



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Your official guide to the 2022 federal election SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022

**VOTING IS
COMPULSORY**

FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS
AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER



**Your vote will help
shape Australia**

Message from the Electoral Commissioner

The AEC has developed this guide to help you plan for your vote at this federal election. The guide details how to vote correctly, what happens at the polling place, frequently asked questions and tips on how to check information sources.

We will have polling places open across the country on election day, as well as other voting options to support communities to have their say.

You can be confident that:

- We're delivering an electoral process with **integrity**, securing your vote at every step of the process – from the printing to the counting of your ballot papers.
- Your **health and safety**, and that of our electoral staff, is a priority, and a range of COVID-19 safety measures will be in place.

The robust exchange of ideas is a part of election campaigning, and I encourage you to carefully consider all information you receive, but particularly anything that questions our well-established electoral process. **Ask yourself if it's from a recognisable and reliable source.** If the answer is no, my suggestion is to be cautious.

Visit aec.gov.au for more information on how you can have your say at this election.

Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner



MORE THAN **96%**
on the electoral roll



7,000+
polling places



500+
early voting centres



100,000+
temporary election workers

Stop and consider

Check the source this federal election

During the election period a large amount of information is distributed, which seeks to influence your vote.

This is a vital part of the democratic process. It gives candidates, political parties and others a way to communicate their policies and beliefs with voters.

However, some information may be deliberately false or misleading.

It's important you carefully consider what you see, hear or read about the federal election.

Take the time to consider whether the information is:

- from a reliable or recognisable source
- current
- safe (not a scam).

This is particularly important when on social media and online.

Go to aec.gov.au/stopandconsider for more information and short videos with helpful tips.



Election day is Saturday 21 May 2022

Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm sharp

A federal election is held so Australians can choose members of parliament to represent their views and interests in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Who has to vote?

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required to enrol and vote in federal elections.

Where can I vote?

You can vote at any polling place in your state or territory on election day. Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.

Polling places are usually located at local schools, churches and community halls, or public buildings. To find your nearest polling place visit aec.gov.au/where

If you have a mobility restriction or disability, or care for someone who does, you can check the accessibility details of polling places at aec.gov.au/where

For blind or low vision voting options, visit aec.gov.au/assistance or call 13 23 26.

What if I'm in another state or territory?

If you will be interstate on election day you can vote at a designated

interstate voting centre or consider the early voting options available as follows.

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 in person or by post.

How to vote early in person

If you are eligible, you can vote before election day. Early voting centres open from **Monday 9 May 2022**. Opening dates and times vary, so visit aec.gov.au/where to check the details for each centre.

For more information on early voting and to check if you're eligible, visit aec.gov.au/early or call 13 23 26.

How to vote early by post

Postal voting is available to eligible voters. Check your eligibility and apply online at aec.gov.au/pva

Complete your application for a postal vote so it reaches the AEC **by no later than 6pm Wednesday 18 May 2022**.

Please call **13 23 26** if you don't have online access and want to apply for a postal vote.

What electoral division am I in?

You can check which division you live in at aec.gov.au/electorate

If you live in **Western Australia** or **Victoria**, the name or boundaries of your electoral division may have changed since the last federal election as a result of a redistribution. You may need to vote in a different division, or your usual polling place may be in a different division.

Who you vote for is your decision

Outside a 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 how to vote cards.



Have another question?
Go to aec.gov.au/faqs



How to make your vote count

On election day you will be given two ballot papers, a small green one for the House of Representatives, and a large 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, **number every box** in the order of your choice.

Sample ballot paper

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

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.

Sample ballot paper

OR

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.

Sample ballot paper



Did you know you can practise voting on the AEC website? Go to aec.gov.au/practise

What you can do to plan before you vote

BE COVIDSAFE

You can take measures to keep yourself and others safe while voting.

- **COVID-19 symptoms? Thanks for not attending a polling place.**
- If unwell, you may be eligible to apply for a postal vote. You can apply online at aec.gov.au/pva until **6pm Wednesday 18 May 2022**.
- Do your research on candidates and preferences before attending. Lists of the candidates are at aec.gov.au/election/candidates.htm
- Where possible, make sure only eligible voters attend.
- Avoid socialising and spending extra time at or around polling places.



Visit aec.gov.au/covid-safety for the latest updates and advice

What happens at the polling place

Voting steps

- 1 The voting official will ask you for your full name and address, and if you've voted before in this federal election. Your name will be marked off the electoral roll.
- 2 You will be given your ballot papers.
- 3 At the voting booth, carefully read the instructions on your ballot papers or ask a voting official for help.
- 4 Complete your ballot papers.
- 5 Fold your ballot papers and place them in the ballot boxes.

COVID-19 safety measures in place

- There may be a limit to the number of voters inside a polling place at any one time. You may be asked to queue outside.
- Keep 1.5 metres from others outside and inside, and in the polling place follow the floor markers as a guide.
- Check in using the QR code or manually if required.
- Comply with the mask requirements in your area.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Voting booths and pencils will be regularly cleaned. Bring your own pen or pencil if you prefer, but don't leave it behind.



Stay at home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Check local mask requirements



Use the hand sanitiser provided



Stand 1.5 metres apart

It's important to follow your local state or territory government COVID-19 health guidelines. Links to these guidelines are at aec.gov.au/covid-safety

Information in this guide reflects circumstances at the time of printing. The AEC will continue to follow advice from federal and state health authorities, and any updated measures will be on our website.

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SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022

Alternative versions of this guide

Information in accessible formats

You can download accessible formats of this guide, such as audio and large print at aec.gov.au/assistance

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**.
- Auslan interpreting services will also be available. Visit the AEC website for more.



Information in other languages

Translated versions of this guide in 33 languages can be downloaded from aec.gov.au/translated



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

العربية	Arabic	1300 720 132
မြန်မာ	Burmese	1300 290 617
廣東話	Cantonese	1300 720 135
Hrvatski	Croatian	1300 720 136
دری	Dari	1300 290 618
فارسی	Farsi (Persian)	1300 290 619
Ελληνικά	Greek	1300 720 137
Italiano	Italian	1300 720 138
ខ្មែរ	Khmer	1300 720 134
한국어	Korean	1300 720 468
Македонски	Macedonian	1300 720 139
普通话	Mandarin	1300 720 142
Język polski	Polish	1300 720 143
Português	Portuguese	1300 720 145
Русский язык	Russian	1300 720 146
Српски	Serbian	1300 720 147
Español	Spanish	1300 720 148
Türkçe	Turkish	1300 720 149
Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Other languages		1300 720 153

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.