



**ELECTION
2026** ✓

The Living Wage

Getting ready for Election 2026

We can protect and grow the Living Wage

**A new Government can lock it in and extend it to thousands more workers.
The choice is ours on 7 November.**

The Living Wage is what a worker actually needs to cover the basics and take part in life, not just scrape by. From 1 September 2026 it is \$29.90 an hour, well above the \$23.95 minimum wage, and more than 340 employers already choose to pay it. The current Government tried to strip it from cleaners, caterers, and security guards delivering services through government contracts. Workers campaigned and kept it. A new government could protect the Living Wage for good and extend it to thousands more.

What we can win

- The Living Wage locked into government contracts for good, through protected procurement rules.
- The Living Wage extended across the wider public sector, in health, education, and beyond, so thousands more workers are covered, such as E tū members who doing cleaning and caretaking work in schools.
- A pay floor built on what it actually costs to live, worth around \$12,000 a year more than the minimum wage.

What the current Government did

- Let the minimum wage fall behind the cost of living, taking the lowest-paid workers backwards.
- Moved in 2025 to strip the Living Wage from cleaners, caterers, and security guards on government contracts, until workers campaigned and stopped it.

Your say

E tū members have fought for the Living Wage for over a decade, and helped win it for workers employed by contractors across the public sector. Together we can protect it and grow it. E tū is campaigning for a Government that will lock in the Living Wage and extend it across the wider public sector.

To make it happen, check you are enrolled before voting opens on 26 October.

See the back page for how.



"The Living Wage would mean meat on the table, not noodles. It's about respect - you do a decent day's work, you should be getting a decent day's wages."

Bill Hiku
School caretake



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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.