



Enrolment and Voting Intentions

The Electoral Enrolment Centre makes every effort to ensure that all eligible voters are enrolled by 26 October, when the Electoral Rolls go to print. Voters enrolled by 26 October will also get an EasyVote card and information pack in the mail, which makes voting easier and faster.

Being enrolled by 26 October ensures that eligibility to vote can easily be checked by those staffing the polling booths. It also minimises the need for Special Declaration Votes on the part of those who are eligible to vote, but did not enrol in time to be on the printed Electoral Roll.

Anyone enrolled after 26 October will have to cast a Special Declaration Vote that can take five times as long to cast as an ordinary EasyVote.

In the 2011 General Election voters also have an opportunity to indicate in a referendum whether they wish to retain the MMP electoral system, and if New Zealand were to change, which of several possible alternatives they would prefer.

Because of the referendum one might imagine that the 2011 General Election has special interest for the New Zealand voters.

In the 2008 General Election 79.5 percent of enrolled voters cast a vote, and 11.4 percent of the votes cast were Special Votes.

To establish the extent to which potential voters had enrolled, and what proportion of enrolled voters intended to vote in the 2011 General Election, Research New Zealand conducted a poll of 500 New Zealand residents, 18 years and over.

Some 88 percent of the sample was enrolled. A slightly higher proportion of females, than males had enrolled (93 percent versus 82 percent). Enrolment is very much related to age; 70 percent of those in the 18-34 year age group were enrolled, compared to 93 percent of those aged 35-54, and 97 percent of those aged 55 years and over.

NZ European/Pakeha, were also more likely to have enrolled, at 90 percent, compared with 80 percent of Maori/Pacific People.

Those living in the Lower/Central North Island were also less likely to have enrolled, at 82 percent compared with 90 percent in the Upper North Island and 88 percent in the South Island.



Respondents earning \$80,000 or more per year were also more likely to have enrolled at 92 percent, versus 83 percent of those earning under \$40,000 per year. This is likely to be age related rather than income related, since income is strongly related to age.

Of those who had not enrolled, some 58 percent intended to enrol. Because of the small numbers that had not enrolled, further analysis of this cannot be undertaken.

Some 93 percent of those who are enrolled, plan to vote in the 2011 General Election. This compares with the 79.5 percent of enrolled voters that cast a vote in 2008.

The difference between voting intentions on the part of males compared to females is too small to suggest there is a difference in voting intentions. However, there is a clear difference by age group. In the 18–34 year age group 89 percent intend to vote, while in the age group 55 years and over, some 96 percent intend to vote.

There is no difference of note between the different ethnic groups, region or income.

“This suggests that the main factor in non-enrolment and non-voting is age, said Research New Zealand Director”, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 18 and over was conducted by telephone on 4–10 October 2011. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 4.8 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

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Table 1:

Q5a. The 2011 election takes place on 26 November this year. To be able to vote in a general election, a person has to be enrolled. Are you currently enrolled to vote in the general election later this year?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	250	250
	%	%	%
Yes	88	82	93
No	10	14	6
Not eligible	0	1	0
Don't know	2	4	1
Refused	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2:

Q5a. The 2011 election takes place on 26 November this year. To be able to vote in a general election, a person has to be enrolled. Are you currently enrolled to vote in the general election later this year?

	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	500	90	161	249
	%	%	%	%
Yes	88	70	93	97
No	10	24	6	3
Not eligible	0	0	1	0
Don't know	2	6	1	0
Refused	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3:

Q5a. The 2011 election takes place on 26 November this year. To be able to vote in a general election, a person has to be enrolled. Are you currently enrolled to vote in the general election later this year?

	Total	NZ European/ Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
Base =	500	368	53	79
	%	%	%	%
Yes	88	90	80	83
No	10	8	20	12
Not eligible	0	0	0	2
Don't know	2	2	0	4
Refused	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 4:

Q5a. The 2011 election takes place on 26 November this year. To be able to vote in a general election, a person has to be enrolled. Are you currently enrolled to vote in the general election later this year?

Base =	Total 500 %	Lower/Central North		
		Upper North Island 211 %	Island 88 %	South Island 201 %
Yes	88	90	82	88
No	10	9	12	10
Not eligible	0	1	0	0
Don't know	2	1	6	2
Refused	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5:

Q5a. The 2011 election takes place on 26 November this year. To be able to vote in a general election, a person has to be enrolled. Are you currently enrolled to vote in the general election later this year?

Base =	Total 500 %	Income			
		Under \$40,000 189 %	At least \$40,000 but less than \$80,000 140 %	\$80,000 or more 127 %	Don't know/refused 44 %
Yes	88	83	90	92	87
No	10	13	8	7	13
Not eligible	0	0	1	0	0
Don't know	2	4	1	1	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 6:

Q5b. And do you intend to enrol to be able to vote?

Base =	Total 37* %
Yes	58
No	39
Don't know	3
Refused	0
Total	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are not currently enrolled.



Table 7:

Q5c. Do you plan to vote in the election this year?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	477*	234	243
	%	%	%
Yes	93	94	91
No	4	3	5
Don't know/Undecided	3	3	3
Refused	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are currently enrolled or intend to enrol.

Table 8:

Q5c. Do you plan to vote in the election this year?

	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	477*	77	154	246
	%	%	%	%
Yes	93	89	93	96
No	4	8	3	2
Don't know/Undecided	3	4	4	2
Refused	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are currently enrolled or intend to enrol.

Table 9:

Q5c. Do you plan to vote in the election this year?

	Total	NZ European/ Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
Base =	477*	357	51	69
	%	%	%	%
Yes	93	92	94	95
No	4	4	3	5
Don't know/Undecided	3	4	2	0
Refused	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are currently enrolled or intend to enrol.



Table 10:

Q5c. Do you plan to vote in the election this year?

	Base =	Total 477* %	Upper North Island 206 %	Lower/Centr al North Island 80 %	South Island 191 %
Yes		93	93	94	92
No		4	4	3	5
Don't know/Undecided		3	3	3	4
Refused		0	0	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are currently enrolled or intend to enrol.

Table 11:

Q5c. Do you plan to vote in the election this year?

	Base =	Total 477* %	Under \$40,000 180 %	At least \$40,000 but less than \$80,000 132 %	\$80,000 or more 122 %	Don't know/refused 43 %
Yes		93	93	92	95	87
No		4	4	6	3	0
Don't know/Undecided		3	3	2	2	13
Refused		0	0	0	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are currently enrolled or intend to enrol.

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