

## Christchurch East By-Election Media Information 30 September 2013

A Parliamentary by-election will be held in the Christchurch East electorate on Saturday 30 November 2013.

Voting places will be open from 9.00am to 7.00pm on election day. Preliminary results are expected to be available from [www.electionresults.govt.nz](http://www.electionresults.govt.nz) from 7.00pm on the day.

Enclosed is background information on the by-election:

- **Timeline** for the Christchurch East by-election
- **Enrolment Information**
- **Candidate and Party Vote statistics** for the Christchurch East electorate from the 2011 General Election
- **Campaigning Rules Information**
- **Questions and Answers**

### Media Contact Details

#### Voting

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[www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

[www.electionresults.govt.nz](http://www.electionresults.govt.nz)

The elections Freephone number for the public is 0800 36 76 56.

## Christchurch East By-Election Timetable

Date	Activity
<b>Monday 30 September</b>	<b>By-election date announced</b>
<b>Tuesday 15 October</b>	Lists of people enrolled in the Christchurch East electorate as at 10 October produced and available for public inspection Enrolment drive for the Christchurch East by-election underway
<b>Wednesday 30 October</b>	<b>Writ Day</b> Governor General issues direction to the Electoral Commission to conduct a by-election in Christchurch East Last day for enrolment before Electoral Rolls close for printing Voters enrolled after this date cast a special declaration vote
<b>Thursday 31 October</b>	<b>Nominations open</b> for candidates in the Christchurch East by-election
<b>Tuesday 5 November Noon Deadline</b>	Nominations close for candidates in the Christchurch East by-election
<b>Tuesday 5 November 4.00pm target</b>	<b>Christchurch East by-election candidates announced</b> by Electoral Commission. Information on where to vote available from <a href="http://www.elections.org.nz">www.elections.org.nz</a>
<b>Wednesday 13 November</b>	<b>Advance Voting starts</b> in the Christchurch East electorate and at Registrars of Electors Offices around the country <b>Overseas Voting starts</b>
<b>Saturday 23 November</b>	<b>EasyVote information packs</b> available for those enrolled in the Christchurch East electorate
<b>Friday 29 November</b>	<b>Enrolments close</b> All <b>political advertising ceases</b> and election signs taken down by midnight
<b>Saturday 30 November</b>	<b>Christchurch East by-election held</b> Voting places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. All voting places will be located in the Christchurch East electorate <b>Preliminary Results progressively available from 7.00pm</b> on <a href="http://www.electionresults.govt.nz">www.electionresults.govt.nz</a> . Targets for release are: - by 7.30pm all advance vote results - by 9.00pm results from 50% of voting places - by 10.00pm results from 100% of voting places. These are targets not guarantees.
<b>Wednesday 11 December Noon Target</b>	<b>Official Results</b> declared (including special declaration and overseas votes)
<b>Monday 16 December</b>	Deadline for applications for <b>judicial recount</b>
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	Writ returned.
<b>Thursday 19 December</b>	<b>Last day for Return of Writ.</b> The Electoral Commission expects to return the writ naming the successful candidate on Thursday 19 December (presuming no recount).
<b>Tuesday 1 April 2014</b>	Deadline for Returns of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations to Electoral Commission

## Enrolment

Only people eligible to vote and enrolled in the Christchurch East electorate can vote in the by-election.

Everyone enrolled by Wednesday 30 October will get an EasyVote pack which includes an EasyVote card in the mail. People who enrol after this but before the final deadline on Friday 29 November will need to cast a Special Declaration Vote.

People are eligible to enrol in the Christchurch East electorate if they:

- are 18 years or over;
- are of New Zealand Māori descent;
- are a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who has lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months; and
- have been living in the Christchurch East electorate for one month or more.

Enrolling is easy. Enrolment forms are available:

- from the Electoral Commission's website [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)
- by free texting your name and address to 3676
- from any PostShop
- by calling 0800 36 76 56

People can also check their details and enrol online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz).

**As at 31 August 2013 33,301 people were enrolled to vote in the electorate of Christchurch East.**

A breakdown of enrolment statistics nationally and by electorate is available from [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

## Christchurch East Electorate Statistics 2011 General Election

<b>Enrolments</b>	<b>39,708</b>
<b>Total votes cast</b>	<b>29,163</b>
<b>Turnout</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Number of special votes cast</b>	<b>3,293</b>
<b>Number of advance ordinary votes</b>	<b>5,200</b>
<b>Number of overseas votes</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Winning candidate majority</b>	<b>5,334</b>

## Christchurch East Electorate Results 2011 General Election

Candidate	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes	Party Votes		
			Party	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes
BAKER, Leighton James (CONSERVATIVE)	522	1.86%	ACT New Zealand	101	0.35%
BRITNELL, Michael Allan (ALCP)	254	0.91%	Alliance	28	0.10%
DALZIEL, Lianne Audrey (LABOUR)	15, 559	55.54%	Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	145	0.50%
GILMORE, Aaron Wayne (NATIONAL)	10, 225	36.50%	Conservative Party	617	2.15%
MATHERS, Mojo Celeste (GREEN)	1, 347	4.81%	Democrats for Social Credit	22	0.08%
MILLER, Johnny Isaac (UNITED FUTURE)	108	0.39%	Green Party	3, 359	11.68%
			Labour Party	9, 100	31.65%
			Libertarianz	17	0.06%
			Mana	63	0.22%
			Māori Party	84	0.29%
			National Party	13, 252	46.10%
			New Zealand First Party	1, 801	6.26%
			United Future	160	0.56%
<b>Candidate Informals</b>	509		<b>Party Informals</b>	228	
<b>Total Candidate Votes Cast</b>	28, 524		<b>Total Party Votes Cast</b>	28, 977	

## Quick Guide to Candidate Rules

Topic	Candidates can	Candidates can't
Radio and television election advertising	<p>Promote their own election in the period from writ day to the day before election day.</p> <p>Identify the party they represent and its policies in order to promote their own election.</p>	<p>Broadcast outside the period from writ day to the day before election day.</p> <p>Broadcast on election day.</p> <p>Attack other candidates or parties.</p> <p>Broadcast without including the name and street address of the person authorising the advertisement.</p>
Election advertising (other than television and radio)	<p>Promote their own election.</p> <p>Attack the policies of other candidates or parties.</p> <p>Operate a website on election day.</p>	<p>Publish without including the name and street address.</p> <p>Publish on election day.</p> <p>Display in view of a public place on election day.</p> <p>Display on vehicles (including bumper stickers) in view of a public place on election day.</p> <p>Put new material on a website on election day.</p> <p>Advertise a website on election day.</p> <p>Use systems on election day that make website advertising available to persons who haven't voluntarily accessed the website.</p>

Topic	Candidates can	Candidates can't
Election expenses (promoting the candidate)	<p>Spend without limit on printed advertising to promote their election prior to the regulated period before election day.</p> <p>Spend up to \$50,800 (incl GST) on election advertising in the regulated period.</p>	<p>Spend more than \$50,800 (incl GST) on election expenses published in the regulated period.</p> <p>File their return of election expenses and donations later than 70 working days after election day.</p>
Party lapel badges (a badge or rosette designed to be worn on the lapel) on election day	<p>Feature the party name, emblem, slogan or logo on a party lapel badge.</p> <p>Wear the lapel badge themselves.</p> <p>Have scrutineers, party officials, or supporters wear them.</p>	<p>Display party lapel badges on vehicles or in other places.</p> <p>Feature their name on a badge.</p> <p>Permit clothing to be worn on election day promoting the candidate or party.</p>
Streamers, rosettes, ribbons and similar items on election day	<p>Display these in party colours.</p> <p>Have candidates, scrutineers, party officials or supporters wear them.</p> <p>Display them on vehicles.</p>	<p>Feature the party name, emblem, slogan or logo on the streamers etc.</p> <p>Display them on anything other than people or vehicles.</p>

## Christchurch East By-Election - Questions and Answers

### Enrolment

#### 1. Who can vote in the Christchurch East by-election?

Anyone who is correctly enrolled in the general electorate of Christchurch East before by-election day.

#### 2. Who can enrol to vote in the Christchurch East by-election?

To enrol to vote in the Christchurch East by-election people must:

- be 18 years or over;
- be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who has lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months; and
- have been living in the Christchurch East electorate for one month or more.

#### 3. What are the enrolment deadlines?

Everyone enrolled by Wednesday 30 October will get an EasyVote pack which includes an EasyVote card in the mail a week before election day.

People who enrol after this but before the final deadline of Friday 29 November will need to cast a Special Declaration Vote.

#### 4. Can people on the Māori electoral roll living in the Christchurch East electorate vote?

No. The by-election is to select the Member of Parliament for the General electorate of Christchurch East. Only those people on the Christchurch East electoral roll are eligible to vote.

#### 5. What about people who were displaced by the Canterbury earthquakes? Where should they enrol?

Voters who are outside the Christchurch East electorate temporarily (for example, while their house is being repaired) can stay enrolled in Christchurch East and will be eligible to vote in the by-election.

If people know they will not be returning to their previous home and have lived outside the electorate for more than one month, they need to re-enrol at their new address.



## **6. Can people turning 18 on election day, Saturday 30 November, still vote?**

Yes, but they cannot enrol on election day. They will need to enrol before election day and their name will automatically go on the electoral roll.

## **7. How do people enrol to vote?**

Enrolment forms are available:

- From the Electoral Commission's website [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)
- By free texting your name and address to 3676
- From any PostShop
- or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

People can also check their details and enrol online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

## **Boundary Review**

### **1. What are the boundaries for the Christchurch East by-election?**

The Christchurch East by-election is being run under the same electorate boundaries at the 2011 general election.

### **2. What will happen to Christchurch East in the boundary review?**

It is too soon to tell. The Representation Commission will release proposed electorate boundaries for public comment on Thursday 21 November 2013. Objections must be received by 10am Monday 23 December 2013.

### **3. Why are the electorate boundaries being redrawn?**

Electorate boundaries are redrawn after each population Census to make sure that the number of people in each electorate reflects changes in population and that electorate names remain relevant.

### **4. What is the process for making decisions on the proposed boundaries?**

Statistics New Zealand calculates the average population size for electorates following the Census and [Māori Electoral Option](#). The Representation Commission uses these electoral populations to review and redraw electorate boundaries.

The public can make objections and counter objections to the proposed names and boundaries as part of the Representation Commission's consultation process.

## **5. How do people have their say?**

Anyone can make an objection to the proposed boundaries. There is also an opportunity to make a counter objection. Objections must be received by 10am Monday 23 December 2013. People can make an objection online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or write in and make an objection. The Commission will release a summary of objections on 14 January 2014. Counter objections must be received by 5pm Wednesday 29 January 2014. People can make a counter objection online at [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) or write in and make a counter objection.

## **Voting**

### **1. What date is election day?**

Election day for the by-election is Saturday 30 November.

### **2. Who can vote in the Christchurch East by-election?**

Only people who are eligible, and enrolled in the Christchurch East electorate can vote in the by-election. They must be enrolled to vote by Friday 29 November, the day before election day.

### **3. Where can people vote?**

On election day people can vote at one of the voting places within the Christchurch East electorate boundaries.

There will be no voting places anywhere outside the Christchurch East electorate on election day.

### **4. When can people vote?**

Voting places in the Christchurch East are open from 9.00am to 7.00pm on election day – Saturday 30 November.

People who need to vote in advance, those going overseas or those overseas already can vote from Wednesday 13 November.

### **5. Where and when can people vote outside the electorate?**

People who can't vote in the electorate on election day can vote in advance at an advance voting place in the electorate or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country or at the Returning Officer's Headquarters.

## **6. Will there be an EasyVote Pack?**

Yes. Voter information packs will be sent during the week before election day to everyone who was enrolled by Wednesday 30 October. These packs will include:

- EasyVote card
- The candidates for the Christchurch East by-election
- Advance voting places; and
- The voting places for the Christchurch East electorate

## **7. What if a person doesn't get an EasyVote card, can they still vote?**

Yes, but they must be enrolled for their vote to count. The EasyVote card has been designed to make the voting process easier, but people can vote without it.

## **8. Will there be a party vote and an electorate vote?**

The by-election is to elect a new Member of Parliament for the Christchurch East electorate. There is only one vote in the by-election, the vote for the electorate candidate. There is no party vote.

## **VOTING BEFORE SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

## **9. What do people do if they are not in the Christchurch East electorate on Saturday 30 November?**

People can vote in advance from Wednesday 13 November either in the electorate, or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country or at the Returning Officer's Headquarters.

## **10. Will people be able to vote outside their electorate on election day?**

No. Voting facilities will only be available in the electorate on election day. If someone is going to be outside their electorate on Saturday 30 November they will have to vote in advance.

## **11. What do people do if they are overseas on election day, Saturday 30 November?**

There are four ways people going overseas can vote:

1. make an advance vote before leaving New Zealand from Wednesday 13 November
2. download voting papers from the internet ([www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)) after leaving New Zealand
3. apply for postal voting papers
4. vote in person at an overseas post accepting votes for the by-election.

Voting papers must be posted or faxed back, NOT e-mailed.

## **12. What if a person can't get to a voting place on election day Saturday 30 November?**

Options include:

- voting in advance
- applying for a postal vote
- arranging for another person to collect the voting papers from a voting place or advance voting place.

## **13. What options are available for a person in a rest home or hospital?**

If a person is in a rest home or hospital in the Christchurch East electorate, the Christchurch East Returning Officer may send someone to take their vote. Consult the manager of the rest home or hospital, or ask family/whanau to contact the Returning Officer.

If a person can't get to a voting place because they are sick, infirm or have a disability, help may be available by contacting the Christchurch East Returning Officer.

## **14. What are the boundaries of the Christchurch East electorate?**

Christchurch East covers the eastern suburbs of Christchurch city from the Avon-Heathcote estuary north to the Waimakariri River. It includes the suburbs of New Brighton, Parklands, Waimairi Beach, Avondale, Bexley, Aranui, Wainoni and Burwood.

Maps of the electorate can be viewed online at <http://www.elections.org.nz/mapping/>

## **Candidates**

### **1. Who can be a candidate in the Christchurch East by-election?**

To be a candidate, you must be enrolled as a voter (in any electorate), be a New Zealand citizen and not be disqualified from enrolling.

### **2. What is the nomination process?**

Two people enrolled in the Christchurch East electorate must nominate the candidate on the nomination form lodged together with a deposit of \$300 with the Christchurch East Returning Officer by noon on nomination day Tuesday 5 November.

### **3. What are the election expense rules?**

Detailed information is contained in the Electoral Commission's "Information for Parliamentary Candidates - By-elections" guide and the Electoral Act 1993.

Election expenses are primarily advertising and other publicity costs within the regulated period (which for a by-election runs from the day after the notice of the vacancy is published in the Gazette until the close of the day before election day) that may reasonably be regarded as encouraging or persuading voters to vote, or not to vote, for a constituency candidate (whether or not the name of the candidate is stated).

Rules include:

- The amount candidates can incur in election expenses in the regulated period before the by-election day is limited to \$50,800 (inc GST).
- Candidates must give written authorisation before any advertisement promoting their election can be published.
- Election advertisements must include a promoter statement which includes the name and business or residential street address of the person directing it to be published (a PO Box or website address is insufficient).
- Campaigning is forbidden on the day of the by-election.

#### **4. What are the rules relating to donations?**

Candidate donations and contributions to donations of more than \$1,500 must be declared. Candidates are not allowed to keep anonymous or overseas donations of more than \$1,500.

#### **5. Are there limits on how much can be spent on campaigning?**

Yes. A maximum of \$50,800 (including GST).

#### **6. Are there broadcasting allocations?**

There are no broadcasting allocations. These only apply to party campaigning at a general election.

## **Media Activity**

### **1. Media activity on election day**

All election advertising and other statements, by anybody including the media, which could influence voters cannot be published or broadcast on election day until after the close of voting at 7pm. For this purpose newspapers published after 6pm on the day before election day are treated as being published on election day before the close of polls.

No opinion polling of voters can be carried out on election day before the close of voting at 7pm.

News stories posted on websites before election day can remain, as long as the website is not advertised on election day. However, public message boards and comment areas on websites that invite comment on the by-election cannot be added to on election day.

## **2. Photo/filming opportunities on election day**

Candidates may only be in a voting place for the purpose of voting.

Media organisations can take photos or film at a voting place as long as:

- The prior approval of the Returning Officer has been obtained. Media must contact the Electoral Commission before election day to arrange this.
- No photographs or footage are taken of voters actually completing their ballot papers or showing how a person voted. Media cannot go behind the voting screens.
- Photographers or camera crews do not disrupt voters from voting, or officials from their duties.
- No undue delays are caused to voters.
- No interviews are conducted in or near the voting place.