Your official guide
to the 2019 federal election

SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019

Your vote will help shape Australia

Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over
Election day is Saturday 18 May 2019. Polling places open from 8am to 6pm sharp.

Where can I vote?
You can vote at any polling place in your state or territory on election day. Polling places are usually located at local schools, churches and community halls, or public buildings.
To find your nearest polling place visit www.aec.gov.au/where. Details of polling places will also be published in major metropolitan newspapers the day before election day.
You can check the accessibility rating and details of polling places at www.aec.gov.au/where.
For blind or low vision voting options please call 13 23 26.
If you will be interstate on election day you can vote at a designated interstate voting centre, or consider the early voting options below.

What if I can’t make it on election day?
If you can’t make it to a polling place in your state or territory on election day, you may be eligible to vote early either in person or by post.

How to make your vote count
On election day you will receive two ballot papers:
- a green one for the House of Representatives, and
- a white one for the Senate.
You must complete both ballot papers.
On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.
On the white ballot paper you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

House of Representatives
On the green ballot paper you must number every box in the order of your choice.

Has my electoral division changed?
There are now 151 federal electoral divisions (including two new divisions). Some divisions have been renamed, and the boundaries of many have changed since the last federal election.

Who you vote for is your decision
Outside the polling place, candidate representatives may offer to give you how-to-vote cards, suggesting you vote in a particular way. You do not have to accept or follow the how-to-vote cards.
Senate

On the white ballot paper you have a choice of two ways to vote:

**EITHER**

**Above the line**

If you choose to vote above the line, you need to **number at least 6 boxes**.

Put the number ‘1’ in the box for the party or group that is your first choice, a ‘2’ for your second choice and so on until you’ve numbered at least 6 boxes. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes above the line as you like.

**Below the line**

If you choose to vote below the line, you need to **number at least 12 boxes**, from 1 to 12, for individual candidates in the order of your choice. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes below the line as you like.

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**Sample ballot paper**

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

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

You can download alternative formats of this guide such as audio and large print at www.aec.gov.au. Braille is also available on request by calling 13 23 26.

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS):
- 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.

Information in other languages


Telephone interpreter services are available. For information about voting and elections, call the number listed next to your preferred language.

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Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and over. If you don’t vote, you may be prosecuted.

If you vote more than once it is a criminal offence.