



FACT SHEET

Candidates and Scrutineers – Attending the Count

The *Electoral Act 1907* specifies that vote counting begins after the close of polls at 6pm on polling day. Different types of votes are counted at different stages and counts are conducted multiple times to ensure accuracy of results.

Contributing to the integrity and transparency of elections, Candidates and suitably appointed Scrutineers are permitted to observe the counting of votes at any designated counting place; however, strict conditions apply.

This Fact Sheet is designed to help Candidates and Scrutineers understand the conditions that apply to them at a Counting Place, ensuring they do not distract from or disrupt the count and allow electoral officers to perform their duties effectively.

	<p>General information</p> <p>It is preferable for Candidates to send Scrutineers instead of attending the count themselves, as Scrutineers can make submissions in relation to the formality of a ballot paper, whereas a candidate can only observe.</p> <p>Due to workplace health and safety issues related to capacity, the appropriate management of persons in attendance is crucial, which is overseen by the Authorised Person at each venue.</p> <p>Scrutineers must not bring any election material into the Polling Place nor display any election material on their person or clothing.</p> <p>All Candidates and Scrutineers will be required to wear a name tag and/or vest (provided at the polling place or counting place).</p> <p>Parking permits will not be provided to Candidates or Scrutineers.</p> <p>Workplace Health and Safety requirements stipulate that all visitors wear enclosed shoes when onsite at Processing and Scanning centres.</p> <p>Filming and photography are not permitted at a Counting or Polling Place without prior approval.</p>
	<p>Presentation of Photo ID</p> <p>Candidates and Scrutineers are required to present a legitimate form of photo identification to gain access to the Processing Centre. The authorised person will cite the ID as part of the admission process.</p> <p>If a Candidate or Scrutineer leaves the Processing Centre, they will be required to produce photo ID again, on their return.</p>

	<h3>Venues and Authorising Officers</h3> <p>To ensure smooth and safe operations, all venues have an Authorising Officer who is responsible for monitoring and authorising admittance of Candidates and Scrutineers based on capacity limits and conditions of entry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling Place: Presiding Officer • Early Polling Place: Early Presiding Officer • Processing Centre: Scrutineer and Candidate management team • Scanning Centre: Scrutineer and Candidate management team • Phone Assisted Voting: Scrutineer and Candidate Management Team
	<h3>Key definitions</h3> <p>Counting place: Each polling place in a district is a counting place unless declared otherwise by the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer may appoint other places as counting places that are not polling places. These appointed places must be published on the Commission website and in another manner approved by the Electoral Commissioner.</p> <p>Polling Place: A designated location, appointed by the Electoral Commissioner, where electors can vote.</p> <p>Scrutineer: A person appointed by a candidate to observe the polling process and the scrutiny and count of ballot papers, and to ensure that election processes are conducted strictly in accordance with the law.</p> <p>Scrutiny: The process following the close of polling to determine the formality of ordinary and declaration votes for the count and the result of the election.</p>
<h2>Conditions</h2>	
	<h3>Candidates</h3> <p>Candidates are allowed to be present during the scrutiny of ballot papers and the counting of votes, but their role is strictly observational. Therefore, Candidates are required to maintain a distance that prevents them from directly inspecting the counting process. This may involve remaining in a marked off area.</p>
	<h3>Scrutineers</h3> <p><i>Appointment of Scrutineers</i></p> <p>Scrutineers are appointed by Candidates (or their agents). Scrutineers must download and complete the PP16 - Scrutineer Appointment form, and designate the activity and location where the Scrutineer will attend.</p> <p>The form must be signed by the Scrutineer in the presence of the Presiding Officer or Returning Officer when attending a place to vote.</p> <p>Scrutineers must not assist with the unfolding or counting of ballot papers during the scrutiny or otherwise touch ballot papers at any time. Scrutineers may be present at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any production of the vote record • Mobile Voting places • Polling Places during polling • The count of ballot papers • Printing of the Legislative Assembly Phone Assisted Voting ballot papers • Any other element of the technology assisted voting process that is approved by the Electoral Commissioner.

Need more information?

Visit the [Commission website](#) or contact the Election Line on 13 63 06 or +61 8 9214 0400 (overseas callers).