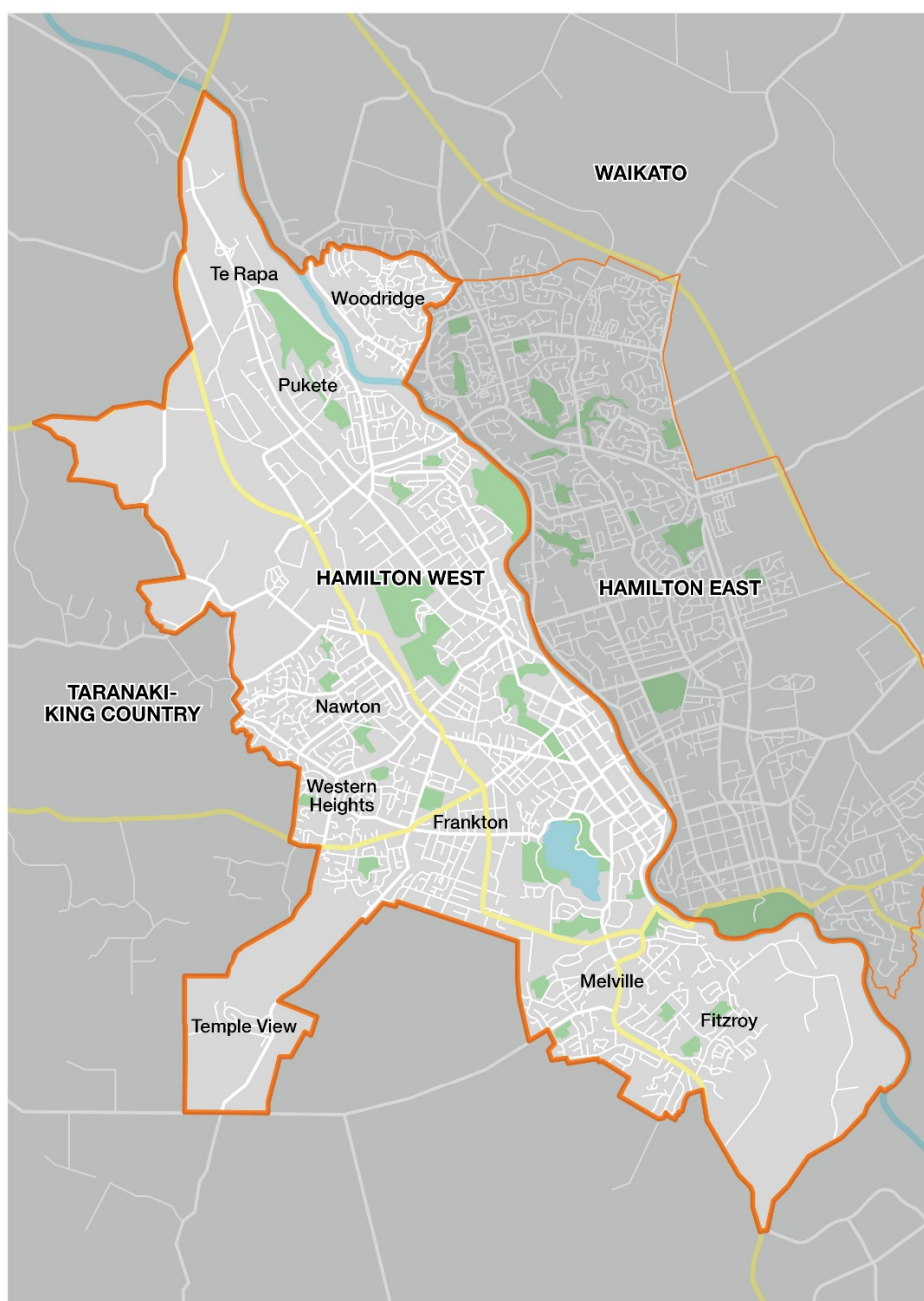


Hamilton West By-election

Media Kit



November 2022

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Electoral Commission media contact

Clare Pasley
Senior Media and Communications Advisor
Phone +64 4 806 3536
Mobile 027 551 7845
clare.pasley@elections.govt.nz
media@elections.govt.nz
Websites: vote.nz | elections.nz

Background

A by-election will be held in the Hamilton West general electorate on Saturday 10 December following the resignation of the local MP.

This media kit includes useful information and links for journalists covering the by-election.

Hamilton West electorate

Hamilton West comprises the Hamilton City suburbs west of the Waikato River including Melville, Frankton, Nawton, Pukete and Te Rapa. It also includes Woodridge and parts of Flagstaff, which are east of the Waikato River.

The electorate boundaries were adjusted before the 2020 election due to population growth, and an area at the northern tip of the electorate east of the Waikato River around Horsham Downs was moved into the Waikato electorate.

As at 31 October, there were 47,911 people enrolled in Hamilton West on the general electoral roll.

Recent election results

Full election results are available online at www.electionresults.govt.nz

The following results are for the top two polling candidates in recent elections.

Hamilton West recent election results top two candidates			
Year	Winning candidate	2 nd candidate	Margin
2020	Gaurav Sharma, Labour	Tim Macindoe, National	6,267
2017	Tim Macindoe, National	Gaurav Sharma, Labour	7,731
2014	Tim Macindoe, National	Sue Moroney, Labour	5,784
2011	Tim Macindoe, National	Sue Moroney, Labour	4,418
2008	Tim Macindoe, National	Martin Gallagher, Labour	1,618
2005	Martin Gallagher, Labour	Tim Macindoe, National	825

The candidates

There are 12 candidates. The list is also [available online at vote.nz](http://vote.nz).

Candidate Name	Party
DANSEY, Georgie	Labour Party
DICKSON, Gordon John	Independent
DU PLOOY, Rudi	New Conservative + One Party
FU, Frank	Independent
McDOWALL, James	ACT New Zealand
OSMASTON, Richard	Money Free Party
POCOCK, Naomi	The Opportunities Party (TOP)
POKERE-PHILLIPS, Donna	NZ Outdoors & Freedom Party
POTAKA, Tama	National Party
SHARMA, Gaurav	New Zealand Momentum Party
TAIT, Jade	Vision New Zealand
WAKEMAN, Peter	Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party

Key dates for the Hamilton West by-election

HAMILTON WEST BY-ELECTION TIMETABLE	
Thursday 20 October	Hamilton West electorate by-election dates formally announced
Thursday 20 October	Regulated period for election expenses starts day after notice of vacancy published
Wednesday 2 November	Writ Day Governor General issues writ directing the Electoral Commission to hold the Hamilton West by-election Electoral Rolls close for printing Voters enrolled after this date cast a special declaration vote
Tuesday 8 November, noon	Nominations close for candidates in the Hamilton West by-election
Wednesday 9 November, 4pm target	Hamilton West by-election candidates announced by the Electoral Commission Ballot paper printing starts
Wednesday 23 November	Overseas voting starts
Monday 28 November	Advance voting starts Advance voting figures will be published daily at vote.nz
Friday 9 December	All political advertising ceases and election signs taken down by midnight Last day for overseas voters to enrol
Saturday 10 December	Election day for Hamilton West by-election Last day for voters in New Zealand to enrol Voting places open from 9am to 7pm
Saturday 10 December	Preliminary Results progressively available from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by 9pm results from 50% of voting places by 10.30pm results from 95% of voting places These are targets not guarantees
Wednesday 21 December 5pm target	Official Results declared (including special declaration and overseas votes)
Monday 16 January	Deadline for applications for judicial recount
Tuesday 17 January	Return of Writ by Electoral Commission naming successful candidate (presuming no recount)
Wednesday 12 April	Deadline for Returns of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations to Electoral Commission

Turnout at by-elections

The turnout for by-elections tends to be lower than for general elections.

Recent by-election turnout	
Tauranga, June 2022	40.5%
Northcote, June 2018	43.9%
Mt Albert, February 2017	30.0%
Mt Roskill, December 2016	38.5%

Advance voting statistics

Advance voting data will be published on weekdays during the voting period by 2pm on www.vote.nz, starting **Tuesday 29 November**.

69.1% of Hamilton West voters voted in advance at the 2020 General Election and we expect a similar proportion of voters to vote early in the by-election. 72.6% of votes were cast in advance during the 2022 Tauranga by-election.

Taking photographs and filming inside voting places

Please contact the Electoral Commission media team (media@elections.govt.nz) if you belong to a media organisation and want to take photographs or footage inside a voting place during advance voting or on election day.

You can film or take photographs inside a voting place provided:

- you have contacted the media team beforehand, and the media team obtains the approval of the Electorate Manager (Returning Officer)
- you do not take photographs or footage of voters completing their ballot papers
- you do not disrupt voters while they are voting or electoral officials while they are going about their duties
- you do not cause undue delay to voters
- you do not conduct interviews in or near the voting place.

Note: candidates may be in a voting place only for the purpose of voting.

News coverage on election day Saturday 10 December

Candidates cannot campaign on election day Saturday 10 December, and the media cannot publish stories or advertising likely to influence voters.

This covers any statement that is likely to influence a voter to vote or not vote for any candidate, or to abstain from voting.

What can and can't be published before voting closes at 7pm on election day

It's okay to refer to the by-election, for example, a news item noting that it's election day, when and where people can vote, and when results will be available.

Candidates' names can be mentioned, but the item must not include any words or visual images that are likely to influence voters about how they should vote.

All by-election advertising and other statements which could influence voters cannot be published or broadcast on election day until after the close of voting at 7pm.

Newspapers published after 6pm on the day before election day (Friday 9 December) are treated as being published on election day.

Election material posted on websites before election day can remain, but the material cannot be added to or promoted on election day.

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

Stories about politicians or parties that are not about the by-election

Discussion of matters of policy that do not refer to the by-election and are not specifically directed at the electorate are unlikely to breach the election day rules. Coverage of ministers discussing routine matters of policy, are also unlikely to breach the rules.

Some factors that could increase risk of breach would be, for example, items directly referring to the by-election campaign, featuring candidates and speculating on the results, and items specifically relating to a local issue that affects the electorate being contested and that may have also been a key issue in the by-election campaign.

It is difficult to be definitive when it comes to determining what is 'likely to influence' and media outlets must exercise judgment on a case-by-case basis. Media can contact the Commission if they have specific questions about items that they are not sure about.

Balance is not a defence

It is not a defence to argue that an election day publication is balanced (for example it looks at the pros and cons of a particular issue that has featured during the election), or that it does not mention the name of a candidate, or that all candidates are given equal coverage.

The test is whether the publication is likely to influence a voter.

Election results and the media feed

On election night, Saturday 10 December, results will start coming through shortly after voting closes at 7pm.

- They will be released on www.electionresults.govt.nz
- There will be a media feed at <http://media.election.net.nz>
- For xml data use <http://media.election.net.nz/xml/>

We aim to have results from 50% of voting places by 9pm and 95% of voting places by 10.30pm. A media release with the preliminary results will also be sent out at the end of the night.

The election night results include all ordinary votes cast in advance and on election day. It does not include special votes, including overseas votes.

During the official count which begins on 11 December, all votes counted on election night will be recounted. Special declaration votes will be processed and counted.

The official results including special votes will be released on Wednesday 21 December 2022 (target 5pm).

Frequently asked questions

What is the Hamilton West by-election?

A by-election is being held in the Hamilton West electorate on 10 December 2022 to elect a local member of Parliament.

Who can vote in the Hamilton West by-election?

Only people who are enrolled in the Hamilton West electorate can vote in the by-election. You can enrol and vote in the by-election if you are eligible to vote in New Zealand elections and you've lived in the Hamilton West electorate for more than one month.

When do I need to enrol by?

You can enrol right up to and on election day, Saturday 10 December.

How do I know if I'm enrolled?

You can check your enrolment details online at www.vote.nz. You can also call 0800 36 76 56.

I'm on the Māori roll – can I vote in the Hamilton West by-election?

No, Hamilton West is a general electorate. Only people enrolled on the Hamilton West electoral roll are able to vote in this by-election.

I turn 18 on election day, Saturday 10 December Can I still vote?

Yes, you can enrol and vote on election day. If you're 17, you can provisionally enrol and we'll automatically update your enrolment so you are ready to vote on election day.

How do I enrol to vote?

Enrolling is quick and easy. You can enrol or update your details online at vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity. You can also call 0800 36 76 56 and ask for an enrolment form to be sent to you. You can also enrol and vote at any voting place.

What are the boundaries for the Hamilton West electorate?

Hamilton West comprises the Hamilton city suburbs west of the Waikato River including Melville, Frankton, Nawton, Pukete and Te Rapa. It also includes Woodridge and parts of Flagstaff, which are east of the Waikato River. You can check which electorate you are in by entering your address into the search bar at vote.nz/find-your-electorate

Have the boundaries changed?

The electorate boundaries are the same as they were for the last general election in 2020.

The boundaries were adjusted before the 2020 election due to population growth, and an area around Horsham Downs was moved into the Waikato electorate.

Where and when can I vote?

From Monday 28 November, you can vote at any advance voting place. The days and times advance voting places are open vary, so check the opening hours before you go.

On election day Saturday 10 December, all voting places are open from 9am to 7pm.

Voting place locations and opening hours are available online at vote.nz and there will be a list of voting places in your EasyVote pack. You can also call 0800 36 76 56 to ask where your nearest voting place is.

Will I get an EasyVote pack?

If you enrolled to vote by Wednesday 2 November, you'll be sent everything you need to make voting easy. Your EasyVote pack should arrive by Tuesday 29 November and will include:

- your personalised EasyVote card
- a list of candidates for the Hamilton West by-election
- a list of advance voting places and election day voting places and when they are open
- a guide to voting in the by-election.

I haven't received an EasyVote card. Can I still vote?

Yes, the EasyVote card makes voting faster, but you can vote without it.

What happens when I go to vote?

When you go to vote, take your EasyVote card with you. Give it to the person issuing your voting paper. It will help them find you on the electoral roll.

You will be given a voting paper for the by-election. On your voting paper, place a tick by the name of the person you want to be your local member of Parliament.

Once you've made your choice, put your paper in the ballot box and you're done.

If you haven't voted before, don't have an EasyVote card, or don't know what to do – don't worry, there will be people at the voting place who can help you.

Will there be a party vote and an electorate vote?

There is only one vote in the by-election, the vote for the candidate you want to be your local member of Parliament. There is no party vote.

This is different from a general election where you have two votes – one for a party and the other for your local candidate.

What if I can't get to a voting place?

If you can't get to a voting place, for example for health or mobility reasons, you can still vote. Call 0800 36 76 56 to arrange a postal vote, or a takeaway vote when someone picks up your voting papers for you.

Will there be dictation voting for blind or low-vision voters?

Yes. Voters who are blind or have a disability that means they are unable to mark their voting paper, will be able to vote using telephone dictation. You need to register before you can vote using telephone dictation. You can register from Thursday 3 November by calling 0800 028 028. More information is available on our website at vote.nz.

How can I vote if I'm overseas?

If you are going to be overseas on election day, you can still vote. From Wednesday 23 November you can download your papers from overseas at vote.nz. You need to be enrolled before you can download your voting papers.

If you're still going to be in New Zealand when voting starts on Monday 28 November, it's a good idea to vote early at any advance voting place.

Who can vote from overseas?

You can enrol and vote from overseas if you're enrolled in the Hamilton West electorate and are a New Zealand citizen who's visited New Zealand within the last 3 years, or a New Zealand permanent resident who's visited New Zealand within the last 12 months. [See our website for more information on eligibility.](#)

There is a Bill before Parliament which would temporarily extend those time periods for the 2023 General Election, but it has not yet been passed into law.

Who can be a candidate in the by-election?

To be a candidate you must:

- be a New Zealand citizen
- be enrolled to vote
- be nominated by two registered electors who are enrolled in the Hamilton West electorate, and
- pay a deposit of \$300.