling place on election day, you can vote from 2-and-a-half weeks before election day.

You will have to complete a form when you vote giving your reason for voting in advance.

Information about where, when and how to vote in advance will be available at: www.elections.org.nz or Freephone 0800 36 76 56.

Information on voting in advance will also be in your EasyVote information pack, which you should receive about a week before election day.

VOTING IS EASY

- To make voting easier, take your EasyVote card with you. It shows your name, electorate and where your name is on the electoral roll.
- If you don't have an EasyVote card, but have a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer, take the letter with you.
- If you don't have an EasyVote card or a letter, you can still vote if you are enrolled.

If you need help to read or mark your ballot paper, a friend, family member or electoral officials can help. Just ask when you go to vote or Freephone 0800 36 76 56 to find out more.

Anyone who doesn't speak English can take a friend or family member to the polling place to help. If you know someone this information would help, please tell them about it.



HELP FOR VOTERS UNABLE TO GET TO A POLLING PLACE

If you are in a rest home or hospital, your Returning Officer will send someone to issue you with your vote. If you are unable to get to a polling place because of sickness, infirmity or disability you can seek help.

Contact details and more information will be available from www.elections.org.nz or Freephone 0800 36 76 56.



PEOPLE OVERSEAS ON ELECTION DAY CAN ALSO VOTE

If you are going to be overseas on election day there are four voting options. From 2-and-a-half weeks before election day you can:

- vote in advance, if you are in New Zealand
- download voting papers from our website www.elections.org.nz
- apply for a postal vote
- vote at overseas posts in 44 countries.

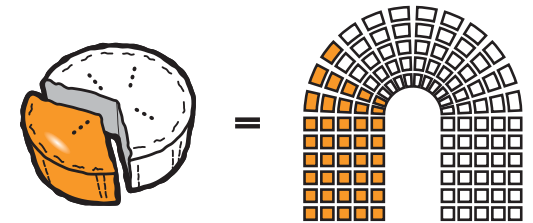
YOU HAVE TWO VOTES

Your two votes help decide who will represent us in Parliament

Each voter has a party vote and an electorate vote.

- Your party vote helps decide the share of seats (MPs) each party gets in Parliament. Every voter has the same selection of parties to choose from. The more party votes a party gets, the more MPs it will have in Parliament.
- Your electorate vote helps decide who becomes your local MP. Each electorate has a different selection of candidates to choose from. The candidate who gets the most votes wins the seat.

There are 63 general electorate seats, 7 Māori electorate seats and 50 list seats.



This proportion of party votes

The same proportion of seats in parliament

A party will get seats in Parliament based on its party vote if it wins:

- 5% or more of all the party votes; or
- one or more electorate seats.

A party's share of seats will be filled by any electorate MPs it gets, and then by list MPs taken from the top of the party's nominated list.

For more information

- www.elections.org.nz
- Freephone: 0800 36 76 56



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