

# Tāmaki Makaurau by-election Media kit



**August 2025**

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## Electoral Commission media contact

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## Background

A by-election will be held in the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate on Saturday 6 September to elect a local member of Parliament (MP).

The by-election is being held following the death of the sitting MP Takutai Tarsh Kemp.

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

## Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate

Tāmaki Makaurau is one of the seven Māori electorates. It is an urban electorate, extending from the Waitākere Ranges to Bucklands Beach. It includes most of the southern and eastern Auckland suburbs and Waiheke Island. It does not include the North Shore.

The electorate boundaries are the same as they were for the last two general elections in 2020 and 2023.

There was a close result and a re-count in the electorate at the 2023 General Election.

Takutai Tarsh Kemp won the seat for Te Pāti Māori with a majority of 42 votes. The second candidate was Labour's Peeni Henare.

Turnout of enrolled voters for the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate at the 2023 General Election was 63.4%. This was the lowest turnout of the Māori electorates.

On 30 July, there were 43,755 people enrolled to vote in Tāmaki Makaurau. The Māori community in the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate skews young, with almost half of enrolled electors under the age of 40.

A full profile is available on the Parliament website:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/mps-and-electoralates/electorate-profiles/t%C4%81maki-makaurau-electorate-profile/>

## Recent election results

Full election results are available online at [electionresults.govt.nz](https://electionresults.govt.nz).

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

Tāmaki Makaurau recent election results top two candidates			
Year	Winning candidate	2nd candidate	Majority
2023	Takutai Tarsh Kemp, Te Pāti Māori, 10,068	Peeni Henare, Labour, 10,026	42
2020	Peeni Henare, Labour, 10,256	John Tamihere, Māori Party, 9,329	927
2017	Peeni Henare, Labour, 9,396	Shane Taurima, Māori Party, 5,587	3,809
2014	Peeni Henare, Labour, 7,533	Rangi McLean, Māori Party, 6,071	1,462
2011	Pita Sharples, Māori Party, 7,120	Shane Jones, Labour, 6,184	936

## Key dates for the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election

Wednesday 9 July	<b>Vacancy declared</b> by the Speaker  From this date, voters of Māori descent cannot change from the general roll to the Māori roll if it would move them into the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate. Applications to change rolls will be processed after the local elections
Thursday 10 July	<b>Regulated period</b> for election expenses starts
Monday 14 July	<b>By-election dates announced</b>
Tuesday 15 July	<b>Nominations open</b> for by-election
Wednesday 30 July	<b>Writ Day</b>  Governor General issues writ directing the Electoral Commission to hold the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election  Electoral Rolls close for printing  Voters enrolled after this date cast a special declaration vote
Thursday 31 July	<b>Remote voting and registration for dictation voting opens</b>
Tuesday 5 August	<b>Nominations close at noon</b> for candidates in the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election  <b>Candidates announced in the afternoon</b> by the Electoral Commission  Voting paper printing starts
Wednesday 20 August	<b>Overseas voting starts</b>
Monday 25 August	<b>Advance voting starts</b>
Friday 5 September	All <b>political advertising ceases</b> and election signs taken down by midnight  Last day for overseas voters to enrol
Saturday 6 September	<b>Election day</b> for Tāmaki Makaurau by-election  Last day for voters in New Zealand to enrol  Voting places open from 9am to 7pm

Saturday 6 September	<b>Preliminary Results progressively available</b> from 7pm on <a href="http://electionresults.govt.nz">electionresults.govt.nz</a> . Targets for release are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by 9pm results from 50% of voting places</li> <li>by 10.30pm results from 95% of voting places</li> </ul> These are targets not guarantees
Wednesday 17 September, target 5pm	<b>Official Results declared</b> (including special declaration and overseas votes)
Monday 22 September	Deadline for applications for <b>judicial recount</b>
Tuesday 23 September	<b>Return of Writ</b> by Electoral Commission naming successful candidate (presuming no recount)
Monday 15 September	Deadline for Returns of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations to Electoral Commission

## Candidates

There are five candidates standing in the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election.

Candidate contact details can be supplied to the media on request.

Candidate name	Party
ALP, Kelvyn	New Zealand Loyal
HENARE, Peeni	Labour Party
KAIPARA, Oriini	Te Pāti Māori
MATENE, Sherry Lee	Independent
TAMAKI, Hannah	Vision New Zealand

To be a candidate for the by-election you must be:

- a New Zealand citizen
- enrolled to vote
- nominated by two registered electors who are enrolled in the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate.

You must also pay a \$300 deposit and your nomination must be received by noon on nomination day.

As long as a person meets the nomination requirements, they can contest any electorate – Māori or general – even if it's not the electorate they are enrolled or live in.

NZ Loyal is an unregistered party. Unregistered parties can stand an electorate candidate in by-elections and general elections.

## Voting places

Voting place locations and opening hours are available online at **vote.nz** or by calling 0800 36 76 56. A list of voting places is included in the EasyVote pack sent to voters.

Voting places are spread right across the electorate where people live and work to make it easy to vote.

There will be 54 locations where people can vote early. The days and times advance voting places are open vary, so make sure you check before you go to vote.

On election day Saturday 6 September, there will be 84 voting places open from 9am to 7pm across the electorate.

There are a total of 115 voting place locations. Some voting places are open during advance voting as well as election day.

## Turnout at by-elections

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

Recent by-election turnout	
Port Waikato, November 2023	35.9%
Hamilton West, December 2022	31.4%
Tauranga, June 2022	40.5%
Northcote, June 2018	43.9%
Mt Albert, March 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 **vote.nz**, starting **Tuesday 26 August**.

66.7% of votes were cast in advance during the 2023 Port Waikato by-election, and 67.3% of votes were cast in advance during the 2022 Hamilton West by-election.

## Taking photographs and filming inside voting places

Please contact the Electoral Commission media team ([media@elections.govt.nz](mailto: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.

We need time to notify our staff of any media visits. If you turn up at a voting place to take photos without prior approval, you may be turned away.

## News coverage on election day Saturday 6 September

Candidates cannot campaign on election day Saturday 6 September, and the media cannot publish stories or advertising likely to influence voters before the close of voting at 7pm.

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 5 September) 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

### Preliminary results

Results will start coming through after voting closes at 7pm on election night, Saturday 6 September. The first results are expected to be entered before 7.30pm.

- The results will be released online at [electionresults.govt.nz](http://electionresults.govt.nz)
- For the XML media feed go to <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. Tāmaki Makaurau is a large electorate with a lot of voting places, so results may take longer.

A media release with the preliminary results will be sent out at the end of the night.

### Official results

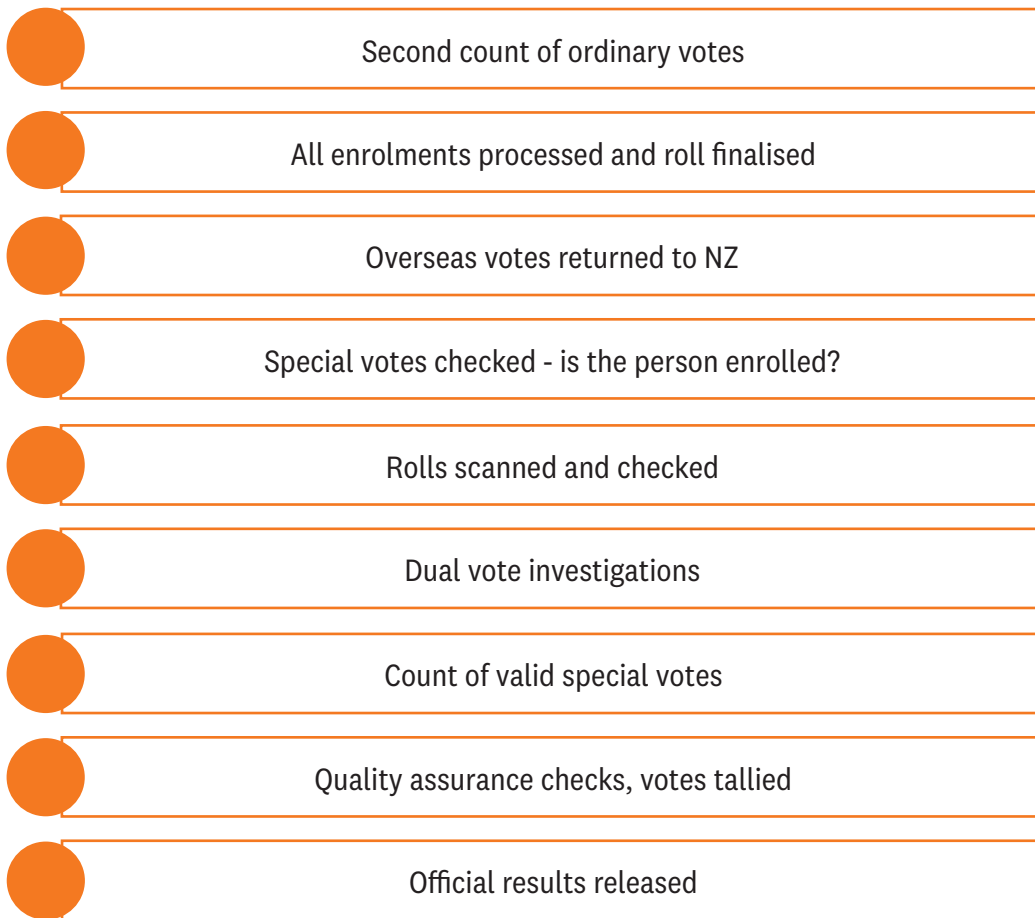
The results released on election night are an indication of the outcome of an election. It takes longer to produce the official results.

The preliminary results are based on the first count of ordinary votes and do not include special votes, including overseas votes.

The official count starts the day after election day. All the votes counted on election night are recounted. Special declaration votes are processed and counted.

The target for the release of the official results of the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election is 5pm Wednesday 17 September. We will inform the media if that time changes.

## Steps in the official count for a by-election



More information on how votes are counted and a video are available at:  
[elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/about-elections/how-are-general-election-votes-counted/](https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/about-elections/how-are-general-election-votes-counted/)

## Frequently Asked Questions

This section includes frequently asked questions on:

- enrolment
- the Māori Electoral Option
- the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate
- voting
- rules for by-elections.

### Enrolment

#### What is the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election?

A by-election is being held in the Tāmaki Makaurau Māori electorate on 6 September 2025 to elect a local member of Parliament (MP). The by-election follows the death of the sitting MP Takutai Tarsh Kemp.

#### Who can vote in the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election?

Only people who are enrolled in the Tāmaki Makaurau 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, you are of Māori descent, and you have lived in the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate for more than one month before election day, Saturday 6 September.

#### I'm on the general roll – can I vote in the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election?

Tāmaki Makaurau is a Māori electorate. If you live in the Tāmaki Makaurau area and are already enrolled on the general roll, you cannot change to the Māori roll to vote in the by-election.

See the Māori Electoral Option section of the FAQs for more information.

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

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

#### What if I get a 'no record found' message when I check my enrolment online?

For privacy reasons the details you enter when you search for your enrolment need to be an exact match for the details we have on file. It's designed that way to ensure you only see your own record.

If you get a 'no record found' message, it doesn't mean you're not enrolled. It means we can't match your record straight away. Call freephone 0800 36 76 56 and our team will check your enrolment for you.

## When do I need to enrol by?

If you were enrolled by Wednesday 30 July, you will be sent an EasyVote information pack in the mail. The pack includes your personal EasyVote card and all the information you need to vote.

If you enrolled after Wednesday 30 July, you can still vote, but you won't get an EasyVote card.

You can enrol and vote right up to and on election day, Saturday 6 September.

## I turn 18 on election day, Saturday 6 September. 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.

## Māori Electoral Option

### If you're Māori, when can you change the roll you're on?

If you are Māori, and enrolling for the first time, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on, the general roll or the Māori roll. You can then change your roll type at 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.

### When was the deadline to change rolls for the by-election?

Under the Electoral Act, when there is a by-election, enrolled voters cannot change roll types from the date the vacancy is declared if it would move them into the electorate where the by-election is being held.

For Māori living in the Tāmaki Makaurau electorate area who already enrolled to vote, the roll you were on when the vacancy was declared on 9 July is the roll you will be on at the time of the by-election. You cannot change from the general roll to the Tāmaki Makaurau roll to vote in the by-election.

### Does the rule apply to first time voters?

Māori who are not enrolled can still enrol and make their roll choice right up until election day, Saturday 6 September.

## **Can other enrolment updates be made during this time?**

The rule only relates to switches from the general roll to the Tāmaki Mākauau roll before the by-election.

People on the Māori roll who move into the Tāmaki Mākauau electorate and will have lived there for one month by the time of the by-election, and people on the dormant Māori roll who are re-enrolling, can update their details and vote in the by-election.

People who need to update their enrolment record, other than changing roll types to go onto the Tāmaki Mākauau roll, can still do so up to and including election day.

## **When was this rule put in place?**

The times when people can change rolls were decided by Parliament in 2022 and the rules for the continuous Option came into effect on 31 March 2023.

## **What happens if you apply to change rolls during this time?**

From Wednesday 9 July, applications to change to the Tāmaki Mākauau roll will be processed after the October 2025 local elections.

## **The Tāmaki Mākauau Electorate**

### **What are the boundaries for the Tāmaki Mākauau electorate?**

The Tāmaki Mākauau Māori electorate includes central Auckland south of the Harbour Bridge. It extends from Piha in the west to Waiheke Island in the east, and includes many of the suburbs around Manukau City. It overlaps or intersects with 15 general electorates.

You can check which electorate you are in by entering your address into the search bar at [vote.nz/find-your-electorate](https://vote.nz/find-your-electorate)

### **Have the boundaries changed?**

The electorate boundaries are the same as they were for the last two general elections in 2020 and 2023.

The Representation Commission has reviewed electorate boundaries for the 2026 General Election. There are no changes to the Tāmaki Mākauau electorate boundaries.

## **Voting**

### **Where and when can I vote?**

From Monday 25 August, 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.

All voting places open on election day Saturday 6 September will be open from 9am to 7pm.

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



### **Who gets an EasyVote pack?**

Everyone who enrolls by Wednesday 30 July will receive an EasyVote pack. The pack will tell voters where and when they can vote, and the candidates they can vote for. The pack also includes a personalised EasyVote card. You don't need an EasyVote card to vote, but it makes voting faster.

EasyVote packs will start to arrive from Tuesday 19 August. The last date for delivery is Monday 25 August.

### **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 (MP). This is your electorate vote. 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 31 July by calling 0800 028 028. Voting by telephone dictation starts on Wednesday 20 August.

More information is available on our website at [\*\*vote.nz\*\*](https://www.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 20 August 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 25 August, 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 Tāmaki Makaurau 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 **vote.nz** for more information on eligibility.

## 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 Tāmaki Makaurau electorate, and
- pay a deposit of \$300.

## By-election rules

### If a list MP wins a by-election, does another person from the party list enter Parliament?

If a list MP wins a by-election and becomes an electorate MP, it creates a list vacancy for the party they represent. The next person on the party list enters Parliament to fill the list vacancy.

The number of list MPs each party has in Parliament is based on the general election result and is not re-calculated after a by-election.

### Will the electoral law changes before Parliament affect the by-election?

The by-election will be conducted under the current rules in the Electoral Act 1993. An Electoral Amendment Bill has recently been introduced to Parliament with new rules for enrolment and voting services which, if enacted, will take effect at the next election in 2026.

### What are the rules around treating for a by-election?

Treating is giving people food, drink, other items or entertainment to intentionally influence their vote. It's a criminal offence to treat before, during or after a by-election. Light refreshments, such as a cup of tea and a snack, that's part of a political meeting isn't treating.

Information on treating is included in the [Candidate Handbook for by-elections](#) on page 28.

## **What are the advertising rules for a by-election?**

Election advertisements must contain a promoter statement with the name of the promoter and their address.

Party and candidate social media accounts should include a promoter statement in the 'About' or profile section. This will cover posts made on the page. You don't need a promoter statement if you like or share an election advertisement that someone else published on social media.

For more information see the [Candidate Handbook for by-elections](#).

## **How much can candidates spend on advertising?**

There is a limit on how much can be spent on election advertising promoting an electorate candidate during the regulated period before a parliamentary election. The candidate expense limit for the Tāmaki Makaurau by-election is \$69,500 (including GST) and the regulated period runs from Thursday 10 July to Friday 5 September 2025.

Electorate candidates must file a return by Monday 15 December reporting their election advertising expenses for the regulated period.

## **Can there be exit polls?**

You can't poll people about how they voted during advance voting or on election day.

## **What are the rules about campaign activity in and around voting places?**

Once advance voting opens there are rules that prohibit campaigning and other election-related activity that may influence voters in a voting place and within 10 metres of the entrance.

On election day there is a general prohibition on campaign activity anywhere until voting closes at 7pm.

Information about the rules once voting starts and on election day can be found here: <https://elections.nz/guidance-and-rules/candidate-hub/candidate-rules/rules-once-voting-starts/>

## **What happens if the Electoral Act rules are broken?**

If a potential breach is brought to our attention, we will look into it. If we believe there has been a breach, we can report it to the Police. We are not an enforcement agency and cannot prosecute or fine people.



2025