

Electoral Newsfile

Produced and distributed by the Australian Electoral Commission, West Block, Canberra, for the information of interested persons in the 1990 Federal Election.

AEC Central Office:(062) 714411
NSW (02) 357 3888
VIC (03) 604 4333

QLD
SA
WA

(07) 834 3400
(08) 237 6555
(09) 470 7299

TAS : (002) 204 194
NT (089) 811 477

Candidates Qualifications & Nominations

Qualifications

A candidate for a Federal election must be:

- at least 18 years old
- an Australian citizen
- an elector (or a person qualified to become an elector)

Disqualifications

A person may not be a candidate for a Federal election if he or she is

- a member of a State or Territory Parliament, unless they have resigned before lodging a nomination
- a citizen or subject of a foreign power (Constitution, s44)
- serving a prison sentence of one year or more
- an undischarged bankrupt
- holding an office of profit under the Crown (Commonwealth, State or Territory public servants and members of the Australian Defence Forces usually resign before nominating)
- maintaining a pecuniary interest in any agreement with the Commonwealth Public Service (except as a member of an incorporated company of more than 25 people).

Nominations

Candidates may not lodge nominations until the writ for the election is issued. The date fixed for the close of nominations must be at least 11 days, but not more than 28 days after the issue of the writ. Nominations must be made before 12 noon on the day nominations close.

Nominations for the Senate are made to the Australian Electoral Officer for the State or Territory; nominations for the House of Representatives are made to the Divisional Returning Officer for the Division where the election is to be held.

The nomination forms available from the Commission request:

- full name, place of residence, occupation and contact number.

for endorsed candidates - verification of their endorsement by the registered officer of the party, and an indication whether the party's full name or abbreviation is to be printed adjacent to the candidate's name.

a declaration by the candidate that he or she:

- is constitutionally and legally qualified to be elected
- has not nominated for another election to be held on the same day
- is prepared to act if elected.

Deposits

Senate candidates pay a \$500 deposit with their nomination and House of Representatives candidates pay \$250. These deposits are returned if a candidate gains more than 4 percent of the total first preference votes, or if the candidate is in a group of Senate candidates which polls more than 4 percent.

Group Voting Ticket

Senate candidates may have their names grouped on the ballot paper according to their party affiliations; candidates not endorsed by a party may also make a request to be grouped. This enables voters to use the group voting ticket system.

Election dates

Issue of Writs: Mon 19 February

Close of Rolls: Mon 26 February

Close of Nominations: Midday Fri 2 March

Lodgment of Group Voting Ticket:

Midday Sat 3 March

Polling day:

Sat 24 March

Return of Writs

by Wed 30 May

Election costs

<i>ACTUAL COSTS</i>	\$'000
1975 Double Dissolution	6 167
1977 House of Representatives and Half Senate	9 050
1980 House of Representatives and Half Senate	12 448
1983 Double Dissolution	18 696
1984 House of Representatives, Half Senate and Two Referendum questions	39 742*
1987 Double Dissolution	47 050*

*Includes public funding

Past election timetables

	<i>Issue Writ</i>	<i>Nominations</i>	<i>Polling Day</i>
1969	29 September	7 October	25 October
1972	2 November	10 November	2 December
1974	20 April	29 April	18 May
1975	17 November	28 November	13 December
1977	10 November	18 November	10 December
1980	19 September	27 September	18 October
1983	4 February	19 February	5 March
1984	26 October	2 November	1 December
1987	5 June	18 June	11 July

Enrolment Categories

Compulsory enrolment - Enrolment is compulsory for Australian citizens who are over the age of 18 and have lived at their current address for at least a month.

British subjects who were on the roll on 25 January 1984 are entitled to stay on the roll or to enrol again if for some reason they have lost their enrolment.

Special Electors -

Overseas Electors - Electors who are going overseas but intend to return to live in Australia within three years can register as Overseas Electors and vote by post. The voter's name remains on the roll during his or her absence.

Itinerant Electors - Electors who have no real or fixed place of living may apply as Itinerant electors for the Division:

- . in which their next-of-kin is enrolled
- . for which he or she was previously enrolled
- . in which the elector was born; or
- . for which the elector has the closest connection.

Antarctic Electors - Electors who work in Antarctica may register as such and special provisions are made for the casting of their votes.

Silent Electors - Electors who consider that the publication of their addresses on the Roll would endanger their personal safety or their family's, can have their name, but not address, listed on the roll.

Provisional Enrolment - Persons who are 17 may enrol to vote, but may not vote until they are 18. This enrolment ensures that a person may vote if their eighteenth birthday falls between the close of rolls and polling day.

Voting - Defining some terms

Scrutineers - These are the personal representatives of candidates or political parties. They may be present at a polling place to check that correct procedures are followed when ballot-papers are issued and, later, during the scrutiny when votes are counted.

Absent Vote - Electors who are out of their Division but still within their home State or Territory, can cast an "absent vote" at any polling place in that State or Territory.

Postal Vote - Electors who for various reasons cannot attend a polling place anywhere in the State or Territory for which they are enrolled can apply in writing for a "postal vote". Postal vote application forms are also available from all Post Offices. The Divisional Returning Officer will send ballot papers, which in turn must be posted back to the DRO before polling day. Alternatively, "pre-poll" votes can be cast in person at any Divisional Office or postal voting centre.

Provisional Vote - People who claim a vote but whose name cannot be found on the Certified List of Voters for the Division in which they believe themselves to be enrolled are usually able to cast a "provisional vote". This will not be counted until a careful check of enrolment records has been made.

Declaration Votes - Absent, postal and provisional votes are also known as "declaration votes" because the voter has to sign a declaration that they are eligible to vote. Declaration votes are also given to people whose names may have been marked off the Certified List of Voters as having already voted but claim not to have voted, or to voters who have silent enrolment listings.

Mobile Polling - The Electoral Commission conducts mobile polling facilities in some hospitals and remote areas.