



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

# How to vote at a polling place



# How to use this guide



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
Electoral Commission

The Western Australian Electoral Commission wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we' it means the Western Australian Electoral Commission.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**. This means the letters are thicker and darker.

We explain what these bold words mean.

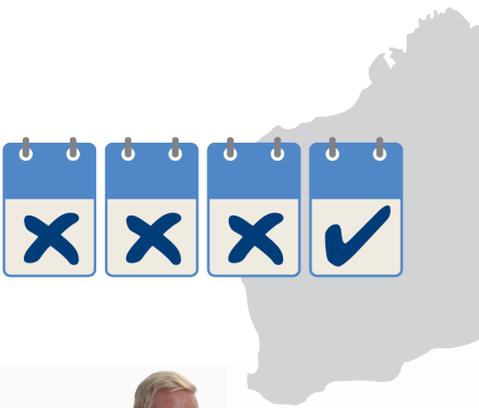


You can ask for help to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

# What is an election?



An **election** is when people vote who will be in the government. When you vote you help to choose who runs Western Australia.



In Western Australia there is an election every 4 years.



You must vote when

- You are 18 years old or older
- You are an Australian **citizen**.

A citizen is someone who has the rights and freedoms of the country where they live.

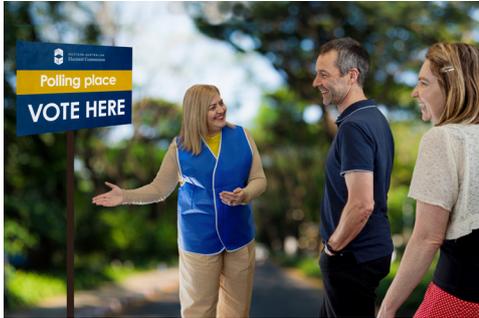


Before you vote you need to **enrol**. Enrol means we put you on the list of voters.

You can enrol to vote at our website.

**[www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/enrol)**

# Where do you go to vote?



On election day you go to a **polling place** to vote.



A polling place is a building where people go to vote.

Places like

- A school
- A community centre



You can find a list of polling places on our website.

[www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)



You can phone us to find out where a polling place is.

**13 63 06**

# At the polling place



At the polling place you will see people wearing blue vests.

These people are polling place workers.



They work for the WA Electoral Commission.

It is their job to help you.



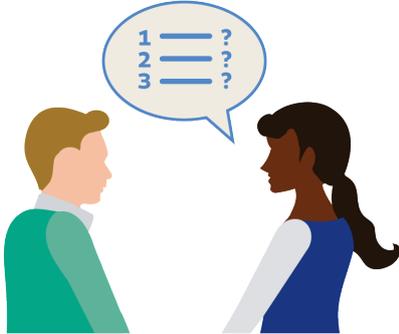
You might need to wait in a line.



When it is your turn go to the table.

The polling place workers will talk to you.

# What will the polling place workers do?



A polling place worker will ask you 3 questions.



**1. Have you already voted in this election?**



**2. What is your full name?**

Tell the polling place worker your

- First name
- Last name



**3. What is the address of where you live?**

Tell them the address of your home.

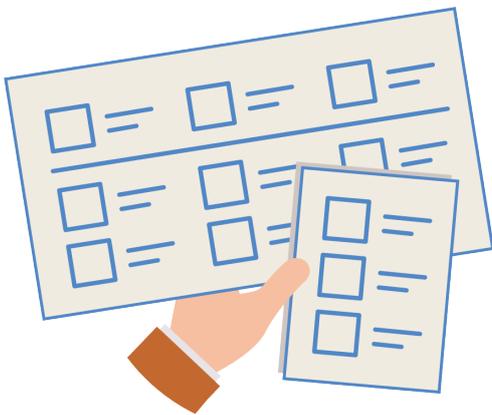


The polling place worker will

- Look for your name on the **electoral roll** and
- Mark it off

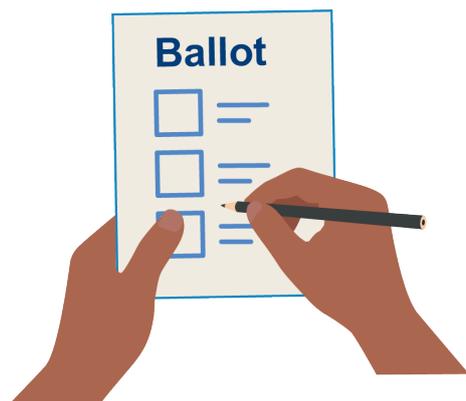


An electoral roll is a list of everyone who can vote.



The polling place worker will give you 2 **ballot papers**

- A small one
- A large one



Ballot papers are forms you fill out to show who you want to vote for.

You can use any colour.

# What do you do with your ballot papers?



Take your ballot papers to the cardboard voting area.



The voting area is a place for you to fill out your ballot papers where no-one else can see.



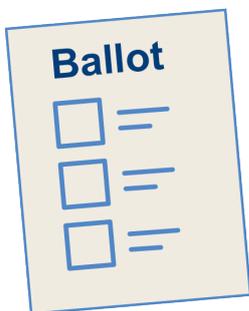
There will be a pencil for you to use.



But you can use your own pen or pencil if you want to.

You can use any colour.

# How do you fill out your small ballot paper?



Your small ballot paper has

- A list of **candidates'** names
- Empty squares.



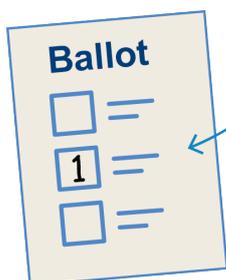
A candidate is a person who wants to be part of the government.



You vote for the candidate you want to win the election.



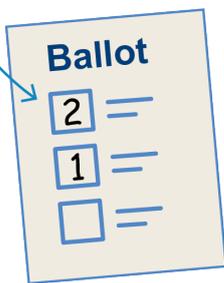
Pick the candidate who you want to win.



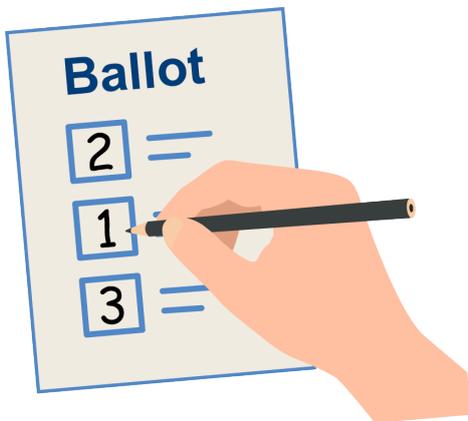
Write 1 in the empty square next to their name.



Pick the candidate who you want to vote for next.

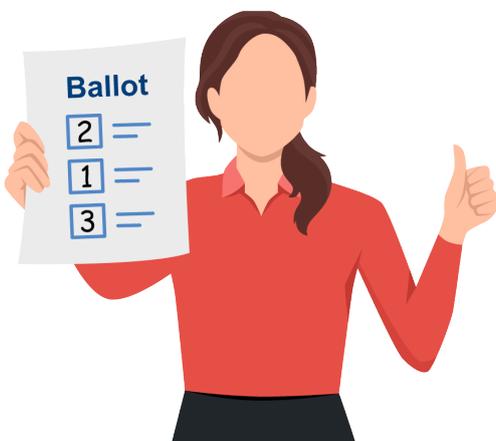


Write 2 in the empty square next to their name.



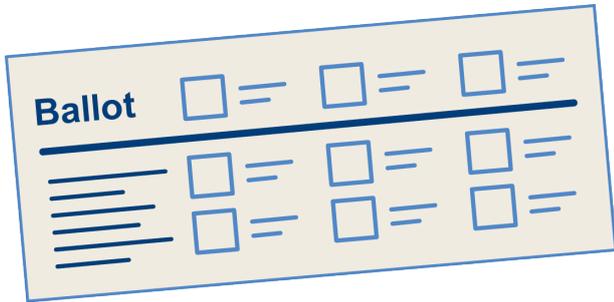
Keep choosing candidates and writing numbers until you have filled out all the squares.

Each square should have a different number in it.

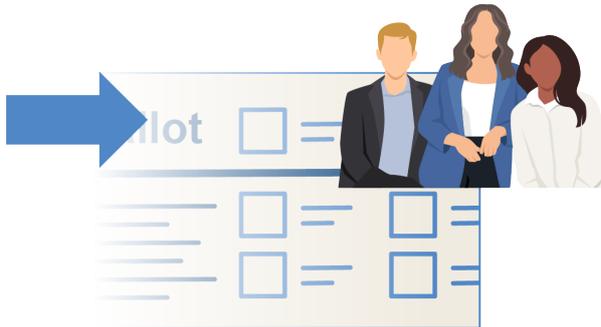


When every square is full your ballot paper is finished.

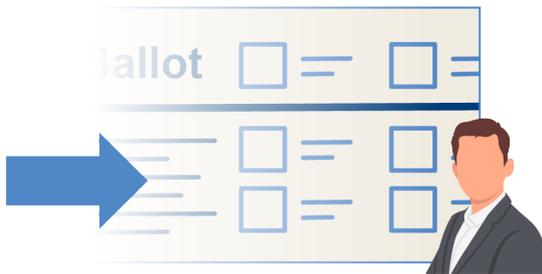
# How do you fill out your large ballot paper?



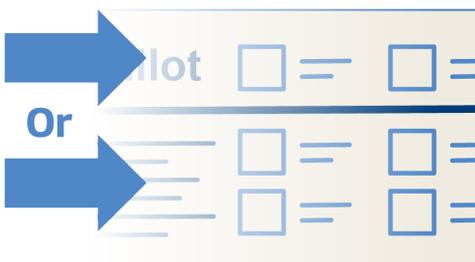
Your large ballot paper has a thick blue line on it.



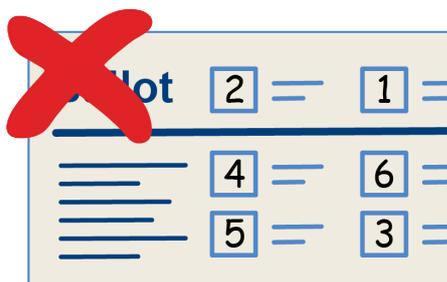
There is a list of groups above the thick blue line.



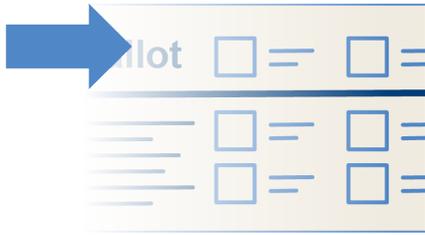
There is a list of candidates below the thick blue line.



You can choose if you want to vote above or below the thick blue line on the ballot paper.



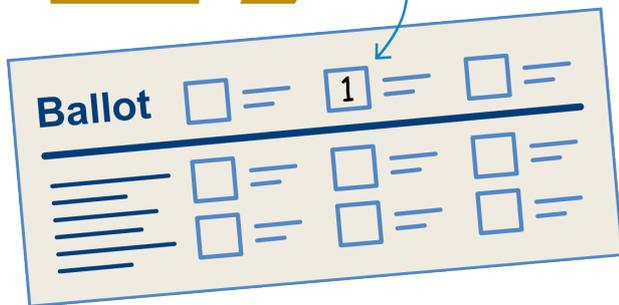
You can not do both.



## Voting above the blue line



Pick the group who you want to win.

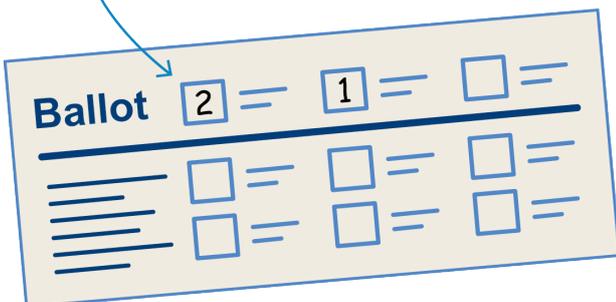


Write 1 in the empty square next to their name.

You can finish at 1 or keep going.

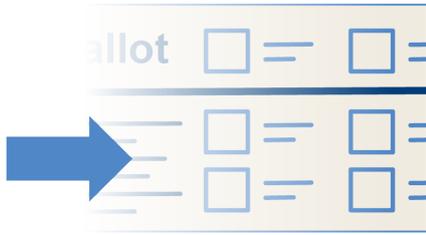


Pick the group who you want to vote for next. Write 2 in the empty square next to their name.



Keep choosing groups and writing numbers.

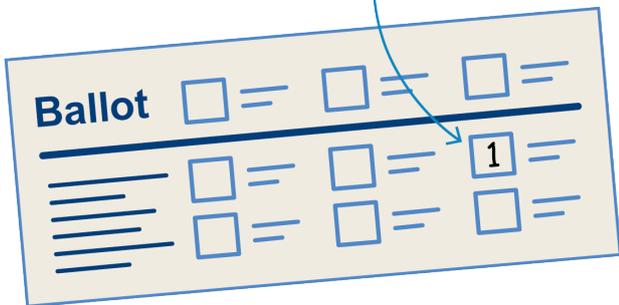
You do not have to put numbers in every square.



## Voting below the blue line



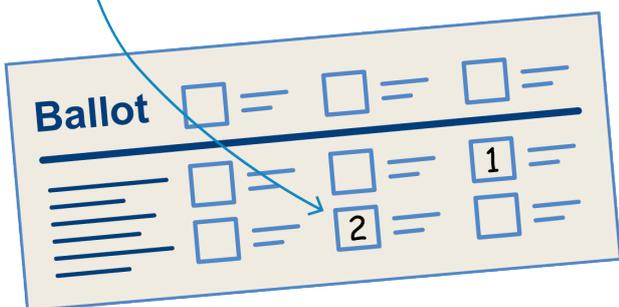
Pick the candidate who you want to win.



Write 1 in the empty square next to their name.



Pick the candidate who you want to vote for next. Write 2 in the empty square next to their name.



Keep choosing candidates and writing numbers until you have filled out 20 squares.

You can finish at 20 or keep going.

# What if you need help to fill out your ballot papers?



When you need help to vote you can

- Take someone you know with you, like a friend



- Ask the polling place workers



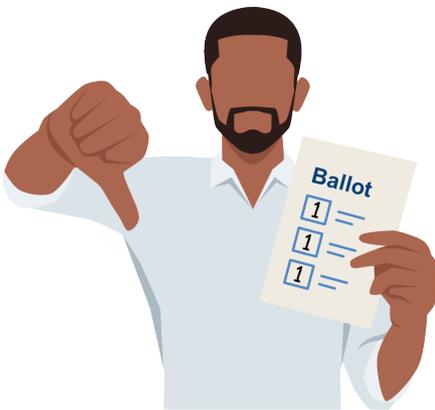
Other people can help you fill out your ballot papers but they can not tell you who to vote for.

It is your choice who you vote for.

# What if you make a mistake?

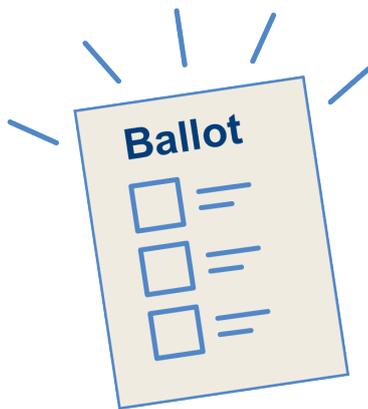


Take your ballot paper back to the polling place worker who gave it to you if you make a mistake.



Tell the polling place worker that you

- Have made a mistake
- And need a new ballot paper



They will give you a new ballot paper.



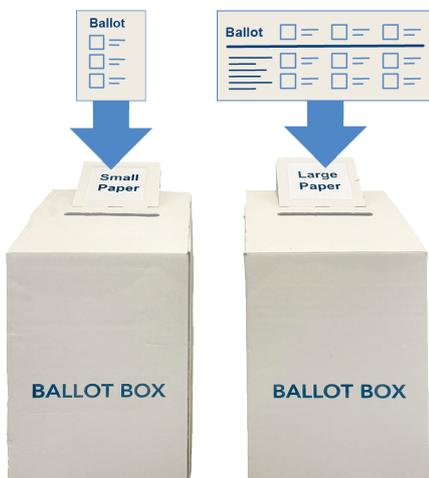
Take the new ballot paper and fill it out.

# Where do you put your ballot papers?



After you finish filling out the ballot papers take them to the **ballot boxes**.

A ballot box is a sealed box where voters put their ballot papers after they have filled them out.



There are 2 ballot boxes

- 1 for the small ballot paper
- 1 for the large ballot paper



A polling place worker will tell you which box to put each ballot paper in.



When you have put your votes in the ballot boxes you have finished voting.

You can then leave the building.

# More information



You can call us.

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You can visit our website.

**[www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)**

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If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).

**131 450**

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If you have trouble hearing or speaking, you can contact the National Relay Service.

**133 677**

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You can find us on Facebook.

**[www.facebook.com/electionsWA](http://www.facebook.com/electionsWA)**

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You can find us on Instagram.

**[www.instagram.com/electionswa](http://www.instagram.com/electionswa)**

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The Western Australian Electoral Commissioner made this Easy Read guide. If you want to use any of the pictures in this guide you must ask us first.