Election Timetable 2020

In an election year, a number of significant events are held by Parliament. This timetable outlines key dates before and after the election, explains what happens at each stage of the electoral process and includes links to more information.

28 January

PM announces date of 2020 general election

19 March

By-elections not usually held

Six months before the election

Valedictory Statements

18 August

Regulated period for election expenses begins

TBD

Adjournment of Parliament

6 September

Dissolution of Parliament

13 September

Writ day
20 to 30 working days before the election

Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update

18 September

Nomination day

30 September

Overseas voting begins

3 October

Advanced voting

16 October

Regulated period ends

17 October

Election day

30 October

Preliminary referendum results will be released.

No set day

Formation of the Government

September/October

MP Induction Programme
6 November

Official results of general election declared

12 November

Last day for the return of the writ

13 November to 24 December

Commission Opening of Parliament

14 November to 25 December

State Opening of Parliament

Usually at 2pm on the same day as the State Opening

Address in Reply debate

December
30 October
Preliminary referendum results will be released.

No set day
Formation of the Government

September/October
MP Induction Programme

6 November
Official results of general election declared

12 November
Last day for the return of the writ

After declaring the result, and when satisfied that no application is to be made for a judicial recount, or after any recount has taken place, the Electoral Commissioner delivers the writ to the Clerk of the House. Effectively this is a certificate of election, proving the right of membership to the House of Representatives.

Following the return of the writ, the Governor-General issues a proclamation summoning Parliament to meet within six weeks.

13 November to 24 December
Commission Opening of Parliament

Within six weeks of the return of the writ, the first meeting of the new Parliament must take place. Parliament is opened on the Governor-General's behalf by three Royal Commissioners (usually the Chief Justice and two other senior judges). A Commissioner reads the proclamation summoning Parliament and informs members that the Governor-General will attend in person the next day. The Commissioners then depart but the members remain so they can be sworn in and a Speaker elected.

14 November to 25 December
State Opening of Parliament