

Get ready to enrol and vote



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

Why enrol to vote?

If you're enrolled to vote, you get to have a say in general elections, local elections and referendums. Elections are your chance to have a say about who represents you on the issues that you care about.

**You can make sure
your voice is heard by
enrolling to vote.**



Who can enrol to vote?

You must enrol if you:

- are 18 years or older, and
- are a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in your life.

If you are Australian, Cook Islands Māori, Niuean or Tokelauan, you can enrol if you have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months.

If you live overseas you can enrol for the 2023 General Election if you:

- are a New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand in the past 6 years, or

- are a permanent resident of New Zealand who has been in New Zealand in the past 4 years.

After the 2023 election this will change back to 3 years for New Zealand citizens and 12 months for New Zealand permanent residents.

For electoral purposes, a permanent resident is anyone lawfully in New Zealand and not required to leave within a specific time. This includes someone on a resident visa.

You can enrol once you turn 17. When you turn 18, you'll be automatically enrolled and you'll be ready to vote.



How do I enrol?

It's easy to enrol or update your details. You can:

- visit **vote.nz** and use your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity to enrol online
- call free **0800 36 76 56** and ask for a form to be sent to you

When you've enrolled, your name will go on the electoral roll. You must be on the electoral roll to vote.

You need to update your details every time you move house.



Concerned about your personal safety?

If you're concerned about your personal safety, or that of your family, you can apply to go on the confidential unpublished roll. We'll keep your enrolment details secure and we won't give them to anyone.

Go to **vote.nz** or call **0800 36 76 56** for more information and an application form.



Need help to enrol?

You can ask someone you know, such as a friend or family member, or you can ask our enrolment team, to help you complete your enrolment form, or to complete your form for you.

You need to sign the form.

If you know someone who can't complete and sign their enrolment form because of a physical or mental impairment, you may be able to help.

Go to **vote.nz** to find out more about helping someone enrol to vote.



Enrolling to vote if you are Māori

If you're of Māori descent and enrolling for the first time, you have an important choice to make. You need to decide which electoral roll you want to be on: the general roll or the Māori roll. Your choice affects which electorate you vote in at the general election.

If you choose the general roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a general electorate.

If you choose the Māori roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a Māori electorate.

You will vote for the same list of political parties whichever roll you're on.

The roll you choose may affect the way you vote in local elections. If you're on the Māori roll and your local authority has a Māori ward or constituency, you'll vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency.

You can change the roll you're on at any time except in the 3 months before a general election and the local elections, and in some circumstances before a parliamentary by-election.



Want more information?

For more information about enrolling and voting:

- visit **vote.nz**
- call **0800 36 76 56**

Information about enrolling and voting is available in multiple languages at **vote.nz**



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI