

## GENERAL ELECTIONS 1853-2014 - DATES AND TURNOUT

Dates and turnout of New Zealand General Elections from 1853 to 2014

Date of general election[1]	Date of Maori election[2]	Total no. of MPs[3]	Total registered electors[4]	Official turnout (%) [5]
1853	14 Jul-1 Oct	37	5,849	
1855	26 Oct-28 Dec	37	9,891[6]	
1860-1	12 Dec-28 Mar	53	13,196	
1866	12 Feb-6 Apr	70	29,320	
1868	15 Apr, 6 May	76		
1871	1, 15 Feb	78	41,527	
1875-6	4, 15 Jan	88	56,471	
1879	1, 8 Sep	88	82,271	66.5
1881	8 Dec (Thu)	95	120,972	66.5
1884	21 Jul (Mon)	95	137,686	60.6
1887	7 Sep (Wed)	95	175,410	67.1
1890	27 Nov (Wed)	74	183,171	80.4
1893	20 Dec (Wed)	74	302,997	75.3
1896	19 Dec (Thu)	74	337,024	76.1
1899	19 Dec (Tue)	74	373,744	77.6
1902	22 Dec (Mon)	80	415,789	76.7
1905	20 Dec (Wed)	80	476,473	83.3
1908	2 Dec (Wed)	80	537,003	79.8
1911	19 Dec (Tue)	80	590,042	83.5
1914	11 Dec (Fri)	80	616,043	84.7
1919	16 Dec (Tue)	80	683,420	80.5
1922	6 Dec (Mon)	80	700,111	88.7
1925	3 Nov (Tue)	80	754,113	90.9
1928	13 Nov (Tue)	80	844,633	88.1
1931	1 Dec (Tue)	80	874,787	83.3
1935	26 Nov (Tue)	80	919,798	90.8
1938	14 Oct (Fri)	80	995,173	92.9
1943	24 Sep (Fri)	80	1,021,034[8]	82.8
1946	26 Nov (Tue)	80	1,081,898	93.5
1949	29 Nov (Tue)	80	1,113,852	93.5
1951	1 Sep (Sat hereafter)	80	1,205,762	89.1
1954	13 Nov	80	1,209,670	91.4
1957	30 Nov	80	1,252,329	92.9
1960	26 Nov	80	1,310,742	89.8
1963	30 Nov	80	1,345,836	89.6
1966	26 Nov	80	1,409,600	86.0
1969	29 Nov	84	1,519,889	88.9
1972	25 Nov	87	1,583,256	89.1
1975	29 Nov	87	1,953,050	82.5
1978	25 Nov	92	2,487,594	69.2[9]
1981	28 Nov	92	2,034,747	91.4
1984	14 Jul	95	2,111,651	93.7
1987	15 Aug	97	2,114,656	89.1
1990	27 Oct	97	2,202,157	85.2
1993	6 Nov	99	2,321,664	85.2
1996	12 Oct	120	2,418,587	88.3
1999	27 Nov	120	2,509,365	84.8
2002	27 Jul	120	2,670,030	77.0

Date of general election[1]	Date of Maori election[2]	Total no. of MPs[3]	Total registered electors[4]	Official turnout (%) [5]
2005 17 Sep		121	2,847,396	80.9
2008 8 Nov		122	2,990,759	79.5
2011 26 Nov		121	3,070,847	74.2
2014 20 Sep		121	3,140,417	77.9

[1] From 1853 to 1879 general elections took place over a period of weeks or months. As many members were returned unopposed in these years, the range of dates given covers both nomination day and (where required) the day of polling. From 1881 a single day was specified for voting in all general (European) seats, although Maori voting was held on a different day. Since 1951 elections in general and Maori seats have taken place on the same day, and always on a Saturday.

[2] Between 1868 and 1879 dates are given for both nomination and (if required) polling in the four Maori seats. At the first elections in 1868 three of the four members were elected on nomination day (15 Apr), two without opposition and one by show of hands; the fourth was returned in a poll on 6 May. From 1881 only the day of Maori polling is given.

[3] From 1868 includes Maori MPs.

[4] Includes electors enrolled in uncontested seats, who are excluded when calculating turnout (note that all seats have been contested since 1943). Figures from 1860-1 to 1879 exclude gold miners, who were entitled to vote without registration. In 1864 there were 11,838 males aged over 21 on the Otago goldfields, while in 1869-70 20,300 miners throughout New Zealand were entitled to vote under this provision. Maori are excluded until 1951. Rolls for the Maori seats were not compiled until 1949, and those used for that election were clearly incomplete (more votes were cast than electors enrolled). If the official figures for Maori were included, the 1949 turnout would be 94.6%.

[5] Uncontested seats are excluded. Maori are excluded until 1951. Note that the method of calculating official turnout has changed several times: until 1954 it was valid votes plus informal votes as a percentage of total enrolled electors; from 1957 to 1978 valid votes plus informal votes as a percentage of total enrolled electors plus allowed special votes; from 1981 valid votes, informal votes and disallowed special votes as a percentage of total enrolled electors.

[6] Includes an estimated 485 electors enrolled in the New Plymouth, Grey & Bell and Omata electorates, for which figures are not available.

[7] The Second Ballot Act 1908 provided for second ballots (where required) to be held seven days after the first ballot except in ten large rural seats, where fourteen days was allowed. In 1908, 22 second ballots were held on 24 Nov and one (Bay of Plenty) on 1 Dec. At the 1911 election, all 30 second ballots were held seven days later. The Second Ballot Act, which did not apply to the Maori seats, was repealed in 1913. The figures for turnout in these years are for first ballots only.

[8] The figures for enrolled electors and turnout are for civilians only; an additional 92,934 military votes were cast.

[9] This figure is misleading because the electoral rolls in 1978 contained a large number of outdated and duplicate entries. If the 361,000 names deleted in 1979-80 are subtracted, the turnout was 79.9%.

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