

About the 2020 General Election

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The 2020 General Election was held on 17 October along with the End of Life Choice and cannabis referendums.

You need to be enrolled to vote in the election and referendums.

To enrol and vote, you need to be 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

Enrol or update your details online now

COVID-19 and the 2020 General Election

We have processes in place to protect you and your whānau while you vote.

Voting will open 2 days earlier than usual, and there will be more voting places to reduce queues. We encourage you to vote locally and bring your own pen if you can. We'll provide hand sanitiser at voting places, and there'll be space for physical distancing. If you need to stay home, you'll have other ways of voting including voting by post.

more about the safety measures we have in place


Voting started on 3 October

If you're in New Zealand, you can vote from Saturday 3 October to 7pm on election day, Saturday 17 October. You can vote from overseas from Wednesday 30 September.

Full election timetable

The timetable for the election is determined in accordance with the Electoral Act 1993.

- **Monday 17 August:**
Prime Minister announces new dates for the 2020 General Election
- **Tuesday 18 August**
Regulated period for election advertising expenses begins
- **Sunday 6 September:**
Parliament dissolves
- **Sunday 13 September:**
Writ Day - the Governor General formally directs us to hold the Election
- **Thursday 17 September noon:**
The deadline for party secretaries to get their bulk nomination schedules and the party lists to us
- **Friday 18 September noon:**
The deadline for electorate candidates to get their individual nomination forms to us
- **Wednesday 30 September:**
Overseas voting starts

- **Saturday 3 October:**
Advance voting starts
- **Friday 16 October:**
Advance voting ends
- **Friday 16 October midnight:**
The regulated period ends. All election and referendum advertising must end. Signs must be taken down by midnight.
- **Saturday 17 October:**
Election day. Voters can vote from 9am to 7pm
We'll start releasing preliminary election results from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz 
<https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/>

We won't count referendum votes on election night

- **Friday 30 October:**
We release the preliminary results for the referendums
- **Friday 6 November:**
We declare the official results for the general election and referendums
- **Thursday 12 November:**
Last day for the return of the writ

Voting in the election

At the 2020 General Election, you can vote for the parties and candidates you want to represent you in Parliament.

Learn more about how to vote

Find a voting place

Voting places will open across New Zealand, so everyone has a chance to vote.

The days and hours that advance voting places are open vary. Please check the opening hours before you vote.

On election day, Saturday 17 October, all voting places are open from 9am to 7pm.


Find a voting place on a map

Find a voting place from a list

You can also vote in two referendums

At this year's general election, you can also vote in two referendums. At your voting place, you'll get a voting paper for the referendums with your voting paper for the election.

You can vote on whether the recreational use of cannabis should become legal. You can also vote on whether the End of Life Choice Act 2019 should come into force, giving people with a terminal illness the option of requesting assisted dying.

Find out more about the referendums at www.referendums.govt.nz 

https://www.referendums.govt.nz/?utm_source=votenz&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=homepage

Learn more about voting in the referendums

We'll release preliminary election results on election day

We'll release preliminary election results from 7pm on 17 October at

www.electionresults.govt.nz 


<https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/>

We'll count referendum votes after election day, and release the preliminary referendum results on Friday 30 October.

We'll release the official results for the general election and referendums on Friday 6 November.

Advance voting statistics


Advance voting numbers for the 2020 General Election will be available Monday to Friday from 2pm (starting Monday 5 October) until election day, Saturday 17 October.

See advance voting statistics 

<https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/2020-general-election-advance-voting-statistics/>

Rules once voting starts and on election day

Learn about what you're allowed to do during the election campaign, including what you're allowed to do on social media, and find out about the rules for parties and candidates.

 Read more 

<https://elections.nz/guidance-and-rules/for-voters/>

MMP calculator

You can use our MMP seat allocation calculator to calculate how many seats would be allocated to each party under different election scenarios.

MMP seat allocation calculator 

<https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/mmp-seat-allocation-calculator/>

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