



**ELECTION
2026** ✓

Automatic union membership

Getting ready for Election 2026

Workers should join their union automatically

**A new government can make automatic union membership the law.
The choice is ours on 7 November.**

When a worker starts a new job, they should not have to face their employer alone. If a workplace has a collective agreement, it sets the pay, hours, and protections for that job, all won by workers standing together. Automatic union membership means that from their first day, a new worker is part of the union that won those gains, with its backing behind them. Everyone covered by a collective agreement should have a say in it, and a union in their corner. A new government can make it happen, and that choice is ours on 7 November.

What it would mean for workers

- Representation from day one. A new worker starts already covered by the collective agreement and backed by the union, instead of sorting it out alone.
- A say in the pay and conditions that affect them. The workers a collective agreement covers are the ones who get to shape it.
- Fair for everyone. Right now, workers can benefit from what a union won without being part of it. This puts everyone covered in it together, sharing the work and the wins.

How it works

- It applies where there is a collective agreement, or where a union has started bargaining for one. It does not cover every job.
- When a worker starts, the employer passes their details to the union, and the union confirms the membership with them directly.
- It is automatic, not compulsory. A worker can leave the union at any time under its rules, or arrange their own terms with the employer.

Your say

E t ū members have won better pay and conditions for hundreds of thousands of workers through collective agreements. Automatic union membership would let every worker those agreements cover share in that strength from day one. The current Government has spent its term chipping away at the right to organise. A new government can turn that around. **To help make it happen, check you are enrolled before voting opens on 26 October.** See the back page for how.



"It's redress for the attacks which have seen on our conditions erode, with successive governments not undoing the damage from the neoliberal experiment. When you come into a new job where the pay and conditions have been won through collective bargaining, then it's only right that you should be automatically part of the team."

Jason Fell
Groundskeeper



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Make sure you can vote

**The rules have changed.
This time you have to be enrolled before voting opens.**

The decisions that shape your working life are made by the government you elect. To have your say, you need to be enrolled and your details need to be right.

The Government changed the election rules. You can no longer enrol at the voting place. If you are not enrolled in time, you will not be able to vote. If you have moved house since the last election, you will need to update your details.

Key dates

Enrol or update your details by
midnight, Sunday 25 October 2026.

Voting opens **Monday 26
October 2026.**

Election day is **Saturday 7
November 2026.**

Step one: check your enrolment

Go to www.vote.nz and click "Check your enrolment." Enter your name, date of birth, and address. You will see whether you are enrolled, which electorate you are in, and which roll you are on, general or Māori. Many electorate boundaries have changed this year, so check your electorate too. If everything is correct, you are ready to vote when voting opens. If you have moved, update your details.

Who can enrol

You can enrol if you are:

- 18 or older
- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- someone who has lived in New Zealand for 12 months or more.

Step two: enrol or update online

Choose "Enrol to vote" or "Update your details," fill in the form, and submit it. To do it online you need one of these:

- NZ driver licence
- NZ passport
- RealMe verified identity.

If you do not have any of these, there are other ways to enrol. Find more information on www.vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

Get it done today

You must be enrolled or have updated your details by midnight, Sunday 25 October 2026. You cannot enrol once voting opens on 26 October. Do not leave it to the last minute. Head to www.vote.nz and make sure your vote counts in this election.



Check your details

Scan to check or update your enrolment at www.vote.nz



Join E tu

Scan to join the union and stand tall with your workmates.