

Electoral Newsfile

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

Election funding & financial disclosure

Funding

Campaign reimbursement - Registered political parties and candidates, and Senate groups not endorsed by a registered political party, can, under federal law, receive public funding in reimbursement for their election campaign expenses.

Claims for public funding - These can be made by registered political parties for votes obtained by their endorsed candidates or Senate groups if they receive at least 4 percent of the total formal first preference votes in the election they contested. Candidates and Senate groups not endorsed by a registered political party can also claim reimbursement if they reach or exceed this threshold.

Amount Paid - Claims must be received by the Commission within 20 weeks after polling day, i.e. 13 August 1990, and must show evidence of campaign expenditure. The amount paid is the lesser of:

- the amount spent on the election; or
- an entitlement that is calculated by multiplying the number of formal first preference votes received by the rate of payment applicable at the time. The rates set for the period 1 January 1990 to 30 June 1990 are 91.223c for each formal first preference vote for an eligible candidate at a House of Representatives election, and 45.611c for each formal first preference vote for an eligible candidate or group in a Senate election held on the same day. These amounts are indexed every six months to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Disclosure

Gifts and Expenditure - All political parties (whether or not they are registered), candidates and Senate groups must disclose gifts received and electoral expenditure incurred.

Similarly, individuals and organisations other than candidates and political parties who take part in an election campaign may also be required to give details of gifts received and electoral expenditure incurred. Broadcasters and publishers are also required to give details of electoral advertising.

Political parties do not have to disclose gifts which are made on the condition that they are not used for a Commonwealth election. Services provided by volunteers and annual membership subscriptions to parties are exempt from the disclosure requirements.

The Commission must be notified of:

- the total value of all gifts and the total number of donors;
- for each gift of a \$1000 or more to a political party or Senate group, and \$200 or more to a candidate; the date on which that gift was received, the amount and value of the gift and the name and address of the donor. Personal gifts such as Christmas and birthday presents need not be disclosed.
- political parties and candidates who contest consecutive elections must report all gifts received from 30 days after polling day in the last election until 30 days after polling day in the next.

Advertising and printing - Electoral expenditure (defined as mainly advertising and printing) incurred between the issue of the writ and polling day, must be disclosed.

Political parties must give the Commission details of gifts and electoral expenditure within 20 weeks after polling day (i.e. 13 August 1990), and Senate groups and candidates within 15 weeks (i.e. by 9 July 1990)

Public Inspection - returns are made available for public inspection 24 weeks after polling day (i.e. from 10 September 1990)

*Further information: Director Funding and Disclosure:
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QLD	(07) 834 3400	NT	(089) 811 477
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Historical Two-party-preferred

Election		NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUST
1949	Labor	50.8	49.7	42.7	50.6	47.0	46.5	n.a	n.a	49.0
	Non-Labor	49.2	50.3	57.3	49.4	53.0	53.5	n.a	n.a	51.0
1951	Labor	50.5	50.7	43.5	51.8	45.6	47.4	n.a	n.a	49.3
	Non-Labor	49.5	49.3	56.5	48.2	54.4	52.6	n.a	n.a	50.7
1954	Labor	53.0	50.7	44.8	52.7	48.1	50.0	n.a	n.a	50.7
	Non-Labor	47.0	49.3	55.2	47.3	51.9	50.0	n.a	n.a	49.3
1955	Labor	49.5	40.8	43.9	49.0	43.5	47.5	n.a	n.a	45.8
	Non-labor	50.5	59.2	56.1	51.0	56.5	52.5	n.a	n.a	54.2
1958	Labor	49.8	42.3	41.4	49.8	40.8	49.8	n.a	n.a	45.9
	Non-labor	50.2	57.7	58.6	50.2	59.2	50.2	n.a	n.a	54.1
1961	Labor	54.8	44.5	50.7	54.2	43.5	56.0	n.a	n.a	50.5
	Non-Labor	45.2	55.5	49.3	45.8	56.5	44.0	n.a	n.a	49.5
1963	Labor	49.3	42.5	48.1	53.3	43.8	54.5	n.a	n.a	47.4
	Non-Labor	50.7	57.5	51.9	46.7	56.2	45.5	n.a	n.a	52.6
1966	Labor	43.9	39.3	44.3	42.4	45.7	53.9	n.a	n.a	43.1
	Non-Labor	56.1	60.7	55.7	57.6	54.3	46.1	n.a	n.a	56.9
1969	Labor	51.6	44.9	49.9	54.2	52.6	56.1	40.8	71.6	50.2
	Non-Labor	48.4	55.1	50.1	45.8	47.4	43.9	59.2	28.4	49.8
1972	Labor	55.4	50.4	49.5	52.7	48.3	60.5	45.5	68.0	52.7
	Non-Labor	44.6	49.6	50.5	47.3	51.7	39.5	54.5	32.0	47.3
1974	Labor	54.9	50.6	45.4	52.5	48.5	55.4	47.3	59.7	51.7
	Non-Labor	45.1	49.4	54.6	47.5	51.5	44.6	52.7	40.3	48.3
1975	Labor	46.8	43.8	39.8	44.9	41.2	44.1	45.1	49.3	44.3
	Non-Labor	53.2	56.2	60.2	55.1	58.8	55.9	54.9	50.7	55.7
1977	Labor	47.6	44.5	42.0	48.7	39.9	43.8	47.5	54.3	45.4
	Non-Labor	52.4	55.5	58.0	51.3	60.1	56.2	52.5	45.7	54.6
1980	Labor	50.4	50.7	46.9	49.6	46.7	47.1	48.8	58.6	49.6
	Non-Labor	49.6	49.3	53.1	50.4	53.3	52.9	51.2	41.4	50.4
1983*	Labor	54.1	54.5	49.5	52.3	55.0	43.6	51.9	65.5	53.2
	Non-Labor	45.9	45.5	50.5	47.7	45.0	56.4	48.1	34.5	46.8
1984*	Labor	52.9	53.1	47.7	51.7	50.9	46.6	48.6	62.0	51.8
	Non-Labor	47.1	46.9	52.3	48.3	49.1	53.4	51.4	38.0	48.2
1987*	Labor	50.3	52.3	49.3	50.2	50.9	46.9	52.2	63.2	50.8
	Non-Labor	49.7	47.7	50.7	49.8	49.1	53.1	47.8	36.8	49.2

n.a: not available

* Actual result based on full distribution of preferences, previous figures are estimates only.

Voter turnout - Past elections

(as a percentage of enrolment)

1977	Referendum	92.55%
1977	Election	95.31%
1980	Election	94.35%
1983	Election	94.64%
1984	Election and Referendum	94.09%
1987	Election	94.33%
1988	Referendum	92.50%

Close of Nominations Information availability

Nominations close on Friday March 2 at 12 noon.

Final lists of candidates, by State, will be available from each State Head Office of the AEC by close of business.

An Australia wide consolidation will be available from the AEC Central Office by 4pm Saturday 3 March.

Register of Political Parties

as at 19 February 1990

NAME OF PARTY

Where one has been lodged, the party's abbreviation is indicated in *Italics*.

A.C.T. Referendum First Group
 Australian Conservative Party - *A.C.P.*
 Australian Democrats - *Democrats*
 Australian Family Movement - *A.F.M.*
 Australian Gruen Party - *The Gruens*
 The MacArthur Gruen Party - *The Gruens*
 Australian Labor Party (ALP) - *A.L.P.*
 Australian Labor Party (N.S.W. Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (Victorian Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (State of Queensland) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (Western Australian Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (South Australian Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (Tasmanian Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (ACT Branch) - *Australian Labor Party*
 Australian Labor Party (Northern Territory Branch) - *A.L.P.*
 Australians Against Further Immigration
 Call to Australia (Fred Nile) Group - *Call to Australia (C.T.A.)*
 Call to Australia (Fred Nile) Group - *Call to Australia (CTA) NSW*
 Call to Australia (Fred Nile) Group - *Call to Australia (CTA) Vic*
 Citizens' Electoral Councils Group - *C.E.C. Group*
 Combined New Australia Party - *C.N.A.P.*
 Communist Party of Australia
 Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia - *Democratic Labor Party (DLP)*
 Democratic Socialist Party - *Dem. Soc.*
 Grey Power
 Independent EFF - *EFF*
 Irina Dunn Environment Independents - *Environment Independents*
 Liberal Party of Australia - *Liberal*
 Liberal Party of Australia (NSW) - *Liberal*
 Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division) - *Liberal*
 Liberal Party of Australia - Queensland Division - *Liberal*
 Liberal Party (W.A. Division) Inc. - *Liberal*

Liberal Party of Australia (S.A. Division) - *Liberal*
 Liberal Party of Australia - Tasmanian Division - *Liberal*;
 Liberal Party of Australia - ACT Division - *Liberal*
 National Party of Australia - *National Party*
 National Party of Australia - NSW - *National Party*
 National Party of Australia - Victoria - *National Party*
 National Party of Australia (Queensland) - *National Party*
 National Party of Australia (WA) Inc - *National Party*
 National party of Australia (S.A.) Inc. - *National Party*
 Northern Territory Country Liberal Party - *C.L.P.*
 Nuclear Disarmament Party - *NDP*
 One Australia Movement - *O.A.M.*
 Pensioner Party of Australia - *P.P.A.*
 Rex Connor (Snr) Labor Party
 Senator Brian HARRADINE Group
 Socialist Party of Australia - *S.P.A.*
 The Australian Ethnic Democrats - *AUSED*
 The Greens
 Central Coast Green Party - *Central Coast Greens*
 Cowper Greens
 Eastern Suburbs Greens - *The Greens*
 Green Alliance Senate - New South Wales - *Green Alliance*
 Greens in Lowe - *Greens*
 Illawarra Greens
 South Sydney Greens
 Sydney Greens - *The Greens*
 The Green Party of South Australia - *The Greens*
 The Victorian Green Alliance - *The Victorian Greens*
 Western Australian Green Party - *The Greens (W.A.)*
 Western Suburbs Greens
 Torres United Party - *TUP*
 Unite Australia Party - *United (U.A.P.)*
 United Tasmania Group - *U.T.G.*

Advertising

The Commission's enrolment advertising will continue up until the close of rolls on 26 February.

The second phase of advertising, which will begin in the week beginning 5 March, focuses on facilities for pre-poll and postal voting. Newspaper advertisements will include the addresses of specially appointed pre-poll voting centres which, along with Divisional Offices, will be open for early voting for those eligible in the lead up to polling day.

The final phase of the AEC advertising program will include directions on correctly filling out the ballot papers, reminders that voting is compulsory, the hours of polling, and also lists all polling places for each State and Territory.

Voting - questions and answers

How do I nominate?

A Nomination form should be completed, showing the candidate's name, place of residence and occupation. For endorsed candidates the form is usually signed by the registered officer of the party so that the party's name can appear on the ballot paper adjacent to the candidate's name. For unendorsed candidates the nomination form must be signed by six electors of the relevant division (House of Representatives) or State (Senate).

When the candidate delivers the nomination he or she is required to lodge a deposit in cash or bank cheque for either \$500 (for the Senate) or \$250 (for the House of Representatives). This is returned if the candidate or Senate group polls more than 4% of the total first preference votes cast in that election.

Senate nominations must be lodged with the Australian Electoral Officer for the State or Territory for which the person is being nominated. House of Representatives nominations must be lodged with the relevant Divisional Returning Officer.

Nominations must be received before 12 noon on Friday March 2.

In addition to the above provisions for nominating, the candidate is required to sign a declaration 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; and
- is prepared to act if elected.

I am going overseas. How can I vote?

If you will be out of the country on polling day you can either:

- (1) record a pre-poll vote in person at any Divisional office or special pre-poll/postal voting centre *any time from Monday March 5*; or
- (2) complete an application for a postal vote, available from post offices or AEC offices and nominate an address overseas to which a postal vote ballot paper can be sent (*make sure enough time is allowed for the processing of the application, dispatching ballot papers and returning them postmarked Friday before polling day*); or
- (3) Record a postal vote in person at your nearest Australian Overseas Post while you are overseas, i.e. Australian Embassies and High Commissions.

Thirteen days are allocated after polling day for the receipt of postal votes.

Do I have to vote if I am overseas?

Yes, voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors.

I will be interstate, or I am ill, disabled, pregnant or I live more than 8km from the nearest polling place, and will be unable to get to a polling place. How can I vote?

You may either:

- (1) record a pre-poll vote at a special pre-poll/postal voting centre, or Divisional Office from Monday March 5; or
- (2) obtain an application form for a postal vote from any post office or AEC office. When we receive your application, postal ballot papers will be sent to you which you must then return, postmarked prior to polling day; or
- (3) if you are in hospital there may be a polling booth set up at the hospital, or you may be visited by mobile polling staff before polling day; or
- (4) if you live in a remote area there may be a mobile polling station set up near you on a certain day on or before polling day (check local newspapers or the local Divisional Office for details).

Election 1990 - the index

How high is a large ballot box: *1 metre*

How much higher is a cardboard voting screen than the average Australian male: *20cm*

Number of voting screens: *90,000*

How much lighter is a cardboard voting screen than a wooden one: *31 kg*

How many overseas postal voting centres: *98*

Number of cardboard polling place tables: *2,600*

Number of cardboard litter bins: *8,500*

Number of cardboard polling place queuing packs: *10,000*

Number of large ballot boxes: *17,000*

Number of declaration envelopes used for postal votes, absent votes etc: *1.9m*