

Your Guide to the 2020 General Election and referendums

Your Guide to the 2020 General Election and referendums

Voting in the 2020 General Election and referendums starts on Saturday 5 September and ends at 7pm on election day, Saturday 19 September.

At the General Election, we will vote for the parties and candidates we want to represent us in Parliament. There will be two referendums held alongside the election. We will 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. We will also vote on whether the recreational use of cannabis should become legal, based on the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill.

Make voting easier – take your EasyVote Card

Enrol by **16 August** and your EasyVote information pack will be sent to you about a week before the voting period begins.

The pack includes your personal EasyVote card and all the information you need to vote, including the names of the

candidates and parties you can choose from, and where your closest voting place is.

Take your EasyVote card with you when you go to vote. It shows your name, electorate and where your name is on the electoral roll. This will make voting faster and easier.

If you enrol after **16 August**, you can still vote, but you won't get your EasyVote card.

Did you know you can enrol online?

Enrolling to vote has been made easier with an improved online enrolment service at **vote.nz**.

You can now use a New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity to enrol or update your details, for example if you've changed address. It takes about five minutes and means you'll be ready to vote in this year's General Election and referendums.

You can also enrol or update your details using a paper enrolment form. Call 0800 36 76 56 or text your name and address to 3676 to have one sent to you in the mail. You can also pick up a form from a Citizens Advice Bureau or public library.

It's best to vote close to home

It's easier and faster to vote close to home if you can. Your EasyVote information pack will have a list of voting places for your electorate. Take your EasyVote card with you if you have one.

If you're not going to be in your electorate during the voting period, you can still vote at any voting place by completing a special vote, which will take longer because you will need to fill in an extra form.

Page 2

Vote early

You can vote in the General Election and referendums from Saturday 5 September until 7pm on election day, Saturday 19 September.

Information about where, when and how to vote is available at **vote.nz** or Freephone 0800 36 76 56 and will be included in your EasyVote pack. For more information on the referendums go to **referendums.govt.nz**.

Register to vote by telephone dictation

Voters who are blind, or have low vision or another disability that means they are unable to mark the voting paper without assistance may be able to cast a secret vote by telephone dictation.

You can register to vote by telephone dictation from Monday 17 August by calling 0800 028 028 and selecting option 1 to register. You can call weekdays from 9am to 5pm until Friday 11 September. From Monday 14 September you can call from 9am to 7pm.

You must be registered for telephone dictation voting by 7pm, Thursday 17 September.

Vote by telephone dictation

If you're registered to vote by telephone dictation, you can vote from Wednesday 2 September by calling 0800 028 028 and selecting option 2 to vote.

You can call weekdays from 9am to 5pm until Friday 11 September. From Monday 14 September you can call from 9am to 7pm.

Your last chance to vote is on election day, Saturday 19 September from 9am to 7pm.

Need help to vote?

If you need help to read or mark your voting paper, a friend, family member or electoral official can help. Just ask when you go to vote.

Voters who are blind, or have low vision or another disability that means they are unable to mark the voting paper without assistance may be able to vote by telephone dictation.

Anyone who doesn't speak English can take a friend or family member to the voting place to help.

We'll work with hospital or rest home managers to find the best way for their patients and residents to vote.

Page 3

This could include requesting a postal vote or asking a family member or friend to pick up and deliver voting papers on your behalf.

If you know someone this information would help, please tell them about it. Find out more at **vote.nz** or Freephone 0800 36 76 56.

Māori or General Roll?

If you are on the Māori roll you will vote for a candidate standing in a Māori electorate and if you are on the General roll you will vote for a candidate standing in a General electorate.

The type of roll you are on makes no difference to your party vote—you get to choose from the same list of political parties whether you are on the General roll or the Māori roll.

Find out more about the Māori roll at **vote.nz** or Freephone 0800 36 76 56.

Voting in the General Election

MMP is the system we use to elect our Parliament. Each voter has a party vote and an electorate vote.

Your party vote is for the political party you choose. This vote largely decides the total number of seats each political party gets in Parliament.

Your electorate vote is to choose the MP you want to represent the electorate you live in. The candidate who gets the most votes wins.

What will your voting papers look like?

At the voting place you will be given one voting paper for the General Election and one voting paper for the referendums.

Your voting paper for the General Election will list the political parties you can choose from using your party vote, and the candidates you can choose from using your electorate vote.

The referendums are a Yes/No vote. You vote in the referendums by placing a tick next to Yes to say that you support the referendum proposal, or by placing a tick next to No to say that you do not support the referendum proposal.

If you're not enrolled – enrol now!

Your vote is important – it's time to make sure you're enrolled and ready to vote in the election and referendums.

To find out more about enrolling and voting go to **vote.nz** and for more information on the referendums go to **referendums.govt.nz**.

Enrol online using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

Or to get an enrolment form sent to you in the post Freetext your name and address to **3676** or call Freephone **0800 36 76 56**.

Level 10, 34-42 Manners Street, PO Box 3220, Wellington 6140.

End of Your Guide to the 2020 General Election