

Information for Scrutineers

2005 General Election



Chief Electoral Officer
PO Box 3220, Wellington

March 2005

KEY STEPS FOR SCRUTINEERS

- When you arrive hand your letter of appointment from the candidate or party to the electoral manager.
- Complete the Declaration of Secrecy provided to you by the electoral manager.
- Wear the ‘Scrutineer’ identification label given to you by the electoral manager.
- Observe. But please do not communicate with voters.
- If you have a complaint, raise it immediately with the electoral manager.
- Refer any complaints from voters about your presence to the electoral manager.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a guide for people who are appointed as scrutineers for the 2005 General Election. It contains important information you need to know.

You may be appointed by candidates and political parties at various stages of the election process. Your role is essentially that of an observer and your purpose is to provide assurance that the procedures and rules relating to an election have been followed. In exercising your role, you play an important part in maintaining the integrity of the electoral system.

You must not talk to voters or help with the count. This includes not talking to friends and acquaintances in the polling place.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Local party organisations may, with the approval of the person in charge of a hospital or rest home, appoint scrutineers to accompany an electoral official issuing ‘hospital votes’ before and on polling day.

Electorate candidates may appoint scrutineers to observe:

- The issue of votes and the preliminary count in polling places on polling day.
- The early count of advance votes from 3.00pm on polling day in the Returning Officer’s headquarters.
- The checking of special vote declarations at the office of the Registrar of Electors.
- The scrutiny of the rolls in the Returning Officer’s headquarters.
- The official count at the Returning Officer’s headquarters.
- Judicial recounts of electorate votes.

Party secretaries of registered parties contesting the party vote may appoint scrutineers to observe:

- The issue of votes and the preliminary count in polling places where their party is not standing an electorate candidate in a particular electorate.
- Judicial recounts of party votes.
- The allocation of party list seats by the Chief Electoral Officer in Wellington.

Note: A candidate cannot act as a scrutineer.

Issue of votes and the preliminary count in a polling place

If you are appointed to observe the issue of votes and the preliminary count in a polling place, you may:

- Require an issuing officer to question a voter who you suspect of impersonation or double voting.¹
- Record and communicate to party officials the names of persons who have voted in the polling place.
- Observe the preliminary count and report the results back to your party or candidate headquarters.

Early count of advance votes

If you are appointed to observe the early count of advance votes on polling day, you may be present at the Returning Officer's headquarters from 2.30pm until the count is completed. You will not be able to leave the secure area before 7.00pm. The count is completed under strict security

¹ The questions the issuing officer must put to the voter are:

- (a) Are you the person whose name appears as A.B. in the electoral roll now in force for the (name of district) Electoral District?
- (b) Have you already voted at this election in this or any other electoral district?

and you must not bring any communication devices into the area where the count is taking place and may be required to leave if you do. It is an offence to disclose the results of the early count before the close of the poll at 7.00pm.

Scrutiny of the rolls

The scrutiny of the rolls involves comparing all certified rolls and other records of votes issued at the election to identify dual voters. It also results in the production of the Master Roll showing who has voted in the electorate. The scrutiny takes place at the headquarters of the Returning Officer.

The official count and judicial recounts of electorate votes

If you have been appointed as a scrutineer to observe the scrutiny of the rolls, you may also be present at the official count and at a judicial recount of electorate votes. The official count takes place at the headquarters of the Returning Officer.

HOW SCRUTINEERS ARE APPOINTED

- Your appointment as a scrutineer must be in writing.
- You may be appointed by fax.

You should take your written appointment with you when first attending to act as a scrutineer and hand it to the relevant electoral official.

Declaration of secrecy

Before being allowed to act as a scrutineer, you must complete a declaration that you will not infringe the secrecy of the poll. The

declaration must be on Form E20-S Dec.² The form is available from Returning Officers and the managers of polling places and can be completed by you when you attend to act as scrutineer.

DISPLAY OF PARTY PARAPHERNALIA ON POLLING DAY

You may wear party lapel badges in public and in the polling place. A party lapel badge is a badge or rosette designed to be worn on the lapel and bearing the party's name, emblem, slogan or logo. It may be worn anywhere on your person, but may not be displayed on other items.

You may also wear streamers, rosettes, ribbons and other similar items in party colours. However, these items must not bear the party's name, emblem, slogan or logo, or the candidate's name.

Please do not wear clothing promoting the candidate or party.

You should bear in mind the need to exercise restraint when displaying party paraphernalia on polling day as there are often complaints from voters. If voters do complain about your presence, refer the complaint to the electoral manager.

REMUNERATION

No remuneration will be paid to scrutineers by the Chief Electoral Officer, the Returning Officer or the Registrar of Electors.

² The declaration can be made before a Justice of the Peace, solicitor or Returning Officer. If you are appointed to attend at a polling place, the declaration may also be made before the manager or an issuing officer of the polling place. If you are appointed to attend the check of special vote declarations, the declaration may also be made before the Registrar of Electors.

MORE INFORMATION

Other booklets available from the Chief Electoral Office are:

Information for Parliamentary Candidates

Information for Secretaries of Registered Political Parties

Voting in the 2005 General Election – The Easy Way!

Going to be overseas on Election Day?

Unable to Get to a Polling Place?

Information is also available on www.elections.org.nz

The Chief Electoral Office's contact details are:

Ministry of Justice, P O Box 3220, Wellington

Level 9, 180 Molesworth Street, Wellington

Tel: 04 495 0030

Fax: 04 495 0031

Email: chief.electoral.office@justice.govt.nz

Websites: www.elections.org.nz
www.electionresults.govt.nz



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