

Media Kit

Mt Albert
By-Election 2009



www.elections.org.nz

ELECTIONS

Mt Albert By-Election Media Information

A Parliamentary by-election will be held in the Mt Albert electorate on Saturday 13 June 2009.

Polling places will be open from 9.00am and 7.00pm on the day, and preliminary results are expected to be available from www.electionresults.govt.nz from 7.00pm on election day.

Enclosed is background information on the by-election:

- **Timeline** for the Mt Albert By-election
- **Electorate statistics:** including turnout and votes cast for the past three General Elections
- **Candidate and Party Vote statistics** for the Mt Albert electorate for the 2008 General Election
- **Campaigning Rules Information**
- **Questions and Answers**

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www.elections.org.nz

www.electionresults.govt.nz

The elections Freephone number for the public is 0800 36 76 56.

13 June Mt Albert By-election Timetable

Date	Activity
Monday 20 April 2009	Speaker of the House publishes notice of vacancy in <i>Gazette</i>
	By-election date announced
Monday 11 May 2009	Writ Day Governor General issues direction to the Chief Electoral Officer to hold the Mt Albert by-election Electoral Rolls closed for printing Voters enrolled after this date cast a special declaration vote
Tuesday 12 May 2009	Nominations called for by public notice - advertising calling for candidates in the Mt Albert by-election
Noon Tuesday 19 May 2009	Nominations close for candidates in the Mt Albert by-election
4.00pm target Tuesday 19 May 2009	Mt Albert by-election candidates announced by Chief Electoral Officer Information on where to vote available from www.elections.org.nz
Wednesday 27 May 2009	Advance Voting starts in the Mt Albert electorate and at Registrar of Electors Offices around the country Overseas Voting starts
Saturday 6 June 2009	EasyVote information packs available for those enrolled in the Mt Albert electorate
Friday 12 June 2009	Enrolments close All political advertising ceases and election signs taken down by midnight
Saturday 13 June 2009	Mt Albert By-election held Polling places open from 9.00am to 7.00pm. Polling places will be located in the Mt Albert electorate Preliminary Results progressively available from 7pm on www.electionresults.govt.nz . Targets for release are: - by 8.30pm all advance vote results - by 10.00pm results from 50% of polling places - by 11.30pm results from 100% of polling places. These are targets not guarantees.
Thursday 25 June 2009	Official Results declared (including special declaration and overseas votes)
Tuesday 30 June 2009	Deadline for applications for judicial recount
	Return of Writ by Chief Electoral Officer naming successful candidate* presuming no recount

Quick Guide to Candidate Rules

Topic	Candidates can	Candidates can't
Radio and television election advertising	<p>Promote their own election in the period from writ day to the day before polling day</p> <p>Identify the party they represent and its policies in order to promote their own election</p>	<p>Broadcast outside the period from writ day to the day before polling day</p> <p>Broadcast on polling day</p> <p>Attack other candidates or parties</p> <p>Broadcast without including the name and street address of the person authorising the advertisement</p>
Election advertising (other than television and radio)	<p>Promote their own election</p> <p>Attack the policies of other candidates or parties</p> <p>Display on polling day fixed signs that do not refer to the election on party or campaign headquarters</p> <p>Operate a website on polling day</p>	<p>Publish without including the name and street address of the person authorising the advertisement</p> <p>Publish on polling day</p> <p>Display in view of a public place on polling day</p> <p>Display on vehicles (including bumper stickers) in view of a public place on polling day</p> <p>Display on polling day signs that refer to the election on party or campaign headquarters</p> <p>Put new material on a website on polling day</p> <p>Advertise a website on polling day</p> <p>Use systems on polling day that make website advertising available to persons who haven't voluntarily accessed the website</p>

Topic	Candidates can	Candidates can't
Election expenses (promoting the candidate)	<p>Spend without limit on printed advertising to promote their election up until three months before polling day</p> <p>Spend up to \$40,000 (incl GST) on printed and broadcast advertising and publicity in the three months before polling day</p>	<p>Spend more than \$40,000 (incl GST) on printed and broadcast advertising in the three months before polling day</p> <p>File their return of election expenses and donations later than 70 working days after polling day</p>
Party lapel badges (a badge or rosette designed to be worn on the lapel) on polling day	<p>Feature the party name, emblem, slogan or logo on a party lapel badge</p> <p>Wear the lapel badge themselves</p> <p>Have scrutineers, party officials, or supporters wear them</p>	<p>Display party lapel badges on vehicles or in other places</p> <p>Feature their name on a badge</p> <p>Permit clothing to be worn on polling day promoting the candidate or party</p>
Streamers, rosettes, ribbons and similar items on polling day	<p>Display these in party colours</p> <p>Have candidates, scrutineers, party officials or supporters wear them</p> <p>Display them on vehicles</p>	<p>Feature the party name, emblem, slogan or logo on the streamers etc</p> <p>Display them on anything other than people or vehicles</p>

Mt Albert Electorate Statistics

	Mt Albert Electorate		
	2008	2005	2002
Enrolments	44,436	40,698	38,305
Total votes cast ¹	35,625	32,680	29,110
Turnout	80.2 %	80.3 %	76 %
Number of special votes cast	6,098	5,321	4,927
Number of advance votes	3,301	2,128	1,449
Number of overseas votes	800	601	337
Winning candidate majority	10,351	14,749	16,024

¹ Includes disallowed votes

Mt Albert Electorate Results 2008 General Election

Electorate Votes			Party Votes		
Candidate	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes	Party	Valid Votes	% Share of Valid Votes
Majority		10,351			
CARAPIET, Jon	2,019	5.94%	Green	3,846	11.00%
CLARK, Helen	20,157	59.29%	Labour	14,894	42.60%
DAWSON, Christian	249	0.73%	Kiwi Party	157	0.45%
LLEWELL, Dave	53	0.16%	Republic of New Zealand	16	0.05%
McCABE, Kathleen	1,392	4.09%	ACT New Zealand	1,227	3.51%
MUSUKU, Ravi	9,806	28.84%	National	12,468	35.66%
SIILATA, Milo	234	0.69%	New Zealand Pacific	273	0.78%
Van den HEUVAL, Anthony Joseph	87	0.26%	Alliance	19	0.05%
			Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party	101	0.29%
			Democrats for Social Credit	7	0.02%
			Family Party	92	0.26%
			Jim Anderton's Progressive	244	0.70%
			Libertarianz	16	0.05%
			Māori Party	273	0.78%
			New Zealand First Party	936	2.68%
			RAM - Residents Action Movement	19	0.05%
			The Bill and Ben Party	132	0.38%
			United Future	232	0.66%
			Workers Party	11	0.03%
Candidate Informals	410		Party Informals	256	
Total Electorate Candidate Votes Cast	34,407		Total Party Votes Cast	35,219	

Mt Albert By-Election - Questions and Answers

Voting

1. Who can vote in the Mt Albert by-election?

Only people enrolled in the Mt Albert electorate can vote in the by-election. They must be enrolled to vote by Friday 12 June - the day before election day.

2. Where can people vote?

On election day people can vote at one of the polling places within the Mt Albert electorate boundaries. Where possible the polling places for the 2008 General Election will be used. There will be no polling places outside the Mt Albert electorate on election day.

People who can't vote in the electorate on election day can vote in advance at an advance voting place in the electorate or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country.

People overseas can vote in person at the :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - London, England | Location to be confirmed |
| - Washington, USA | New Zealand Embassy |
| - Apia, Samoa | New Zealand Embassy |
| - New Delhi, India | New Zealand Embassy |
| - Rarotonga, Cook Islands | New Zealand Embassy |
| - Beijing, China | New Zealand Embassy |
| - Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Australia | Electoral Commission Offices |

3. When can people vote?

Polling places in the Mt Albert electorate are open from 9.00am to 7.00pm on election day, Saturday 13 June.

People who need to vote in advance, those going overseas or those overseas already can vote from Wednesday 27 May.

4. Where will the polling places be?

The number of polling places inside the Mt Albert electorate and their locations are being finalised now. Where possible the polling place locations used in Mt Albert for the 2008 General Election will be used for the 13 June by-election

The polling places will be in locations such as school and community halls.

5. How many polling places will there be?

We expect there will be around 28 polling places in the electorate.

6. Will there be an EasyVote pack?

Yes. Voter information packs will be sent during the week before election day to everyone who was enrolled by Monday 11 May. These packs will include

- the candidates for the Mt Albert by-election
- advance voting facilities and
- the polling places for the Mt Albert electorate.

The packs will also include a personalised *EasyVote* card. This will have

- the person's name,
- their address, and
- the page and line number they appear on the Mt Albert electoral roll.

7. What if a person doesn't get an EasyVote card, can they still vote?

Yes. The EasyVote card has been designed to make the voting process easier, but people can vote without it.

8. Will there be a party vote and an electorate vote?

The by-election is to elect a new Member of Parliament for the Mt Albert electorate.

There is only one vote in the by-election, the vote for the electorate candidate.

9. Where do voters find out information about where, when and how to vote?

Information on where, when and how to vote is contained in the EasyVote pack.

Information is also available from www.elections.org.nz or 0800 36 76 56. Copies of brochures are also available by calling the 0800 number or emailing vote@elections.org.nz.

VOTING – BEFORE SATURDAY 13 JUNE

10. What do people do if they are not in the Mt Albert electorate on Saturday 13 June?

People can vote in advance from Wednesday 27 May either in the electorate, or at any Registrar of Electors office around the country.

11. Will people be able to vote outside their electorate on election day?

No. Voting facilities will only be available in the electorate on election day.

If someone is outside their electorate on Saturday 13 June they will have to vote in advance.

12. What do people do if they are overseas on Saturday 13 June?

There are four ways people going overseas can vote:

1. make an advance vote before leaving New Zealand from Wednesday 27 May.
2. download voting papers from the internet: www.elections.org.nz
3. apply for postal voting papers
4. vote in person at an overseas post:

People overseas can vote in person at the :

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| - London, England | Location to be confirmed |
| - Washington, USA | New Zealand Embassy |
| - Apia, Samoa | New Zealand Embassy |

- New Delhi, India New Zealand Embassy
- Rarotonga, Cook Islands New Zealand Embassy
- Beijing, China New Zealand Embassy
- Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Australia Electoral Commission Offices

Voting papers need to be posted or faxed back, NOT e-mailed.

13. What if a person can't get to a polling place on 13 June?

Options include:

- voting in advance
- applying for a postal vote
- arranging for another person to collect the voting papers from a polling place or advance voting place.

14. What options are available for a person in a rest home?

If a person is in a rest home in the Mt Albert electorate, the Mt Albert Returning Officer will send someone to take their vote.

If a person can't get to a polling place because they are sick, infirm or have a disability, help may be available by contacting the Mt Albert Returning Officer.

15. What are the boundaries of the Mt Albert electorate?

The Mt Albert electorate includes the communities of Waterview, Mt Albert, Sandringham, Kingsland and Pt Chevalier. Maps of the electorate can be viewed on <http://www.elections.org.nz/mapping/>

Candidates

1. Who can be a candidate in the Mt Albert by-election?

To be a candidate, you must be enrolled in any electorate, be a New Zealand citizen and not be disqualified from enrolling.

2. What is the nomination process?

Two people enrolled in the electorate must nominate the candidate by lodging an individual nomination paper with the Mt Albert Returning Officer by noon on nomination day Tuesday 19 May 2009.

3. What are the election expense rules?

Detailed information is contained in the Chief Electoral Office's *"Information for Parliamentary Candidates - By-elections"* guide and the Electoral Act 1993.

Election expenses are primarily advertising and other publicity costs within three months of election day that:

- Encourage or appear to encourage voters to vote for the candidate: or
- Discourage or appear to discourage voters from voting for another candidate.

Rules include:

- The amount candidates can incur in election expenses in the three months before the by-election day is limited to \$40,000 (inc GST)
- Candidates (or their agent) must give written authorisation before any advertisement promoting their election can be published.
- The advertisement must state the name and business or residential address of the person directing it to be published.
- Campaigning is forbidden on the day of the by-election.

4. What are the rules relating to donations?

Candidate donations and contributions to donations of \$1,000 or more must be declared. Candidates are not allowed to keep anonymous or overseas donations of more than \$1,000.

5. Are there limits on how much can be spent on campaigning?

Yes. A maximum of \$40,000 (including gst).

6. Are there broadcasting allocations?

There are no broadcasting allocations. These only apply to party campaigning.

7. Are candidate's required to appoint a financial agent?

No. This is no longer a requirement.