

October 19, 2020

## NEW ZEALAND GENERAL ELECTION 2020

### Provisional results

Party	Votes	Vote Share	Electoralates held	Total Seats
<b>Labour</b>	1,171,544	49.1%	43	64
<b>National</b>	638,606	26.8%	26	35
<b>ACT</b>	190,139	8.0%	1	10
<b>Greens</b>	180,347	7.6%	1	10
<b>NZ First</b>	63,534	2.7%	0	0
<b>Māori Party</b>	23,932	1.0%	1	1
<b>Other</b>	115,694	4.8%	0	0
<b>Total</b>	2,383,796	100%	72	120

[Provisional results](#) for the 2020 general election held on October 17 show that Labour has secured a majority of 64 seats to National's 35 in the 120-seat Parliament. The Greens and the ACT Party each have 10 seats. The Māori Party returns to Parliament, having won one seat, while New Zealand First is out of Parliament.

The result is better for Labour than projected by the polls, with a clear majority, and worse for National. This is the first time a single party has won a majority of seats in Parliament since the MMP electoral system was introduced in 1996.

Labour also won far more electorate seats off National than observers had expected, with 14 National seats going to Labour and one to the Greens. A single Labour seat went to the Māori Party in an upset. Labour also won the new electorate of Takanini.

Surprise electorate results include National Deputy Leader Gerry Brownlee losing the seat of Ilam to Sarah Pallett of Labour; the Greens' Chlöe Swarbrick winning Auckland Central from National; Labour's Jo Luxton winning Rangitata from National; and the Māori Party's Rawiri Waititi taking Waiariki from Tamati Coffey.

Some demographic notes: 45% of MPs are female, a record. Labour's caucus is majority female for the first time, as is the Greens'. The Parliament is the most ethnically diverse in New Zealand history with only 65% of MPs Pakeha (New Zealand European)- the Greens' caucus is 50% non-Pakeha and Labour's caucus 47% non-Pakeha. The Parliament has been called the "gayest in the world" with 12 openly gay or lesbian MPs, all from Labour and the Greens.

These results do not include special votes, which have historically seen one or two seats move from National to Labour or the Greens, and may see National lose another electorate (Whangarei). Official results will be released on 6 November.

The Electoral Commission estimates voter turnout of 82.5%, which is the highest since 1999.

Provisional results for the voluntary euthanasia and cannabis legalisation referendums will be released on 30 October. Pre-election polls showed 'yes' ahead for voluntary euthanasia and 'no' ahead for cannabis legalisation.

## Government formation

On the basis of these results, Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party could govern alone but indications are that Labour will seek to make an arrangement with the Greens. So far, Ardern is keeping her cards close to her chest on what will be on offer in any negotiations. She has however stated she expects to form a Government in the next two to three weeks.

A Labour/Green arrangement could take the form of a:

- **Formal coalition agreement.** This would give the Greens a place in Cabinet and would bind them to collective responsibility for decisions made in Cabinet. Given Labour does not require the Greens' votes to govern, this appears unlikely. It would also pose a strategic risk for the Greens as they would be bound to support decisions they had limited power to influence.
- **Confidence and supply agreement.** This is what Labour and the Greens had during the previous term. It would allow for ministerial portfolios outside cabinet and some policy concessions. It would also allow the Greens to publicly distance themselves from the Government where they disagree. This appears to be the most likely outcome.
- **Cooperation agreement.** This is similar to what the Helen Clark Labour Government gave the Greens. It could involve minor policy concessions and 'Government spokesperson' roles which fall short of full Ministerial positions.

A deal with the Greens has advantages for Labour. Labour would have the benefit of keeping on experienced Ministers such as Climate Change Minister James Shaw, it would bring the left into the tent rather than creating critics on two sides, and would allow Labour to supplement its policy platform with the Greens' plans where there is agreement. The Green Party's leadership appears keen to do a deal with Labour, but any deal must be ratified by its members, who expect tangible results.

With the result clear in terms of Labour being able to form a Government, there is no formal caretaker period - the Government can continue as normal, with New Zealand First Ministers still in their roles despite no longer being MPs, until the new Government gets its royal warrants or until 28 days after the election.

It is unclear who will be Deputy Prime Minister in the new Government. The Greens probably do not have the size and leverage to demand it. Labour Deputy Leader Kelvin Davis is the default, however some have speculated Finance Minister Grant Robertson could land the job. Ardern will also have to appoint around six new Ministers to replace attrition and the New Zealand First Ministers, or nine if the Green Ministers need to be replaced as well.

It is unknown whether Labour will seek an arrangement with the Māori Party, however bringing the Māori Party into the Government would appear to have limited benefits for either side given the party brings only one MP. Labour has traditionally seen the Māori Party as a strategic rival in the Māori seats and will be keen to win back the seat of Waiariki in 2023.

## Opposition

National Leader Judith Collins has pledged to remain as Leader of the party and to initiate a review into the election loss.

It is unusual in New Zealand for a party leader to stay on following such a decisive defeat, however given the three leadership changes in the last term and the retirement of possible contenders Amy Adams and Nikki Kaye, there are currently few viable alternatives and none that are obvious. Long-time leadership aspirant Mark Mitchell has denied he will try to roll Collins. Other possible contenders for the leadership could include former leader Simon Bridges and former Air New Zealand CEO Chris Luxon, who is new to Parliament.

The National caucus is 20 MPs smaller than in 2017. It is 70% male and has lost much of its ethnic diversity, with 10 non-Pakeha MPs retiring or losing their seats at the election, just three Māori and one Asian MP left. Its 2020 intake is just five MPs, and only seven MPs have survived from its 2017 intake.

ACT has nine new MPs, having previously only had leader David Seymour in Parliament. This is the first time ACT has had more than a single MP since 2011.

The Māori Party's single MP, Rawiri Waititi has become party co-leader following his election.

### Timeline from here:

- Tuesday: Parties have their first caucus meetings post-election.
- Later this week: Labour-Green negotiations expected to begin towards a governing agreement.
- Two to three weeks: New Government formed, new Ministers sworn in
- 30 October: Preliminary Referendum results
- 6 November: Official election results
- 14 November: Earliest possible date for Parliament to sit. However, we are advised a date in late November is more likely.

### Electoralates changing parties

#### National to Labour

1. East Coast MP Kiri Allan
2. Hamilton East MP Jamie Strange
3. Hamilton West MP Gaurav Sharma
4. Hutt South MP Ginny Andersen
5. Ilam MP Sarah Pallett
6. Nelson MP Rachel Boyack
7. New Plymouth MP Glenn Bennett
8. Northcote MP Shanan Halbert
9. Otaki MP Terisa Ngobi
10. Rangitata MP Jo Luxton
11. Tukituki MP Anna Lorck
12. Upper Harbour MP Vanushi Walters
13. Wairarapa MP Kieran McAnulty
14. Whanganui MP Steph Lewis

### National to Greens

1. Auckland Central MP, Chloe Swarbrick

### Labour to Māori Party

1. Waiariki MP Rawiri Waititi

### New seat won by Labour

1. Takanini- new MP Neru Leavasa

### New MPs

<b>Labour</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>ACT</b>	<b>Māori Party</b>
Ayesha Verrall	Nicola Grigg	Teanau Tuiono	Brooke van Velden	Rawiri Waititi
Vanushi Walters	Christopher Luxon	Elizabeth Kerekere	Nicole McKee	
Camilla Belich	Joseph Mooney	Ricardo Menéndez March	Chris Baillie	
Naisi Chen	Penny Simmonds		Simon Court	
Ibrahim Omer	Simon Watts		James McDowall	
Rachel Brooking			Karen Chhour	
Helen White			Mark Cameron	
Barbara Edmonds			Toni Severin	
Angela Roberts			Damien Smith	
Shanan Halbert				
Neru Leavasa				
Tracey McLellan				
Steph Lewis				
Rachel Boyack				
Arena Williams				
Ingrid Leary				
Sarah Pallett				
Gaurav Sharma				
Terisa Ngobi				
Glen Bennett				
Tangi Utikere				
Anna Lorck				

## Departing MPs

<b>Labour</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Greens</b>	<b>NZ First</b>
<b>Retiring</b>	<b>Retiring</b>	<b>Retiring</b>	<b>Not returned</b>
Clare Curran	Amy Adams	Gareth Hughes	Winston Peters
Ruth Dyson	Maggie Barry		Darroch Ball
Raymond Huo	Paula Bennett		Shane Jones
Iain Lees-Galloway	David Carter		Jenny Marcroft
	Sarah Dowie		Ron Mark
	Nathan Guy		Tracey Martin
	Nikki Kaye		Clayton Mitchell
	Alastair Scott		Mark Patterson
	Anne Tolley		Fletcher Tabuteau
	Nicky Wagner		
	Hamish Walker		
	Jian Yang		
	<b>Not returned</b>		
	Harete Hipango		
	Jonathan Young		
	Tim Macindoe		
	Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi		
	Paulo Garcia		
	Parmjeet Parmar		
	Agnes Loheni		
	Alfred Ngaro		
	Lawrence Yule		
	Brett Hudson		
	Dan Bidois		
	Jo Hayes		

The special votes, yet to be counted, are projected to result in Labour gaining one more seat and National losing one in the final tally. The seat of Whangārei could also change hands from National to Labour once specials are counted as National's Shane Reti is just 164 votes ahead on the preliminary count. This would result in National's Maureen Pugh departing and either Emily Henderson or Lemauga Lydia Sosene becoming a Labour MP, depending on whether or not Henderson wins Whangārei.

### Further commentary

Capital GR Director Neale Jones' post-election commentary is available at:

- [Sunday Star Times column](#)
- [Post-election panel](#) (Newshub Nation)
- [Nine to Noon politics](#) (Radio New Zealand)