

# ASA Political Parties' Policies Guide 2020

Prepared by the Education Executive, Welfare Representative, Cultural Representative and Clubs and Engagement Executive.

All policies sources from political parties' websites.

Accurate as of 12/10/20.

The ASA takes no responsibility for accuracy of information.

## Contents

1. Housing.....	p.2
2. Environment.....	p.3-4
3. Infrastructure.....	p.5-6
4. Education.....	p.7-8
5. Justice and legislation.....	p.9
6. Diversity.....	p.10
7. Immigration.....	p.11
8. Healthcare and covid-19.....	p.12-13
9. Economy/workplace.....	p.14-15
10. Youth.....	p.16
11. Culture.....	p.17
12. Māori.....	p.18
13. Welfare.....	p.19-20

## HOUSING

Labour

- Continuing rolling out a Progressive Home Ownership scheme.
- Continuing to implement Homelessness Action Plan.
- Continuing to partner with iwi and Māori housing providers.
- Doubling the Winter Energy Payment.

TOP

- Holding house prices and rents stable for a generation.
- Tighter immigration laws with the exception of refugees.

New  
Conservative

- Resource Management Act and local government reform.
- Bringing more unproductive land to the market.
- Improved and sustainable regional growth.
- Looking into the use of levers like tax incentives, and Kiwisaver changes.

Green Party

- Housing and community housing should not pay more than 25% income on rent
- Replacement of Recourse Act.
- Capital gains tax.
- Only NZ citizens and permanent residents should be able to buy land.
- Warrant of fitness for rental properties should increase.
- More state homes
- Affordable housing created through home ownership rent to buy schemes
- Regularly monitoring and reporting on homelessness.
- Enough specialist housing for people with health mental health or addiction issues.

Māori  
Party

- Build 2000 houses on Māori land
- Strictly allocate 50% of new social housing to Māori
- Place a 2 per cent tax on vacant “ghost” houses

## ENVIRONMENT

### Labour

- Investigating clean energy projects and strengthening New Zealand's advocacy on issues like climate change.
- Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing interest free loans, refunding tax relief and creating the Tourism Recovery Fund.
- Providing a \$50 million investment to create single farm planning to streamline compliance

### National

- Establish a fund within the National Infrastructure Bank with \$600 million to develop a long-term plan for water storage.
- Overturn the Government's oil and gas ban.
- Investigate carbon capture and storage.
- Exempt EVs from fringe benefit tax until 2025 and road user charges until 2023.
- Target a third of the government light vehicle fleet to be EV by 2023
- Begin work to establish two new National Parks – one on the Coromandel Peninsula and one in the Catlins, and build two new Great Walks.

### New Zealand First

- Proactive Environmental Policy.
- Non-nuclear future of New Zealand upheld.
- Creating employment and sustainable wealth through NZ's environmental resources.

### TOP

- Protect the environment by making polluters pay for their environmental damage and helping businesses wean themselves off fossil fuels.

### New Conservative

- Pull out of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris 2015 Agreement
- Introduce waterway fencing, planting and modernizing waste-water treatment systems to eliminate contaminated discharge going into waterways.
- Increase research and development funding to provide alternatives to bulk nitrogen fertilising.
- Phase out 1080 as soon as an alternative means of pest control is available that ensure clean waterways, oceans and forests.

Green Party

- Anti climate change.
  - Social equity and a just transition is essential to reduce emissions.
  - Resilience and adaptation should prioritise vulnerable communities.
  - Funding DOC.
- Controlling pests.
  - Conservation operates within te Tiriti o Waitangi.
  - Protecting health of public areas.

ACT

- Repealment of zero carbon and oil/gas ban.
- Limiting government ability to pass harmful legislation.
- Explore potential replacement techniques for pest control that do not make use of 1080 toxin.

Māori  
Party

- 25% of government funding allocated towards environmentally friendly housing initiatives to Iwi Build homes and Māori led housing projects.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Labour

- Continuing to build \$6.8 billion dollars' worth of transport projects across the country.
- Fast-tracking RMA (Resource Management Act) consenting to get projects moving.
- Investing \$155 million in transformative energy projects.
- Upgrading New Zealand's crucial infrastructure like hospitals, schools, roads, and public transport.

### New Zealand First

- Putting more funds to develop roads and infrastructure to account for increasing population and vehicle movements
- \$4 billion investment to end Wellington's congestion.
- Upper North Island Expressway Network.
- Additional Harbour Crossing.
- Resource Management Act Repeal.

### TOP

- Making construction and building warranty insurance mandatory for all new residential builds.
- Adopting standards from overseas markets to reduce building costs and improve the quality of houses and buildings.
- Making construction and building warranty insurance mandatory for all new residential builds.
- Adopting standards from overseas markets to reduce building costs and improve the quality of houses and buildings.

### New Conservative

- Better standards regulations.
- More use of public/private partnerships.
- Allowing materials certified in western developed nations to be used with certification.
- Using building methods that are time-proven and reduce maintenance moving forward.
- Streamlining the code mark process to allow greater competition.

### Green Party

- Kick-start Aotearoa's sustainable building materials industry, with a particular focus on scaling up sustainable timber processing and prefabricated buildings.
- Finance clean energy replacements of fossil fuel heating systems in

commercial and industrial buildings.

- Support green roofs and other “soft” infrastructure.
- Ensure new government buildings are built to high environmental standards.

**Māori  
Party**

- Replacing Resource Management Act and Amending Building Act.
- New, independent infrastructure corporation as a move to put an end to politically motivated infrastructure.

## EDUCATION

### Labour

- Continuing to ensure that apprenticeships and many trade training courses are free for the next two years.
- Significantly close the pay gap for teachers working in education and care centres
- Replace the decile system with the Equity Index
- Roll out the Free and Healthy School Lunches programme to a quarter of all school-aged children

### National

- Removing teacher registration fees.
- Restarting international education: allowing tertiary education providers to bring international students into New Zealand, under strict quarantine and testing protocols, to support our education sector and economic recovery.
- Reversing Vocational Education Reforms: returning autonomy and independence to international tertiary providers and ensuring that industry training is led by the industry, not the Government.
- Invest \$150 million over four years to fund an additional six million hours of teacher aide support in classrooms, equivalent to around 1500 new teacher aides (at 25 hours per week), or an average of 600 hours per school each year.
- Invest \$340 million over four years to deliver smaller class sizes by progressively reducing student-to-teacher ratios in primary schools.

### TOP

- Prioritise the Early Years of Learning (for 0-7 year-olds) to support community-oriented early child development.
- Ensure teachers are well paid and highly qualified.
- Dismantling the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) and Education Review Office and reform the NZ Qualifications Authority.
- Reduce arbitrary student assessments in secondary school to free up more time for teaching and learning.
- Fund polytechnics to deliver fast responses to solve company problems.
- Putting more than 600 new learning support coordinators in schools.

New  
Conservative

- Introduce trade training at Year 9.
- Encouraging trades as a positive career choice with good financial outcomes.

Green Party

- Postgraduate students should have access to living allowances.
- More apprenticeships.
- Education should be accessible to everyone.
- Public-private partnerships should not be used for building or running schools.
- NCEA should be retained and improved.

ACT

- Provide every child with a Student Education Account. A child will receive \$250,000 of taxpayer-funded education over their life, but parents have little choice in how it's spent.
- ACT will empower parents by placing this money in a Student Education Account. Parents will be able to use it at any registered educational institution that will accept their child's enrolment, public or private.
- Allow any state school to apply to become a Partnership School. Government should fund a range of schools, letting parents and children choose what is right for them.
- Downsizing the Ministry of Education.

## JUSTICE & LEGISLATION

### Labour

- Address the backlog of cases across the court system following the COVID-19 lockdown period, with investment from the COVID-19 Recovery Fund.
- Reduce the prison population, through effective crime prevention and rehabilitation strategies, progressive Policing, and improving access to legal services.

### New Zealand First

- 1000 new frontline sworn police officers over the next three years.
- Parliament will be reduced to 80 Members and the numbers of consultancies and Government Advisors will be cut by over 50%.
- Only on a vote of confidence in a Government (in which New Zealand First is a member) will New Zealand First's Members of Parliament be required to vote with the party. On all other issues not covered by party policy, an MP's first duty is to the Electorate and the Nation.
- Establishment of independent anti-corruption commission for governmental institutions.

### TOP

- Forming a Constitution for New Zealand which acknowledges obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi, and the rights of Nature wherein ecosystems have the right to exist and flourish.
- Reducing the prison population down from 210 to 114 prisoners per 100,000 of the general population by 2027.

### New Conservative

- Keep abortion under the Crimes Act.
- Make prostitution illegal.
- Oppose euthanasia being decriminalised.

### Green Party

- The government asserts its sovereign independence and, in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, upholds the tino rangitiratanga of Tangata Whenua.

### ACT

- Repeal Arms Legislation Act 2020.
- Removal of Maori seats in parliament and changing number of MPs to 100 from 120.
- Repealment to hate speech laws: a focus on ensuring freedom of speech.
- Abolishment of the human rights commission.

## DIVERSITY

### Labour

- Continuing to train up to 12,000 community-based workers over the next three years, so more people seeking mental health and addiction support have someone to turn to.
- Continue to work towards achieving the goal of 50 percent women's representation on state sector boards by 2021.
- Increase sick leave for workers.
- Increase wages and continue to improve pay equity.
- Legislate and implement fair pay agreements.
- Strengthen key employment legislation

### New Conservative

- Religion and culture: New Conservative will uphold the foundational Judeo/Christian principles and democracy, and ensure there is no conflicting jurisdictional authority in New Zealand, such as aspects of Sharia Law.

New Conservative believe:

- That sex or gender programmes should not be taught in schools
- All amenities like bathrooms and sports in schools should be accustomed towards only biological gender

### Green Party

- Rainbow communities are entitled to equal opportunity in law and practice including education and healthcare.
- Government can provide leadership in creating equality for women.
- Economic fairness creates a stronger society and economy organisations should report on their gender pay gaps and have plans to close them.
- Comprehensive strategies in place to reduce sexual and domestic violence.
- Sex work should be legal and regulated women should have good healthcare and sovereignty over their bodies.
- Everyone has their full rights recognised and actively participates in their communities
- Government should provide coordinated leadership.
- People with disabilities should be supported to work, entitled to the protection of their bodily autonomy and public funded culturally accessible services should be made available.
- Access to and participation in the arts should be affordable and widespread

## IMMIGRATION

New Zealand  
First

- Immigration reset-a cap of 15,000 skilled migrants.

TOP

- Implement a “Net Zero Immigration” policy for a period determined by the time taken to ease housing demand.
- Long-term immigration policy must be based on which occupations will be available and necessary in the future.
- Work with NZ-based NGOs operating in troubled zones to identify refugees who are more closely aligned with our nation’s values, and fill our refugee quota with these people.

New  
Conservative

- Implement a “Net Zero Immigration” policy. This would be for a period determined by the time taken to ease housing demand, which could be as little as 12 months, with student visas and seasonal workers excluded.
- Long-term immigration policy must be based on which occupations will be available and necessary in the future.

ACT

- Continue to be a pro-immigration party, honouring our heritage as a nation of immigrants, while trimming back overly generous entitlements such as pensions after only ten years’ residency.
- Maintain New Zealand’s values of freedom, property rights and the rule of law as non-negotiable conditions that all immigrants must accept.

## HEALTHCARE & COVID-19

### Labour

- Maintaining a tight border with testing and quarantine facilities, and strengthening and improving the contact tracing system.
- Biggest ever funding increase for DHBs.
- Boosting funding for PHARMAC.
- Increasing funding for planned care to deliver more than 150,000 additional surgeries, procedures, scans and appointments.
- Boosting Whānau Ora.

### National

- Creating a national cancer agency.
- Setting up a \$200m PHARMAC cancer fund. • \$20m to fight gynaecological cancer.

### New Zealand First

- Rebuilding public health.

### TOP

- Legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana.
- Increasing the legal age for alcohol purchase to 20 years, and increasing the price of alcohol by an average of 10% through excise tax, finding from which would go into mental health. support and drug and alcohol treatment.
- Taxing sugar and junk food and creating an accessible fruit and veggie scheme.
- Making primary care affordable.
- Improving access to dental care.
- Investigate the best way to address period poverty.
- Reinstalling the independent Public Health Commission.

### New Conservative

- Extend age-related, government funded, health checks to enable early intervention in common health issues.
- Make private health insurance tax deductible so it is more accessible to all New Zealanders.

- Ensure parents give their consent for all medical care and procedures for children aged 16 and under.
- Ensure vaccinations are not made mandatory.
- Oppose extension of 'COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020'.
- Oppose euthanasia in any form and ensure palliative care of the highest quality is available to protect our elderly and the most vulnerable from abuse and pain.
- Introduce a 'user pays' hospital system for anyone needing treatment as a direct consequence of substance abuse, their contribution to the cost of their treatment will be on a percentage basis.

### Green Party

- Removing financial barriers to anyone accessing healthcare services needed.
- Free dental care for children, students, beneficiaries, and super annuitants.
- Government should fund inpatient and community mental health services at all levels
- Free healthcare for children.
- Programmes in place to reduce the harm caused by tobacco alcohol, other drugs and unhealthy food and drink.
- Funding PHARMAC.
- Lead maternity care providers should provide culturally appropriate services to meet women's needs.

### ACT

- Implement human health element at borders.
- Temporarily increased (doubled) funding for customs to ensure opening of borders ASAP.

### Māori Party

- Emphasise that all COVID-19 recovery bodies reflect Te Tiriti in their structure and membership.
- Reinforce that COVID 19 recovery projects must enhance the mana o te whenua, the mana o te wai, mana o te moana and protect wāhi tapu, rights and interests of natural environment.

## ECONOMY / WORKFORCE

### Labour

- Investing significantly to help rural communities and fishing communities recover from COVID-19.
- Backing the horticulture sector to seize new opportunities for growth and stay ahead of international competitors.
- Supporting farmer-led solutions through Productive and Sustainable Land Use package.
- New \$200m Regional Strategic Partnership Fund to support economic development plans developed by regions
- \$42 billion of capital committed to stimulate the Covid recovery and create jobs

### National

- Business-start: supporting entrepreneurialism, particularly for those who have lost jobs resulting from Covid-19 and want to get into their own business, through tax credit and Kiwisaver funds access.
- JobStart: providing a \$10,000 cash payment to businesses for all additional new employees.
- Business investment accelerator scheme: Temporarily lifting the threshold to expense new capital investment for firms, lifting the threshold from \$5000 to \$150,000 for two years.
- GST Cash Refund: offering a cash payment and the ability to claim back the GST paid during the six months to 1st January 2020, to small businesses most affected.
- National's Tourism Accelerator: a \$100 million package of direct grants for tourism projects aimed at increasing demand for tourism.

### New Zealand First

- Export-led economics.
- Reducing tax.
- Relying on independent business expertise with Government support to encourage economic success.
- Large focus on decreasing rates of unemployment.
- Simplified and enforced tax laws that apply equally to all taxpayers.
- Incentives for increased research and development and export growth.
- Export-led economics for increased research and development and export growth.

### TOP

- Providing support to small businesses such as grants to help improve use of digital technology and energy and resource efficiency.

New  
Conservative

- Tax-free threshold for income. Reduce fuel taxes.
- Provide relief to small businesses by halting scheduled minimum wage increases.

Green Party

- Trade agreements must respect democracy and state sovereignty.
- Success should be measured by human and environmental wellbeing.
- The tax system to be progressive, comprehensive and encourage sustainability.
- Local jobs, products, businesses and the Maori economy should be supported.
- Wages should be higher and not differentiated based on gender age or ethnicity.
- Fixed term labour hire employees should enjoy the same wages and conditions as permanent employees.
- People on temporary contracts for more than six months should be offered permanent contracts.
- Employees who block union access and communication should be penalised.
- Parents should be able to request flexible working arrangements.

ACT

- Moving to a 35-hour working week should be investigated.
- 13 months of parental leave paid at 100% of the average male wage.
- Regulations and codes of practices should be developed across a wide range of issues including harassment, stress and toxic fumes and particles in the workplace.

## YOUTH

### Labour

- Expanding the Lunches in Schools programme to 200,000 children.
- Increasing the support for 14,000 caregivers looking after more than 22,000 children.

### National

- A \$3000 entitlement for new mothers to seek services to support their child's first 1000 days of life.
- Lower adult-to-child ratios for under two-year olds.
- Three day postnatal stay.

### New Zealand First

- Support Kōhanga Reo, to ensure kaiako are paid fairly and facilities are in good condition

### TOP

- Putting more than 600 new learning support coordinators in schools.

### New Conservative

- Parents should be eligible for a tax rebate equivalent to 20 hours per week of childcare subsidies, regardless of whether they care for their child at home or use the funds for childcare services.
- Formation of an Independent Ministry of Children, Oranga Tamariki (MCOT) Complaints Authority to investigate all MCOT complaints and concerns.

### Green Party

- Children should be prioritised in all relevant government actions.
- Child poverty should be comprehensively measured and frequently reported on.
- The minimum wage should be raised (see the Green Party's [industrial relations] policy).
- All families should receive a universal child payment in the first part of every child's life.
- Young people should have representation or a voice on local and community boards.
- The Local Government Act should require councils to resource Youth Councils and employ child and youth advocates.
- Civics, human rights, and environmental education should be taught in schools.

## DEFENSE

New  
Conservative

- Repeal the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019 and subsequent amendments.

Green Party

- Aotearoa New Zealand should have independent defense policy. Help develop other countries' peacekeeping forces.
- Fair compensation and family support is essential to retaining skilled people.
- Tax exemptions while serving overseas should be investigated.
- We need appropriate naval and maritime capacity, including planes, to monitor the areas of ocean we care for, protect our fisheries, and assist our Pacific neighbors to do the same.

ACT

- Repeal this year's Arms Legislation Act, including the threat of a firearm register, then set about making the world's best firearm laws that balance public safety, firearms control, and freedom.

## MĀORI

### Labour

- Growing Māori job opportunities through the Māori Employment Package to work in partnership with iwi and Māori to help grow opportunities in the regions.

### Green Party

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a fundamental constitutional document.
- The Māori parliamentary seats should be entrenched.
- Tikanga Māori approaches to justice should be expanded.
- Government should support Māori approaches to health and education.

### Māori Party

- Confirm that 25% of all projects will be Māori-led recovery projects and business recovery initiatives. • Guarantee that 25% of all government projects prioritised through the COVID-19 Recovery legislation partner with hapū, iwi and Māori organisations and businesses.

## WELFARE

Labour

- Continue overhauling the welfare system with a focus on supporting people into sustainable work, income adequacy so families that depend on the benefit are not living in poverty, and a culture change within government departments to ensure all people are treated with respect.

New Zealand  
First

- Universal family benefit for all families with children under sixteen

TOP

- Universal Basic Income (UBI) of \$250 per week for everyone.

New  
Conservative

- Restore the requirement for people to be actively seeking work in order to claim the Job Seeker Benefit.
- New Conservative believes that the best place for a solo mother with a baby is with her immediate family. Where that is not possible, New

Conservative would offer benefit-dependent, struggling solo mothers support in residential accommodation with a suitably trained/experienced couple as hosts.

ACT

- Change the welfare system so that:
  - Income tax rates remain unchanged but 0.55% of the tax paid will be allocated to a ring-fenced Employment Insurance fund.
- On loss of employment the tax-payer can claim 55 per cent of their average weekly earnings over the previous 52 weeks.
- The insurance can only be claimed for one week for each five weeks the person has worked, up to a maximum of 26 weeks per claim.

- Those receiving Employment Insurance would be expected to look for work and report fortnightly on their preparedness to work and job application activity.

## Māori Party

- Minimum wage to be immediately raised to \$25 an hour and double benefit payments.
- Create a universal student allowance at double the current allowance rates, and cancel all debts owed to the Government through welfare loans.