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
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.

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


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>1300 720 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantonese</td>
<td>1300 720 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>1300 720 136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>1300 720 137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
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<td>Khmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
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<td>1300 720 142</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>1300 720 149</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>1300 720 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other languages</td>
<td>1300 720 153</td>
</tr>
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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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