**NZDSN INFO PACK**

The Electoral Commission has set objectives to help with improving the accessibility of the NZ Elections to ALL voters. In this context, it’s especially targeted to help include voters with disabilities. The objectives are:

1. Disabled voters will be able to cast an independent and secret ballot in parliamentary elections.
2. Disabled New Zealanders can access the Electoral Commission’s services and information in ways that meet their needs.
3. Research and relationship programmes provide ongoing opportunities for improvement.

Provided in this pack are hopefully some useful resources and links to assist those wanting to get involved with the election process. From enrolment to voting. More information can be found online or by phone.

Contact Information

0800 36 76 56

enquiries@elections.govt.nz

hamilton.east@elections.govt.nz

hamilton.west@elections.govt.nz

waikato@elections.govt.nz

port.waikato@election.govt.nz

taranaki-king.country@elections.govt.nz

**ENROLLING**

www.vote.nz/enrolling/get-help-to-enrol

The above link will talk you through the enrolment process should someone require assistance. If someone can’t complete or sign the enrolment form because of a physical or mental impairment, an authorised support person may be able to act on their behalf. A person can be a support person if they:

* are enrolled to vote.
* have enduring power of attorney.
* are the person’s appointed welfare guardian.

The support person needs to fill in another form declaring their information and authority to act on behalf.

**Telephone Dictation Voting**

This service is helpful forthe Blind, Partially Blind or People not able to mark their ballot paper without assistance. Eligible voters first need to register to vote by telephone dictation. To register you need to call the Telephone Dictation Voting service on **0800 028 028**

**ELECTION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

www.vote.nz/enrolling/get-help-to-enrol/enrolment-information-in-accessible-formats

The above link has access to a range of information regarding the election. The information is available on different formats.

* Audio
* Large Print
* E-text (text-to-speech)

**VOTING**

**Telephone Dictation Voting**

Votes are cast during the advanced voting period prior to election day by calling **0800 028 028**

There is no personal information shared to identify the voter.  This ensures the secrecy of their vote. Voters are advised to only provide the following information to the operator: **Their registration number & The answer to their secret question chosen during the registration process.**

1. The voter is then provided with instructions on how their voting paper will be completed.
2. The operator then reads out each party as listed on the ballot paper;
3. The operator then marks the preferred candidate as directed by the voter;
4. The operator then reads out each candidate as listed on the ballot paper;
5. The operator then marks the preferred candidate as directed by the voter; and
6. A second operator confirms how the ballot paper has been marked with the voter.

Once complete the ballot paper is folded and placed in the ballot paper pocket of the envelope, sealed and placed in the ballot box.  After Election Day, voting papers are forwarded to the Electorate Headquarters for the Returning Officer to process as part of special vote processing.

**Voting in person**

Voters wanting to vote in person who may have limited or restricted mobility and/or require wheelchair access, can research their nearest voting location closer to advance voting and/or election day. They can view which locations offer easy access suitable to their needs. Locations are designated “Accessible” for full independent wheelchair access or “Accessible with assistance” which may have a step or steep ramp etc.

**Telephone Information Service**

You can also call Blind Low Vision NZ’s Telephone Information Service (TIS) to find out more about enrolling and voting.

**Resources for deaf (NZ Sign Language)**

https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrolment-in-your-language/enrolment-information-in-new-zealand-sign-language

Further comprehensive information can be found in the Electoral Commission’s Access 2020 Disability Strategy at:

https/elections.nz/assets/access-2020-disability-strategy.pdf