

29 July 2005

2005 General Election Information for Media

To assist your coverage of the 2005 General Election the Chief Electoral Office has put together this kit of background material with key dates, statistics and information.

A copy of the 29 July 2005 Chief Electoral Office General Election 2005 media briefing presentation and presentation background has been included in the material enclosed.

The 2005 General Election Media kit comprises:

	Page
• Contact details	Inside front cover
• Timetable for the 2005 General Election	2 - 4
• Election related statistics	5
• Comparison of Advance Votes to Election Night and Official Counts	6
• Responsibilities of the Chief Electoral Office, Electoral Enrolment Centre and Electoral Commission	7
• Frequently asked questions and answers	8 - 9
• Information brochures and booklets	Inserted at back of kit

Other detailed information is available on the elections website www.elections.org.nz. This is regularly updated with information on activities and key dates in the lead up to Election Day, and on Election Day. For example it will include lists of polling places, overseas voting posts and advance voting facilities.

Names of candidates (party and electorate) will be available on the elections website www.elections.org.nz on Wednesday 24 August.

Preliminary results will be available progressively on election night from 7.00pm, Saturday 17 September 2005 at www.electionresults.govt.nz.

Official results (including special votes) are expected to be released two weeks later on Saturday 1 October 2005 and will be posted on the website.

David Henry
Chief Electoral Officer

Election Timetable for 2005 General Election 17 September 2005

Timetable (if no recount applications)

Dissolution of Parliament	Writ Day	Bulk Nominations Due	Nomination Day	Advance Voting Starts	Overseas Voting Starts	Last Day for Enrolment	Polling Day	Preliminary results released	Declaration of Official Results	Application for Recount Expires	Declaration of List Members	Latest Day for Parliament to Meet
Thurs 11 August	Weds 17 August Electoral roll closes for printing	Noon Mon 22 August	Noon Tues 23 August	Weds 31 August	Weds 31 August	Fri 16 September	Sat 17 September	From 7pm Sat 17 September	Sat 1 October	Weds 5 October	Fri 7 October	Fri 18 November

2005 GENERAL ELECTION TIMETABLE

Thurs 11 August	Dissolution of Parliament
Weds 17 August	Writ Day Governor General issues formal direction to the Chief Electoral Officer to hold the election. Electoral Rolls close for printing. Voters enrolled after this date cast special declaration votes.
Thurs 18 August	Nominations called for by Public Notice Advertising calling for individual nominations of electorate candidates.
Mon 22 August Noon	Bulk Nominations Deadline for registered political parties to bulk nominate their electorate candidates to the Chief Electoral Officer.
Tues 23 August Noon	Party Lists Deadline for political parties to submit list candidates to the Chief Electoral Officer.
Tues 23 August Noon	Individual Nominations Deadline for individual nominations of electorate candidates to Returning Officers.
Weds 24 August	Candidate Information Names of all electorate and list candidates released by Chief Electoral Officer. Production of ballot paper begins.
Weds 31 August	Advance Voting starts in New Zealand Advance voting available for voters who are away from home or unable to get to a polling place on Election Day [details of locations will be available from about 19 August].
Weds 31 August	Overseas Voting starts Overseas voters can download voting papers from www.elections.org.nz , vote by post or vote in person at 58 overseas posts.
Sat 10 September	EasyVote Information Packs available Information packs with EasyVote card sent to voters enrolled by 17 August.

Fri 16 September	Enrolments cease Last day to enrol for the election.
	Advance Voting ceases
Fri 16 September Midnight	All political advertising ceases and election signs taken down
Sat 17 September	Election Day Polling places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm.
Sat 17 September	Election Night Preliminary results released progressively from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by 8.30pm all advance vote results • by 10.00pm results from 50% of polling places • by 11.30pm results from 100% of polling places.
Sat 1 October	Official Results declared (including special declaration votes).
Weds 5 October	Deadline for applications for Judicial Recount.
Thurs 6 October	Return of Writ by Chief Electoral Officer showing successful electorate candidates*
Fri 7 October	Declaration of Election of List Members *
Mon 19 December	Deadline for Return of Party Election Expenses to Electoral Commission (if no recounts).
Mon 16 January	Deadline for Return of Candidate Election Expenses and Donations received to Chief Electoral Officer.

*if recount required, then return of writ, final results and election of list members will be delayed by 4-5 days.



Chief Electoral Office
PO Box 3220
Wellington

Election Statistics

	2002 ¹	1999
Total Voting (incl Maori)		
Number enrolled	2,670,030	2,509,365
Total votes cast	2,055,404	2,127,265
Number of informal votes cast - Party	8,631	19,887
Number of informal votes cast - Candidates	26,529	37,908
Turnout (all voters)	76.98%	84.77%
Special Voting		
Number of special votes cast	218,846	262,226
Percentage of total votes cast	10.65%	12.33%
Electorate with the most special votes	Wellington Central	Wellington Central
Number of special votes disallowed	15,156	41,884
Number of special votes disallowed - as% special votes cast	6.93%	15.97%
Overseas Voting		
Number of Overseas votes cast	17,760	11,531
Top five overseas polling places	London (2,881) Sydney (790) Melbourne (395) Brisbane (384) Apia (334)	London (4,171) Sydney (1,445) Melbourne (1,058) Brisbane (946) Perth (412)
Advance Voting		
Number of Advance Votes	132,609	110,982
Percentage of voters	6.45%	5.22%
Maori Roll		
Number of voters on Maori Roll	194,114	159,400
Number of votes	111,745	112,621
Turnout (Maori roll)	57.57%	70.65%

¹ Full statistics are available from the Chief Electoral Office (reference E9) or from www.electionresults.govt.nz

Advanced Votes compared to Election Night and Official Counts

Party Votes 2002

	Act New Zealand	Green Party	Jim Anderton's Progressive Coalition	Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First	United NZ	Other
Advance Vote %	7.38	5.60	1.77	40.13	24.41	10.95	5.58	3.15
Election Night Count %	7.08	6.49	1.75	41.36	21.08	10.60	6.82	3.58
Official Count %	7.14	7.00	1.70	41.26	20.93	10.38	6.69	3.63

Party Votes 1999

	Act New Zealand	Alliance	Green Party	Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First	United NZ	Other
Advance Vote %	8.43	7.54	3.96	35.13	34.32	4.97	0.50	5.14
Election Night Count %	7.00	7.80	4.90	39.00	30.60	4.30	0.50	5.90
Official Count %	7.04	7.74	5.16	38.74	30.50	4.26	0.54	6.03

Party Votes 1996

	Act New Zealand	Alliance		Labour Party	National Party	New Zealand First	United NZ	Other
Advance Vote %	6.01	10.00		25.69	38.09	12.67	0.97	6.57
Election Night Count %	6.17	10.12		28.27	34.13	13.13	0.91	7.27
Official Count %	6.10	10.10		28.19	33.84	13.35	0.88	7.54

Responsibilities of the Electoral Agencies

RESPONSIBILITY	EEC	EC	CEO	MOJ
Information for electors on enrolment	✓			
Enrolment of voters (opportunity and encouragement)	✓			
Production/maintenance of electoral rolls and habitation indexes	✓			
Supply of electronic lists of electors & walk lists (residences with no enrolment) to parties and candidates	✓			
Hosting of the Elections website	✓			
Conduct of Māori Electoral Option	✓			
Verifying, by sample, that signatures on CIR petitions are those of enrolled electors	✓			
Supply of lists of qualified electors to Courts for jury rolls	✓			
Registration of Political Parties/logos		✓		
Allocation to parties of election broadcasting time and money; payment of parties' election broadcasting accounts; receipt of broadcasters' returns of election programmes		✓		
Supervision of annual returns of donations and returns of election expenses – political parties		✓		
Public education and information on electoral matters		✓		
Conduct of Parliamentary general elections and by-elections				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ information to voters, parties and candidates 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ receipt of writ 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ calling for and receipt of nominations (including bulk nominations) 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ designation and staffing of polling places 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ acceptance or rejection of party lists (general elections) 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ballot papers-production 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ voting (advance, on election day) 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identification of dual votes 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ preliminary and official counts 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ qualification of special votes 	✓		✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ declaration of results 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ recounts 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ return of writ 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ allocation of members from party lists (general elections) 			✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ supervision of returns of candidate expenses and returns of donations 			✓	
Conduct of referendum (government initiated and citizen-initiated)			✓	
Filling vacancies from the party list			✓	
Membership of the Representation Commission (electoral boundaries)			✓	
Administration of the Electoral Act (including policy advice to Ministers)				✓
Advice to Select Committees	✓	✓	✓	✓

2005 General Election – Questions and Answers

1. Who can vote in the election?

Anyone who is enrolled by 16 September, the day before Election Day can vote in the election. Voters who enrol by 17 August will receive an EasyVote information pack about a week before the election. The pack will include voting information along with an EasyVote card. Voters are encouraged to take their EasyVote card with them on Election Day as it will make voting easier.

Enrolment forms are available by calling 0800 36 76 56, freetexting name and address to 3676, from www.elections.org.nz or at PostShops. People can also enrol online, but will be required to sign the enrolment form.

2. How can people find out what electorate they are in?

People can check their enrolment details at www.elections.org.nz which will tell them what electorate they are enrolled in. Maps of all electorates are available on the website. People can also check the electoral rolls which are at all PostShops and public libraries.

3. Who can be a candidate?

Candidates must be enrolled as a voter and be a New Zealand citizen. Candidates do not need to be enrolled in the electorate they are seeking election for.

4. How does the nomination process work?

There are two ways that electorate candidates are nominated:

- **Bulk nominations** – registered political parties can nominate all the candidates representing the party at one time by lodging a bulk nomination schedule with the Chief Electoral Officer. (This system is used by most registered parties).
- **Individual nominations** – individual nominations can be made by two voters in the electorate lodging an individual nomination paper with the electorate Returning Officer.

List candidates are nominated by registered political parties supplying a party list to the Chief Electoral Office.

5. When is the deadline for nominations?

Electorate candidates must be nominated by:

- noon on Monday 22 August – for bulk nominations to the Chief Electoral Office
- noon on Tuesday 23 August – for individual nominations to the Returning Officer for the electorate.

Party lists must be supplied by:

- noon on Tuesday 23 August to the Chief Electoral Office.

6. When will the candidates be announced?

Candidates for the general election will be announced on Wednesday 24 August.

7. What happens if people are overseas at the time?

People who are overseas during the election can still vote. Voters going overseas can cast an advance vote before they go in the period starting 31 August 2005.

Voters who will be overseas during the voting period can download voting papers from the elections website www.elections.org.nz or pick up voting papers from overseas posts. A list of participating overseas posts is available at the website or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

8. Can overseas voters vote electronically?

No, overseas voters cannot vote electronically or return their votes by email. But they can return their voting papers by fax to +64 4 494 2300.

9. What about people who will be away from home at the time of the election?

Voters who will be away in the period starting 31 August 2005 or who can't get to a polling place on Election Day can vote in advance from 31 August. Information on advance voting facilities will be available from 19 August by calling 0800 35 76 56 or visiting www.elections.org.nz. This information will also be in the EasyVote information pack that will be sent to enrolled voters in the week before Election Day.

10. Where can people go to get information about polling places?

A list of polling places will be available from the elections website www.elections.org.nz, by calling 0800 36 76 56, or in the EasyVote information pack sent to all voters who are enrolled.

11. What happens if people don't receive an EasyVote card? Can they still vote?

People who don't receive an EasyVote card can still vote as long as they are enrolled by 16 September 2005. People who enrol after 17 August should receive a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer instead of an EasyVote card that they can take with them when they go to vote.

12. How many polling places will there be?

There will be approximately 2,700 polling places for the election.

13. When will the election results be announced?

Preliminary results released progressively from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz.

Targets for release:

- by 8.30pm all advance vote results
- by 10.00pm results from 50% of polling places
- by 11.30pm results from 100% of polling places.

These are *targets*, not guarantees.

The official results are expected to be declared by 1 October 2005.

14. Where can we get the results from?

Election results will be available progressively and in real time from 7pm on 17 September at www.electionresults.govt.nz.

