

How voting works in Australia



Welcome to Western Australia

Australia is a **democracy**. We choose the people who represent us **by voting**.

Australia has a **strong and trustworthy voting system**. Every vote is counted carefully, and counting is monitored to ensure fairness. The **Western Australian Electoral Commission** oversees state elections and follows strict rules to protect the integrity of votes.

Whether you're voting for the first time or have voted before, you can trust that your vote will be counted accurately.

Voting is a right and a responsibility for Australian citizens. Your vote helps decide laws, services, and opportunities in your area.

This guide will help you understand how to take part in elections.

What's Different in Australia?

- You vote in federal (whole of Australia), state (Western Australia), and local (council) elections.
- Voting is compulsory for federal and state elections. Fines may apply for not voting.
- Your vote is private – you don't have to tell anyone who you voted for.
- Elections are free and fair – you choose who to vote for.
- You don't need ID to vote on Election Day.
- You make your own way to a Polling Place on Election Day.

Who votes in elections?

All Australian citizens 18 years or older who are enrolled to vote (be placed on the official list of voters).

Enrolling to vote

By law, you must enrol to vote if you are 18 years or older and an Australian citizen.

Enrol online

- First, go www.elections.wa.gov.au. Then go to *Enrol* and then to *Check your enrolment* to see if you are already enrolled.
- If you are not enrolled, visit www.aec.gov.au/enrol to enrol to vote.

Or, enrol by completing a form at one of these places:

- Any Post Office
- The WA Electoral Commission office
- Any Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office.

Understanding the ballot papers

In federal and state elections, there are two ballot papers - one green and one white. For the green paper, choose your favourite candidate first, then number the rest in order of your preference.

For the white paper, vote 'above the line' (choose a party) or 'below the line' (choose individual candidates). Follow the instructions at the top of each ballot paper.

For local government elections, there is only one ballot paper. Most councils use postal voting. Check your local council's website for details.

How to vote

- For federal and state elections: On election day – go to a polling place near you or vote early at an early polling place, or
- Use postal voting (federal, state and local elections).

Election jobs

During elections, the WA Electoral Commission needs many people to help. Working at an election, you will:

- Earn extra money
- Get work experience
- Learn more about how voting works
- Support your community and democracy

Training is provided – you don't need experience for most jobs. If you have the right to work in Australia, you are welcome to apply. Workers must be fair, respectful and honest.

Prior to an election, available positions are advertised, or visit www.elections.wa.gov.au/about-us/working-commission

Need Help?

Visit the Western Australian Electoral Commission website: Go to www.elections.wa.gov.au. For state election information in other languages, type *Information in other languages* into the search.

Phone: 13 63 06



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission