



# **The Māori Electoral Option**

Te Kowhiringa Pōti Māori

# Help spread the word

**Resources for communities to share  
about the 2023 Māori Electoral Option**







# Introduction

**The Māori Electoral Option - Te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori - is a choice for Māori about which electoral roll they want to be on: the general roll or the Māori roll.**

This is an important choice for anyone of Māori descent. It will determine who they can vote for to represent them and their rohe in this year's General Election.

The number of Māori enrolled on the Māori roll could mean that the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases, or stays the same in future elections. There are currently seven Māori electorates and 65 general electorates.

The Electoral Commission - Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri - is seeking your support to help share information about the Māori Electoral Option with your community.

In this guide, you'll find links to content that you can use and share in a variety of ways – on social media, on your website, in newsletters or direct communications, or as display materials at your marae, kura, offices, workplaces or community centres.

We'll be adding new resources to share online as the Māori Electoral Option campaign progresses.  
You can find out more at **vote.nz**



# Key information about the Māori Electoral Option

- If you are Māori and enrolled to vote, you can now choose between the Māori roll and the general roll at any time up until 3 months before this year's election.
- If you want to change the roll you're on, you can do it before midnight 13 July.
- If you choose the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in.
- If you choose the general roll, you will vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in.
- Your roll choice does not affect your party vote. You vote for the same list of political parties, whichever roll you're on.
- Your choice can also affect the number of Māori seats in Parliament. The number of Māori enrolled on the Māori roll could mean the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases, or stays the same.
- It affects who you vote for in local elections too. If you're on the Māori roll and your local council has a Māori ward or constituency, you'll vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency.
- If you're already enrolled, you'll get an information pack in the mail in April letting you know which roll you're on and how to change rolls if you want to.
- If you didn't get an information pack it could mean you're not enrolled or we have an old address for you.
- It's quick and easy to enrol, update your address, or change the roll you're on.
- Visit **vote.nz** and have your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity ready.
- You can also call **0800 36 76 56** for free to ask for help.
- If you're not enrolled, do it now so you can vote in the election.
- You can enrol right up to and on election day.
- You make your choice between the Māori roll and general roll when you enrol to vote.



# Key dates

<b>31 March</b>	From today, Māori can now change rolls at any time except in the 3-months before an election
<b>1 April</b>	Information pack mailout starts
<b>13 July</b>	<b>Final day to change roll types before the 2023 General Election</b>
<b>14 July – 14 October</b>	3-month period where those already enrolled cannot change rolls Anyone of Māori descent enrolling for the first time can still choose the roll they want to be on
<b>14 October</b>	<b>2023 General Election – election day</b>





# Resources you can share

**We have a wide range of resources about the Māori Electoral Option that you can share with your community.**

You can download resources or order posters and brochures at **vote.nz** and we'll send them to you in the mail.

## Posters and brochures

You can choose to display materials in your marae, kura, workplace or community centre or to share at your next community event.

You can download resources or order posters and brochures at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) and we'll send them to you in the mail.


**Te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori | Māori Electoral Option**

# It's time to choose between the Māori roll and the general roll.

Māori mā, if you're 18 or over you can change rolls at any time up until 3 months before an election. You have until 13 July to make your choice for this year's General Election.

**vote.nz | 0800 36 76 56**

**HE MANA  
TŌ TE  
KŌWHIRI**  
YOUR CHOICE  
HAS MANA

 **ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION**  
TE Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

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**MĀORI ELECTORAL OPTION**

**What is the Māori Electoral Option?**  
The Māori Electoral Option is a choice for Māori voters to choose whether they want to be on the Māori roll or the general roll.

**When can you choose to vote?**  
If you're Māori, and wanting to be on the roll, you can choose which roll you want to be on.

**You can also change your roll type at any time, except:**

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before a general election which are held every 3 years
- before a parliamentary by-election if the change would mean you're in the electorate where the by-election is being held

**What does your choice mean for you?**  
Your roll choice affects which candidates you can choose from in parliamentary elections and local elections.

**Voting in parliamentary elections and by-elections**

- If you choose the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in.
- If you choose the general roll, you will vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in.
- You can vote for the same list of political parties in a general election, whether you've chosen to be on the Māori roll or the general roll.

The roll you choose may influence the number of Māori and general electorates for parliamentary elections. The number of Māori and general electorates in the Māori roll could mean that the number of general electorates decreases, or vice versa.

Your choice will also help determine the boundaries of Māori and general electorates when they are required.

**What is a local council ward or constituency?**  
A ward or constituency is a named voting area, like a parliamentary electorate. City and district councils, local boards, and regional councils have constituencies. Some councils have both Māori and general ward or constituency. In the local elections, candidates are elected to represent the people in each ward and constituency. While each voting area is not always the same size, they must have roughly the same number of people in them.

**There are currently 7 Māori electorates and 68 general electorates.**  
The roll you choose decides which electorate you vote in.

**For example:** If you are Māori and choose the Māori roll you will vote in the Māori electorate.

**The general roll will be the roll you vote in if you are not Māori.**

**How to make your choice**  
If you're happy with the roll you're on, you don't need to do anything.

**If you want to change the roll you're on, you can do it before 13 July.** You can make the change online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz). You can also call the Electoral Commission on 0800 36 76 56 for a paper enrolment form. Call 0800 36 76 56 for free and ask for an enrolment form to be sent to you.

**You can make the change online**  
To change your enrolment online, visit [vote.nz](https://vote.nz), log in with either a New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or digitally verified identity.

**Unpublished roll**  
You can't change your enrolment at states as if you're on the unpublished roll, instead, you'll need to fill in an enrolment form.

**If you want to change the roll you're on, you can do it before 13 July.**

**Enrol or change your roll online**

- You can enrol or change the roll you're on at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or digitally verified identity.
- Or, you can fill in a paper enrolment form, call 0800 36 76 56 for free and ask for a paper enrolment form to be sent to you.

**Help your community get involved to vote**  
You can encourage others to vote by talking to them about why voting is important. They can make their choice too.

**More information:**  
For more information about the Māori Electoral Option or the General Election, visit [vote.nz](https://vote.nz).

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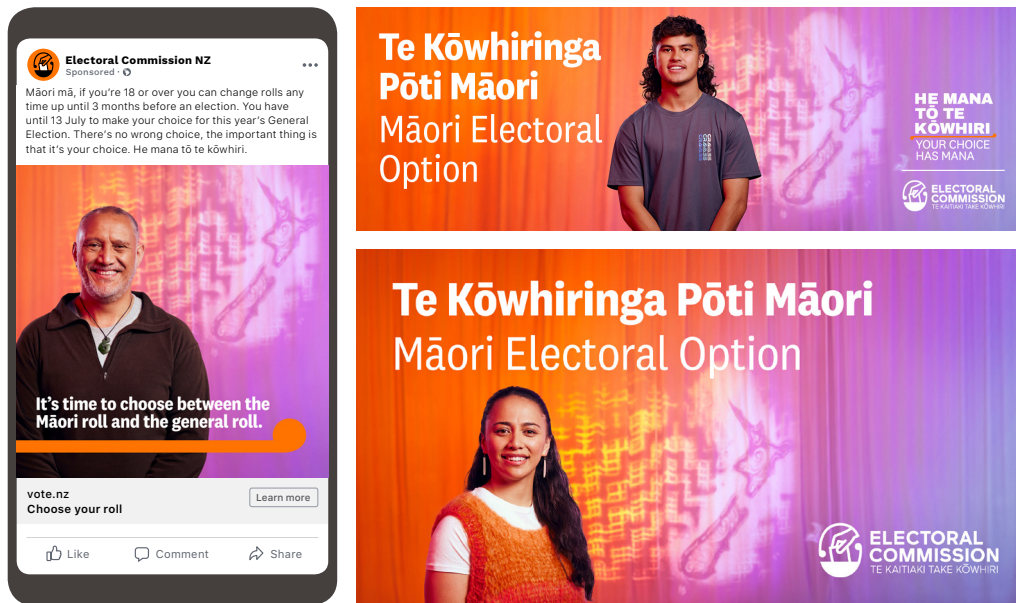


## Newsletter content and digital resources

You can choose from a range of digital resources to let people know about the Māori Electoral Option.

Choose from a range of online banners and newsletter content to download and share on your website, social media or other online channels.

Download these resources at **vote.nz** to share with your online community.



## Alternate formats

Information about the Māori Electoral Option is available in various alternative formats, including large print, Braille, audio, and New Zealand Sign Language at **vote.nz**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the Māori Electoral Option?**

The Māori Electoral Option is a choice for Māori about which electoral roll to be on: the Māori roll or the general roll.

## **What does my roll choice mean for my vote at parliamentary elections?**

If you choose the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in. Your roll choice does not affect your party vote. You can vote for the same list of political parties in a general election, whichever roll you choose to be on.

## **What is an electorate?**

New Zealand is divided into voting areas called electorates. There are two types of electorates: general and Māori. Everywhere in New Zealand is covered by both a general electorate and a Māori electorate. When you enrol to vote, you're enrolled in the electorate where you live. While electorates are not always the same size, they each have roughly the same number of people in them.

## **How does the Māori Electoral Option affect the number of Māori electorates?**

The number of Māori enrolled on the Māori roll could mean that the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases, or stays the same in future elections. There are currently seven Māori electorates and 65 general electorates.

## **What does my roll choice mean for local council elections?**

If you choose the Māori roll, and your local council has a Māori ward or constituency, you will vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for candidates in the general ward or constituency. A ward or constituency is a council voting area, like a parliamentary electorate. City and district councils have wards, and regional councils have constituencies.

## **When can I make my roll choice?**

If you are Māori, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on when you enrol for the first time.

You can change your roll type at any time, except:

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before the local elections which are held every 3 years
- before a parliamentary by-election if the change would move you into the electorate where the by-election is being held.

## **Can I change the roll I'm on before this year's General Election?**

If you would like to, you can change the roll you're on between 31 March and midnight 13 July. You can also change rolls after the 2023 General Election which is being held on 14 October.





### **Why can't I change in the 3 months before the election?**

There are times when voters can't change between the Māori and general rolls, including in the 3 months before a general election. The times when voters cannot change rolls is set out in the legislation passed by Parliament in November 2022.

### **How do I take part in the Māori Electoral Option?**

If you're enrolled to vote and you said you were of New Zealand Māori descent when you enrolled, you will be sent a personalised Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail in April. It will be sent to you at the most recent address we have for you.

The pack will contain a letter confirming the electoral roll you are currently enrolled on and information to help you make your choice. If you do not want to change the electoral roll you are on, you do not need to do anything.

If you want to change the electoral roll you are on (either from Māori to general or general to Māori) sign and date the letter you received and send it back, or make the change online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz)

### **How do I return my letter?**

To return the letter, you can:

- upload a scan or photo of it at [vote.nz/upload](https://vote.nz/upload)
- email a scan or photo of it to [enrol@vote.nz](mailto:enrol@vote.nz)
- post it in the envelope included in your pack.

### **What if I'm on the unpublished roll?**

If you are on the unpublished roll and would like to change the roll you're on, either send back the letter you receive in your Māori Electoral Option pack or fill in a new enrolment form. You can't change your enrolment online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) if you're on the unpublished roll.

### **If I don't receive a 2023 Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail, what should I do?**

If you don't receive a pack it means you're not enrolled, your address details are not up to date, or you haven't told us you're Māori. You can enrol or update your details online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport, or RealMe verified identity.

You can also enrol or update your details by filling in a paper enrolment form. Text your name and address to 3676 to be sent an enrolment form, or call 0800 36 76 56 and ask for a form to be sent to you. Texts and calls to those numbers are free.

# He pātai auau

## He aha te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori?

Ko te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori he kōwhiringa mā te Māori kia whakatauria te rārangi pōti e hiahia ana aia: ko te rārangi whānui rānei, ko te rārangi Māori rānei.

## He aha ngā pānga o taku kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki taku pōti i ngā pōtitanga pāremata?

Ki te kōwhiri koe i te rārangi Māori, ka pōti koe i tētehi kaitono i te rohe pōti Māori e noho nā koe. Ki te kōwhiri koe i te rārangi whānui, ka pōti koe i tētehi kaitono i te rohe pōti whānui e noho nā koe. Kāhore he pānga o tō kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki tō pōti ā-rōpū. Kotahi anake te rārangi o ngā rōpū tōrangapū hei pōti māu i te pōtitanga whānui, ahakoa te rārangi ka kōwhiria e koe.

## He aha te rohe pōti?

Kua whakarohengia a Aotearoa ki ngā takiwā pōti e kīia ana he rohe pōti. E rua ngā kātū rohe pōti: he rohe pōti whānui, he rohe pōti Māori. Kei tēnā wāhi, kei tēnā wāhi o Aotearoa tētehi rohe pōti whānui me tētehi rohe pōti Māori. I tō rēhitatanga ki te pōti, ka rēhitatia koe ki roto i te rohe pōti e noho nā koe. Ahakoa kāhore pea i te ōrite te rahi o ngā rohe pōti katoa, he āhua ōrite te tokomaha tāngata o ia rohe.

## He aha te pānga o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori ki te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori?

Ka tohu pea te maha o ngā Māori kua rēhita ki te rārangi Māori i te pikinga rānei o te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori, i te hekenga rānei, i te pupurutanga rānei kia ōrite tonu, hei ngā pōtitanga o ngā tau e heke mai nei. I tēnei wā, e 7 ngā rohe pōti Māori, ā, e 65 ngā rohe pōti whānui. He whakamāramatanga nō kei te wāhanga “Te maha o ngā rohe pōti” o raro iho nei.

## He aha te pānga o taku kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe, arā, ki ngā pōtitanga ā-kaunihera?

Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi Māori, ā, he wāri Māori tō tō kaunihera, he marea pōti (arā, he “constituency”) Māori rānei, ka pōti koe i ngā kaitono i roto i taua rohe pōti Māori. Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi whānui, ka pōti koe i ngā kaitono i roto i te rohe pōti whānui. Ko ngā wāri me ngā marea pōti he takiwā pōti ā-kaunihera, he pērā i ngā rohe pōti pāremata. Kei ngā kaunihera ā-tāone me ngā kaunihera ā-rohe he wāri, ā, kei ngā kaunihera ā-takiwā he marea pōti.

## Hei āwhea ka wātea au ki te kōwhiri i tētehi rārangi pōti mōku?

Mehemea he Māori koe, ā tō rēhitatanga mātahi ki te pōti, ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi pōti e hiahia nā koe. Ka āhei hoki koe ki te whakawhiti i tō kātū rārangi ahakoa te wā, engari kaua:

- i roto i te 3 marama i mua i tētehi pōtitanga ā-motu
- i roto i te 3 marama i mua i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe ka tū i ia 3 tau
- i mua i tētehi pōtitanga pāerotanga ā-pāremata, mehemea nā tō whakawhitinga, ka nekehia koe ki te rohe pōti e tū ai taua pōtitanga pāerotanga.





### **Ka āhei au ki te whakawhiti rārangi i mua i te Pōtitanga ā-Motu o tēnei tau?**

Ki te hiahia koe, ka āhei ki te whakawhiti i tō rārangi poti i waenga i te 31 o Māehe me te 13 o Hūrae i te waenganui pō. Ka āhei hoki koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi ā muri i te Pōtitanga ā-Motu, arā ā muri i te 14 o Oketopa.

### **He aha e kore ai e āhei au ki te whakawhiti i roto i te 3 marama i mua i te pōtitanga?**

I ētehi wā, kāhore e āhei ngā kaipōti ki te whakawhiti i te rārangi whānui ki te rārangi Māori, i te rārangi Māori rānei ki te rārangi whānui. Ko te 3 marama i mua i te pōtitanga ā-motu tētehi o aua wā. Kua whakatauria ngā wā kāhore e āhei ngā kaipōti ki te whakawhiti rārangi i roto i te ture i whakamanahia e te Pāremata i te Nōema 2022.

### **Me pēwhea taku whai wāhi atu ki te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori?**

Mehemea kua rēhita koe ki te pōti, ā, i tō rēhitatanga, i kī atu koe he uri Māori koe nō Aotearoa, ā te Āperira, ka pōhitia ki a koe he mōkī Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori e hāngai ana ki a koe. Ka tukuna ki te wāhi noho e mōhio nei mātou.

Kei roto i te mōkī he reta e whakaū ana i te rārangi pōti e noho nā koe, me ētehi pārongo hei āwhina i a koe ki te whakatau i tō kōwhiringa.

Ki te kore koe e hiahia ki te whakawhiti rārangi pōti, kāhore he mahi atu anō.

Ki te hiahia koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi pōti (i te rārangi Māori rānei ki te rārangi whānui, i te rārangi whānui rānei ki te rārangi Māori), tēnā, waitohungia te reta, me te tuhi i te rā, ā, whakahokia te reta, toro atu rānei ki [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) ki te whakawhiti ā-ipurangi.

### **Me pēwhea te whakahoki i taku reta?**

E whakahokia ai te reta, ka āhei koe ki te:

- tuku atu i tētehi matawaitanga, i tētehi whakaahua rānei o te reta ki [vote.nz/upload](https://vote.nz/upload)
- īmēra i tētehi matawaitanga, i tētehi whakaahua rānei o te reta ki [enrol@vote.nz](mailto:enrol@vote.nz)
- pōhi i te reta i roto i te kōpaki kei roto i tō mōkī.

### **Ka pēwhea mehemea kei te rārangi muna au?**

Mehemea kei te rārangi muna koe, ā, kei te hiahia koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi, me whakahoki mai i te reta ka tukuna atu ai ki a koe i roto i tō mōkī Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori, me whakakī rānei i tētehi puka rēhita hou. Kāhore e āhei koe ki te whakawhiti i tō rēhitatanga ki [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) mehemea kei te rārangi muna koe.

### **Me aha au mehemea kāhore au e whiwhi i tētehi mōkī Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori 2023 i te mēra poutāpeta?**

Mehemea kāhore koe e whiwhi i tētehi mōkī, he tohu tēnā kāhore anō rānei koe kia rēhita, kāhore rānei mātou i te mōhio ki tō wāhi noho o nāianei, kāhore rānei koe i kī mai he Māori koe.

Ka āhei koe ki te rēhita, ki te whakahou rānei i tō taipitopito i [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) ki tō raihana hautū waka o Aotearoa, ki tō uruwhenua o Aotearoa, ki tō tuakiri whaimana RealMe rānei. Ka āhei rānei koe ki te whakakī i tētehi puka rēhita ā-pepa hei rēhita, hei whakahou rānei i tō taipitopito. Pātuhia tō ingoa me tō wāhi noho ki 3676 kia tukuna atu ai he puka rēhita ki a koe, waea rānei ki 0800 36 76 56 ki te tono kia tukuna atu he puka ki a koe. He utukore ngā pātuhī me ngā waea ki ēnei tau waea.



# More information

**Find out everything you need to know about  
the 2023 Māori Electoral Option:**

Visit **[vote.nz/māorioption](https://vote.nz/māorioption)**

Call **0800 36 76 56**

Email **[enquiries@elections.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@elections.govt.nz)**