

Voting is compulsory



# Your official guide to the 2010 federal election

**SATURDAY 21 AUGUST 2010**

# Ballot box



**AEC**  
Australian Electoral Commission

*Your vote is a valuable thing*

**ELECTION  
2010**

# Federal election day

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YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE



Election day is **Saturday 21 August 2010**.



Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens on the electoral roll aged 18 years and over. If you don't vote, you may face a penalty.



Polling places will open at **8am** and close at **6pm** sharp.



You can vote at any **polling place** in your state or territory on election day.



If you **cannot get to a polling place in your state or territory on election day**, see pages 4 and 5 for information on other ways to vote.



**Make sure your vote counts** – you must fill out the ballot paper correctly. See the back page for information on how to vote correctly.

## Alternative versions of this guide

To request copies of alternative accessible formats of this guide, call 13 23 26 or download from [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au).

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service:

TTY users phone 133 677 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.

Language versions of this guide can be downloaded from [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au).

For general information about voting and elections in other languages, or for a translated version of this guide, phone:

عربي	1300 720 132	Arabic	한국어	1300 720 468	Korean	Српски	1300 720 147	Serbian
中文	1300 720 135	Cantonese	Македонски	1300 720 139	Macedonian	Español	1300 720 148	Spanish
Hrvatski	1300 720 136	Croatian	中文	1300 720 142	Mandarin	Türkçe	1300 720 149	Turkish
Ελληνικά	1300 720 137	Greek	Polski	1300 720 143	Polish	Việt-ngữ	1300 720 152	Vietnamese
Italiano	1300 720 138	Italian	Português	1300 720 145	Portuguese	<b>Other languages</b>	<b>1300 720 153</b>	
ខ្មែរ	1300 720 134	Khmer	Русский	1300 720 146	Russian			

# Need more information?

# Voting on the day

The easiest way to vote is to go to a polling place in your electorate on **Saturday 21 August 2010**.

If you'll be in your home state or territory on election day, but outside your electorate, you can still vote at any polling place.

All polling places will open at **8am** and close at **6pm** sharp.

To find out where to vote, use the polling place locator at **[www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)**. Polling places will also be advertised in major metropolitan newspapers on the Friday before election day.

Some people will be enrolled in a different electorate since the last election because some electoral boundaries have changed. To check the electorate you are enrolled in call the AEC or go to **[www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)**.

If you can't make it to a polling place in your state or territory on election day you can still make your vote count. See pages 4 and 5 for more information.



# Can't get to a polling place?



## Outside your state

If you'll be in another state or territory on election day, it's important to know you can't vote at just any polling place. You can only vote at an interstate voting centre on election day. However you can vote early at any early voting centre or AEC divisional office. You can also vote early by post.

## Overseas

If you'll be overseas you can vote by post or in person at most Australian overseas embassies or missions. Check before you visit. Embassy contact details are available at [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au). You can also vote before you leave Australia at an early voting centre or by post.

## In a remote area

Voting teams are visiting some remote areas. Check for posters at your local council, listen to the radio, read your local paper for times and dates, or contact the AEC.

## In a hospital or nursing home

Voting teams will visit some hospitals and nursing homes in the lead up to the election or on election day. If this is not the case at your hospital or nursing home, you may be able to apply for a postal vote. Your reception staff may have postal vote application forms, or contact the AEC.

## In prison

People serving a prison sentence of less than three years are entitled to vote. Prisoners can vote by post or may be able to use mobile polling services.

# Need more information?



You may be eligible to vote before election day if, on election day, you can't get to a polling place because you:

- are outside the electorate where you are enrolled to vote
- are more than 8km from a polling place
- are travelling or can't leave your workplace to vote
- are seriously ill, infirm or approaching childbirth (or if you are caring for someone who is)
- are a patient in hospital and can't vote at the hospital
- have religious beliefs that prevent you from attending a polling place
- are in prison serving a sentence of less than three years or otherwise detained
- are a silent elector or have a reasonable fear for your safety.

If eligible to vote early, you can vote in one of two ways:



**In person** – before election day at an early voting centre. Early voting centres are at convenient locations and some are open outside normal business hours. You can also vote at any AEC divisional office during business hours. To find your nearest early voting centre or AEC office, visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or call **13 23 26**. You can also look under 'Australian Electoral Commission' in the White Pages for the address of your closest AEC office.



**By post** – you can apply for a postal vote by filling out an application form. Postal vote application forms are available at any post office, AEC office or at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). The AEC must receive your application for a postal vote by 6pm Thursday 19 August 2010.

Remember to leave enough time for your ballot papers to be posted to you, completed and then returned to the AEC before 6pm on election day. Post your voting envelope as early as possible **before** election day.

# At the polling place

## POLLING PLACE

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

		In the polling place a polling official will ask for your full name and address, ask if you have voted before in this election and then mark your name off the electoral roll.
		You will be given two ballot papers – a green one for the House of Representatives, and a white one for the Senate.
		Read the instructions on both ballot papers carefully. There are different ways to complete each one. Ask a polling official for help if you are unsure.
		Once you have completed your ballot papers, fold and place the ballot papers in the ballot boxes provided.

**Don't worry if you make a mistake.**

**You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.**

See the back cover of this guide for instructions.

You can practise voting at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au).

# Need more information?

# Access for people with a disability



Polling places with disabled access will be shown on the website and in the newspaper advertisement. There are also special arrangements at polling places for people who cannot get out of their car.

At this federal election, voters who are blind or have low vision have the option of visiting one of 125 locations to vote in private via telephone. This will be available in the two weeks leading up to election day and on election day. For more information, including details of locations and opening times, visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or call **13 23 26**.



# 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.

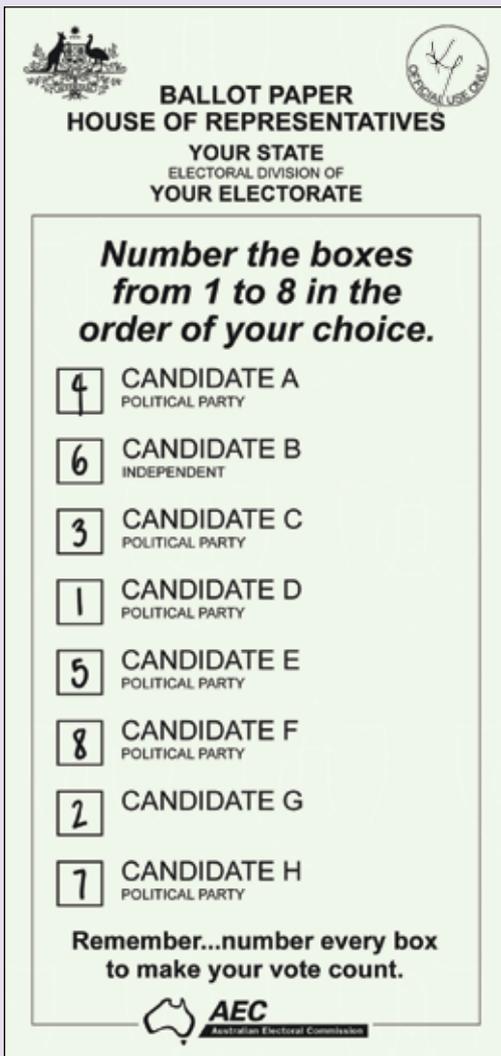
**Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.**

## Green ballot paper – number every box

On the green ballot paper, you need to put a '1' in the box beside the candidate who is your first choice, '2' in the box beside your second choice and so on, until you have numbered every box.

**You must number every box for your vote to count.**

Do not use ticks, crosses or leave boxes blank on this ballot paper or your vote won't count.



SAMPLE

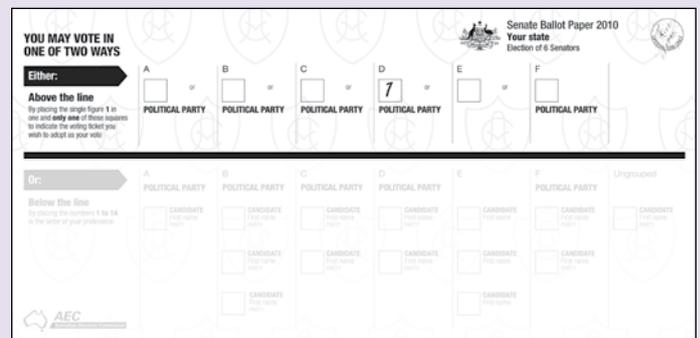
## White ballot paper – two ways to vote

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

**Either**

### Above the line

You can just put a '1' in the box above the line for the party or group of your choice. By doing this you're allowing the order of your preference to be determined by the party or group you're voting for. For more information visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au).



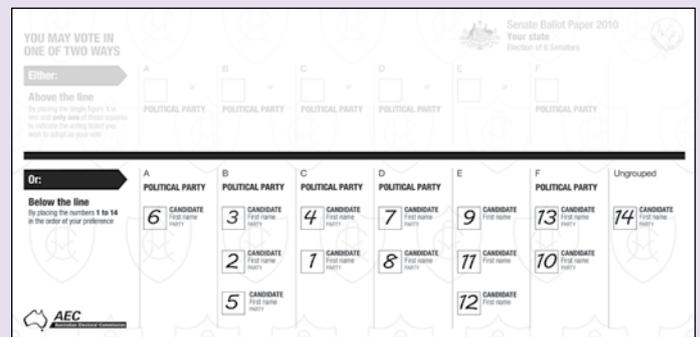
SAMPLE

**Or**

### Below the line

You can choose to fill in every box below the line in order of your preference. You must put a '1' in the box beside the candidate who is your first choice, '2' in the box beside your second choice and so on, until you have numbered every box.

**You must number every box for your vote to count.**



SAMPLE