

Electoral Newsfile

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

House of Representatives - Nomination details

showing comparison of male and female candidates by party

NSW VIC QLD WA SA TAS ACT NT

PARTY	NSW		VIC		QLD		WA		SA		TAS		ACT		NT		M	F	Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
ACP	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2
AFI	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
AGP	5	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	3	8
ALP	46	5	36	2	18	6	12	2	11	2	4	1	1	1	1	129	19	148	
CCG	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	
CEC	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	
CG	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1
CLP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	1
CNA	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	6	6
CTA	14	2	20	4	.	.	.	.	11	1	.	.	.	.	.	45	7	52	
DEM	38	11	27	11	19	4	10	4	8	5	3	2	.	2	.	105	39	144	
DLP	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
DSP	3	5	4	3	3	1	4	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	17	12	29	
EFF	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	1	5	5
EI	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1
GA	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
GLO	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
GRN	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	3	3	6	6
GRY	4	1	.	.	.	.	11	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	17	4	21	21
IG	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2
IND	51	4	25	3	8	1	7	2	10	1	2	.	1	.	4	108	11	119	119
OTH	8	2	8	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	19	3	22	22
LP	35	6	31	4	21	1	11	3	10	3	5	.	1	1	.	114	18	132	132
NDP	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2	2	4	4
NP	10	3	4	1	23	1	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	41	6	47	47
PPA	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2
RCL	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2
SG	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
SPA	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	3
SSG	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1
UTG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2	2
WAG	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	7	14	14
TOTAL Male	238		160		94		69		55		17		4		6	643			
TOTAL Female	46		28		17		23		14		3		7		1	139			
TOTAL	284		188		111		92		69		20		11		7				782

Abbreviations are shown on page 4

Counting the Votes - House of Representatives

To vote for a Member of the House of Representatives, an elector is directed to write the number 1 against the candidate who is the first choice, and the numbers 2,3 and so on against all the other candidates, in order of the elector's preference.

A candidate receiving more than 50 percent of the first preference votes is immediately elected. However, if no candidate gains 50 percent of first preferences, the one with the fewest votes is excluded. That candidate's votes are then transferred to the other candidates according to the preferences shown on the ballot paper. This process continues until one candidate has an absolute majority (ie. 50% + 1) of the votes and is declared elected.

For example, the accompanying table shows the numbers and percentages of votes received by each candidate for the Division of Eden-Monaro at each stage of the scrutiny in the 1987 election.

The first count row shows the first preference votes of each candidate, the total number of first preference votes and each candidate's votes as a percentage of total votes. The subsequent rows show how votes were distributed from excluded candidates, the percentage of excluded candidates' and continuing candidates' total votes after the distribution of preferences and each candidate's votes as a percentage of total votes.

When an excluded candidate's ballot-paper shows no preference for any continuing candidate, that ballot-paper is set aside as exhausted. Exhausted votes are shown in the right hand column of the table and are not included in the total column. Percentages therefore show the percentage of votes left in the count at each stage.

The candidate with the majority of total votes (54.4%), Snow, was elected.

	Snow (ALP)	McGlynn (IND)	Evans (LP)	Kircher (UAP)	Cochran (NP)	Total	Ex- hausted
<i>Count</i>							
1st	30335 (48.36%)	3582 (5.7%)	18088 (28.84%)	405 (0.06%)	10316 (16.45%)	62726	-
2nd	90	120	72	Excluded	122	404	1
Total	30425 (48.51%)	3702 (5.9%)	18160 (28.95%)		10438 (16.64%)	62725	1
3rd	2547	Excluded	589		564	3700	2
Total	32972 (52.57%)		18749 (29.89%)		11002 (17.54%)	62723	3
4th	1172		9828		Excluded	11000	2
Total	34144 (54.44%)		28577 (46.56%)			62721	5
	Elected						

Senate - Nomination details

showing comparison of male and female candidates by party

PARTY	NSW		VIC		QLD		WA		SA		TAS		ACT		NT		M	F	Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F					
ACP	.	.	.	.	1	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	1	5
AFI	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2
AGP	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
ALP	3	1	4	1	4	.	4	.	2	2	2	2	1	.	1	1	21	7	28
CEC	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	3
CLP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	2
CNA	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	6
CTA	2	.	2	.	2	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	2	10
DEM	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	.	.	11	12	23
DLP	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2
DSP	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	2	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	2	4	6
EFF	5	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	1	6
EI	2	1	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	2	7
GA	2	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	5	8
GRN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
GRY	3	.	.	.	2	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	.	8
IND	8	.	6	2	3	.	2	1	2	.	1	.	2	1	.	1	24	5	29
LP	2	1	4	1	2	1	4	.	4	.	2	1	1	1	.	.	19	5	24
NDP	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	3	2	5
NP	1	.	1	.	3	1	2	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	2	11
OTH	9	1	2	.	2	1	1	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	15	5	20
PPA	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1	4
UTG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	1	3	4
VGA	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	3
WAG	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	3
Male	47		28		25		20		17		8		8		4		157		
Female		15		10		8		10		9		8		4		2		66	
TOTAL	62		38		33		30		26		16		12		6				223

Counting the Votes - the Senate

The quota

Senators are elected by a preferential voting system. However, unlike House of Representatives elections in which candidates have to gain 50 percent + 1 of the votes to be elected, Senate candidates must gain a quota of the formal votes.

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 candidates to be elected, and adding one to the result (ignoring any remainder).

This example shows how the quota for NSW in the 1987 Senate election was calculated. Twelve Senators* were to be elected from among 50 candidates.

Number of Senators to be elected: 12
 Number of formal ballot papers in
 NSW in 1987 election: 3 196 474

The quota: $\frac{3\ 196\ 474}{12} + 1 = 245\ 883$
 12 (Senators) + 1

* Note: The 1990 election is a half-Senate election, in which 6 Senators will be chosen for each State and 2 Senators will be chosen for each Territory.

Surplus votes

Candidates who receive a quota, or more, of first-preference votes are immediately elected. The surplus first preference votes of candidates who receive more than the quota are transferred to second-choice candidates. Surplus votes are transferred at less than their full value.

Transfer value

The fractional, or transfer, value of the ballot papers is worked out by dividing the number of surplus votes by the total number of the elected candidate's ballot papers.

Let's say candidate Bill Smith has 60 340 first-preference votes, that is 60 340 votes. The quota is 35 430. Smith has 24 910 surplus votes.

To work out the transfer value, Smith's surplus ballot papers (24 920) are divided by the total number of his ballot papers (60 340):

$$\frac{24\ 910}{60\ 340} = 0.4128273118$$

The figure is taken to the eighth decimal point, without rounding. So the transfer value is 0.41282731.

The next step is to re-examine all Smith's ballot papers.

Let's say that of the 60,340 people who voted for Smith as first choice, 33 000 put Mary Jones as second choice.

Those 33 000 second-choice ballot papers are then multiplied by the transfer value to work out how many votes they represent.

$$33\ 000 \times 0.41282731 = 13\ 623$$

These 13 623 transferred votes are then added to the number of first-preference votes Jones received.

If Jones got 22 390 first-preference votes, and the extra 13 623 votes transferred from Smith are added, she has a total of 36 013 ie. 583 more than the quota.

Jones is therefore elected.

Next, all her ballot papers are transferred to the voter's next choice candidate - but, again, not at their full value.

A new transfer value for Jones's ballot papers is worked out by dividing 583, the number of surplus votes, by the total number of ballot papers she has received: 22 390 first-preference ballot papers + 33 000 ballot papers from Smith = 55 390.

$$\frac{583}{55\ 390} = 0.01052536$$

Jones's ballot papers are then distributed at this value according to the next preferences shown on them.

Excluding candidates

If after the transfer of all candidates' surplus ballot papers all places have not been filled, the candidate with the fewest ballot papers is excluded from the count. The excluded candidate's ballot papers are distributed to the remaining candidates.

Abbreviations

Australian Conservative Party	ACP
Australians Against Further Immigration	AFI
Australian Gruen Party	AGP
Australian Labor Party (ALP)	ALP
Central Coast Green Party	CCG
Citizens' Electoral Councils Group	CEC
Cowper Greens	CG
Northern Territory Country Liberal Party	CLP
Combined New Australia Party	CNA
Call to Australia (Fred Nile) Group	CTA
Australian Democrats	DEM
Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia	DLP
Democratic Socialist Party	DSP
Independent EFF	EFF
Irina Dunn Environment Independents	EI
Green Alliance Senate - New South Wales	GA
Greens in Lowe	GLO
The Greens	GRN
Grey Power	GRY
Illawarra Greens	IG
Independent	IND
Liberal Party of Australia	LP
Nuclear Disarmament Party	NDP
National Party of Australia	NP
Other - (no other affiliation)	OTH
Pensioner Party of Australia	PPA
Rex Connor (Snr) Labor Party	RCL
Sydney Greens	SG
Socialist Party of Australia	SPA
South Sydney Greens	SSG
United Tasmanian Group	UTG
The Victorian Green Alliance	VGA
Western Australian Green Party	WAG

The excluded candidate's first-preference ballot papers are transferred first at full value.

Ballot papers that have been transferred to this candidate are then distributed. The transfer value of these papers is the same as it was when the candidate obtained them.

These steps continue until either all vacancies are filled or all candidates, except the number required to fill all the vacancies, have been excluded.