



ELECTION

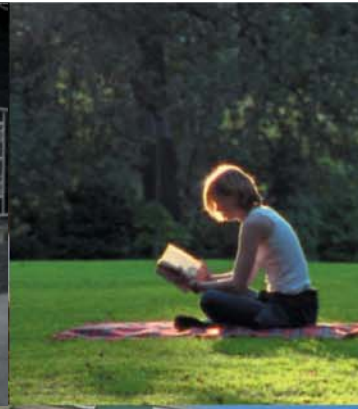


2004

Your official guide to the
federal election

Saturday, 9 October 2004

Large Print Version



ELECTION



2004

Important things to know about the federal election

- Election day is **Saturday, 9 October 2004**.
- Polling places are open from **8am to 6pm**.
- You can vote at any polling place in your electoral division on election day.
- If you cannot get to a polling place in your electoral division on election day, see pages 4 and 5 for more information.
- **Voting is compulsory**. Failure to vote may make you liable for a fine of up to \$50.
- www.aec.gov.au

Alternative formats:

The information in this pamphlet is also available in the following formats: • audio cassette • braille • audio file on AEC website at www.aec.gov.au • large print. If you, a friend or relative, require any of these formats call the AEC on **13 23 26**.

Telephone Typewriter (TTY) facilities: **02 9375 6305**

To get a copy of this brochure in your language, phone or visit www.aec.gov.au

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Voting on election day



Saturday, 9 October 2004 is election day for the federal election. If you are enrolled to vote then voting is compulsory.

Voting in the 'normal' way

If you will be at home on election day (i.e. in your own electoral division) you can vote at any polling place in your division. All polling places will be **open between 8am and 6pm**.

A full list of polling places will be published in major metropolitan newspapers on **Friday, 8 October 2004**. You can also find the polling places on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au or by ringing us on **13 23 26**. Polling places with wheelchair access will be identified.

Special arrangements also exist at polling places for people who are unable to get out of their car.

What if you're away on election day?

If you will be outside your home division but still within your State or Territory you may vote at any polling place in your State or Territory. Ask the polling official to give you an absent vote.

If you will be interstate on election day, you can vote at any AEC divisional office or at a special voting facility for interstate voters.

If you will be overseas on election day you can vote in person at an Overseas Post, or you can apply for a postal vote. For information about locations of Overseas Posts, or to apply for a postal vote, check the AEC website or call us.

Voting before election day

If you cannot get to a polling place on election day, you may still be able to cast a vote now, either in person or by post.

You can vote now if on election day you will be:

- interstate or overseas
- more than 8km from a polling place
- approaching childbirth
- seriously ill or caring for someone who is
- unable to vote because of your religious beliefs
- unable to leave work.

Voting IN PERSON before election day

You can vote in person before election day at a pre-poll voting centre or any AEC divisional office.

For these locations, check the AEC website www.aec.gov.au or ring us on **13 23 26**.

Voting BY POST before election day

You can obtain a postal vote application form from any post office, AEC office or on the AEC website.



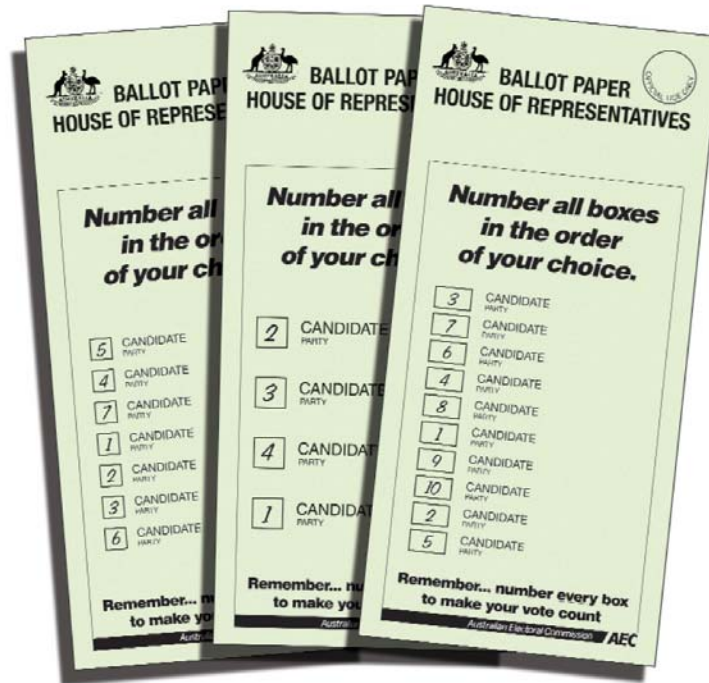
When we receive your application form, ballot papers and a declaration vote envelope will be posted to you. Simply fill in the ballot papers and declaration vote envelope and send them back to the AEC. But hurry! Your completed ballot papers must be in the mail by **Friday, 8 October 2004**.

Please remember that you can only vote before election day if you are eligible for a pre-poll or postal vote.

www.aec.gov.au or call 13 23 26

How to vote for the House of Representatives

House of Representatives ballot papers are green and will look like this:



It's easy to vote correctly:

1. Write the number '1' in the box next to the candidate of your first choice.
2. Write the number '2' in the box next to the candidate of your second choice.
3. Continue to number the boxes until you have numbered **every** box in the order of your choice.
4. Remember, **DON'T** use a ✓ or a X
5. If you make a mistake don't worry and don't waste your vote - just return your ballot paper to the polling official who gave it to you and ask for another one.

Once you have voted, place your folded ballot paper in the House of Representatives ballot box.

Although how-to-vote cards from candidates and parties may encourage electors to mark their preferences in a particular order, the final choice of which order to use is up to you.

Did you know?

- * The House of Representatives is often called the 'People's House' or the 'Lower House'.
- * Candidates in federal elections are elected using a full preferential voting system.
- * Candidates stand for election for a particular electoral division (sometimes called a seat or an electorate).
- * Members are elected for a maximum three year term.
- * There are 150 Members being elected at this election: 50 from New South Wales, 37 from Victoria, 28 from Queensland, 15 from Western Australia, 11 from South Australia, 5 from Tasmania, 2 from the Australian Capital Territory and 2 from the Northern Territory.

How to vote for the Senate

For the Senate you'll be given a white ballot paper which will look like this:

You may vote in one of two ways

either

Above the line

PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY

or

Below the line

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME:
<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> CANDIDATE NAME: INDEPENDENT

AEC

You have a choice. You can vote above the line or below the line, but not both.

EITHER: - **Above the line.** If you vote above the line, your vote will be counted in the way chosen by the group or party you have voted for. This is called a group ticket vote and information will be available at all polling places showing you how each party or group has decided to allocate preferences. If you choose to vote this way, this is how your vote will be counted. If you choose to vote above the line, write the number '1' in one of the boxes above the line. Leave all the other boxes blank.

OR: - **Below the line.** If you choose to vote below the line, you must number all the boxes in the bottom section of the ballot paper sequentially in the order of your choice. Write the number '1' in the box next to the candidate of your first choice. Continue to number the boxes in the order of your choice until you've numbered every box.

Note: Some candidates are not part of a party or group which has a box above the line. To vote for these candidates you must vote below the line, remembering to put a number in every box.

If you make a mistake don't worry and don't waste your vote - just return your ballot paper to the polling official who gave it to you and ask for another one.

Once you have voted, place your folded ballot paper in the Senate ballot box.

Did you know?

- * The Senate is often called the 'States' House' or the 'Upper House'.
- * Candidates are elected using a proportional representation system.
- * Each State, regardless of its size or population, is represented by twelve Senators to ensure equality of representation for the States. Each Territory is represented by two Senators.
- * To be elected a candidate must receive a certain proportion of votes, known as a quota.
- * State Senators are elected for a six-year term; Territory Senators are elected for the same term as Members of the House of Representatives (a maximum three-year term).
- * There is a total of 76 Senators (12 for each State and 2 for each Territory).
- * This election is a half-Senate election which means each State is electing 6 of its 12 Senators and each Territory is electing both of its 2 Senators.

How your vote for the House of Representatives is counted



To be elected, a House of Representatives candidate must get more than half the formal votes cast for the electoral division that they are contesting.

First preferences

First, all of the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total of these number '1' votes (i.e. an absolute majority - 50% + 1), that candidate will be elected.

Second preferences

If, however, no candidate has more than half of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. This candidate's votes are then transferred to the other candidates according to the second preferences shown by voters on their ballot papers.

Further preferences

If still no candidate has more than half the votes, the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded and the votes are transferred according to the next preference shown for a candidate who has not been excluded.

This process continues until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared 'elected'.

An example

The following example will help show how it works. A more detailed example and more information is available on the AEC website www.aec.gov.au

Votes needed to win

Three candidates Nick, Michael and Jenny stand for election. After the election the ballot papers are counted and there are 60 000 formal votes. Therefore the absolute majority needed to win the seat is 30 001 (50% +1).

First preferences

Nick, Michael and Jenny received the following first preference or number '1' votes.

Nick	Michael	Jenny
15 000	23 000	22 000

Second preferences

Nobody has gained an absolute majority so the person with the lowest number of first preferences is excluded. In this example, Nick is excluded and the second preferences on his ballot papers are then distributed to either Michael or Jenny. 6 300 of the total number of people who voted for Nick put the number 2 in the box for Michael. The remaining 8 700 put the number 2 in the box for Jenny. This gives Michael a total of 29 300 and Jenny a total of 30 700.

Michael	Jenny
23 000	22 000
+ 6 300	+ 8 700
= 29 300	= 30 700

Jenny elected

Now that Jenny has 30 700 votes, which is an absolute majority, she becomes the elected member.

Further preferences

This is a very simple example. The process could involve more than the two steps shown above. If there were more than three candidates, the candidates with the fewest votes will continue to be excluded and their preferences transferred, or distributed, until one candidate has an absolute majority.

How your vote for the Senate is counted

At this election, electors in each State will be electing six Senators and electors in the two Territories will each be electing two Senators. Senators are elected using a proportional representation system and to be elected they must win a specific proportion (or quota) of the formal votes.

The counting process for the Senate is lengthy and complicated. A simplified summary of the main steps is as follows:

Working out the quota

The quota is worked out by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of vacancies to be filled and by adding 1 to the result (ignoring any remainder).

The calculation may look like this, as it did in New South Wales for the 2001 Senate election:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Formal ballot papers} \\ \hline 3\,879\,443 + 1 = 554\,207^* \\ \text{No. of vacancies plus 1} \quad (6 + 1) \end{array}$$

Add 1 to the result

Quota needed to win Senate seat

* Note: when determining the quota, any remainder is disregarded.

Counting the first preference votes

This is done as for a House of Representatives election: all of the number '1' votes are counted for each candidate. Candidates who receive a quota, or more, of these number '1' votes are elected immediately.

Transferring the surplus

Any surplus votes these elected candidates receive (i.e. votes in excess of the quota they needed) are transferred to the candidates who were the second choice of the voters. However, they are transferred at a reduced value because the first candidate has already 'used up' some of the value of these votes in being elected.

As a result of this process of transferring surplus votes, other candidates may be elected. If, however, all surplus votes from elected candidates are transferred and there are still some unfilled positions, another stage of the count begins:

Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates

Starting with the candidate who has the least number of votes, unelected candidates are now excluded from the count and their votes are passed on to the remaining candidates to whom the voters have given their preferences.

The above process continues until all Senate positions are filled.

An example

In this example three Senators are to be elected. The total number of formal votes for the 'State' is 2 400.

Quota - Therefore the QUOTA = $\{2\ 400 \div (3+1)\} + 1 = 601$

All the ballot papers are then examined to see how many number '1' votes each candidate received.

Maria	240
Linh	550
Gerard	730 (First elected)
Jacqui	140
Kevin	590
Monica	150
	2 400 votes

Surplus - Gerard is the only candidate to receive the quota of 601 immediately and so is elected.

The 129 votes he received in excess of the quota are called surplus votes. The surplus of 129 is transferred to the remaining candidates by transferring all Gerard's votes at less than their full value:

No. of surplus votes = 129

Total no. of Gerard's 1st preference votes = 730

Transfer value - Therefore the transfer value is $129 \div 730 = 0.177$

The list below shows the number of second preferences received by each candidate on Gerard's 730 ballot papers.

Maria	100
Linh	400
Jacqui	20
Kevin	150
Monica	60

These ballot papers are then multiplied by their transfer value and then added to the first preference totals.

		Transfer +	1st Pref	= New
		Votes**	Votes	Total
Maria	100 x 0.177 =	18	+ 240	= 258
Linh	400 x 0.177 =	71	+ 550	= 621 Second elected
Jacqui	20 x 0.177 =	4	+ 140	= 144
Kevin	150 x 0.177 =	27	+ 590	= 617 Third elected
Monica	60 x 0.177 =	11	+ 150	= 161

****Note:** For simplicity, the figures used in this example have been rounded. During the actual scrutiny, figures are calculated to 15 digit precision.

Now that Linh and Kevin have also reached the quota, the three vacancies have been filled.

Excluded candidate - Note: If all the vacancies have not been filled after the surplus votes have been transferred, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is excluded. The excluded candidate's ballot papers are distributed according to preferences, at their full value, to the remaining candidates. The distribution of preferences from excluded candidates continues until the required number of Senators is elected.

www.aec.gov.au or call 13 23 26

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What electoral division will you be voting in?

In order to ensure that all Australians are equally represented in the House of Representatives, changes are made from time to time to the boundaries of federal electoral divisions. This redrawing of electoral boundaries is called a redistribution.

A redistribution has occurred in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia since the last federal election. In most cases, polling places will remain the same.

If you wish to check which electoral division you will be voting in, or for any other voting information, call the AEC on **13 23 26** or visit the AEC website **www.aec.gov.au**



AEC Offices:

To find the addresses of all AEC offices around Australia, call the AEC on **13 23 26** or visit our website on **www.aec.gov.au**

For more information about the AEC's services and electoral process, visit our website www.aec.gov.au or call us on 13 23 26.