



PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

Te Pātaka Rangahau a Te Whare Pāremata

The 2014 New Zealand General Election: Final Results and Voting Statistics

February 2015

Parliamentary Library Research Paper

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ▶ This paper provides a summary of the New Zealand General Election of 20th September 2014, including the final (official) results and voting statistics released by the NZ Electoral Commission.
- ▶ The final results confirm the total number of seats in Parliament is 121. An overhang of one seat has been created by United Future winning one electorate; it would not otherwise have been entitled to any seats based on its 0.2% share of the party vote.
- ▶ The National Party has lost one list seat compared to election night – it now has 60 seats in total; the highest number of seats the party has achieved under MMP.
- ▶ The Labour Party's share of the vote in 2014 (25.1%) is the lowest it has achieved in any MMP election to date; it is also the lowest share for the Labour Party in any election since 1922 when its 23.7% vote share was third-highest behind the Liberal and Conservative parties.
- ▶ The Green Party's share of the party vote (10.7%) is the second-highest it has achieved, entitling it to 14 seats in Parliament, one more than on election night before the counting of special votes.
- ▶ There are no changes to the number of seats held on election night by other parties, although their share of the party vote has changed.
- ▶ Of 71 electorates, 47 winning candidates won with a majority (over 50%) of the valid electorate votes, while 24 electorates were won with a plurality (less than 50%) of the valid electorate votes.
- ▶ Amy Adams (National) achieved the largest winning margin (20,561) in the Selwyn electorate in 2014; Nikki Kaye (National) had the lowest winning margin (600) in Auckland Central.
- ▶ The 38 women MPs elected in 2014 comprise almost one-third (31%) of the 51st Parliament, below the record 41 women MPs (34%) elected in 2008.
- ▶ There are 25 MPs who have self-identified as being of Māori descent, or 21% of the total Parliament; there are a record eight MPs who identify as being of Pacific Peoples ethnicity, or 7% of the Parliament; there are five MPs who identify as being of Asian ethnicity, 4% of the Parliament.
- ▶ The age of the youngest MP is 24; for the first time the New Zealand Parliament has a representative of 'generation Y', those born from 1986 to 2005. The oldest MP is 69. In generational terms, over half (54%) of the 51st Parliament are 'baby boomers', less than one-half (44%) are 'generation X', and 2% are from the generation born prior to World War Two (also known as the 'silent generation').
- ▶ The 60+ age group is now the single largest voting cohort in New Zealand, representing 27% of all voters, up from the 21% share this age group accounted for in 1993.
- ▶ In 2014 28 MPs (23% of MPs) listed their previous occupation as a 'business person'; apart from 1999 and 2008 this has been the single biggest occupational category in NZ Parliaments since 1990.
- ▶ Almost one million people did not vote in 2014; 250,683 were not enrolled, while 694,120 were enrolled but did not turn out to vote. While voters under 40 years comprise just over one-third (35%) of those enrolled, this cohort account for 81% of the quarter of a million people who were not enrolled for the 2014 election.
- ▶ Of the ten general electorates with the highest turnouts, five are from the Wellington region. Nine of the ten general electorates with the lowest turnout are from the Auckland region.
- ▶ Over half (51%) of the people who were enrolled but who did not turn out to vote were aged under 40.
- ▶ The next General Election in New Zealand must be held by Saturday 18th November 2017.

Final Results after Special Votes

This research paper summarises differences between the preliminary (election night count) and final election results, compares the 2014 election result with 2011, and shows trends in voter turnout and the demographic makeup of the 51st Parliament. It concludes with some analysis of voter turnout by age figures, which for the first time, have been released by the Electoral Commission.

The General Election of 20th September 2014 was New Zealand's 51st since general elections began in 1853, and the seventh election conducted under the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting system. Following the counting of special votes and the release of the official results, there are seven political parties and 121 members represented in the 51st Parliament. An overhang of one seat has been created by the United Future Party winning one electorate; it would not otherwise have been entitled to any seats based on its 0.2 % share of the party vote.

Table 1: Candidates, Seats, Parties at New Zealand General Elections, 1996-2014

Election Year	Candidates			Electoralates			List seats	Total seats/ MPs	MPs per 100,000 population	Parties ⁽²⁾
	Electorate ⁽¹⁾	List only	Total	General	Māori	Total				
1996	611	231	842	60	5	65	55	120	3.2	6
1999	679	286	965	61	6	67	53	120	3.1	7
2002	593	90	683	62	7	69	51	120	3.0	7
2005	597	142	739	62	7	69	52	121	2.9	8
2008	522	160	682	63	7	70	52	122	2.9	7
2011	453	91	544	63	7	70	51	121	2.8	8
2014	483	71	554	64	7	71	50	121	2.7	7
1. Includes candidates for Māori electoralates, and dual candidates (standing for both list and electorate). 2. Parties gaining Parliamentary representation; excludes Independents. Sources: NZ Electoral Commission, The NZ Electoral Compendium 2002, p. 176; NZ Electoral Commission, http://www.elections.org.nz/news-media/electoral-commission-releases-party-and-candidate-lists-2014-election										

Table 1 shows trends in the number of candidates, seats, and parties since 1996. It shows, for example, that the number of list only candidates contesting the 2014 election was the lowest in MMP elections to date. Also of note is that following the periodic redrawing of electoral boundaries by the Representation Commission (following each census), the number of available list seats has declined from 55 in 1996 to 49 in 2014 (50 temporarily as a result of the overhang).

The number of MPs per capita in 2014 was 2.7 per 100,000 people. This level of representation ranks New Zealand just below the 34 member OECD average of 2.8 MPs per 100,000 people for lower chambers. The average among the 15 OECD members with unicameral parliaments is somewhat higher at 4.4 MPs per 100,000 people; however New Zealand ranks close to the median among this group.

Table 2 shows the impact of the 300,915 valid special votes – accounting for about 14% of the votes cast in the 2014 general election – on the election night count. For example the Labour Party, the Māori Party and Internet-Mana saw incremental increases in the share of their party vote without altering their election night seat entitlement. Similarly, New Zealand First, the

Conservative Party, the ACT Party and United Future saw the counting of special votes result in incremental change in their party vote share and no change to their seat entitlements.

Table 2: 2014 Final Party Vote and Seat Count

Party	Valid Party Votes				Seats		
	Provisional Total ⁽¹⁾	Final Total	Provisional Share (%)	Final Share (%)	Final Electorate	Final List	Final Total
National Party	1,010,464	1,131,501	48.06	47.04	41	19	60
Labour Party	519,146	604,535	24.69	25.13	27	5	32
Green Party	210,764	257,359	10.02	10.70	0	14	14
New Zealand First	186,031	208,300	8.85	8.66	0	11	11
Māori Party	27,074	31,849	1.29	1.32	1	1	2
ACT New Zealand	14,510	16,689	0.69	0.69	1	0	1
United Future	4,533	5,286	0.22	0.22	1	0	1
Conservative	86,616	95,598	4.12	3.97	0	0	0
Internet-MANA	26,539	34,094	1.26	1.42	0	0	0
Other ⁽²⁾	16,994	20,411	0.80	0.84	0	0	0
Total Valid Party Votes	2,102,671	2,405,622	100%	100%			
Informal / Disallowed Votes ⁽³⁾	9,851	40,675					
TOTALS	2,112,522	2,446,297			71	50	121
<p>1. Provisional figures are as at election night on the 20th September; final figures as at 10 October, 2014. The preliminary results (announced on election night) include all ordinary votes – those cast by people who appear on the printed roll in the voting place they go to, and that are cast either on Election Day or in advance of Election Day. Provisional figures exclude the 329,726 special votes cast by voters who are overseas, or who are voting outside their electorate, or who are not on the printed roll for their electorate. Valid special votes are admitted to the final official count.</p> <p>2. Final party vote share for parties in the 'Other' category include: Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party (0.46%); Ban1080 (0.21%); Democrats for Social Credit (0.07%); The Civilian Party (0.05%); NZ Independent Coalition (0.04%); Focus New Zealand (0.03%).</p> <p>3. Informal Votes are votes cast by electors, qualified to vote, which are not counted because the ballot paper did not clearly indicate the party or the electorate candidate vote, or both. 'Disallowed votes' are votes disallowed for one of the following reasons: no ground stated for a special vote, arrived late, declaration not enclosed, incomplete declaration, ballot paper not enclosed, or address invalid for electorate.</p> <p>Source: Electoral Commission: http://www.electionresults.govt.nz/</p>							

Although special votes usually result in only minor changes to the parties' final percentage share of the party vote, they can and do have substantial impacts on the final election outcome. In the 2014 election, although the National Party's final share of the party vote dropped 1.02 percentage points to 47.04%, it resulted in the National Party's initial allocation of 61 seats – an outright majority and provisionally the first under MMP – being reduced to a final entitlement of 60 seats. Consequently the National Party sought confidence and supply arrangements with its support partners in order to command a majority in Parliament. This one seat loss was a result of the increase in the Green Party's share which rose 0.68 percentage points to 10.70%, allowing the Green Party's initial allocation of 13 seats to increase to a final entitlement of 14 seats. The total number of MPs in Parliament was not affected by the counting of special votes.

Figure 1 shows the impact of special votes on the number of seats in MMP elections. In 1999, for example, the impact of special votes meant five parties and 14 seats were affected, resulting in the Labour-Alliance majority coalition government becoming a minority coalition government. Special votes in 1999 also affected the Green Party – which on election night had no seats in Parliament – entitling the Greens to seven seats (including an electorate seat). In 2005 special votes reduced the total number of MPs in Parliament from 122 to 121 and thereby reduced the threshold required for confidence and supply for the governing coalition parties.

Figure 1: The Impact of Special Votes: Seat Gains or Losses by Party

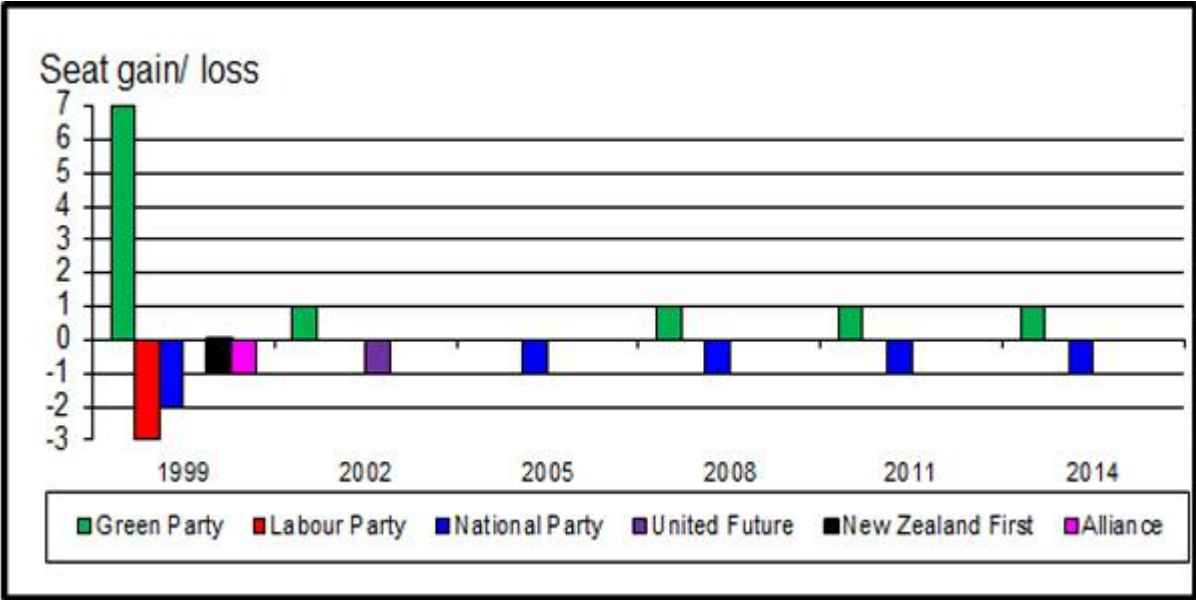


Table 3 compares the 2011 election with those parties gaining parliamentary representation in 2014. New Zealand First was the only party to see an increase in both its party vote share (up 2.07 percentage points) and its seat entitlement (three more seats) between the two elections. The National Party lost 0.27 percentage points, but gained one more seat than in 2011. The Green Party, ACT New Zealand, and United Future all lost vote share but did not lose any seats. The Labour Party lost 2.35 percentage points and two seats; the Māori Party lost 0.11 percentage points and one seat when compared to 2011.

Table 3: Party Vote Share and Seats by Parliamentary Party: 2011 and 2014

Party	Final Party Vote Share			Total Seats		
	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	Change (% points)	2011	2014	Change (seats)
National Party	47.31	47.04	-0.27	59	60	1
Labour Party	27.48	25.13	-2.35	34	32	-2
Green Party	11.06	10.70	-0.36	14	14	0
New Zealand First	6.59	8.66	2.07	8	11	3
Māori Party	1.43	1.32	-0.11	3	2	-1
ACT New Zealand	1.07	0.69	-0.38	1	1	0
United Future	0.60	0.22	-0.38	1	1	0

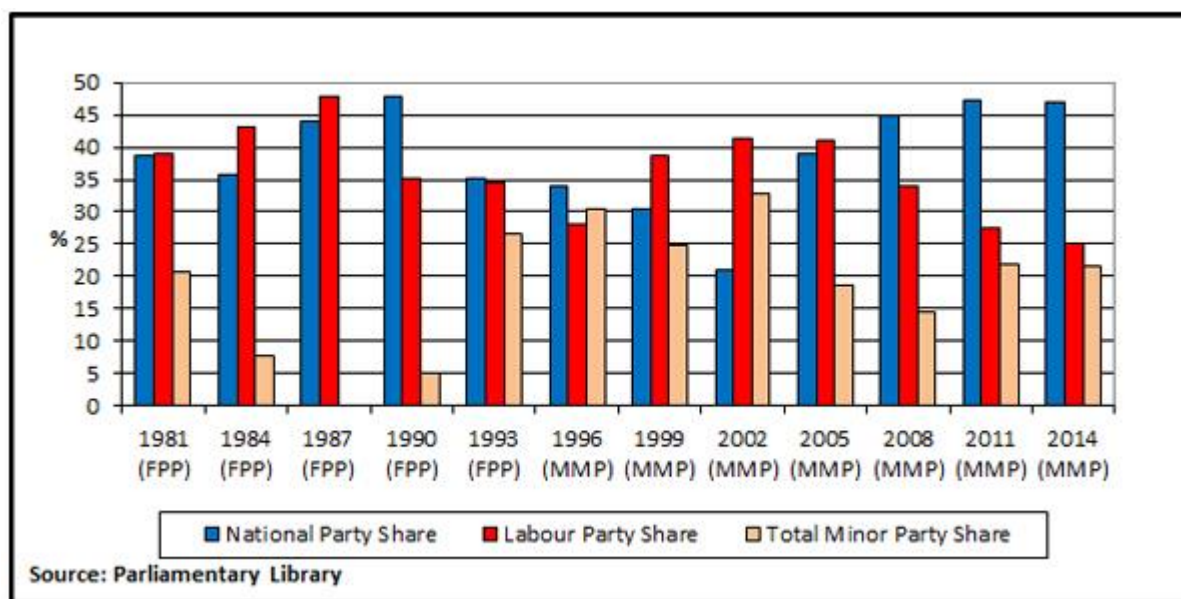
Party Vote Share and Parties in Parliament: 1981-2014

Under First-Past-the-Post (FPP) elections, from 1981 to 1993, the National Party averaged 40.3% of the vote while the Labour Party averaged 40.0%. Under Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) elections, from 1996 to 2014, the National Party has averaged 37.7% of the party vote which compares to the 33.7% average for the Labour Party. Figure 2 shows that the National Party's share of the party vote in 2014 (47.0%) is the second-highest it has achieved under MMP. The Labour Party's share of the vote in 2014 (25.1%) is the lowest it has achieved in any MMP election to date; it is the lowest vote share for the Labour Party in any election since 1922 when its 23.7% vote share was third-highest behind the Liberal and Conservative parties.

Across the seven MMP elections to date, for the other current parliamentary parties who have contested more than one election, the average party vote share has been: 7.7% for the Green Party; 7.6% for New Zealand First; 3.9% for ACT New Zealand; 1.8% for the Māori Party; and 1.8% for United Future.

The total vote share for the minor parties gaining representation in Parliament has doubled under MMP compared to FPP elections – from an average of 12% over the FPP elections from 1981 to 1993 to an average of 23.5% under MMP elections from 1996 to 2014. In 2014 the five minor parties gaining parliamentary representation obtained just below this average at 21.6% share of the party vote.

Figure 2: Party Vote Share 1981-2014

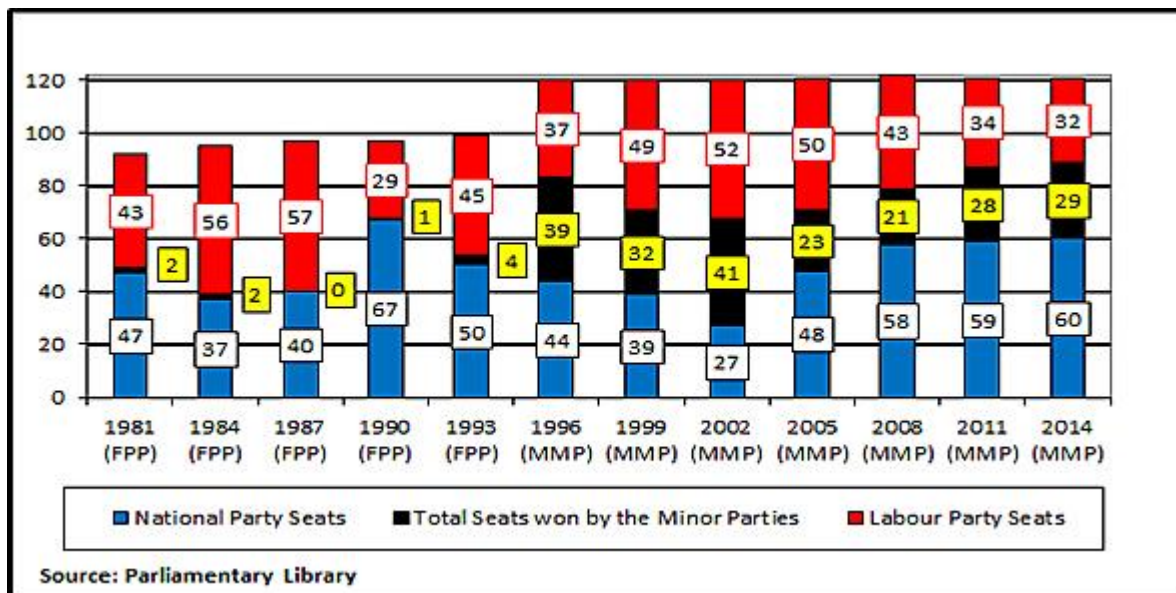


Under FPP elections, from 1981 to 1993, representation in Parliament was dominated by the two major parties, Labour and National. On average, these two parties captured 98% of the seats in Parliament from a combined average of 80% of the vote from 1981 to 1993. In MMP elections between 1996 and 2014, Labour and National together have, on average, won three-quarters (75%) of the seats in parliament from a combined average of 71% of the total party vote. In the 2014 election, the two major parties improved on this average, winning 76% of the seats between them (92 seats) from 72% of the total party vote.

Under FPP elections from 1981 to 1993 minor parties that gained parliamentary representation won about two seats on average each election – about 2% of the seats from an average of 12% of the vote. In MMP elections, from 1996 to 2014, minor parties that gained parliamentary

representation won, combined, around 30 seats on average each election – or one-quarter (25%) of the seats from about one quarter (24%) of the vote. In the 2014 election, the minor parliamentary parties won 29 of the 121 seats (24%) from 22% of the vote – about the same average seat share under MMP, from slightly below the average vote shares for the minor parliamentary parties under MMP (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Seats Won by Major and Minor Parliamentary Parties



The Electorates

All 71 electorate candidates who won their seats on election night were confirmed as the electorate representative after the counting of special votes. In Te Tai Tokerau, Kelvin Davis, (Labour) won the seat with a margin of 743 votes after a judicial recount.

Of the 71 electorate seats, a majority (41) were won by the National Party. The National Party lost the seat of Napier, but won the new seat of Upper Harbour. The Labour Party won 27 electorates, five more than the number of electorates it won in 2011, and did not lose any electorates to other parties. Labour won the newly re-drawn electorate of Kelston, the Napier electorate from National, Te Tai Tokerau from the Mana Party, and Te Tai Hauāuru and Tamaki Mākauau from the Māori Party. The Māori Party won the electorate of Waiariki, but lost two electorates (Te Tai Hauāuru and Tamaki Mākauau) to Labour. The ACT and United Future parties won one electorate seat each, the same number of electorates as those parties won in 2008 and 2011. Mana lost its only electorate seat of Te Tai Tokerau. The Green Party and New Zealand First did not win any electorate seats.

Of 71 electorates, 47 winning candidates won with a majority (over 50%) of the valid electorate votes, while 24 electorates were won with a plurality (less than 50%) of the valid electorate votes. The electorate with the *lowest* share of the electorate (candidate) vote was Ōhāriu, where Peter Dunne (United Future) won with 36.9% of the electorate vote. The electorate with the highest share of the electorate (candidate) vote was Māngere, where Sua William Sio (Labour) won with 72.5% of the electorate vote.

Table 4 below shows both the ten electorates with the highest winning margin over the second-placed candidate, and the ten electorates with the smallest winning margin. For example, Amy

Adams (National) achieved the largest winning margin (20,561) in the Selwyn electorate in 2014; Nikki Kaye (National) had the lowest winning margin (600) in Auckland Central.

Table 4: Electorates with the Ten Largest and Ten Smallest Winning Margins in 2014

Electorate	Winning Candidate	Party	Share of Valid Electorate Votes (%)	Margin
Selwyn	Amy Adams	National	69.97	20,561
Tāmaki	Simon O'Connor	National	71.43	20,421
Rodney	Mark Mitchell	National	63.41	20,230
Helensville	John Key	National	65.57	18,287
Hunua	Andrew Bayly	National	67.56	17,376
Taranaki-King Country	Barbara Kuriger	National	68.17	16,773
Waitaki	Jacqui Dean	National	62.98	16,668
North Shore	Maggie Barry	National	63.15	16,503
Waikato	Lindsay Tisch	National	65.67	16,169
Coromandel	Scott Simpson	National	58.72	15,801
...				
Christchurch Central	Nicky Wagner	National	46.22	2,420
Maungakiekie	Peseta Sam Lotu-liga	National	48.38	2,348
Port Hills	Ruth Dyson	Labour	46.44	2,228
Palmerston North	Iain Lees-Galloway	Labour	50.08	2,212
Te Tai Hauāuru	Adrian Rurawhe	Labour	41.34	1,554
Tāmaki Makaurau	Peeni Henare	Labour	38.28	1,462
Te Tai Tokerau	Kelvin Davis	Labour	44.73	743
Ōhāriu	Peter Dunne	United Future	36.86	710
Hutt South	Trevor Mallard	Labour	43.80	709
Auckland Central	Nikki Kaye	National	45.84	600
Source: NZ Electoral Commission, 2014 election results, http://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2014/e9/html/statistics.html				

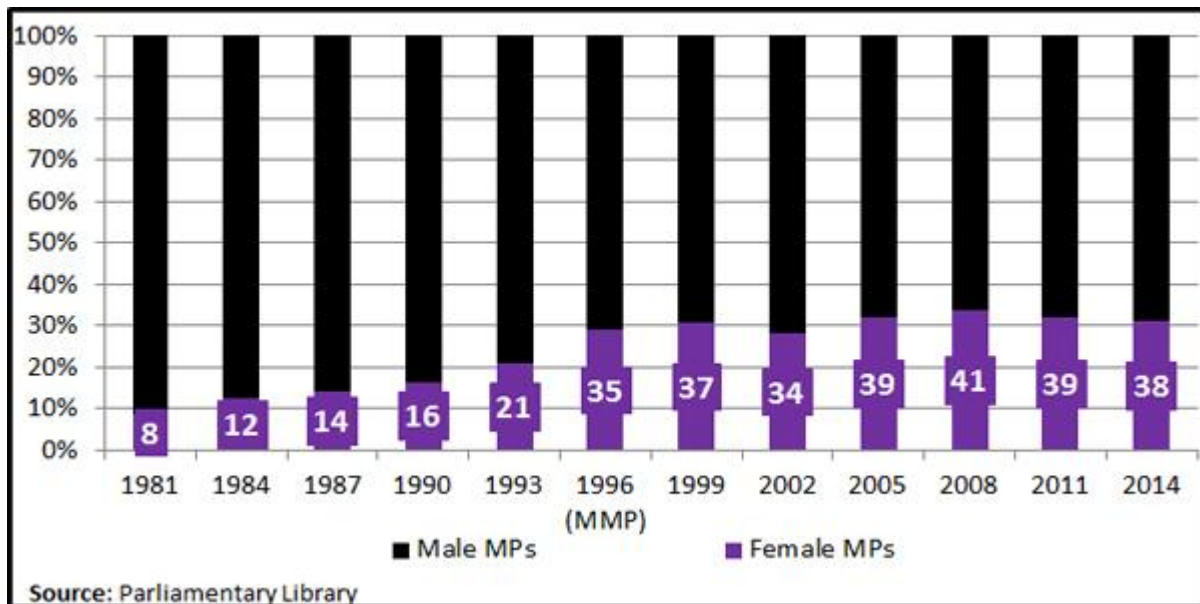
Demographic Makeup of the 51st Parliament

As a proportional representation system, MMP ensures that voters' party preferences are proportionally reflected in the party composition of Parliament. This has resulted in a greater number of political parties gaining representation in Parliament than occurred under the FPP system. Indirectly, MMP has also contributed to achieving a Parliament that is more diverse and more representative of the New Zealand population as a whole; parties are able to choose candidates who resemble the electorate in terms of demographic characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, and age. Consequently, it is argued that *“one central virtue of proportional systems is the claim that they are more likely to produce a Parliament which reflects the composition of the electorate”*.¹

Until the 1980s, for example, the representation of women in Parliament rarely exceeded 5%. Figure 4 shows that on gender grounds, the representativeness of Parliament has increased significantly since the advent of MMP in 1996, although it still has some way to go before it reflects the gender balance in New Zealand society as a whole. There are 38 women MPs in the 51st Parliament, compared with the record 41 elected to the 49th Parliament in 2008. Overall, women comprise about one-third (31%) of the new Parliament.

¹ P. Norris, 'Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems', *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 18, 1997, p. 309.

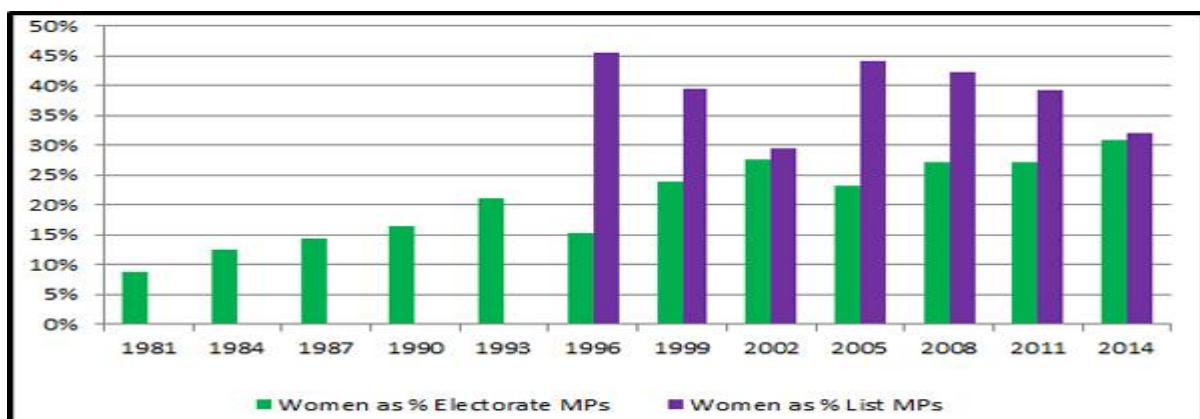
Figure 4: Number and Share (%) of Women in Parliament 1981-2014



Internationally, this level of representation of women in Parliament places New Zealand in 35th place on this measure. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Rwanda (64%), Bolivia (53%), Andorra (50%), Cuba (49%), and Sweden (45%) have the greatest proportions of women represented in their parliaments among the 189 countries surveyed. Italy, Portugal, and Switzerland have similar proportions of women represented in their parliaments (31%) to New Zealand.²

Even after the introduction of MMP, however, women are still finding it difficult to win selection as candidates for the electorate vote, which is still conducted under FPP. Figure 5 shows the gender differences in representation between electorate and list seats. From 1996, women have tended to comprise a higher level of representation in the list seats than their representation in electorates. In 2005, for example, less than one quarter (23%) of electorate MPs were women, compared to 44% of the list MPs. In 2002 and 2014 this difference was less marked; in 2014 31% of electorate MPs were women compared to 32% of list MPs.

Figure 5: Share of Women in Electorate and List Seats 1981-2014

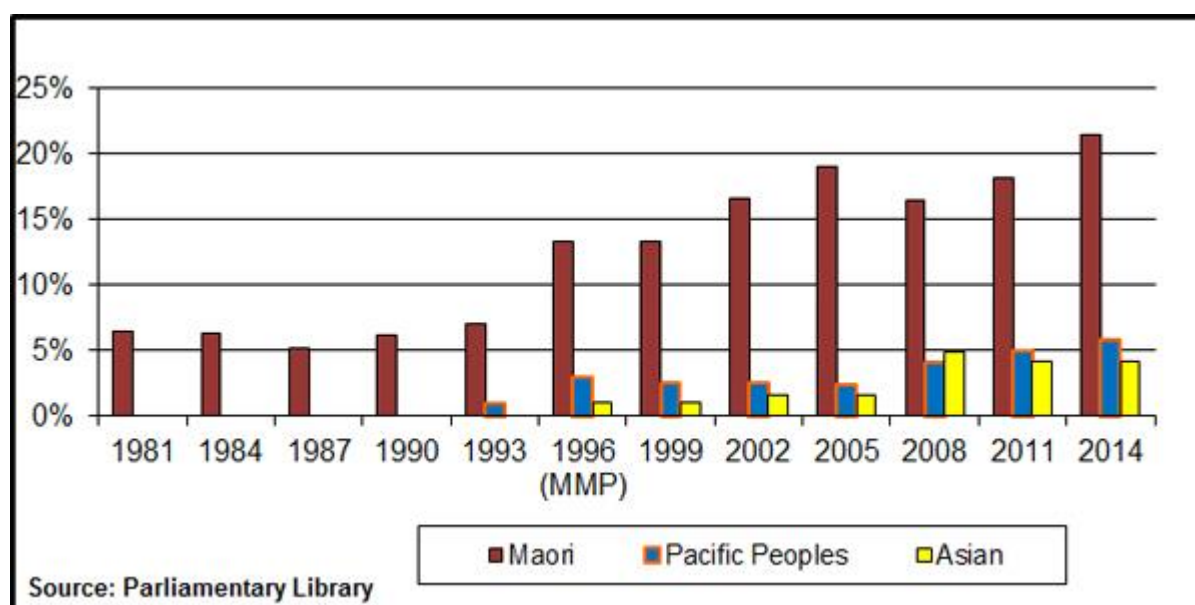


² Inter-Parliamentary Union, 'Women in National Parliaments', 1 November, 2014. Available at: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

The party list mechanism under MMP has also enabled a more ethnically diverse range of candidates to be elected (see Figure 6). The new Parliament has 25 MPs who have self-identified as being of Māori descent, compared with 22 in the previous Parliament. Overall, MPs who identify as being of Māori descent comprise one fifth (20.7%) of the Parliament, similar to the proportion of the total New Zealand population who stated they identified as being of Māori descent in the 2013 census (18%).

The new Parliament has a record eight MPs who identify as being of Pacific Peoples ethnicity, compared with six in the previous Parliament. Overall, MPs who identify as being of Pacific Peoples ethnicity comprise 7% of the Parliament, which is the same proportion of the population who identified as being of the Pacific Peoples ethnic group in the 2013 census.

Figure 6: MPs in Parliament by Ethnic Share 1981-2014



The new Parliament has five MPs who identify as being of Asian ethnicity, the same number as in the previous Parliament. Overall, MPs who identify as being of Asian ethnicity comprise 4% of the Parliament, which compares to the 11% of the population who identified as being of the Asian ethnic group in the 2013 census.

In terms of age, Figure 7 shows that those aged 18-29 years, and those aged over 60, are under-represented in the 51st Parliament. These age groups comprise 17% and 20% respectively of the New Zealand voting age population (VAP), but just 2% and 17% respectively of the New Zealand Parliament. By contrast, the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups are over-represented in Parliament when compared to the general 18+ population. In generational terms, over half (54%) of the 51st Parliament are 'baby boomers', less than one-half (44%) are 'generation X', and 2% are from the generation born prior to World War Two (also known as the 'silent generation'). For the first time the New Zealand Parliament has a representative of 'generation Y', those born from 1986 to 2005.³ The median age of the 2014 Parliament is 50.0 years. The youngest MP is 24 years old – the oldest, 69 years.

³ Although there is much debate about the dates and lengths of these generational cohorts, it is generally accepted that a generation is about 20 years long. Here the pre-World War Two generation is defined as those born from 1926 to 1945 inclusive, baby boomers are those born from 1946 to 1965 inclusive, Generation X are those born from 1966 to 1985 inclusive, and Generation Y are those born from 1986 to 2005 inclusive.

Figure 7: The Composition of the 51st Parliament by Age Group

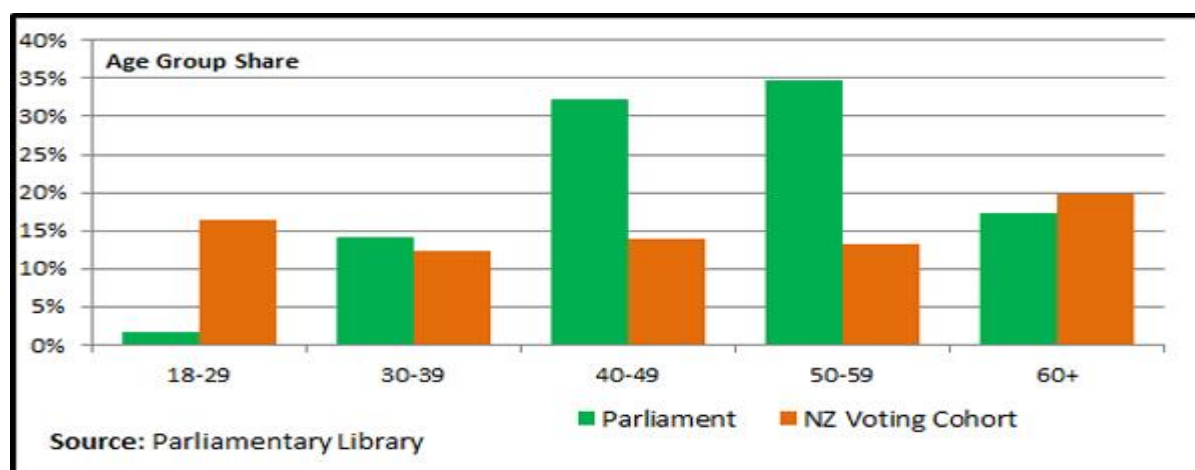


Table 5 sets out the previous occupations of MPs as a share of successive Parliaments since 1996. In 2014 28 MPs (23% of all MPs) listed their previous occupation as 'businessperson'. Since 1996, this has usually been the single biggest occupational category in New Zealand Parliaments, apart from 1999 and 2008 when 'teacher' and 'manager / administrator' were the highest respectively. A further 20 MPs (17% of the Parliament) listed their previous occupation as a 'manager or administrator', confirming a recent trend for increasing numbers of these professionals to enter Parliament. The education sector, local government, and legal profession are the other most prevalent occupational backgrounds for MPs. Farmers were more common in the Parliaments of 1990-1996, while teachers have generally outnumbered farmers in Parliaments since. In 2014 about eight percent of MPs were previously lawyers, somewhat below the average share in parliaments since 1990. Two percent of MPs in 2014 were previously union workers, the lowest share in the 1990-2014 period, while declines in the share by accountants and engineers can also be noted.

Table 5: Previous Occupations of MPs 1996-2014 (%)

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	1996	1999	2002	2005	2008	2011	2014
Businessperson	18	17	19	20	11	20	23
Manager/Administrator	8	6	8	9	16	13	17
Teacher	17	18	18	15	14	7	10
Local Government	3	5	6	3	2	8	9
Lawyer	8	8	10	7	15	10	8
Public servant ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Farmer	13	12	8	10	8	7	5
Media	3	2	2	1	3	5	5
Consultant	6	8	6	7	2	4	3
Health professional ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Trade Unionist	7	6	8	7	5	4	2
Accountant	4	3	2	2	4	1	1
Engineer	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
Other (or not stated)	11	13	12	17	16	19	6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1) Businessperson includes company directors, the self-employed, real estate agents, investment bankers, and chairpersons. 'Teacher' includes lecturers and school principals. The category of 'manager/administrator' includes financial administrator, voluntary sector administrator, and executive officers of public agencies. 'Other' includes those working for non-governmental organisations, and MPs whose previous occupation is publicly unavailable.

2) Prior to 2014, 'Public servants' and 'health professionals' were included in the 'Other' category.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, NZ Official Yearbook; MPs' biographies as listed on political party websites.

Voter Enrolment

Over 3.14 million people were enrolled to vote in the 2014 general election, or 92.6% of the estimated 3.39 million eligible voting age population (VAP) – about the average enrolment ratio for MMP elections, although below the 95.3% of the VAP who were enrolled in 2008.

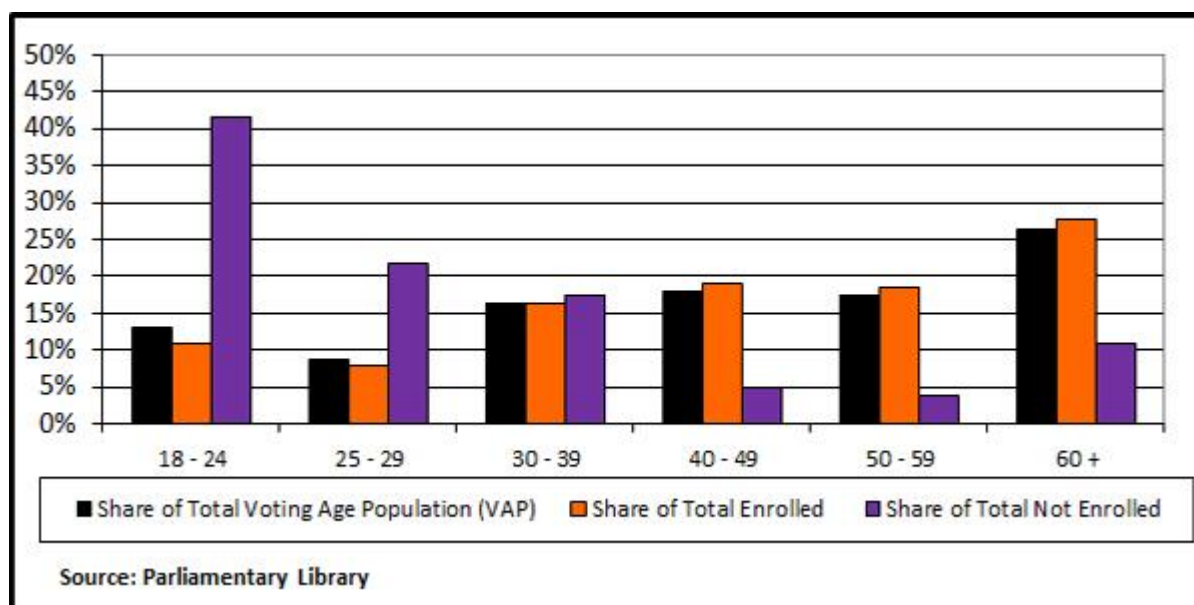
A total of 441,492 New Zealand voters of Māori descent were enrolled – 239,941 (54%) were enrolled on the Māori roll and 201,551 (46%) were enrolled on the general roll. Therefore 92.9% of the estimated Māori descent population of 475,100 were enrolled for the 2014 election – similar to the enrolment rate on the General Roll.

Figure 8 shows the differences in voting age population cohorts, enrolment, and non-enrolment by age group. For example, the 60+ age group is now the single largest voting cohort (898,320 voters), and in 2014 represented 27% of all voters, up from the 21% share this age group accounted for in 1993. By comparison, voters under 30 years now represent 22% of all voters, down from the 28% share this cohort accounted for in 1990.

Figure 8 also shows that enrolment by age group is not uniform. Voters aged over 40 years tend to enrol in proportion to their share of the total voting age population. However, while voters under 40 years comprise just over one-third (34.8%) of those enrolled, this cohort account for 80.5% of the quarter of a million people (250,683) who were not enrolled for the 2014 election.

Enrolment by electorate is also not uniform; it ranges from 75.1% in Auckland Central to 99.6% in Tauranga. The seven electorates with the lowest enrolment rates are also those with high student populations: Palmerston North (86.8% of the VAP enrolled); Christchurch Central (86.8%); Wellington Central (85.7%); Ilam (84.4%); Christchurch East (83.1%); Dunedin North (82.7%); Auckland Central (75.1%).⁴

Figure 8: 2014: Age-Group Shares of Voting Age population, Enrolment, Non-Enrolment



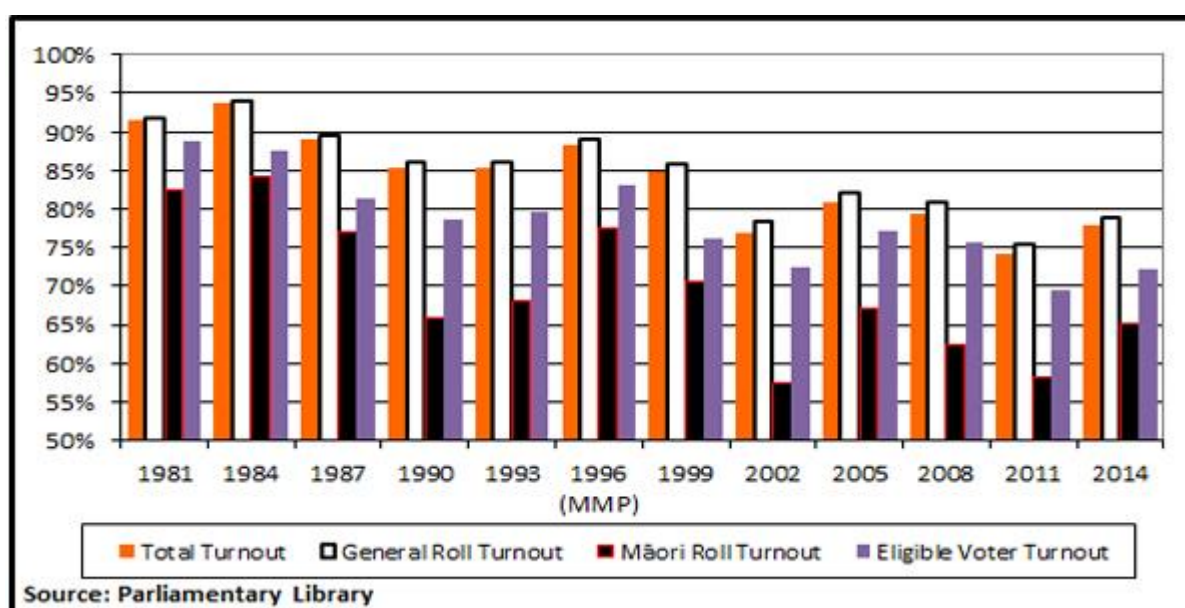
⁴ For comparisons of election results and 2013 census rankings of electorates see individual electorate profiles compiled by the Parliamentary Library at: <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/mpp/electorates>

Voter Turnout

Figure 9 shows that voter turnout (total party votes cast as a proportion of enrolled electors) for the 2014 General Election was 77.9% overall, an increase on the 74.2% overall turnout of those enrolled in 2011. As a measure of political participation, total voter turnout in New Zealand between 1981 and 2014 has averaged 83.9% – a high level of voter participation when compared with other Western democracies. However, MMP does not appear to have increased voter turnout by those enrolled. In FPP elections from 1981 to 1993, the average overall turnout was 88.9%; in MMP elections from 1996 to 2014 the average overall turnout was 80.4%.

Turnout of the VAP (votes cast as a proportion of the total voting age population) was 72.1%; this is the second-lowest since the Second World War after the 69.6% turnout of the VAP in 2011. In total, almost a million people did not vote in 2014; 250,683 were not enrolled, while 694,120 were enrolled but did not turn out to vote.

Figure 9: Voter Turnout by Roll, 1981-2014



Voter turnout of those on the Māori roll generally falls below that of those on the general roll. In the 2014 election the turnout of those on the Māori roll was 65.1% – an increase from the 2011 Māori roll turnout of 58.2%, but the fourth-lowest in any election since the first Māori roll was compiled in 1949.

MMP also does not appear to have increased voter participation by those on the Māori roll. About three quarters (75.5%) of those on the Māori roll voted on average in FPP elections between 1981 and 1993; on average in MMP elections between 1996 and 2014, about two thirds (65.5%) of these electors voted.

Table 6 lists the general electorates with the highest and lowest turnouts in 2014. Of the ten general electorates with the highest turnouts (votes cast to enrolled electors), five are from the Wellington region. Nine of the ten general electorates with the lowest turnout are from the Auckland region. As can be seen from Table 6, the general electorate with the lowest turnout (Māngere) had a higher turnout than the Māori electorate with the highest turnout (Te Tai Tokerau).

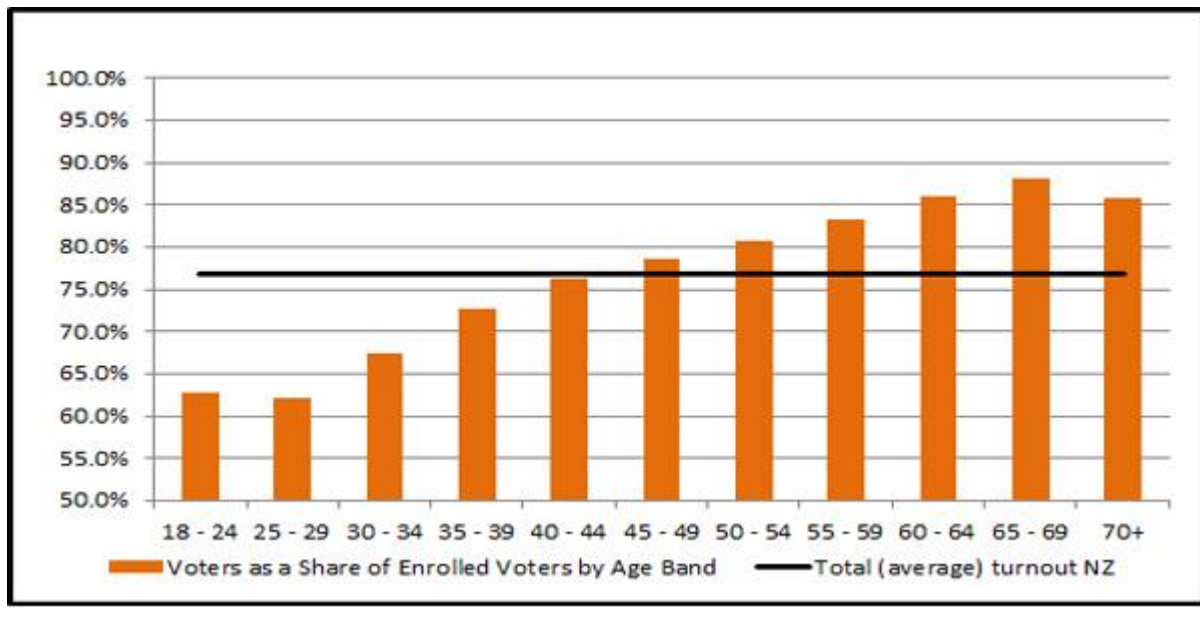
Table 6: Electorates with Highest and Lowest Turnouts

General Electorates with Highest Turnouts	2014 Turnout (%)	2011 Turnout (%)
Wellington Central	84.6	82.4
Selwyn	84.4	79.2
Ōhāriu	83.7	81.6
Rongotai	83.6	81.5
Ōtaki	83.1	80.2
Helensville	82.9	75.7
Mana	82.3	79.5
Rodney	82.2	78.9
Waitaki	82.0	78.7
Dunedin South	82.0	77.9
Average (General Electorates)	79.0	75.5

General Electorates with Lowest Turnouts	2014 Turnout (%)	2011 Turnout (%)
East Coast Bays	75.9	71.6
Hamilton West	75.7	72.8
Pakuranga	75.5	71.9
Mt Roskill	75.0	71.8
Kelston	74.3	...
Upper Harbour	74.3	...
Botany	71.9	67.0
Manurewa	70.2	67.0
Manukau East	69.7	67.8
Māngere	69.4	67.1
Turnout in the Māori Electorates	2014 Turnout (%)	2011 Turnout (%)
Te Tai Tokerau	69.3	61.6
Waiairiki	66.3	59.9
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	66.3	58.8
Te Tai Hauāuru	65.9	58.7
Hauraki-Waikato	63.6	56.9
Te Tai Tonga	63.6	57.0
Tāmaki Makaurau	60.6	54.8
Average (Māori electorates)	65.1	58.2
TOTAL (All Electorates)	77.9	74.2
Turnout = total votes cast as a share of total enrolled. Source: NZ Electoral Commission, 2014 election results, http://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2014/e9/html/statistics.html		

For the first time the Electoral Commission has provided a breakdown of voter turnout by age band. Figure 10 shows that those age cohorts over the age of 45 had above average (76.8%) turnout in the 2014 election. Those aged 65-69 had the highest turnout (88.1%), followed by those aged 60-64 (86.0%), and those aged 70 or older (85.8%). The age cohorts under 40 had the lowest levels of turnout in the 2014 election; those aged 25-29 had the lowest turnout, with less than two-thirds (62.1%) turning out to vote. In total, over half (50.9%) of those who were enrolled but who did not turn out to vote were aged under 40.

Figure 10: 2014 Voter Turnout by Age Band



In accordance with Section 8(1) of the Electoral Act 1993, the Electoral Commission must report within 6 months of the return of the writ (10 October 2014), on the administration and delivery of the 2014 General Election.⁵ Among other matters, the Commission must report on enrolment and voting statistics.

It is also usual for the Justice and Electoral Committee to hold an inquiry into each general election; the Committee initiated its inquiry into the 2014 general election on 30th October 2014 and submissions close on the 31st March 2015.⁶

The date for the next New Zealand general election can be no later than Saturday 18th November 2017.

⁵ See Electoral Act 1993 available at: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0087/latest/DLM307519.html>

⁶ The Report of the Justice and Electoral Committee on its inquiry into the 2011 general election was released in April 2013. See Inquiry into the 2011 general election: Report of the Justice and Electoral Committee at http://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/50DBSCH_SCR5837_1/095840b4b75b7b58a13ef77629e118aec6036439

Selected References

Election Results – The New Zealand Electoral Commission,
http://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2014/

Enrolment Statistics – The New Zealand Electoral Commission,
<http://www.elections.org.nz/ages/>

2014 General Election Voter Turnout Statistics by Age Band– The New Zealand Electoral Commission, <http://www.elections.org.nz/events/2014-general-election/election-results-and-reporting/2014-general-election-voter-turnout>

Final Results for the 2011 New Zealand General Election and Referendum, John Wilson, Parliamentary Library Research Paper, 2012/02, March 2012, Parliamentary Library.
<http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/parl-support/research-papers/00PLLaw2012021/final-results-for-the-2011-new-zealand-general-election>

Parliamentary Voting Systems in New Zealand and the Referendum on MMP, John Wilson, Parliamentary Library Research Paper, 2011/03, November 2011, Parliamentary Library.
<http://ourhouse.parliament.nz/en-NZ/ParlSupport/ResearchPapers/9/0/f/00PLLawRP11031-Parliamentary-Voting-Systems-in-New-Zealand-and-the.htm>

For voting, social, and economic statistics by electorate see the electorate profiles compiled by the Parliamentary Library at: <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/mpp/electorates>

Dr John Wilson, Research Services Analyst,

Parliament, Law and People Team,

Parliamentary Library

For more information, contact John.Wilson@parliament.govt.nz, or Tel: 817 9358.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence. In essence, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to the Parliamentary Library and abide by the other licence terms. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/nz/>.

Appendix 1: 2014 Members of Parliament by Electorate

Electorate	Member	Party	Margin in Seat	Change in Party	Change in MP
Auckland Central	KAYE, Nikki	National	600	No	No
Bay of Plenty	MULLER, Todd	National	15,096	No	Yes
Botany	ROSS, Jami-Lee	National	13,495	No	No
Christchurch Central	WAGNER, Nicky	National	2,420	No	No
Christchurch East	WILLIAMS, Poto	Labour	4,073	No	No
Clutha-Southland	BARCLAY, Todd	National	14,886	No	Yes
Coromandel	SIMPSON, Scott	National	15,801	No	No
Dunedin North	CLARK, David	Labour	5,917	No	No
Dunedin South	CURRAN, Clare	Labour	3,858	No	No
East Coast	TOLLEY, Anne	National	7,934	No	No
East Coast Bays	McCULLY, Murray	National	15,034	No	No
Epsom	SEYMOUR, David	ACT	4,250	No	Yes
Hamilton East	BENNETT, David	National	10,199	No	No
Hamilton West	MACINDOE, Tim	National	5,784	No	No
Helensville	KEY, John	National	18,287	No	No
Hunua	BAYLY, Andrew	National	17,376	No	Yes
Hutt South	MALLARD, Trevor	Labour	709	No	No
Ilam	BROWNLEE, Gerry	National	11,898	No	No
Invercargill	DOWIE, Sarah	National	7,482	No	Yes
Kaikōura	SMITH, Stuart	National	12,570	No	Yes
Kelston	SEPULONI, Carmel	Labour	5,367	-	-
Mana	FAAFOI, Kris	Labour	7,953	No	No
Māngere	SIO, Sua William	Labour	14,933	No	No
Manukau East	SALESA, Jenny	Labour	13,254	No	Yes
Manurewa	WALL, Louisa	Labour	6,402	No	No
Maungakiekie	LOTU-IIGA, Peseta Sam	National	2,348	No	No
Mt Albert	SHEARER, David	Labour	10,656	No	No
Mt Roskill	GOFF, Phil	Labour	8,091	No	No
Napier	NASH, Stuart	Labour	3,850	Yes	Yes
Nelson	SMITH, Nick	National	7,605	No	No
New Lynn	CUNLIFFE, David	Labour	4,557	No	No
New Plymouth	YOUNG, Jonathan	National	9,778	No	No
North Shore	BARRY, Maggie	National	16,503	No	No
Northcote	COLEMAN, Jonathan	National	9,664	No	No
Northland	SABIN, Mike	National	9,300	No	No
Ōhāriu	DUNNE, Peter	United Future	710	No	No
Ōtaki	GUY, Nathan	National	7,782	No	No
Pakuranga	WILLIAMSON, Maurice	National	12,867	No	No
Palmerston North	LEES-GALLOWAY, Iain	Labour	2,212	No	No
Papakura	COLLINS, Judith	National	5,119	No	No
Port Hills	DYSON, Ruth	Labour	2,228	No	No

Electorate	Member	Party	Margin in Seat	Change in Party	Change in MP
Rangitāta	GOODHEW, Jo	National	14,107	No	No
Rangitīkei	McKELVIE, Ian	National	11,060	No	No
Rimutaka	HIPKINS, Chris	Labour	6,664	No	No
Rodney	MITCHELL, Mark	National	20,230	No	No
Rongotai	KING, Annette	Labour	9,617	No	No
Rotorua	McCLAY, Todd	National	7,418	No	No
Selwyn	ADAMS, Amy	National	20,561	No	No
Tāmaki	O'CONNOR, Simon	National	20,421	No	No
Taranaki-King Country	KURIGER, Barbara	National	16,773	No	Yes
Taupō	UPSTON, Louise	National	15,046	No	No
Tauranga	BRIDGES, Simon	National	14,842	No	No
Te Atatū	TWYFORD, Phil	Labour	2,813	No	No
Tukituki	FOSS, Craig	National	6,490	No	No
Upper Harbour	BENNETT, Paula	National	9,692	-	-
Waikato	TISCH, Lindsay	National	16,169	No	No
Waimakariri	DOOCEY, Matt	National	2,506	No	Yes
Wairarapa	SCOTT, Alastair	National	6,771	No	Yes
Waitaki	DEAN, Jacqui	National	16,668	No	No
Wellington Central	ROBERTSON, Grant	Labour	8,267	No	No
West Coast-Tasman	O'CONNOR, Damien	Labour	4,094	No	No
Whanganui	BORROWS, Chester	National	4,505	No	No
Whangarei	RETI, Shane	National	13,169	No	Yes
Wigram	WOODS, Megan	Labour	3,330	No	No
Hauraki-Waikato	MAHUTA, Nanaia	Labour	7,695	No	No
Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	WHAITIRI, Meka	Labour	4,673	No	No
Tāmaki Makaurau	HENARE, Peeni	Labour	1,462	Yes	Yes
Te Tai Hauāuru	RURAWHE, Adrian	Labour	1,554	Yes	Yes
Te Tai Tokerau	DAVIS, Kelvin	Labour	743	Yes	Yes
Te Tai Tonga	TIRIKATENE, Rino	Labour	3,554	No	No
Waiariki	FLAVELL, Te Ururoa	Māori	3,889	No	No
Total electorates won by National		41			
Total electorates won by Labour		27			
Total electorates won by Māori		1			
Total electorates won by ACT		1			
Total electorates won by United Future		1			
Total electorates won by Green Party		0			
Total electorates won by New Zealand First		0			
Total electorates		71			
Total electorates won by an MP from a different party than 2011				4	
Total electorates won by a different MP than 2011					15

Appendix 2: Members of Parliament by Party and by List Ranking

National Party		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
KEY, John	Helensville	1
ENGLISH, Bill	List Seat	2
CARTER, David	List Seat	3
BROWNE, Gerry	Ilam	4
JOYCE, Steven	List Seat	5
COLLINS, Judith	Papakura	6
PARATA, Hekia	List Seat	7
FINLAYSON, Christopher	List Seat	8
BENNETT, Paula	Upper Harbour	9
COLEMAN, Jonathan	Northcote	10
McCULLY, Murray	East Coast Bays	11
TOLLEY, Anne	East Coast	12
SMITH, Nick	Nelson	13
GROSER, Tim	List Seat	14
ADAMS, Amy	Selwyn	15
GUY, Nathan	Ōtaki	16
FOSS, Craig	Tukituki	17
BRIDGES, Simon	Tauranga	18
KAYE, Nikki	Auckland Central	19
WOODHOUSE, Michael	List Seat	20
GOODHEW, Jo	Rangitā	21
BORROWS, Chester	Whanganui	22
McCLAY, Todd	Rotorua	23
LOTU-IIGA, Peseta Sam	Maungakiekie	24
WAGNER, Nicky	Christchurch Central	25
TISCH, Lindsay	Waikato	26
UPSTON, Louise	Taupō	27
MACINDOE, Tim	Hamilton West	28
ROSS, Jami-Lee	Botany	29
GOLDSMITH, Paul	List Seat	30
LEE, Melissa	List Seat	31
BAKSHI, Kanwaljit Singh	List Seat	32
YANG, Jian	List Seat	33
NGARO, Alfred	List Seat	34
WILLIAMSON, Maurice	Pakuranga	35
DEAN, Jacqui	Waitaki	36
BENNETT, David	Hamilton East	37
YOUNG, Jonathan	New Plymouth	38
HUDSON, Brett	List Seat	39
BARRY, Maggie	North Shore	40
McKELVIE, Ian	Rangitīkei	41
MITCHELL, Mark	Rodney	42
O'CONNOR, Simon	Tāmaki	43
SABIN, Mike	Northland	44
SIMPSON, Scott	Coromandel	45
FOSTER-BELL, Paul	List Seat	46
HAYES, Jo	List Seat	47
PARMAR, Parmjeet	List Seat	48
BISHOP, Chris	List Seat	49
KORAKO, Nuk	List Seat	50
NAYLOR, Jono	List Seat	51

BARCLAY, Todd	Clutha-Southland	54
BAYLY, Andrew	Hunua	55
DOOCEY, Matt	Waimakariri	56
DOWIE, Sarah	Invercargill	57
KURIGER, Barbara	Taranaki-King Country	58
MULLER, Todd	Bay of Plenty	59
RETI, Shane	Whangarei	60
SCOTT, Alastair	Wairarapa	61
SMITH, Stuart	Kaikōura	62
National Party Electorate MPs	41	
National Party List MPs	19	
Total National Party MPs	60	

Labour Party		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
CUNLIFFE, David	New Lynn	1
PARKER, David	List Seat	2
ROBERTSON, Grant	Wellington Central	3
KING, Annette	Rongotai	4
ARDERN, Jacinda	List Seat	5
MAHUTA, Nanaia	Hauraki-Waikato	6
TWYFORD, Phil	Te Atatū	7
COSGROVE, Clayton	List Seat	8
HIPKINS, Chris	Rimutaka	9
MORONEY, Sue	List Seat	10
LITTLE, Andrew	List Seat	11
WALL, Louisa	Manurewa	12
SHEARER, David	Mt Albert	13
SIO, Sua William	Māngere	14
GOFF, Phil	Mt Roskill	16
DAVIS, Kelvin	Te Tai Tokerau	18
WHAITIRI, Meka	Ikaroa-Rāwhiti	19
WOODS, Megan	Wigram	20
O'CONNOR, Damien	West Coast-Tasman	22
LEES-GALLOWAY, Iain	Palmerston North	24
CLARK, David	Dunedin North	26
WILLIAMS, Poto	Christchurch East	28
SEPULONI, Carmel	Kelston	29
SALESA, Jenny	Manukau East	31
CURRAN, Clare	Dunedin South	none
DYSON, Ruth	Port Hills	none
FAAFOI, Kris	Mana	none
HENARE, Peeni	Tāmaki Makaurau	none
MALLARD, Trevor	Hutt South	none
NASH, Stuart	Napier	none
RURAWHE, Adrian	Te Tai Hauāuru	none
TIRIKATENE, Rino	Te Tai Tonga	none
Labour Party Electorate MPs	27	
Labour Party List MPs	5	
Total Labour Party MPs	32	

Green Party		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
TUREI, Metiria	List Seat	1
NORMAN, Russel	List Seat	2
HAGUE, Kevin	List Seat	3
SAGE, Eugenie	List Seat	4
HUGHES, Gareth	List Seat	5
DELAHUNTY, Catherine	List Seat	6
GRAHAM, Kennedy	List Seat	7
GENTER, Julie Anne	List Seat	8
MATHERS, Mojo	List Seat	9
LOGIE, Jan	List Seat	10
CLENDON, David	List Seat	11
SHAW, James	List Seat	12
ROCHE, Denise	List Seat	13
BROWNING, Steffan	List Seat	14
Green Party Electorate MPs	0	
Green Party List MPs	14	
Total Green Party MPs	14	

New Zealand First		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
PETERS, Winston	List seat	1
MARTIN, Tracey	List seat	2
PROSSER, Richard	List seat	3
TABUTEAU, Fletcher	List seat	4
STEWART, Barbara	List seat	5
MITCHELL, Clayton	List seat	6
O'ROURKE, Denis	List seat	7
PARAONE, Pita	List seat	8
MARK, Ron	List seat	9
BALL, Darroch	List seat	10
BINDRA, Mahesh	List seat	11
New Zealand First Electorate MPs	0	
New Zealand First List MPs	11	
Total New Zealand First MPs	11	

Māori Party		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
FLAVELL, Te Ururoa	Waiariki Electorate	1
FOX, Marama	List Seat	2
Māori Party Electorate MPs	1	
Māori Party List MPs	1	
Total Māori Party MPs	2	

ACT		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
David Seymour	Epsom	none
ACT Electorate MPs	1	
ACT List MPs	0	
Total ACT MPs	1	

United Future		
Member of Parliament	Electorate / List Seat	List Rank
DUNNE, Peter	Ōhāriu Electorate	1
United Future Electorate MPs	1	
United Future List MPs	0	
Total United Future MPs	1	