

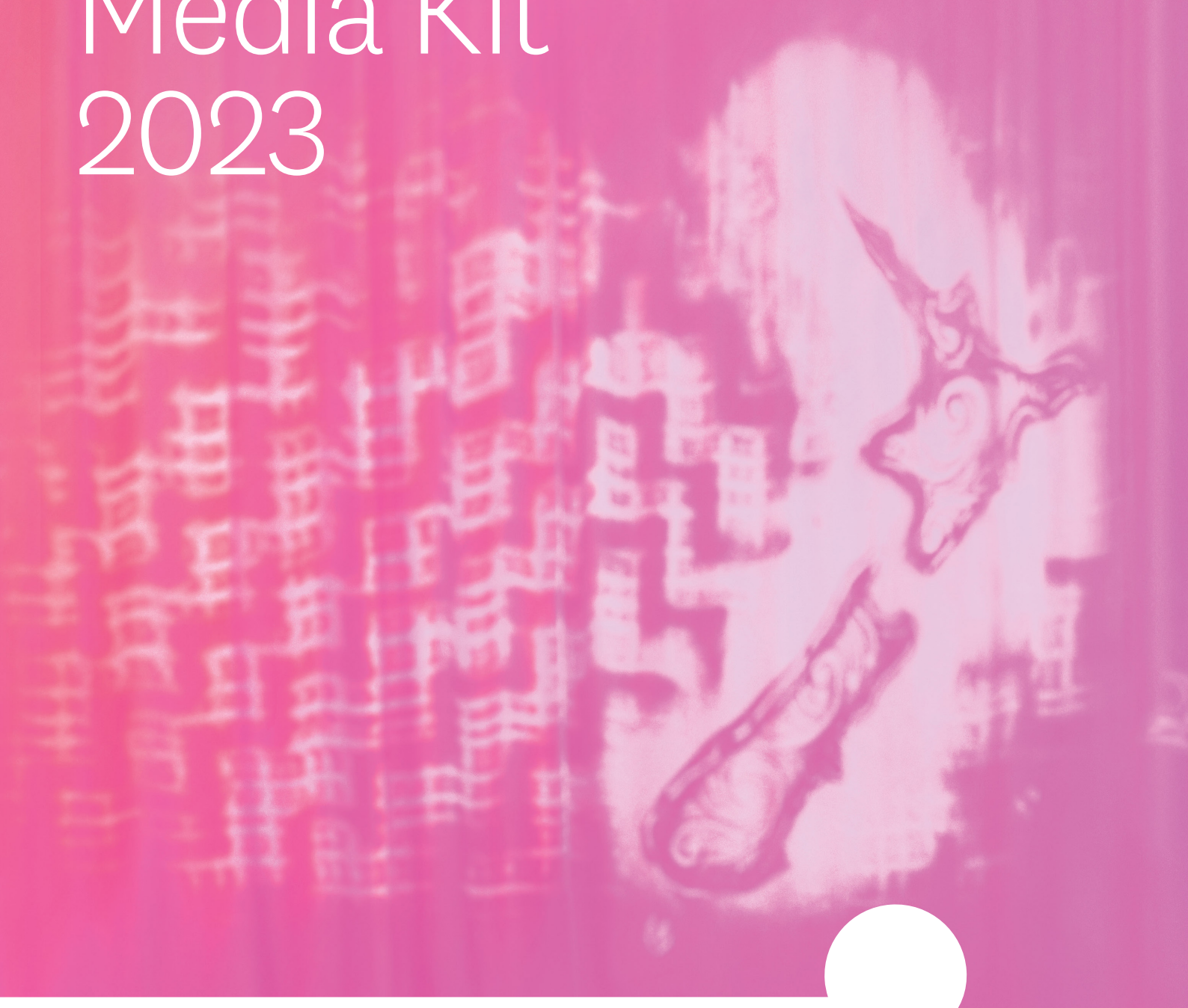
**HE MANA
TŌ TE
KŌWHIRI**
YOUR CHOICE
HAS MANA



The Māori Electoral Option

Te Kowhiringa Pōti Māori

Media Kit 2023



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Introduction

The Māori Electoral Option is the choice for Māori about which electoral roll to be on: the Māori roll or the general roll. If you are Māori, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on when you enrol to vote for the first time.

A recent law change means that once enrolled, you can now change between the Māori and general rolls at any time except in the three months before an election. Previously, you could only change rolls during a fixed Māori Electoral Option period held every 5 or 6 years.

Over the coming months, the Electoral Commission will provide information to the public through advertising and face-to-face community engagement to raise awareness about the changes to the Option and encourage Māori to check the roll they are on before this year's General Election.

The media also have an important role to play informing voters of their choice. This Media Kit will help journalists covering the Option. It includes answers to frequently asked questions, background on the history of Māori representation in Parliament, useful statistics, and information on how the number of Māori and general electorates are calculated.

Media contact details

Clare Pasley
Senior Communications
and Media Advisor Electoral Commission

Clare Pasley is the first point of contact for media enquiries relating to the Māori Electoral Option.

phone **+64 4 806 3536**
mobile **027 551 7845**
email **media@elections.govt.nz**
email **clare.pasley@elections.govt.nz**

Websites

www.vote.nz
www.elections.nz

Key dates

November 2022	Parliament passes the Electoral (Māori Electoral Option) Legislation Act.
31 March	Law change comes into effect – Māori who are already enrolled can change roll types from 31 March. Advertising and community engagement starts to raise awareness of the change.
1 April	Information packs sent to voters who identified themselves as being of Māori descent when they enrolled.
13 July	Final day to change roll types before the 2023 General Election.
14 July – 14 October	3-month period when those already enrolled cannot change between the Māori and general electoral rolls. Anyone of Māori descent enrolling for the first time can still choose the roll they want to be on up to and on election day.
14 October	2023 General Election – election day
1 April 2024	Electoral roll data provided to Stats NZ for the electoral calculations.
2024	Stats NZ calculates the number of electorates for the 2026 General Election using the results of the 2023 Census and electoral roll data.
Date TBC	The Representation Commission reviews the names and boundaries of electorates for the 2026 General Election.

Key roles

Electoral Commission – looks after the electoral rolls and provides information on the choice for Māori between the general roll and the Māori roll.

Stats NZ – uses information from the 2023 Census and electoral roll data to calculate the number of Māori and general electorates.

Representation Commission – the independent body that will carry out a boundary review and determine the electorate names and boundaries for the 2026 General Election.

About the Māori Electoral Option

The Māori Electoral Option is the choice for Māori about which electoral roll to be on: the Māori roll or the general roll.

If you are Māori, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on when you enrol to vote for the first time.

After that, you can change the roll you're on at any time except:

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before the local elections which are held every 3 years
- before a parliamentary by-election if the change would move you into the electorate where the by-election is being held.

Previously, once enrolled, you could only change roll types during a 4-month Māori Electoral Option period held every 5 or 6 years.

The Electoral (Māori Electoral Option) Legislation Act passed by Parliament in November 2022 provided more opportunity to change between rolls. The change took effect on 31 March 2023.

The general roll and the Māori roll

Your roll choice affects which candidates you can choose from in parliamentary elections.

If you choose the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in.

Your roll choice does not affect your party vote. You will vote for the same list of political parties in a general election, whichever roll you choose to be on.

If you are already enrolled and you would like to change the roll you are on before the 2023 General Election on 14 October, you need to do it by midnight 13 July 2023. You cannot change rolls in the 3 months before the election.

The roll you choose may also affect who you can vote for at local elections. If you choose the Māori roll, and your local council has a Māori ward or constituency, you will vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for candidates in the general ward or constituency.

Your roll choice may also influence the number of Māori electorates. The number of people enrolled on the Māori roll could mean that the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases, or stays the same for the 2026 General Election.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Māori Electoral Option?

The Māori Electoral Option is a choice for Māori about which electoral roll to be on: the Māori roll or the general roll.

Implications

What does my roll choice mean for my vote at parliamentary elections?

If you choose the Māori roll, you will vote for a candidate in the Māori electorate you live in. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for a candidate in the general electorate you live in.

Your roll choice does not affect your party vote. You can vote for the same list of political parties in a general election, whichever roll you choose to be on.

What is an electorate?

New Zealand is divided into voting areas called electorates. There are two types of electorates: general and Māori. Everywhere in New Zealand is covered by both a general electorate and a Māori electorate. When you enrol to vote, you're enrolled in the electorate where you live.

While electorates are not always the same size, they each have roughly the same number of people in them.

How does the Māori Electoral Option affect the number of Māori electorates?

The number of Māori enrolled on the Māori roll could mean that the number of Māori electorates increases, decreases, or stays the same in future elections. There are currently seven Māori electorates and 65 general electorates.

See the section below on electorate numbers for more information.

What does my roll choice mean for local council elections?

If you choose the Māori roll, and your local council has a Māori ward or constituency, you will vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency. If you choose the general roll, you will vote for candidates in the general ward or constituency.

A ward or constituency is a council voting area, like a parliamentary electorate. City and district councils have wards, and regional councils have constituencies.

How to take part

When can I make my roll choice?

If you are Māori, you choose which electoral roll you want to be on when you enrol for the first time.

You can change your roll type at any time, except:

- in the 3 months before a general election
- in the 3 months before the local elections which are held every 3 years
- before a parliamentary by-election if the change would move you into the electorate where the by-election is being held.

Can I change the roll I'm on before this year's General Election?

If you would like to, you can change the roll you're on between 31 March and midnight 13 July. You can also change rolls after the 2023 General Election which is being held on 14 October.

How do I take part in the Māori Electoral Option?

If you're enrolled to vote and you said you were of New Zealand Māori descent when you enrolled, you will be sent a personalised Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail in April. It will be sent to you at the most recent address we have for you.

The pack will contain a letter confirming the electoral roll you are currently enrolled on and information to help you make your choice.

If you do not want to change the electoral roll you are on, you do not need to do anything.

If you want to change the electoral roll you are on (either from Māori to general or general to Māori) sign and date the letter you received and send it back, or make the change online at **vote.nz**

How do I return my letter?

To return the letter, you can:

- upload a scan or photo of it at vote.nz/upload
- email a scan or photo of it to enrol@vote.nz
- post it in the envelope included in your pack.

What if I'm on the unpublished roll?

If you are on the unpublished roll and would like to change the roll you're on, either send back the letter you receive in your Māori Electoral Option pack or fill in a new enrolment form. You can't change your enrolment online at vote.nz if you're on the unpublished roll.

If I don't receive a 2023 Māori Electoral Option pack in the mail, what should I do?

If you don't receive a pack it means you're not enrolled, your address details are not up to date, or you haven't told us you're Māori.

You can enrol or update your details online at vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport, or RealMe verified identity.

You can also enrol or update your details by filling in a paper enrolment form. Text your name and address to 3676 to be sent an enrolment form, or call 0800 36 76 56 and ask for a form to be sent to you. Texts and calls to those numbers are free.

Who is eligible to enrol on the Māori roll?

If you are of New Zealand Māori descent, you can choose to enrol on the Māori roll or the general roll. This includes Chatham Islands Māori. It does not include Cook Island Māori.

Other questions about taking part in the Option

What's changed for Māori voters?

Previously, once enrolled, Māori could change rolls during a 4-month Māori Electoral Option period held every 5 or 6 years.

In November 2022, Parliament changed the law so Māori voters could change roll types at any time, except in the 3 months before a general election and the local elections, and in some circumstances, before a parliamentary by-election.

How will I know if I have been registered on either the Māori or the General Roll?

If you are already enrolled, the roll you are currently on will be highlighted in the 2023 Māori Electoral Option pack sent to you in the mail.

You can also check your enrolment and the roll you are on at vote.nz or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

If you are enrolling for the first time, or you change the roll you are on, you will receive a letter confirming your enrolment and the roll you have chosen.

I am Māori but not enrolled at all. What should I do?

You can enrol to vote online at vote.nz using your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity.

You can also enrol to vote by filling in a paper form. Freetext your name and address to 3676 to be sent an enrolment form, or call 0800 36 76 56 and ask for a form to be sent to you.

When you enrol, you will be asked to choose whether to be on the general roll or the Māori roll.

I am Māori. Do I have to go on the Māori Roll?

You decide whether you want to be on the general roll or the Māori roll. It's your choice. He mana tō te kōwhiri. Your choice has mana.

Will I automatically be put on either roll?

No, it's up to you to decide which roll to be on. When you fill in an enrolment form, you make your choice by ticking the statement that applies to you:

- I am of Māori descent. Please enrol me on the Māori roll.
- I am of Māori descent. Please enrol me on the general roll.
- I am not of Māori descent. (You will be enrolled on the general roll.)

If you don't tick one of these statements, we'll contact you and ask you to complete the form and make your roll choice.

Whenever someone enrolls or updates their details, we send a letter of confirmation so they can check their details and contact us if a mistake has been made, so we can correct it.

Electorate numbers

How and when is the number of electorates and the boundaries decided?

The results of the 2023 Census and electoral roll data will be used to calculate the number general and Māori electorates for the 2026 General Election.

The number of seats will be calculated by Stats NZ, and the names and boundaries of electorates will be reviewed by the Representation Commission before the 2026 election.

When will electoral roll data be provided to Stats NZ?

The Electoral Commission provides the number of Māori enrolled on the Māori and general rolls to the Government Statistician at Stats NZ for the calculation of the number of seats.

Previously, this was provided at the end of the 4-month Māori Electoral Option period held after each census.

From now on, the data will be provided as on the day of the census. When the census and the general election take place in the same year, the data will be provided on 1 April the following year.

As the census and general election are both being held in 2023, the data will be provided on 1 April 2024.

How is the number of seats calculated?

The calculation is made by Stats NZ. There is more information explaining the 2018 calculation on their website.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/the-mathematics-of-electorate-allocation-in-new-zealand-based-on-the-outcome-of-the-2018-census-and-maori-electoral-option-2018>

HE PĀTAI AUAU

Ko Te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori

He aha te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori?

Ko te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori he kōwhiringa mā te Māori kia whakatauria te rārangi pōti e hiahia ana aia: ko te rārangi whānui rānei, ko te rārangi Māori rānei.

Ko ngā hua o te kōwhiringa

He aha ngā pānga o taku kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki taku pōti i ngā pōtitanga pāremata?

Ki te kōwhiri koe i te rārangi Māori, ka pōti koe i tētehi kaitono i te rohe pōti Māori e noho nā koe. Ki te kōwhiri koe i te rārangi whānui, ka pōti koe i tētehi kaitono i te rohe pōti whānui e noho nā koe.

Kāhore he pānga o tō kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki tō pōti ā-rōpū. Kotahi anake te rārangi o ngā rōpū tōrangapū hei pōti māu i te pōtitanga whānui, ahakoa te rārangi ka kōwhiria e koe.

He aha te rohe pōti?

Kua whakarohengia a Aotearoa ki ngā takiwā pōti e kīia ana he rohe pōti. E rua ngā kātū rohe pōti: he rohe pōti whānui, he rohe pōti Māori. Kei tēnā wāhi, kei tēnā wāhi o Aotearoa tētehi rohe pōti whānui me tētehi rohe pōti Māori. I tō rēhitatanga ki te pōti, ka rēhitatia koe ki roto i te rohe pōti e noho nā koe.

Ahakoa kāhore pea i te ōrite te rahi o ngā rohe pōti katoa, he āhua ōrite te tokomaha tāngata o ia rohe.

He aha te pānga o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori ki te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori?

Ka tohu pea te maha o ngā Māori kua rēhita ki te rārangi Māori i te pikinga rānei o te maha o ngā rohe pōti Māori, i te hekenga rānei, i te pupurutanga rānei kia ōrite tonu, hei ngā pōtitanga o ngā tau e heke mai nei. I tēnei wā, e 7 ngā rohe pōti Māori, ā, e 65 ngā rohe pōti whānui.

He whakamāramatanga nō kei te wāhanga “Te maha o ngā rohe pōti” o raro iho nei.

He aha te pānga o taku kōwhiringa rārangi pōti ki ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe, arā, ki ngā pōtitanga ā-kaunihera?

Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi Māori, ā, he wāri Māori tō tō kaunihera, he marea pōti (arā, he “constituency”) Māori rānei, ka pōti koe i ngā kaitono i roto i taua rohe pōti Māori. Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi whānui, ka pōti koe i ngā kaitono i roto i te rohe pōti whānui.

Ko ngā wāri me ngā marea pōti he takiwā pōti ā-kaunihera, he pērā i ngā rohe pōti pāremata. Kei ngā kaunihera ā-tāone me ngā kaunihera ā-rohe he wāri, ā, kei ngā kaunihera ā-takiwā he marea pōti.

Me pēwhea te whai wāhi mai

Hei āwhea ka wātea au ki te kōwhiri i tētehi rārangi pōti mōku?

Mehemea he Māori koe, ā tō rēhitatanga mātahi ki te pōti, ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi pōti e hiahia nā koe.

Ka āhei hoki koe ki te whakawhiti i tō kātū rārangi ahakoa te wā, engari kaua:

- i roto i te 3 marama i mua i tētehi pōtitanga ā-motu
- i roto i te 3 marama i mua i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe ka tū i ia 3 tau
- i mua i tētehi pōtitanga pāerotanga ā-pāremata, mehemea nā tō whakawhitinga, ka nekehia koe ki te rohe pōti e tū ai taua pōtitanga pāerotanga.

Ka āhei au ki te whakawhiti rārangi i mua i te Pōtitanga ā-Motu o tēnei tau?

Ki te hiahia koe, ka āhei ki te whakawhiti i tō rārangi poti i waenga i te 31 o Māehe me te 13 o Hūrae i te waenganui pō.

Ka āhei hoki koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi ā muri i te Pōtitanga ā-Motu, arā ā muri i te 14 o Oketopa.

Me pēwhea taku whai wāhi atu ki te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori?

Mehemea kua rēhita koe ki te pōti, ā, i tō rēhitatanga, i kī atu koe he uri Māori koe nō Aotearoa, ā te Āperira, ka pōhitia ki a koe he mōkī Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori e hāngai ana ki a koe. Ka tukuna ki te wāhi noho e mōhio nei mātou.

Kei roto i te mōkī he reta e whakaū ana i te rārangi pōti e noho nā koe, me ētehi pārongo hei āwhina i a koe ki te whakatau i tō kōwhiringa.

Ki te kore koe e hiahia ki te whakawhiti rārangi pōti, kāhore he mahi atu anō.

Ki te hiahia koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi pōti (i te rārangi Māori rānei ki te rārangi whānui, i te rārangi whānui rānei ki te rārangi Māori), tēnā, waitohungia te reta, me te tuhi i te rā, ā, whakahokia te reta, toro atu rānei ki vote.nz ki te whakawhiti ā-ipurangi.

Me pēwhea te whakahoki i taku reta?

E whakahokia ai te reta, ka āhei koe ki te:

- tuku atu i tētehi matawaitanga, i tētehi whakaahua rānei o te reta ki vote.nz/upload
- īmēra i tētehi matawaitanga, i tētehi whakaahua rānei o te reta ki enrol@vote.nz
- pōhi i te reta i roto i te kōpaki kei roto i tō mōkī.

Ka pēwhea mehemea kei te rārangi muna au?

Mehemea kei te rārangi muna koe, ā, kei te hiahia koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi, me whakahoki mai i te reta ka tukuna atu ai ki a koe i roto i tō mōkī Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori, me whakakī rānei i tētehi puka rēhita hou. Kāhore e āhei koe ki te whakawhiti i tō rēhitatanga ki vote.nz mehemea kei te rārangi muna koe.

Me aha au mehemea kāhore au e whiwhi i tētehi mōki Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori 2023 i te mēra poutāpeta?

Mehemea kāhore koe e whiwhi i tētehi mōki, he tohu tēnā kāhore anō rānei koe kia rēhita, kāhore rānei mātou i te mōhio ki tō wāhi noho o nāiane, kāhore rānei koe i kī mai he Māori koe.

Ka āhei koe ki te rēhita, ki te whakahou rānei i ō taipitopito i vote.nz ki tō raihana hautū waka o Aotearoa, ki tō uruwhenua o Aotearoa, ki tō tuakiri whaimana RealMe rānei.

Ka āhei rānei koe ki te whakakī i tētehi puka rēhita ā-pepa hei rēhita, hei whakahou rānei i ō taipitopito. Pātuhia tō ingoa me tō wāhi noho ki 3676 kia tukuna atu ai he puka rēhita ki a koe, waea rānei ki 0800 36 76 56 ki te tono kia tukuna atu he puka ki a koe. He utukore ngā pātuhī me ngā waea ki ēnei tau waea.

Ko wai e āhei ana ki te rēhita ki te rārangi Māori?

Mehemea he uri Māori koe nō Aotearoa, ka āhei koe ki te kōwhiri i te rārangi Māori, i te rārangi whānui rānei. Ka korowaitia e tēnei tikanga ko ngā uri Māori o Rēkohu, engari kaua ko ngā uri Māori Kuki Airani.

He pātai nō e pā ana ki te Kōwhiringa

He aha ngā rerekētanga e hāngai ana ki ngā kaipōti Māori?

I ngā tau o mua, ka āhei te Māori ki te whakawhiti rārangi i ngā marama e 4 o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori ka tū i ia 5 tau, i ia 6 tau rānei.

I te marama o Noema 2022, i whakahoutia e te Pāremata te ture kia āhei ai ngā kaipōti Māori ki te whakawhiti rārangi ahakoa te wā, engari kaua i roto i te 3 marama i mua i te pōtitanga ā-motu, i mua rānei i ngā pōtitanga kaunihera, i mua rānei i ētehi pōtitanga pāerotanga ā-pāremata.

Me pēwhea au e mōhio ai, kua rēhitatia rānei au ki tētehi o ngā rārangi pōti, arā, ki te Rārangi Māori rānei, ki te Rārangi Whānui rānei?

Mehemea kua rēhita kētia koe, ka miramiratia te rārangi e noho nā koe i roto i te mōki Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori 2023 ka pōhitia atu ki a koe.

Ka āhei hoki koe ki te toro atu ki vote.nz, ki te waea rānei ki 0800 36 76 56, e mōhio ai koe ki te āhua o tō rēhitatanga me te rārangi pōti e noho nā koe.

Mehemea ko tō rēhitatanga mātahi tēnei ki te pōti, ka whakawhiti rārangi rānei koe, ka whiwhi koe i tētehi reta hei whakaū i tō rēhitatanga me te rārangi kua kōwhiria e koe.

He Māori ahau, engari kāhore anō au kia rēhita. Me aha au?

Ka āhei koe ki te rēhita ā-ipurangi ki te pōti i vote.nz. Whakamahia tō raihana hautū waka o Aotearoa, tō uruwhenua o Aotearoa, tō tuakiri whaimana RealMe rānei.

Ka āhei rānei koe ki te whakakī i tētehi puka rēhita ā-pepa hei rēhita. Pātuhia utukore atu tō ingoa me tō wāhi noho ki 3676 kia tukuna atu ai he puka rēhita ki a koe, waea rānei ki 0800 36 76 56 ki te tono kia tukuna atu he puka ki a koe.

Ina rēhita koe, ka tona koe ki te kōwhiri i te rārangi whānui, i te rārangi Māori rānei.

He Māori ahau. Ka herea au ki te Rārangi Māori?

Māu anō e kōwhiri te rārangi pōti mōu – te rārangi whānui, te rārangi Māori rānei. Kei a koe te tikanga. He mana tō te kōwhiri.

He aha te tikanga o te waehera matihiko (QR) kei te reta Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori?

Kei roto i te waehera QR tētehi nama motuhake e hāngai ana ki ia tangata o te rārangi pōti. Whakamahia ai te waehera e Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri ki te mahi ā mātou mahi i te whakahokinga mai o te reta.

Ka rēhitatia aunoa au ki tētehi o ngā rārangi?

E kāhore, māu anō e kōwhiri te rārangi pōti mōu. Ina whakakī koe i te puka rēhita, ka tohu koe i te tauākī e hāngai ana ki a koe, hei tohu mō tō kōwhiringa:

- He uri Māori ahau. Tēnā, rēhitatia au ki te rārangi Māori.
- He uri Māori ahau. Tēnā, rēhitatia au ki te rārangi whānui.
- Ehara au i te uri Māori. (Ka rēhitatia koe ki te rārangi whānui.)

Ki te kore koe e tohu i tēnei o ēnei tauākī, ka whakapā atu mātou ki a koe me te tono kia whakakīia e koe te puka me te kōwhiri i te rārangi pōti e hiahia nā koe.

Ina rēhita tētehi tangata, ina whakahou rānei ia i ōna taipitopito, ka tuku atu mātou i tētehi reta whakaū kia pai ai tāna tiroiro i ngā taipitopito me te whakapā mai mehemea kei te hē, kia taea ai e mātou te whakatika.

Ko te maha o ngā rohe pōti

Ka pēwhea, hei āwhea hoki te whakatauranga o te maha me ngā rohenga o ngā rohe pōti?

Ka whakamahia ngā hua o te Tatauranga 2023 me ngā raraunga rārangi pōti ki te whakatau i te maha o ngā rohe pōti whānui me ngā rohe pōti Māori mō te Pōtitanga ā-Motu o 2026.

Ka whakatauria te maha o ngā nohoanga e Tatauranga Aotearoa, ā, ka arotakengia ngā ingoa me ngā rohenga o ngā rohe pōti e te Komihana Whakatau Rohe Pōti i mua i te pōtitanga o 2026.

Āwhea tukuna atu ai ngā raraunga rārangi pōti ki Tatauranga Aotearoa?

Ka tukuna atu e Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri ki te tumuaki o Tatauranga Aotearoa te tatauranga o ngā Māori kei te rārangi Māori me te rārangi whānui, kia whakatauria ai te maha o ngā nohoanga.

I ngā tau o mua, i tukuna atu ērā tatauranga i te mutunga o te 4 marama o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori i tū i muri i ia tatauranga ā-motu.

I tēnei tau, ā, haere ake nei, ka tukuna atu ngā raraunga o te rā o te tatauranga ā-motu. Ina tū te tatauranga ā-motu me te pōtitanga whānui i te tau kotahi, ka tukuna atu ngā raraunga ā te 1 o Āperira o te tau o muri atu.

E tū ana te tatauranga ā-motu me te pōtitanga whānui i te tau 2023, nō reira, ka tukuna atu ngā raraunga ā te 1 o Āperira 2024.

Ka pēwhea te whakatau i te maha o ngā nohoanga?

Ka whakatauria e Tatauranga Aotearoa. Kei tā rātou paetukutuku ētehi whakamāramatanga nō e pā ana ki te whakatauranga o 2018.

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/the-mathematics-of-electorate-allocation-in-new-zealand-based-on-the-outcome-of-the-2018-census-and-maori-electoral-option-2018>

Māori representation in Parliament

Four Māori electorates were established in 1867 to ensure Māori representation in Parliament.

All Māori men over the age of 21 were eligible to vote in these electorates, without having to meet the requirements for land ownership in place at the time.

Māori women could not vote in parliamentary elections until 1893 when all women in New Zealand won the right to vote.

In 1975 the government introduced the Māori Electoral Option to be held alongside, or following, each census. Voters of Māori descent could choose to enrol in general or Māori electorates.

The Māori seats were retained under the MMP voting system introduced in the 1990s. The law was changed to allow the number of seats to increase or decrease according to the results of the census and the Māori Electoral Option.

A special Māori Electoral Option was held before the first MMP election in 1996. This Option saw more Māori registering on the Māori roll and resulted in the number of Māori electorates rising from four to five. Subsequent Māori Electoral Options have seen the number of Māori electorates increase to seven.

Under MMP, Māori MPs are elected to Parliament from the Māori electorates, general electorates, and the party lists.

Since the introduction of MMP, the number of Māori in Parliament has increased. There were 8 MPs of Māori descent elected in the 1993 election making up 8% of Parliament. In 2020, 25 MPs who are Māori were elected making up 22% of Parliament.

There are currently seven Māori electorates – Hauraki-Waikato, Ikaroa-Rāwhiti, Tāmaki Makaurau, Te Tai Hauāuru, Te Tai Tokerau, Te Tai Tonga and Waiariki.

For more information on the history of Māori representation in Parliament visit www.vote.nz
<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/maori-and-the-vote>

Māori
Electorates



General
Electorates



Statistics

Māori enrolment figures are available on our website

Māori enrolment figures are available at <https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-general-electorate/>

Māori Enrolment February 2023

Of the 512,032 electors of Māori descent enrolled on 20 February 2023, 261,376 (51%) were enrolled on the Māori roll and 250,656 (49%) were enrolled on the general roll.

Updates in 2023

Figures will be released on vote.nz showing roll changes and new Māori enrolments between 31 March and 13 July 2023.

Māori enrolment at the end of the 2018 Māori Electoral Option

Of the 472,249 electors of Māori descent on the Māori and general rolls at the end of the 2018 Option, about 4% (18,119) changed roll types and there were 5,215 new enrolments.

At the end of the Option, 52.4% of Māori voters were on the Māori roll and 47.6% were on the general roll.

There was no change to the number of Māori electorates.

The results are available at <https://elections.nz/democracy-in-nz/historical-events/2018-maori-electoral-option/>

Previous Māori Electoral Options

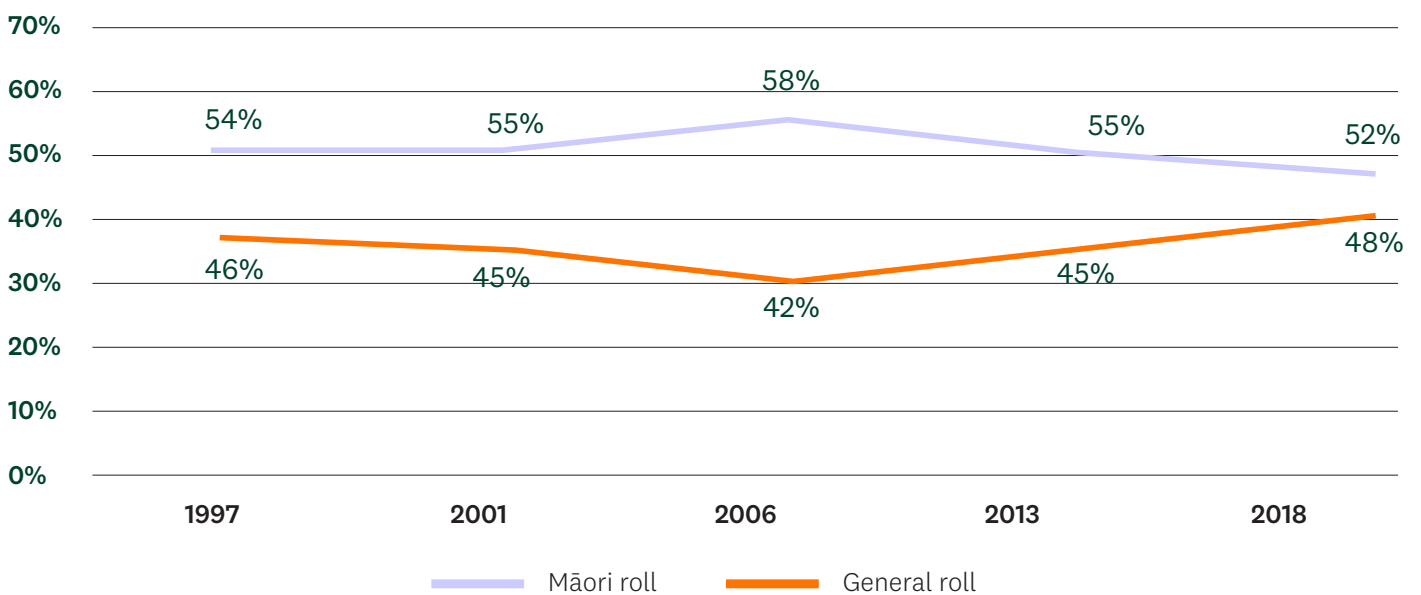
The following charts show roll changes, new enrolments, and the proportion of Māori on the Māori and general rolls at the end of the Māori Electoral Options held in 1997, 2001, 2006, 2013 and 2018.

Option year	Transfers		New enrolments of Māori descent		Impact on rolls		Roll totals at end of Option period	
	Māori to general	General to Māori	General roll	Māori roll	Māori +/-	General +/-	Māori on Māori roll	Māori on general roll
2018	10,163	7,956	1,808	3,407	1,200	4,015	247,494 (52%)	224,755 (48%)
2013	8,261	8,859	2,721	6,454	7,052	2,123	228,718 (55%)	184,630 (45%)
2006	7,294	14,294	2,366	7,914	14,914	(4,634)	222,362 (58%)	163,615 (42%)
2001	4,866	13,872	3,436	15,138	24,144	(5,570)	188,366 (55%)	151,889 (45%)
1997	7,040	14,471	2,664	10,517	17,948	(4,767)	163,310 (54%)	141,229 (46%)

Roll numbers past Options 1997-2018



Proportion of Māori on the Māori and general rolls



How electorate numbers are calculated

The results of the 2023 Census, along with electoral roll data, will be used to determine the number of Māori electorates and their boundaries for the 2026 election.

The number of seats will be calculated by Stats NZ and the boundaries will be reviewed by the Representation Commission. The number of Māori seats could increase, decrease, or stay the same.

The population is calculated first

The Census counts the population usually living in New Zealand, including children and those not eligible to enrol. This information is used by the Government Statistician to calculate the following groups:

- the North Island general electoral population
- the South Island general electoral population
- the Māori electoral population.

The Māori electoral population is calculated using a statutory formula. The general electoral population is the usually resident population less the Māori electoral population.

Each electorate will have roughly the same number of people in it

All electorates must have about the same population size. The number of South Island general electorates is fixed at 16 by the Electoral Act 1993. To calculate the number of electorates the Government Statistician at Stats NZ:

- divides the South Island general electoral population by 16. This result provides the average electoral population for South Island electorates and is referred to as the South Island quota
- divides the Māori electoral population by the South Island quota to work out the number of Māori electorates, and
- divides the North Island general electoral population by the South Island quota to work out the number of general electorates for the North Island.

More information about how Stats NZ calculates electoral populations and the number of electorates is available at www.stats.govt.nz

Different factors can have an impact on the number of Māori electorates

The following factors may influence the number of Māori electorates:

- population change since the last census
- the number of people included in the census
- how people answer the census Māori descent question
- the level of enrolment by people who have indicated they are of Māori descent on the general roll or Māori roll
- the proportion of electors of Māori descent who are on the Māori roll.

Electoral roll data will be provided to Stats NZ on 1 April 2024

The Electoral Commission provides the number of Māori enrolled on the Māori and general rolls to Stats NZ for the calculation of the number of seats.

Previously, it was provided at the end of the 4-month Māori Electoral Option period held after each census.

From now on, the data will be provided as on the day of the census. When the census and the general election take place in the same year, the data will be provided on 1 April the following year.

As the census and general election are both being held in 2023, the data will be provided on 1 April 2024.

Electorate and MP numbers over time

The table below shows the years when general elections were held and the years when there was a fixed-Māori Electoral Option period following the census. It shows the number of Māori, South Island and North Island electorates for each election year, and the number of list MPs.

General Election	Census and/or Option	Māori Electorates	South Island Electorates	North Island Electorates	List MPs ¹	Total MPs
1993		4	25	70	N/A	99
	1994					
1996		5	16	44	55	120
	1997					
1999		6	16	45	53	120
	2001					
2002		7	16	46	51	120
2005		7	16	46	51	121 ²
	2006					
2008		7	16	47	50	122 ²
2011		7	16	47	50	121 ²
	2013					
2014		7	16	48	49	121 ²
2017		7	16	48	49	120
	2018					
2020		7	16	49	48	120

¹ The number of list MPs is the size of Parliament (120) minus the total number of electorate districts.

² At the 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014 general elections there was an overhang. An overhang occurs when a party wins more electorates than the total number of seats it would otherwise be allocated based on its share of party votes. The overhang seats (the number above the party vote entitlement) are added to the usual 120 seats until the following general election.

Māori turnout in recent elections

Statistics on turnout in the Māori electorates can be found for each recent election at www.electionresults.govt.nz. A summary is provided below.

Turnout in the Māori electorates – voters on the Māori roll

2005	2008	2011	2014	2017	2020
67.1%	62.4%	58.2%	65.1%	66.7%	69.1%

Since the 2014 election, the Electoral Commission has also been able provide breakdowns of voter turnout statistics by age and Māori descent. This information is not available for elections held before 2014.

The following is a summary of the turnout of all enrolled electors who have identified themselves as being of Māori descent, on both the general and Māori rolls.

Turnout of all Māori voters across the general and Māori rolls

Age range	2014	2017	2020
18-24	54.9%	61.8%	69.7%
25-29	55.7%	61.6%	65.7%
30-34	61.5%	64.2%	66.5%
35-39	66.6%	68.9%	68.3%
40-44	69.2%	72.1%	71.5%
45-49	71.5%	74.1%	74.3%
50-54	73.8%	75.8%	76.3%
55-69	76.9%	78.8%	78.6%
60-64	86.6%	81.3%	81.3%
65-69	83.9%	84.5%	83.5%
70+	86.0%	82.0%	81.4%
All Māori voters	67.6%	71.1%	72.9%