



# **Media Kit**

## **Enrolment update for the 2025 Local Elections**

**April 2025**

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## Introduction

The local elections will be held in October 2025 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.

A public information programme will run from 1 April to 1 August including nationwide advertising and a direct mailout to all those registered on the electoral roll.

It will include information for voters of Māori descent on the choice between the Māori roll and the general roll.

This media kit provides key dates and background information on the enrolment update campaign.

### Information on the local elections

The Electoral Commission does not run or oversee the local elections. Local elections are run by each local authority and media enquiries on the elections should be directed to the council concerned.

See the 'Useful Links' section for links to lists of councils and their electoral officers.

### Electoral Commission media contact

Clare Pasley is the first point of contact for media enquiries relating to the Electoral Commission's enrolment update for the 2025 local elections.

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Electoral Commission  
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## Useful links

Local authorities run their own elections. They appoint electoral officers who are responsible for everything relating to that council's election or poll. A list of electoral officers and their contact details is available here: <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/electoral-officers/>

The Vote Local website has lots of information for voters, candidates and the media about the elections. The website is run by Taituarā and Local Government New Zealand and includes a media contact page. <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/>

Vote Local also has information on Māori wards and a list of councils holding polls. <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/maori-wards-and-constituencies/>

Go to your local council website for information on the elections in your area. A list of councils and their websites is available here: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/local-government-in-nz/councils-in-aotearoa/council-websites-and-maps/>

Enrolment statistics for local authorities are updated monthly on the Electoral Commission's website. <https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/>

Turnout statistics for recent local elections are available on the Department of Internal Affairs website. <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Services-Local-Elections-Local-Authority-Election-Statistics-2022>

Rules for the local elections are set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001 which is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs. <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0035/latest/DLM93301.html>

## Key enrolment dates for the local elections

<b>1 April</b>	Electoral Commission enrolment update campaign starts including advertising and mailout of enrolment packs to 3.6 million voters to check their details are up to date
<b>14 April</b>	People who do not get an enrolment pack in the mail by 14 April need to enrol or update their details
<b>4 July</b>	Candidate nominations open
<b>Midnight 10 July</b>	Deadline for Māori who are enrolled to change rolls before the local elections
<b>1 August</b>	People must enrol by 5pm 1 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>1 August midday</b>	Candidate nominations close
<b>9 – 22 September</b>	Councils send out voting papers to everyone who is enrolled and voting starts
<b>10 October</b>	Last day to enrol for the local elections
<b>11 October</b>	<b>Election day - voting closes at midday Saturday 11 October</b>

## The 2025 local elections

The local elections will take place in October 2025 to elect 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 authorities 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 authorities run the elections

The Electoral Commission does not run or oversee the local elections.

Local elections are run by local councils. Each council appoints an electoral officer to conduct its election. A list of electoral officers is available here: <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/electoral-officers/>

Local Government New Zealand and Taituarā have a website with background information on the 2025 local elections: [www.votelocal.co.nz](http://www.votelocal.co.nz)

## **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.

A public information campaign will run from 1 April to 1 August 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 two weeks of April.

When people receive their pack, they should check their details are correct. If people don't get a pack in the mail by 14 April, 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 address where they live to receive their voting papers.

The enrolment update pack includes information for voters of Māori descent about the choice between the Māori and general rolls for these elections.

A flyer is included in the pack that asks people to update their details with an email address and phone number to make it easier to move to digital communications in the future.

## **Māori Electoral Option**

If you are Māori, you choose the Māori roll or the general roll when you first enrol to vote. A law change in November 2022 means that once you are enrolled, you can change rolls at any time except in the three months before a general election or the local elections.

For these local elections, if you are Māori and already enrolled to vote you can change the roll you are on up until midnight 10 July, from the Māori roll to the general roll, or the general roll to the Māori roll. You cannot switch rolls in the three months before the elections (11 July to 11 October).

Māori enrolling for the first time can continue to enrol and choose between the Māori and general roll during the three-month period.

### **What your roll choice means**

If you are on the Māori roll and your council has a Māori ward, you will vote for candidates to represent that ward on the council.

If you are on the general roll, or your council does not have a Māori ward, you'll vote in the general ward where you live.

### **50 years of the Māori Electoral Option**

2025 marks 50 years of the Māori Electoral Option, which is the choice for Māori between the Māori roll and the general roll.

The Electoral Amendment Act passed in 1975 defined Māori as a person of New Zealand Māori descent and means anyone who is Māori has the option of enrolling to vote on either the Māori or the general roll.

The anniversary is part of New Zealand's official commemorations programme under the theme Mana Māori Motuhake | Māori rights and representation.

The commemorations programme is available on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website.

<https://www.mch.govt.nz/publications/commemorations-programme-2023-2027#20232027-calendar>

## 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 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

- Local elections – what are they, when are they, who runs them
- Enrolling for the local elections
- Māori roll or general roll
- Voters who are overseas
- Unpublished, provisional, ratepayer rolls
- Tauranga local elections
- Polls on Māori wards
- The 2025 Boundary Review

## Local elections – general questions

### What are the local elections?

The local elections are when we vote for people to represent us on city, district and regional councils. Councils make decisions on things like rates, public transport, roads, water, parks, building consents, and civil defence. It's important to vote and have your say on who your mayor and councillors will be.

### When are the local elections?

Councils will send out voting papers in September and voting closes at midday on Saturday 11 October.

### How do I vote?

It's a postal vote, which means councils will send voting papers in the mail to people who are enrolled to vote. Check you're enrolled at your current address at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz), so you receive your voting papers in the mail.

### Who runs the local elections?

Local elections are run by local councils. If you have questions about the elections in your area, please contact the electoral officer for the council.

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

The Electoral Commission's role in local elections is to ensure that the electoral roll information is up to date and provided to each council. We are not involved in the conduct or administration of local elections.



## Enrolling for the local elections

### Who can vote in the local elections?

If you're enrolled to vote, you can vote in local elections where you live.

You're eligible to enrol and vote if you are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and you've lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

For electoral purposes, you are a permanent resident if you're in New Zealand legally and not required to leave within a specific time.

### How do I enrol?

You can enrol or update your details, including your address, online at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) or call 0800 36 76 56 to get a form sent to you in the mail.

### How do I know if I'm enrolled?

Go online to [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) to check if you're enrolled. You can enrol or update your details at [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity, or call 0800 36 76 56 to ask for an enrolment form to be sent to you.

### When do I need to be enrolled by?

Your local council will send voting papers to you in the mail if you're enrolled by 5pm on 1 August.

You can still enrol after that date, but you'll need to contact your council's electoral officer to arrange a special vote. The last day you can enrol to vote in the local elections is Friday 10 October.

### What is the letter I got in the mail?

Enrolment packs were sent to everyone on the electoral roll at the start of April. If you got a pack in the mail with Orange Guy on the front, open it and check your details are correct.

If you didn't get a pack, you need to enrol or update your address now. Go to [vote.nz](https://vote.nz) or call 0800 36 76 56.

## Māori roll or general roll

### What is the choice between the Māori roll and general roll?

If you're Māori, you choose to be on the Māori roll or the general roll. This is called the Māori Electoral Option.

### What does it mean for the local elections?

Some councils have Māori and general wards and constituencies. Wards and constituencies are voting areas for local elections.

If you're on the Māori roll and your council has Māori wards, you'll vote in a Māori ward.

If you're on the general roll, or your council doesn't have Māori wards, you'll vote in the general ward you live in.

### When can you choose rolls?

If you are Māori, you choose the Māori roll or the general roll when you first enrol to vote. After that, there's a 3-month rule. You can change rolls any time except:

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before 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.

The 3-month rule doesn't affect people enrolling for the first time. If you're Māori and enrolling for the first time in the three months before an election, you still choose the Māori roll or the general roll.

### **Will roll changes affect the number of Māori electorates for the 2026 General Election?**

No because the number of electorates has already been set for the 2026 General Election. The number of electorates will be calculated again using population and electoral roll data after the next Census.

## **Overseas voters**

### **I am living overseas, can I vote in the local elections?**

You can enrol and vote from overseas if you're:

- a New Zealand citizen and have visited New Zealand in the last 3 years, or
- a permanent resident of New Zealand and have visited New Zealand in the last 12 months.

You need to be enrolled at the last address you lived for one month in New Zealand.

Make sure you're correctly enrolled with an overseas postal address to get your voting papers. You can't download voting papers for a local election.

### **What if I'm not eligible anymore because I haven't been back to New Zealand?**

If you're enrolled but no longer meet the eligibility criteria, please email us at [remove@elections.govt.nz](mailto:remove@elections.govt.nz) to remove yourself from the roll. You can go back on the electoral roll as soon as you visit New Zealand and meet the eligibility criteria again.

### **How do I vote from overseas?**

Your local council will send voting papers to your postal address. If your postal address is in New Zealand, then you will need to contact the person receiving your mail and ask them to send you your voting papers.

You'll need to post your completed voting papers in time to arrive at your local council by midday Saturday 11 October. You can't download or return voting papers electronically for local elections.

## **Unpublished, provisional, ratepayer rolls**

### **I am on the unpublished roll. How do I get my voting papers?**

If you're registered on the unpublished roll, it means your name will not appear on the printed electoral roll and your voting papers will not be sent to you in the mail. You'll need to apply to the electoral officer at your local council to get your voting papers. The Electoral Commission will write to you in September with contact details for your electoral officer.

A list of electoral officers is also available on the [www.votelocal.co.nz](http://www.votelocal.co.nz) website.

### **I am 17 and on the provisional roll. Can I vote in the local elections?**

If you're on the provisional electoral roll, you will automatically be enrolled to vote when you turn 18. If you turn 18 by 11 October, you can vote in the local elections.

- If you are provisionally enrolled and turn 18 up to and including 1 August, your local council will send you voting papers in the mail.
- If you are provisionally enrolled and turn 18 between 2 August and 11 October, you can still vote, but you'll need to contact your local council's electoral officer to ask for voting papers.

Contact details for electoral officers can be found here: <https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/electoral-officers/>



### **What is the ratepayer roll?**

Ratepayer rolls are managed by local councils and are separate to the main electoral rolls. Each council has a ratepayer roll for people who pay rates on a property but live in another part of the country. In that situation, a person can vote in the area where they live, and the area where they pay rates.

To apply, contact the electoral officer for the local council area where you pay rates but do not live.

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

## **Tauranga local elections**

### **Are local elections being held in Tauranga?**

Enrolment update packs are being sent to people in Tauranga, as they will be voting in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council election.

There won't be an election for the Tauranga City Council this year. There was an out of cycle election in July 2024, and the next election for that council will be at the 2028 local elections.

## **Polls on Māori wards**

### **What is a Māori 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.

Some councils have both Māori and general wards or constituencies. At the local elections, councillors are elected to represent the people in each ward and constituency.

### **Who can vote in a Māori ward or constituency?**

If you're on the Māori roll and your local council has a Māori ward, you'll vote for a candidate in the Māori ward.

### **What are the polls on Māori wards?**

Some councils are holding a poll on whether to retain their Māori wards and constituencies.

More information on the polls and the councils holding them is available here:

<https://www.votelocal.co.nz/maori-wards-and-constituencies/>

### **Can anyone vote in the polls?**

If your council is holding a poll and you're enrolled to vote, you can vote in the poll, whichever roll you're on.

Not all councils are holding a poll. If your council is not holding a poll, you won't be voting in a poll.

## **Boundary review**

### **What is the boundary review currently underway?**

The Representation Commission is holding a boundary review of parliamentary electorates for the next general election. It is not connected to local council boundaries or the local elections.

### **Who is responsible for local government boundaries?**

A different body, the Local Government Commission, oversees local council boundaries. You'll find more information here: <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/our-work/representation-reviews/>

