



# Electoral Commission

## 2022 Enrolment Update Media Kit

THE 2022 LOCAL ELECTIONS

**Enrol or update your details to vote in the local elections.**

**vote.nz**  
0800 36 76 56

An orange, stylized human figure with a simple face and a large smile. It is holding a smartphone in its right hand. The phone screen displays the 'vote.nz' app interface, which includes a 'Welcome' message and a 'Start to vote' button. The figure has the 'LOCAL ELECTIONS 2022' logo on its chest.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2022

June 2022

## Introduction

The local elections will be held in October 2022 for city, district, and regional councils.

The Electoral Commission's role in the local elections is to make sure as many New Zealanders as possible are correctly enrolled in time for the elections and to provide electoral roll information to councils. An enrolment update campaign will run from 29 June to 12 August and include nationwide advertising and a direct mailout to all those registered on the electoral roll.

The Electoral Commission does not run or oversee local elections.

Local councils are responsible for running the local elections. The elections are conducted by electoral officers appointed by each council.

This media kit provides key dates and background information on the enrolment update campaign, as well as media contacts for the Electoral Commission.

## Electoral Commission media contacts

Clare Pasley is the first point of contact for media enquiries relating to the Electoral Commission's enrolment update campaign for the 2022 local elections.

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Electoral Commission  
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## Other key contacts

Local Government New Zealand and Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa represent local councils and are running a campaign to encourage people to stand as candidates and vote in the local elections. Background information on the local elections and media contacts are available at [www.votelocal.co.nz](http://www.votelocal.co.nz)

Media enquiries about the local elections should be directed to the electoral officer for the relevant local body. There is a list of electoral officers at <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/electoral-officers/>

A list of councils is available on the Local Government New Zealand website.  
<https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/new-zealands-councils/>

Results of previous local body elections are available on the Department of Internal Affairs website.  
<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Local-Elections-Local-Authority-Election-Statistics-2019>

Information about the Department of Internal Affairs' role in local elections is available at [https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Services-Local-Elections-Index](https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Local-Elections-Index)

## Key dates

Date	Activity
<b>29 June</b>	Enrolment update campaign starts including advertising and mailout of enrolment packs to 3.5m voters to check their details are up to date.
<b>7 July</b>	People who do not get an enrolment pack in the mail by 7 July need to enrol or update their details.
<b>12 August</b>	People must enrol by 12 August to receive voting papers from councils in the mail. Anyone enrolling after this date will need to request special voting papers from their local council's electoral officer.
<b>16 – 21 September</b>	Voting papers sent by councils to all enrolled voters – start of voting period.
<b>7 October</b>	Last day to enrol to vote in the local elections.
<b>Midday Saturday 8 October 2022</b>	Voting papers must arrive with councils by midday 8 October to be valid.

## Background

Local elections decide who represents us on our city, district, and regional councils.

In some parts of New Zealand, local elections are also held for local and community boards, licensing trusts, and some other organisations.

The people elected to local councils make decisions about our daily lives and the future of our towns and cities. They set and collect rates, oversee town planning, and provide services like rubbish collection, parks and libraries.

Local elections no longer include District Health Board elections. The boards are being replaced by a new body, Health New Zealand.

## The Electoral Commission's role in local elections

The Electoral Commission's role is to make sure people are enrolled to vote, and to provide each council with electoral roll information that is up to date.

We do not run or oversee the local elections.

Local elections are run by local councils. Each council appoints an electoral officer to conduct its election.

Local Government New Zealand and Taituarā have a website with background information on the 2022 local elections, including a list of electoral officers for each council. Go to [www.votelocal.co.nz](http://www.votelocal.co.nz)

## Enrolment update campaign

The Electoral Commission runs an enrolment update campaign to ensure as many people as possible are enrolled and ready to vote in the local elections.

Everyone on the electoral roll will be sent an enrolment update pack in the mail in the first week of July 2022.

When people receive their pack, they should check their details are correct. If people don't get a pack in the mail by 7 July, it means they are not enrolled or need to update their address, for example if they've moved house.

Local councils send out voting papers in the mail when it's time to vote, so it's important that people are enrolled at the right address.

## Enrolment statistics

You can find out how many people are enrolled to vote for each council at [elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-local-council](https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-local-council)

The number of people enrolled to vote in each voting area, including wards, constituencies and community boards, is available at [elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-local-council-voting-area](https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-local-council-voting-area)

New boundaries for the 2022 local elections, including new Māori wards and constituencies, will be included in the voting areas on the website from 6 July.

The enrolment figures on the website are updated monthly.

### Reading the local council enrolment tables

Use the drop down menu to select a council district.

The table divides that council district's population by age. For each age range, the table shows:

- the estimated number of people who are eligible to enrol, using census data
- how many people are on the general roll
- how many people are on the Māori roll
- the total number of people who have enrolled
- the difference between the estimated eligible population and the total enrolled
- the percentage of the estimated eligible population who have enrolled. This is the enrolment rate.

## Frequently asked questions

### The 2022 local elections

#### When are the local elections?

Local elections are held every three years by a postal vote. Local councils will start sending voting papers out to enrolled voters from 16 September. Voting closes at **midday on election day, Saturday 8 October**.

#### What are the local elections for?

The local elections are for city, district, and regional councils. In some parts of New Zealand, elections will also be held for local and community boards, licensing trusts and some other organisations.

#### Are elections being held for District Health Boards this year?

Local elections no longer include District Health Board elections. The boards are being replaced by a new body, Health New Zealand.

#### Who runs the local elections?

Local elections are run by local councils.

#### What is the Electoral Commission's role?

The Electoral Commission's role in local elections is to ensure that the electoral roll is up to date and provided to each council. We do not run or oversee the local elections.

### Enrolment

#### Who can vote in the local elections?

Anyone who is on the parliamentary electoral roll can vote in the local elections where they live. People are eligible to enrol and vote if they are 18 years or older, are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in their life.

#### How can people check if they're enrolled?

They can check if they're enrolled and their details are up to date at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz)

#### When is the deadline to enrol?

Everyone enrolled by midnight 12 August will be sent voting papers in the mail by their local council. People can still enrol after that date, but they will need to contact their council's electoral officer to arrange a special vote. The last day to enrol to vote in the local elections is 7 October.

A list of electoral officers is available at <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/electoral-officers/>

#### What was the enrolment letter sent to people in the mail in July?

Enrolment packs were sent to everyone on the electoral roll between 29 June and 7 July. If you got a pack in the mail with Orange Guy on the front and your name and address were correct, you're all set. You'll be sent voting papers in the mail by your local council.

### **What if someone doesn't get an enrolment pack?**

If someone doesn't get a pack, it means they're not enrolled or they need to update their address, for example if they've moved house. They can enrol or update their details at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) or call 800 36 76 56 for assistance.

### **Can people enrol on election day, as they do for parliamentary elections?**

A recent law change means people can enrol and vote on election day in Parliamentary general elections and by-elections. But there hasn't been a law change for local elections.

People need to enrol by the day before election day for their vote to count in the local elections. The last day to enrol for the 2022 local elections is Friday 7 October.

## **Ratepayer roll**

### **What is the non-residential ratepayer roll?**

People who own property within a local council area that they pay rates on, but usually live outside the area, can apply to go on the ratepayer roll. They can then vote in the area where they pay rates, and the area where they live.

The Electoral Commission does not manage the ratepayer roll.

For more information go to <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/ratepayer-roll-registration/>

## **Māori wards and constituencies**

### **What are Māori wards?**

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, councils decide their own representation arrangements, including whether to establish Māori and general wards and constituencies. Māori wards and constituencies are the local government equivalent of the Māori parliamentary electorates. City and district councils have wards, and regional councils have constituencies.

If a voter is on the Māori roll and their local council has a Māori ward or constituency, they will vote for candidates standing in the Māori ward or constituency. Voters enrolled on the general electoral roll will vote for candidates standing for general wards.

More than 30 councils will have Māori wards at the 2022 local elections. More information on Māori wards, and a list of councils with wards, is available at [www.votelocal.co.nz/maori-wards-and-constituencies/](http://www.votelocal.co.nz/maori-wards-and-constituencies/)

### **Can I change to or from the Māori roll for the local elections?**

Māori voters who are enrolling for the first time before the local elections will be able to choose which roll they want to be on – the Māori roll, or the general roll.

Māori voters already enrolled on the Māori or general roll won't be able to change rolls before the local elections. The next opportunity to change rolls will be the Māori Electoral Option which is scheduled to take place in 2024.

More information on the Māori roll is available at <https://vote.nz/enrolling/get-ready-to-enrol/general-roll-or-maori-roll/>

### **Is Parliament considering a law change for the Māori Electoral Option?**

Parliament is considering a law change that would enable Māori voters to change between the general and Māori rolls at any time. However, no change is expected before this year's local elections.

### **Where can I find out more information about the Māori wards in my area?**

Your local council will have more information on Māori wards in your area. A list of councils is available at <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/new-zealands-councils/>

## **Overseas voters**

### **Can voters who are overseas vote in the local elections?**

Voters who are overseas can enrol to vote in the local elections if they are a New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand within the last 3 years, or a New Zealand permanent resident who has been in New Zealand in the last 12 months.

Overseas voters need to post their completed voting papers back in time to arrive at their local council by midday Saturday 8 October. Voting papers cannot be downloaded or returned electronically for local elections.

## **Voting**

### **How do I vote in the local elections?**

Voting is by postal vote. Everyone enrolled to vote by Friday 12 August will be sent voting papers in the mail by their local council between 16 and 21 September. Voters need to return their voting papers by midday, Saturday 8 October.

### **Where can voters get more information about voting and candidates?**

Local elections are run by local councils. Contact your local council for more information about candidates and voting.

### **When are results available?**

Local councils will release the results on their websites.

Results of previous local body elections are available on the Department of Internal Affairs website. <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Local-Elections-Local-Authority-Election-Statistics-2019>