



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Your official guide to the 2016 federal election

SATURDAY 2 JULY 2016

Did you know voting has
changed this federal election?



**VOTING IS
COMPULSORY**



When?

Election day is
Saturday 2 July 2016.
Polling places open from
8am to 6pm sharp.

Where?

You can vote at any polling
place in your state or territory
on election day.

If you will be interstate on election
day you can vote at a designated
interstate voting centre or any AEC
divisional office in Australia.

Polling places have changed
since the last election. You can
find your nearest polling place at
www.aec.gov.au/where or in any
major metropolitan newspapers
the day before election day.



You can check which polling
places have disabled access
at www.aec.gov.au/where.

For blind or low vision voting options
please call 13 23 26.

What if I can't make it?

If you can't make it to a polling
place on election day, you may
be entitled to vote early, either in
person or by post, if you:

- are outside the electorate where
you are enrolled to vote
- are more than 8km from a polling
place
- are travelling
- can't leave your workplace to vote
- are seriously ill, infirm or due
to give birth shortly (or if you are
caring for someone who is)
- are a patient in hospital and can't
vote at the hospital
- have religious beliefs that prevent
you from attending a polling place
- are in prison serving a sentence
of less than three years or
otherwise detained
- are a silent elector
- have a reasonable fear for
your safety.

How to vote early in person

You can vote before election day
at an early voting centre, with a
mobile polling team, at an Australian
overseas voting centre, or at any
AEC divisional office in Australia.

How to vote early by post

You can apply for a postal vote
online at www.aec.gov.au/pva.
Application forms are also available
from any Australia Post outlet. The
AEC must receive your application
for a postal vote no later than
6pm Wednesday 29 June 2016.

You should apply as soon as
possible to ensure that there is
enough time for you to receive your
ballot papers, complete them and
return them to the AEC.

Has my electoral division changed?

If you live in NSW, WA or the
ACT your electoral division may
have changed. To check which
electoral division you live in visit
www.aec.gov.au/electorate or
call 13 23 26.

If you live in any other state or
territory you will vote in the same
electoral division as you did at the
2013 federal election.



Voting has changed this federal election

Senate

The voting method for electing Senators in your state or territory has changed since the last federal election. To vote for Senators on election day in 2016, you must fill in your ballot paper in the order of your choice. You can do this by voting either above the line or below the line.

Voting above the line

If you vote above the line, you need to number at least 6 boxes from 1 to 6. By voting above the line, your preferences will be distributed in the order that the candidates appear below the line for the party or group you have chosen.

Your preferences will first be distributed to the candidates in the party or group of your first choice, then to candidates in the party or group of your second choice and so on, until all your preferences have been distributed.

Voting below the line

If you vote below the line, you need to number at least 12 boxes from 1 to 12. By voting below the line your preferences will be distributed to the individual candidates as numbered on your ballot paper, in the order of your choice.

House of Representatives

There has been no change to how you vote in the House of Representatives. To make your vote count, you must number all boxes on the green House of Representatives ballot paper in the order of your choice.

Political party logos

Both the Senate and House of Representatives ballot papers will look different. Parties who have a logo registered by the Australian Electoral Commission before the issue of writs can request to have their logo printed on the ballot papers.

Who you vote for is your decision

Outside the polling place, candidate representatives may give you how-to-vote cards, suggesting you vote in a particular way. You do not have to follow the how-to-vote cards.

Did you know you can practise voting on the AEC website? Go to www.aec.gov.au/practise-voting

How to make your vote count

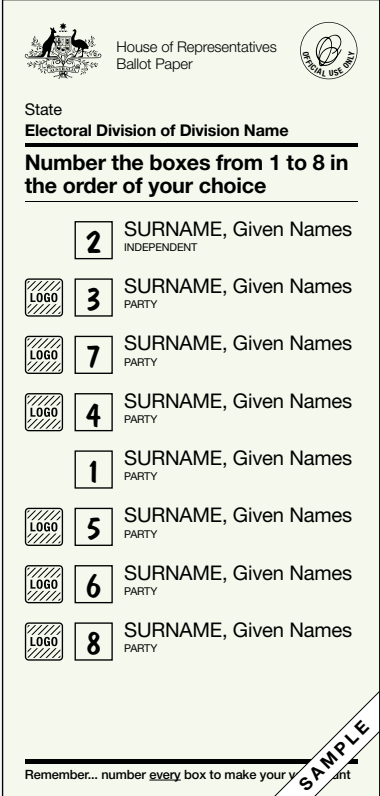
On election day you will receive two ballot papers: a green one for the House of Representatives and a white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

House of Representatives

On the green ballot paper number **every box** in the order of your choice.



The image shows a sample House of Representatives Ballot Paper. At the top left is the Australian coat of arms, and at the top right is the AEC logo. The text reads: "House of Representatives Ballot Paper". Below this, it says "State" and "Electoral Division of Division Name". A bold instruction states: "Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice". There are eight numbered boxes, each with a "LOGO" icon to its left. The boxes are numbered 2, 3, 7, 4, 1, 5, 6, and 8. Each box contains the text "SURNAME, Given Names" and "PARTY". At the bottom, there is a reminder: "Remember... number every box to make your vote count". A diagonal "SAMPLE" watermark is visible in the bottom right corner.

Sample ballot paper

Senate

Voting rules for the Senate have changed. On the white ballot paper you have a choice of two ways to vote:

EITHER

Above the line

If you vote above the line, you need to number **at least 6 boxes** from 1 to 6.

Place a 1 in the box above the party or group that is your first choice, and the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the order of your choice. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes above the line as you like.

OR

Below the line

If you vote below the line, you need to number **at least 12 boxes** from 1 to 12.

Place a 1 in the box beside the candidate that is your first choice, and the numbers 2, 3, 4 and so on to at least the number 12. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes below the line as you like.

Sample ballot paper

Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.

VOTING IS COMPULSORY

If you don't vote, you may be prosecuted. If you vote more than once it is a criminal offence.



What happens at the polling place?

- 1 A polling official will ask for your full name and address, and if you have voted before in this election. They will mark your name off the electoral roll.



- 2 You will be given two ballot papers – a green one for the House of Representatives, and a white one for the Senate.



- 3 Read the instructions on both ballot papers carefully. Ask a polling official for help if you are unsure.



- 4 When you are finished, fold your ballot papers and place them in the correct ballot box.

Alternative versions of this guide

To request this guide in an alternative format call 13 23 26 or download from www.aec.gov.au.

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 13 36 77 and quote 13 23 26.
- Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 and quote 13 23 26.
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 13 23 26.

Translated versions of this guide can be downloaded from www.aec.gov.au/translated.

Telephone interpreter services

For general information about voting and elections in other languages call the number listed next to your preferred language in the following table.

العربية	Arabic	1300 720 132	Jezyk polski	Polish	1300 720 143
廣東話	Cantonese	1300 720 135	Português	Portuguese	1300 720 145
Hrvatski	Croatian	1300 720 136	Русский язык	Russian	1300 720 146
Ελληνικά	Greek	1300 720 137	Српски	Serbian	1300 720 147
Italiano	Italian	1300 720 138	Español	Spanish	1300 720 148
ខ្មែរ	Khmer	1300 720 134	Türkçe	Turkish	1300 720 149
한국어	Korean	1300 720 468	Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Македонски	Macedonian	1300 720 139	Other languages		1300 720 153
普通话	Mandarin	1300 720 142			



www.aec.gov.au 13 23 26



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For more information visit www.aec.gov.au or call 13 23 26.

How to make your vote count

See information inside this brochure or visit www.aec.gov.au/howtovote

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