

TELEPHONE DICTATION VOTING

Te Pōti mā te ratonga pōti ā-waea

Local Elections 2025 / Pōtitanga ā-rohe 2025

Following a change in legislation in 2023, telephone dictation voting by a disabled voter is now permitted (Local Electoral Amendment Regulations 2023).

The change applies to any elector who considers that it will not be possible or practicable for them to vote at an election or poll by casting an ordinary vote without incurring hardship or undue inconvenience for one of the following reasons:

- the person is blind
- the person has a vision impairment and is unable to mark the voting document without assistance
- the person has another physical disability and is unable to mark the voting document without assistance

Such a person may request to vote at the election or poll by dictation as a special voter

A request for telephone dictation voting must be made to the electoral officer in the period the day after the public notice of election and the day before the close of voting i.e. from Thursday 3 July 2025 to Friday 10 October 2025 (inclusive).

A person requesting a telephone dictation vote can contact our call centre during this period on **0800 922 822**.

On receipt of a request for a telephone dictation vote, the electoral officer must either:

- grant the request, if satisfied, it will not be possible or practicable for the elector to vote by casting an ordinary vote without incurring hardship or undue inconvenience; or
- refuse the request.

If the request is granted, the electoral officer must make arrangements that the electoral officer considers necessary for the issue and receipt of special votes by dictation, including:

- arrangements for votes to be made by telephone in the above period (but specifically the voting period 9 September to 11 October 2025)
- arrangements to protect the secrecy of the vote to the extent possible
- arrangements to ensure the votes are accurately recorded on the voting document
- arrangements for the special vote envelopes to be marked with the electoral officer's official mark and then placed in a ballot box for special votes.

If voting is underway at the close of voting, the elector is entitled to finish dictating their vote.

Our aim is to deliver a seamless process (one phone call) with the person requesting the assisted telephone vote and avoid a call-back wherever possible. The electoral officer will ensure as much as possible the anonymity of the vote (e.g. keep the declaration and the special vote separate or concealed as much as practicable).

Dale Ofoske, *Electoral Officer*
Election Services
March 2025