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**Can't get to
a voting place?**

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If getting to a voting place is difficult or not possible, several options are available to make sure you can still vote.

Please call us if you would like to talk over your options on 0800 36 76 56.

You can still vote if you are unable to get to a voting place

If getting to a voting place is difficult or not possible because of poor health or mobility, several options are available to make sure you can still vote. This could include requesting a postal vote or asking a family member or friend to pick up and deliver voting papers on your behalf.

Voting with the telephone dictation service

If you're blind, partially blind or have a physical disability that means you can't mark your voting papers without help, you can vote using the telephone dictation service.

You need to register to use this service in the 2020 General Election and referendums, even if you've used it at previous elections.

Ask someone to collect your voting papers

You can authorise someone to pick up your voting papers from a voting place for you. Go to vote.nz to download a form you can sign and ask someone to take to a voting place. They will then bring back your voting papers to complete.

Your voting papers must be returned to a voting place before 7pm, Saturday 17 October.

Apply for a postal vote

You can apply for postal voting papers now by calling us on 0800 36 76 56. You need to be enrolled before you call us.

Someone else can apply on your behalf, but you will need to be with them when they call 0800 36 76 56 so you can give verbal confirmation that they are able to speak for you.

Once you have applied, you will receive a letter confirming you are registered for postal voting.

Applications for postal voting close on Monday 28 September to allow time for preparation and delivery of voting papers.

- After applications close, you can still call 0800 36 76 56 if you're unable to go to a voting place.

- Arrangements will be made by your local Returning Officer for postal voting if there is still time, or for a friend, family member or electoral official to bring you voting papers.

Postal voting packs will arrive from Saturday 3 October up until Friday 9 October.

Completed postal votes must be in the mail by Wednesday 14 October so they reach us in time to be counted, or you can ask someone to drop off your voting papers at any advance or election day voting place by 7pm on Saturday 17 October.

Your postal or takeaway voting pack

The pack includes:

- voting papers for the election and referendums
- a declaration form
- a pre-paid envelope for you to return your completed voting papers and declaration
- instructions on how to complete your voting papers and declaration.

You have to complete a declaration form as postal or takeaway voting is a form of special voting. Make sure you complete all the steps on the form.

The form will ask you to confirm the reason why you are not able to vote at a voting place. Reasons can include

poor health or mobility, or disability. If there is some other reason why you can't go to a voting place without suffering hardship or serious inconvenience you will need to include the reason on the form.

Voting from a rest home

If you are in a rest home and you won't be able to go to a voting place, you don't need to contact us. Your local Returning Officer will contact the manager of your rest home to arrange voting services.

Voting from hospital

If you can't get to a voting place because you are in hospital, from 3 October, a friend or family member can bring you your voting papers.

Call 0800 36 76 56 for more information.

If you're scheduled to go into hospital prior to election day, it's best to vote in advance from 3 October if you can.

You can still vote if you are in a managed isolation or quarantine facility

People who are in managed isolation or quarantine will be able to vote by telephone in the general election and referendums. From 1 October, those entering managed isolation or quarantine facilities will be provided information

on how to register and vote using the expanded telephone dictation service.

Registration and voting hours will be between 9am and 7pm every day except election day. On election day, registrations will close at 5pm and voting will close at 7pm. The Commission will provide interpreters for those who do not speak English and make individual arrangements for those who have a speech disability. Travellers without a mobile phone will be able to use a landline in their room.

Voting if you're working on election day

You're legally allowed to have time away from work to go and vote on election day. You can also vote early at any voting place from Saturday 3 October.

If you haven't had a reasonable chance to vote before starting work on election day and you're not doing any essential work or service, your employer must let you leave work to vote by 3pm. You're legally allowed to be away from work for the rest of the day if you need that time to vote.

Your employer can't take money from your pay for time you take off to vote.

If you're doing any essential work or service

If you have to work after 3pm to carry out any essential work or service, your employer must let you leave work for a reasonable time earlier in the day, so you can vote.

Your employer can't take money from your pay for time you take off to vote, as long as you don't take more than 2 hours.

If you're a crew member on a ship

If you're working on a ship in port and you're enrolled or eligible to enrol in the electorate the ship is in, your ship master must let you go ashore to vote.

If you're working on a ship that won't be in port or will return to port during the voting period, contact us closer to election time for help with enrolling and voting.

Voting if you're overseas

You can vote from overseas from Wednesday 30 September until 7pm, Saturday 17 October (NZ time).

The easiest and quickest way to vote from overseas is to download and print your voting papers for the general election and referendums.

You may also be able to vote at an overseas voting place or ask us to send postal voting papers to you overseas.

These options may depend on the COVID-19 situation in your area.

Voting from prison

If you're a prisoner who's eligible to vote, we'll work with Corrections to provide you with voting services.

You are eligible to vote if you are on remand or serving a prison sentence of less than 3 years.

You are not eligible to vote if you're serving a prison sentence of 3 years or more.