

Public Servant professionalism — before, during, and after the election

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During an election period, there is increased interest in the work of the Public Service. That's why it's important we continue to maintain our high standards of integrity and demonstrate political neutrality. Our day-to-day mahi will continue but, as public servants, we need to be mindful of a number of things. So, what does being the best Public Servant during (and after!) our General Election look like? Let us help guide you.

Being a good Public Servant

Everyone has their own personal political interests. As public servants, we have the same political rights and freedoms as all New Zealanders. But it's really important to be [politically neutral](#) while at work and representing Kāinga Ora.

In short, we must keep our jobs out of our politics and our politics out of our jobs.



General Election voting closes at 7pm, Saturday 14 October 2023.

What does being politically neutral mean?

Acting in a politically neutral way — by supporting the government of the day to deliver its work, regardless of our own political opinions — ensures we maintain an open and transparent democracy.

This provides confidence to Ministers, our customers and partners, and New Zealanders that we're doing our best for Aotearoa — regardless of who is in power.

Political neutrality also allows us, as public servants, to serve successive governments, which preserves capability and institutional knowledge. This is particularly important in a small country like New Zealand, where specialised skills may be in short supply.

Want to learn more about maintaining political neutrality?

Visit the [Public Service Commission Principles and values.](#)



Anything on social media is public information.

Using social media in your personal life

It's in the name — SOCIAL media. Private comments can become public on social media, so it always pays to think before posting material online and to exercise good judgement when posting.

"Anything on social media is public information, and therefore fair game for media, politicians, or anyone else, so we need to be very wary about what we post," explains Al Witcombe, Director – Governance.

Read this super informative [Walking a fine line during the election period](#) Atamai article for some more guidance around social media.

If you're wanting to learn more about being a good public servant, our [Election Hub](#) is full of useful information, articles, guides, and FAQs.

Visit our Election Hub!

kaingaora.sharepoint.com

This hub is a one-stop-shop of information and advice about General Election 2023. More information will be added over time, so keep checking this page for updated guidance to help you to stay informed ahead of Election 2023.

Need some more election support or advice?

If you need support or have any questions relating to the election, contact the Government Relations tīma via GRUjobs@kaingaora.govt.nz. Election periods impact people in different ways — we encourage you to take care of your health and wellbeing, and remind you that we have a wide range of support and resources available for keeping well and reaching out. Talk with your People Leader if you're finding things tough.

We will be running a series of informative articles, with more information here on Atamai. Plus don't forget our Election Hub is another great resource available for you to use.

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