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# What you need to know for the Hamilton by-election



**Electoral Commission**

Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

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# **What you need to know for the Hamilton West by-election**

## **Get ready for the Hamilton West by-election on Saturday 10 December**

A by-election in the Hamilton West general electorate will be held on Saturday 10 December. Voting begins on Monday 28 November.

The by-election is to select a new member of Parliament to represent the Hamilton West electorate.

### **You need to be enrolled to vote**

Only people who are enrolled in the Hamilton West general electorate can vote in this by-election.

You can enrol and vote in the Hamilton West by-election if you:

- are 18 years of age or older, and
- have lived within the Hamilton West electorate for one month or more, and
- are a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in your life.

You can enrol right up to and on election day, Saturday 10 December.

If you were enrolled by Wednesday 2 November, you will be sent everything you need to vote in the mail, including your personalised EasyVote card. Your EasyVote card will make voting faster and easier.

You can enrol right up to, and on, election day. If you enrol now, you will cast a special vote.

You can also call freephone 0800 36 76 56 and ask for an enrolment form to be sent to you.

You can also enrol and vote at the same time at any voting place, including on election day.

If you need help to fill in your enrolment form, you can ask someone else to help you, or you can contact your local Registrar of Electors.

## **Hamilton West electorate**

The Hamilton West electorate comprises the Hamilton city suburbs west of the Waikato River including Melville, Frankton, Nawton, Pukete, and Te Rapa. It also includes Woodridge and parts of Flagstaff, which are east of the Waikato River.

## **Voting in the Hamilton West by-election**

You can vote from Monday 28 November to Friday 9 December at an advance voting place.

The days and times advance voting places are open vary, so make sure to check before you go at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz).

On election day, Saturday 10 December, voting places will be open from 9am to 7pm. You can enrol on election day itself, but you will also need to cast a special vote which takes longer.

Information about where and when to vote, and who you can vote for are available at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or by calling 0800 36 76 56. It will also be included in the EasyVote pack which will be sent to all enrolled voters by mail.

### **How to vote**

If you have a hearing impairment and need assistance, tell someone who works at the voting place. There will be someone there to assist you if you need it.

If you have an EasyVote card, take it with you when you go to vote and give it to the person issuing your voting paper. It will help them find you on the electoral roll.

If you do not have an EasyVote card, you will need to tell the person issuing your vote your name and address.

If you are unable to verbally state your name you can confirm it by writing it down, gesturing, or a friend, family member or support person can confirm your name for you. At the voting place, election workers will show you what to do and where to go.

In a by-election, you have one vote (that's one tick!) for the candidate you want to be your local member of Parliament. The candidate with the most votes in your electorate becomes your electorate MP.

On your voting paper, place a tick by the name of the candidate you would most like to represent your local area.

This is different from a general election where you have two votes – one for a party and the other for your local candidate.

Once you have made your choice, place your voting paper in the ballot boxes provided. And that is it, you have voted!

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## **Need help to vote?**

If you need help to read or mark your voting paper, a friend, family member or an electoral official at the voting place can help. That person can go behind the voting screen with you and can read out the words and information on the voting paper. They can also mark the voting paper for you according to your instructions. But they can't tell you who you should vote for.

Voters who are blind, partially blind, or have another disability that means they are unable to mark the voting paper without assistance can vote by telephone dictation.

You need to register before you can vote using telephone dictation. You can register from Thursday 3 November until 12pm Saturday 10 December by calling 0800 028 028.

Registration will be open weekdays 9am to 5pm.

Telephone dictation voting opens on Wednesday 23 November and closes at 7pm on election day, Saturday 10 December.

More information is available on our website at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or call 0800 028 028.

## **Can't get to a voting place?**

If you are in a care home, the Electorate Manager for Hamilton West will contact the manager of your care home to arrange voting services.

If you cannot get to a voting place because you are in hospital, from Monday 28 November, a friend or family member can bring you your voting papers.

If you cannot get to a voting place, for example, because of illness, age or disability, you can get help to vote.

You can authorise someone to pick up your voting papers from a voting place for you. They can return your voting papers to any voting place before 7pm on election day, Saturday 10 December.

Find out more at [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or call 0800 36 76 56 to talk over your options.

## Voting from overseas

If you are going to be overseas on election day, you can still vote in the Hamilton West by-election.

If you will still be in New Zealand after Monday 28 November, it is easier to vote before you go. You can vote early at any advance voting place.

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If you are overseas, from Wednesday 23 November you can download and complete your voting papers from [vote.nz](http://vote.nz). You may also be able to vote in person at an overseas voting place in London or Sydney or ask them for postal voting papers to be sent to you. If these options do not work for you, please contact us.

If you are blind, partially blind, or unable to mark your voting papers unaided, you may be eligible to use the dictation voting service. Please contact us at [overseas@vote.nz](mailto:overseas@vote.nz)

For more information on voting from overseas, visit [vote.nz](http://vote.nz) or call 0800 36 76 56 (from inside New Zealand) or +64 9 909 4182 (from overseas – international call rates may apply).



## **More information**

For more information about enrolling and voting in the Hamilton West by-election:

- visit [vote.nz](http://vote.nz)
- call 0800 36 76 56 or +64 9 909 4182 (from overseas – international call rates may apply)