

Voters

How do I know whether I am enrolled?

The Electoral Commission will be undertaking a roll update campaign at the end of June 2016 for the Parliamentary Electoral Roll which forms the basis of the electoral roll for the relevant constituent territorial authority elections.

If you do not receive a letter in the post during late June/early July 2016 the chances are you are not enrolled or your details are incorrect. You will then need to complete a Parliamentary Electoral Roll enrolment form.

You can check to see if you are enrolled at www.elections.org.nz or by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

What are special votes?

You can apply for a special vote during the 3-week voting period if one of these situations apply:

- your name does not appear on the final electoral roll at your current address, but you qualify as an elector
- you did not receive a voting document
- your voting document previously posted to you has been spoiled (other than errors which can be corrected) or damaged
- your name appears on the unpublished electoral roll.

To apply for a special vote contact your electoral officer.

Anyone wanting to cast a special vote must contact the electoral officer by the day before polling day at the latest.

I turn 18 on election day. Can I vote?

Yes, but you need to make sure you have enrolled which you can do provisionally from the age of 17 and it automatically changes when you turn 18.

You will also need to apply for a special vote during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2016 to 12 noon, Saturday 8 October 2016).

I got my voting document but my partner didn't receive theirs.

You will need to apply for a special vote. Please call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

I didn't get my voting document so I called and got a special vote. Now I have two voting documents. Which one should I use?

Use the original one and destroy the special vote.

I am on the Unpublished Parliamentary Roll and I want a special vote please.

You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822 for a special vote to be sent.

I am going away and will not be here when the voting documents are posted out.

You will need to contact the electoral office for a special vote on 0800 922 822.

I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) and have Power of Attorney for that person. Can I vote for that person?

No – Power of Attorney does not apply to voting for that person.

I received a voting document for a member of my family (e.g. child, parent) who does not live here. What should I do with the voting document?

If they are overseas, you could fast post them to the person or destroy them if that is not practicable.

If they are for an elderly parent who is incapable of voting please destroy them by ripping/cutting them up. You cannot vote on their behalf unless instructed by them.

I received a voting document that does not belong to me and I don't know this person or where this person has gone.

Write GNA (Gone No Address) on the envelope and put it back in the mail.

Do I have to post my voting document back?

You can post it but make sure you have it in the mail by Wednesday 5 October 2016 to make sure it gets back to us in time (by 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2016).

However, you can also hand deliver your voting document to a ballot box during the voting period (Friday 16 September 2016 to 12 noon Saturday 8 October 2016).

I have lost my return envelope.

You can use an envelope of your own and put the return address and Freepost number on it. (You will not need to put a stamp on the envelope if you write the Freepost number on the envelope).

Freepost number 4170

The Electoral Office
PO Box 5135
Wellesley Street
Auckland 1141

Why can't I vote for a certain candidate who is standing for a different constituency or other issue?

You can only vote for the elections relevant to the area in which you live. You cannot vote for a candidate who is standing in another constituency because you are not an elector of that other constituency.

My partner's paper and mine are different and there are more/less things to vote for. Why is the list of candidates different?

You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

I have received two voting documents.

You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Can I help someone fill out their voting document?

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, you cannot interfere or influence any person as to how they can vote.

If authorised by a voter who is physically impaired, visually impaired or for whom English is a second language, a person can assist them to vote as directed by the voter.

We own a business in your area and pay rates, but we don't live in your area – do we get a say in the local elections?

Yes, subject to being eligible to become enrolled as a ratepayer elector and becoming enrolled.

Please contact your local council for ratepayer enrolment and voting details.

I own a property in the district but it is not my fulltime residence. How do I get on the Ratepayer Electoral Roll?

Please refer to your local council who will check the rating database to make sure you are named as an owner.

I have a complaint about electoral signage.

You will need to call the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Candidates

I want to be a candidate in these elections. What do I need to do?

You must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand).

You will need to have two electors registered in the area of the election you are standing for to nominate you – e.g. if you stand for the XYZ Constituency, the nominators will need to be registered within that constituency. (Note the candidate does not need to reside in the area in which he/she is standing, but will need to disclose that fact in his/her candidate profile statement).

The nominators must also be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll at the address they are listed on the nomination paper (which must be in the constituency that they are nominating the person for).

Nominations open on Friday 15 July 2016. If you would like a nomination paper and candidate information handbook sent out, please contact the electoral officer. Nomination papers will also be available on Council's website (<https://www.boprc.govt.nz/>) from 15 July 2016, with the candidate information booklet available in early July 2016.

When do nominations open and how do I make a nomination?

Nominations open on Friday 15 July 2016 and close at 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2016.

You will need two people to nominate you (on the official nomination form), then send your completed form to your council's electoral officer. You must consent to your nomination going forward (by signing the nomination form) and you cannot nominate yourself. Those who nominate you must be over 18 years old and enrolled to vote in the area you wish to stand in.

How much will it cost me to stand?

You will need to pay a nomination deposit of \$200 GST inclusive. This deposit applies to each issue (election) you stand for. Your nomination deposit can be paid by cash, cheque, EPTPOS or electronic bank transfer. However, if you pay the deposit by cheque and if it is dishonoured after nominations close, your nomination will not be accepted.

If you poll greater than 25% of the lowest polling successful candidate (for FPP elections) you will receive your nomination deposit back.

Your nomination must be received by the close of nominations (12 noon on Friday 12 August 2016).

What qualifications and experience do I need?

Nothing formal. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a will/desire to serve the community.

When does the official advertising period start?

The period that governs election expenditure, that is the period over which the legislated expenditure limits on advertising applies, is three months before polling day (October 8). This means that anything a candidate spends on advertising before the three months starts is not counted as election expenses.

Each council will have different policies with regard to when candidates can put up signs in public places, ranging from a month before the elections to longer. These policies are often in the district plan. If that is the information you need then we recommend you contact your local electoral officer who will advise. It should be available from the council website as well.

Does a criminal record affect a person standing as a council candidate?

No, not at all for city, district and regional council elections.

People currently serving a prison term of three years or more cannot stand. If you are elected and subsequently convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for two years or more, you automatically lose office.

How long is the term of the elected member?

Three years.

Do I need to be resident in the city, district or region I am standing for?

No, but you must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) and be a New Zealand citizen.