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A General Guide to the 2022 Local Authority Elections:

Enrolling and Voting

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The local authority elections are on 8 October this year.

Voting is a way to have your say on what happens in your local community. Your vote could be the decider between a candidate that represents your views and one that doesn't, so vote this election, don't let somebody else decide for you.

This guide is designed to help you. It tells you who to contact to enrol and provides information about standing and voting.

The voting is by post. The voting period starts on 16 September and ends at midday 8 October.

You will be able to vote for:

- The Mayor
- Councillors
- Candidates for your community board or local board, if there is one in your area

You can find out more about the local elections at votelocal.co.nz.

If you need help filling in your voting document because you have a physical impairment, unable to read or write or not familiar with the language on the form to vote without help, you can authorise someone you trust to mark the voting document for you.

Try to be on the electoral roll by 12 August

Please make sure you are on the Roll by 12 August so you can vote easily.

If you're enrolled by Friday 12 August, you'll get your voting documents in the mail in September.

If you enrol after 12 August, you can still vote but you will have to cast a special vote.

There are two types of electors. There are residential electors and non-resident ratepayer electors

Residential electors

If you are registered to vote on the Parliamentary electoral roll, you automatically qualify to vote in the council district you live in. You will receive a voting document so that you can vote by post. But you need to be enrolled.

To enrol and vote, you need to be 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

The Parliamentary electoral roll

The New Zealand Parliamentary electoral roll is a list of people who have enrolled to vote. It is split into two electoral rolls: the Māori roll and the general roll.

The general roll is open to all voters. The Māori roll is open to voters of Māori descent. No one can be on both rolls at the same time.

Enrolment

If you're already on the Parliamentary electoral roll, you'll get an enrolment update pack in the mail in early July. If all your details are correct you don't need to do anything.

If you don't receive an enrolment update pack, you're either not enrolled or you need to update your enrolment details.

To enrol on the Parliamentary electoral roll:

- Go online anytime to **vote.nz** or call **0800 36 76 56** to check if you're enrolled.
- You can enrol or update your details at **vote.nz** using:
 - your New Zealand driver licence
 - New Zealand passport, or
 - RealMe verified identity;
- Call **0800 36 76 56** to ask for an enrolment form to be sent to you.

Non-Resident Ratepayer electors

(also called ratepayer electors)

Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area? You may qualify to vote in both areas if both of these apply:

- you are on the district valuation roll and pay rates in the council district, and

- the address where you are registered as a Parliamentary elector is outside that council district.

Your eligibility to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector may also depend on your individual circumstances determined against criteria in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and its regulations.

A business or organisation that pays rates can nominate one of its members or officers to vote on its behalf.

You can only enrol once in a council district

You can only enrol, or be nominated to enrol, once in a council district, no matter how many properties you own in that council district.

New Non-resident Ratepayer Electors

If you think you may be eligible to enrol or to nominate someone as a non-resident ratepayer elector, get an Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors from the local council where you pay your rates. The Electoral Officer will be able to help you with your application.

If you want further information about the ratepayer roll

please phone toll free **0800 54 8683 (0800 LG VOTE)**

The phone number is available from 7 February 2022 to 30 August 2022.

The non-resident ratepayer electoral roll closes on 12 August 2022.

Voting

The local authority elections are postal elections. Voting documents will be delivered between Friday 16 to Wednesday 21 September and will include a free return envelope so you can post your vote back.

You will be able to vote for:

- The Mayor.
- Councillors.
- Candidates for your community board or local board, if there is one in your area.

If you are on the Māori roll, your voting documents may differ from previous local elections. You will be able to vote for the mayor, candidates standing in your Māori ward, and candidates standing for your community board or local board. You will not be able to vote for candidates standing in general wards.

The voting documents will have instructions about:

- how to fill in the voting forms
- who the candidates are;
- when you can vote.

Your vote must be in the post by Tuesday 4 October 2022 to ensure your Council receives it before the close of voting. After 4 October 2022, votes will be able to be returned to secure ballot boxes in your area that are managed by your Council.

More information about ballot box locations will be on your Council's website closer to the election. The close of voting is Saturday midday 8 October 2022.

This information has been provided by Taituarā – Local Government Professionals Aotearoa.