

Date Printed: 04/22/2009


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JTS Box Number: IFES\_67  
Tab Number: 109  
Document Title: Your quick guide to MMP  
Document Date: 1996  
Document Country: New Zealand  
Document Language: English  
IFES ID: CE01207



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# Your quick guide to MMP

A cartoon character with a large nose and a wide-eyed, excited expression is shown from the waist up. The character is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. Their right arm is raised high, with the index and middle fingers extended in a 'V' shape. A speech bubble originates from the character's mouth, containing the text 'KEEP THIS HANDY FOR ELECTION DAY!'.

KEEP THIS HANDY  
FOR ELECTION DAY!



Electoral Commission  
*Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri*

## You have two votes, one for a party and one for a person

Your **Party Vote** is for the party you prefer.  
Your **Electorate Vote** is for the person you would like to be the MP for your local electorate.



## But...

A party must get at least 5% of all the **Party Votes** or win an electorate seat to get a share of the seats in Parliament. This is called the threshold. A party that doesn't get over the threshold won't have any seats in Parliament.



### Your Party Vote

**The Party Votes decide the total number of seats each party gets in Parliament.**

You vote for your preferred party with your **Party Vote**. Each party's share of all the **Party Votes** decides its overall share of all the 120 seats in Parliament. (See the last box for how a party's share of seats is made up of its electorate seats and list seats.)

The more seats a party has, the more influence it is likely to have in deciding what laws are passed and how the country is run.



### Your Electorate Vote

**The Electorate Votes decide who will be the MP for your electorate.**

The person who gets the most **Electorate Votes** in each electorate is elected the MP for that seat.

There are 60 General electorates and 5 Maori electorates. So, the **Electorate Votes** will decide 65 of the 120 seats in Parliament.

The other 55 seats in Parliament will be filled by MPs elected from the party lists.

## How a party's share of seats is decided

Each party gets seats in Parliament based on its share of all the **Party Votes**. For example, if a party gets 40% of all the **Party Votes**, it gets 40% of all the seats in Parliament: 40% of 120 seats = 48 seats.

If another party gets 10% of all the **Party Votes**, it gets 10% of all the seats in Parliament, i.e. 12 seats.

And so on.



## The Party List MPs

Remember, the total number of seats for each party is decided by its share of all the **Party Votes** - provided it gets over the threshold. A party's seats are filled by list MPs, electorate MPs, or a combination of both.

If a party has some electorate MPs but not enough to reach its rightful total of seats, it tops up to its total with MPs from its party list.

If a party hasn't won any electorate seats, all its MPs will be list MPs.

And a party will not have any list MPs if it has enough electorate MPs to fill its rightful share of seats.





# Any questions?

If you want to know more about MMP or if you want a translation of this leaflet call:

**0800 800 610**

Internet address:  
<http://www.govt.nz/elections>

## MMP: IT TAKES JUST TWO TICKS

**Q: Do I have to give my Electorate Vote to a candidate from the same party that I support with my Party Vote?**

**A:** No. How you vote is up to you. If you want to give your **Electorate Vote** to a candidate from the same party as you support with your **Party Vote**, you tick circles next to each other on the ballot paper.

On the other hand, if you want to give your **Electorate Vote** to a candidate from a different party than you support with your **Party Vote** or to an independent candidate, you tick circles on different lines of the ballot paper.

**Q: Is one vote more important than the other?**

**A:** Both your votes are important for different reasons:

- The **Party Votes** decide each party's share of all 120 seats in Parliament.
- The **Electorate Votes** decide who will be the MP to represent your electorate.

**Q: Do I have to use both my votes?**

**A:** No. You can cast both votes or only one.

**Q: Can an independent candidate still get elected to Parliament?**

**A:** Yes, but only for an electorate seat.

**Q: Can someone be a candidate for an electorate seat and also be on the party's list?**

**A:** Yes. If they win the electorate seat, they come off the party list.

**Q: Does a party list candidate have to stand in an electorate?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Can voters change the order of candidates on a party's list?**

**A:** No.

**Q: How will I know who's on each party's list?**

**A:** All the party lists will be published before election day, and they will be available in all the polling places on election day. The parties are also likely to advertise their lists.



**Electoral Commission**  
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

**YOU HAVE 2 VOTES**

**PARTY VOTE**

*Explanation*  
This vote decides the share of seats which each of the parties listed below will have in Parliament. Vote by putting a tick in the circle immediately after the party you choose.

Vote for only one party

<input type="checkbox"/>	CARROT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEACH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SQUASH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BANANA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BROCCOLI PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	STRAWBERRY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PEAR	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EGGPLANT	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ELECTORATE VOTE**

*Explanation*  
This vote decides the candidate who will be AKATARAWA ELECTORATE. Vote by putting a tick in the circle immediately before the candidate you choose.

Vote for only one candidate

<input type="checkbox"/>	ALLENBY, Fred	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BARNADO, Mary	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	DUMMLOP, Alistair	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EDLINGTON, Antony	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GALAXY, John	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	IRONMONGER, Anne	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	McMADDISON, Emma	<input type="checkbox"/>