

Election timetable

Federal election 2010

Election timetable according to the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* and the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

Event	Min-Max period	Election 2010
Election announced Prime Minister announces the intention to hold an election.	n/a	Saturday 17 July
Issue of writ A writ commands an electoral officer to hold an election and contains dates for the close of rolls, close of nominations, polling day and the last day for the return of the writ. (Constitution s.12, 32) (the Act s.151)	0-10 days	Monday 19 July
Close of rolls Rolls close at 8pm, 3 working days after issue of writs, but new names are not added after 8pm on day of issue of writ. (CEA ss.102 [4], 155)	0-3 days	Thursday 22 July
Close of nominations It is not possible to nominate as a candidate for election until the writs have been issued. Candidates must nominate by 12 noon on the date specified on the writs as close of nominations. (the Act s.156)	10-37 days	12 noon Thursday 29 July
Declaration of nominations The public announcement of nominations received followed by a draw for positions on the ballot paper, 24 hours after the close of nominations. (the Act s.176)	11-38 days	12 noon Friday 30 July
Polling day The day on which the majority of electors cast their vote at a polling place. It must be a Saturday and at least 33 days after the issue of the writs. (the Act s.157)	33-68 days	Saturday 21 August



AEC
Australian Electoral Commission

<p>Return of writ For the House of Representatives, the Electoral Commissioner attaches a certificate to the writ with the name of each candidate elected for each division and returns the Writ to the Governor-General. (the Act s. 284)</p> <p>For the Senate, the Australian Electoral Officer for each State and Territory attaches a certificate to the Writ with the names of the elected Senators for that State or Territory and returns the Writ to the State Governor (for States) and the Governor-General (for Territories) (the Act s.283)</p> <p>Writs must be returned within 100 days of their issue.</p>	<p>110 days</p>	<p>Latest date Wednesday 27 October</p>
<p>Meeting of Parliament The new Parliament must meet within 30 days of the day appointed for the return of the writs. (Constitution s.5)</p>	<p>140 days (maximum)</p>	