YOUR GUIDE TO VOTING IN THE 1996 GENERAL ELECTION

Authorised by the Chief Electoral Officer, Ministry of Justice, Wellington
This guide to voting contains everything you need to know about how to have your say on polling day.

An important message...

On Saturday 12 October 1996 New Zealanders will go to the polls to vote in the first MMP election.

This means if you are an elector, you will now get two votes; one for the political party of your choice, and one for the candidate you’d prefer to represent your electorate.

While both votes are important it is the party vote that will decide the total number of MPs in Parliament.

All voters are encouraged to cast an ordinary vote within their electorate on polling day. This way, voting will be quicker for you and your vote can be counted on election night helping to give an earlier indication of how Parliament will be made up.

If it is not possible to vote within your electorate you will be able to cast a special vote outside your electorate at any polling place.

As this election is being held using the new electoral boundaries, please check this guide to see the polling places listed for your electorate.
When and Where to Vote

Voting on Polling Day

**Ordinary Voting**

Who can: Anyone whose name is on the electoral roll who votes at a polling place listed under their electorate name in this booklet.

When: Between 9 am and 7 pm on Saturday 12 October 1996.

Where: Attend any polling place listed under your electorate name in this booklet.

How it works: Simply state your full name and address. You will then be given your voting paper. Cast one vote for the political party of your choice and one for your preferred candidate to represent your electorate.

**Special Voting**

Who can: Anyone who is enrolled and one of the following grounds applies:
- Anyone whose name is not on the electoral roll and who believes it should be, can ask for a special vote.
- Anyone who is outside their electorate on Saturday 12 October 1996.
- Anyone who is ill or infirm and cannot get to a polling place.
- Anyone who can satisfy a Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer by application that going to a polling place would cause hardship or serious inconvenience.

When: Between 9 am and 7 pm on Saturday 12 October 1996.

Where: Attend or obtain voting papers (through an agent) at any polling place within New Zealand on Saturday 12 October 1996.

How it works: You will need to complete a special vote declaration indicating one of the above grounds and have it witnessed before you complete your voting paper.

**Tangata Whenua Voting**

Who can: Voters enrolled on the Maori roll voting at polling places that are not able to issue Ordinary Maori Votes may make a Tangata Whenua Vote. To do this you must be on the roll in that Maori electorate.

When: Between 9 am and 7 pm on Saturday 12 October 1996.

Where: You must be at the polling place in person in your electorate.

How it works: Your roll details will be checked and you will be issued with a Tangata Whenua form to complete. You will then be issued with a voting paper.

Voting before Polling Day

Who can: If you cannot attend a polling place in your electorate on polling day, you can cast a vote before polling day if:
- you will be outside your electorate or overseas
- your name is not on the printed roll
- an illness or infirmity prevents you from attending a polling place
- your religion does not allow you to vote on a Saturday
- or if you can satisfy a Returning Officer or Issuing Officer that going to a polling place would cause you hardship or serious inconvenience.

When: Closes on Friday 11 October 1996.

Where: Returning Officers will have one or more issuing office(s) where you can vote.
- The days and times that some of these will be open will vary from electorate to electorate.
- Contact your Returning Officer during office hours at the number listed in this booklet under your electorate, or ring the Freephone Information Hotline on 0800 800 610.

How it works: You can vote at the issuing office in person or voting papers can be obtained for you through an agent, or by post.

Hospital Voting

Who can: As far as practicable Returning Officers will provide facilities for eligible electors who are in hospitals, maternity homes, or rest homes up until polling day.

When: In the last two weeks before Saturday 12 October 1996.

Where: At your hospital, rest home etc.

How it works: Mobile polling staff will visit the above places on a date and time which has been pre-arranged with the management.

**IMPORTANT**

**Your Vote may not count if:**
- You are not enrolled or,
- You have resided at a new address for one month and have not updated the electoral roll.

Your last chance to enrol will be at any PostShop up to close of business on Friday 11 October – the day before polling day.
1. How do I enrol?
   Enrol at any PostShop up until the close of business on Friday 11 October.

2. Can I vote if my name is not on the printed electoral roll?
   Yes, you can cast a special vote for the electorate in which you last resided
   continuously for a period of one month.

3. How do I know which electorate I’m in?
   Check this Guide to Voting. Maps for electorates in your area are in this guide.

4. When can I vote?
   Polling booths open for voting from 9am to 7pm on Saturday 12 October 1996.

5. How many votes do I have?
   Everyone gets two votes. Both of these votes are made on the same voting paper. Your party vote is
   for the political party you most want to be represented in Parliament. Your electorate vote is for the
   candidate you want to be the MP for your electorate.

6. How do I cast my votes?
   On polling day go to a polling booth listed in your electorate and state your full name and address;
   you will then be given a voting paper. Tick the party you prefer for your party vote and the candidate
   you prefer for your electorate vote. It’s that simple. See page 6 for an example of a voting paper.

7. How are my votes counted?
   See page 8 of this Guide.

8. What if I won’t be in my electorate on polling day?
   You have two choices. You can vote before polling day by going to your local electorate issuing office;
   or make a special vote at any issuing office. Alternatively you can make a special vote at any polling
   place in New Zealand on polling day.

9. What if I can’t get to a polling booth on polling day?
   If you can satisfy your local electorate issuing Officer that getting to a polling booth will cause you
   serious hardship or inconvenience you may be able to cast a special vote before the election.

10. When will I know the result of the election?
    A provisional result will be known on Election Night but a final official result will not be known until
    about two weeks after the election.

11. Where can I find out about the election results?
    Generally television channels and radio stations provide coverage on election night and
    newspapers provide extensive coverage the day after. Results will also be available on the
    internet http://www.govt.nz/elections
    If you have any further questions just ring 0800 800 610.