

## Voting Rights for Foreigners in New Zealand

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In this essay, we will make a comparative assessment of the electoral system between Japan and New Zealand and their right of foreigners to vote.

The general election in New Zealand was held in 2011 and every New Zealand citizen has the right to vote under Section 12 (a) of BORA. On the other, Japanese Constitution has provisions for suffrage and it is as follows: Article 15: “The selection of public officials and to dismiss this is the inherent right of the people”, Section 2 of Article 93 also mentions that “length of local governments, and other official members of Congress and established by law that is Residents of local governments that elect to direct it.”

In Japan, about 2, 210 thousand people are registered as “Permanent Residents” and “Non-Permanent Residents” without right to vote. Compared with New Zealand, which categorized as “citizen” of or above 18 years old has a right to vote, some scholars insist Japan should relax restriction for foreigners who line in certain period to give a vote.

In this paper, by comparing the rights of foreigners to vote in Japan and New Zealand, the authors will consider some issues faced on the counties in ensuring domestic legislation for human rights.