How is a referendum passed? transcript

*This transcript provides an alternate to the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC’s) How is a referendum passed? video.*

How is a referendum passed?

The AEC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Soon it will be time to vote in a referendum. People will vote to decide if the Constitution will be changed. Something called a ‘double majority’ has to happen for the change to pass.

When more than half the voters vote in a particular way it’s known as a majority.

For a referendum to pass it must achieve a double majority. This means that more than half the voters in Australia vote ‘YES’, and more than half the voters in more than half the states must also vote ‘YES’.

Australia has six states so more than half the voters in at least four states need to vote ‘YES’ for a referendum to pass. You may be wondering about the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territoryhen the Constitution was written the Territories were part of the States. Territorians are included in the national vote however there hasn’t been a change to the Constitution to include them in the state vote.

Voting is a powerful way to have a say for you and your community. It’s important you’re enrolled and your details are up to date so you can vote.

Enrol or update your details at aec.gov.au