

# Voting on election day

## Information for people with disability and mobility restrictions

The AEC provides assistance for people living with disability to ensure they are not disadvantaged from participating in the electoral process.

### What are my voting options on election day?

#### Assistance to vote at a polling place

If you need assistance to vote at a polling place, you can ask someone to help you. Polling place staff are trained to assist you or you can nominate any person (other than a candidate) to assist. This could be a friend, relative or another person. If you do not nominate someone, then the polling official in charge may provide assistance.

In some circumstances, if you cannot get out of the car, ballot papers may be brought to you for completion.

#### Accessibility of polling places

A list of polling places will be made available on the AEC website in the weeks after an election is announced. Each polling place is given an accessibility rating to assist people with disabilities or mobility restrictions. These ratings are:

- wheelchair accessible
- assisted wheelchair access, or
- not wheelchair accessible.

You can click on the rating listed against each polling place to find out more about its specific accessibility features..

### What are my voting options before election day?

The AEC offers a number of voting options before election day that may meet your needs.

#### Postal voting

If you will be unable to travel to a polling place for a single election, you can apply for a postal vote after an election is announced. This means that your ballot papers will be sent to you in the mail. You can apply online at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au), or at any AEC office. A postal vote application form can also be sent to you if you contact the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26.

If you have ongoing mobility restrictions and will be unable to visit a polling place for multiple elections, you may be eligible to become a general postal voter. This means you will receive ballot papers in the mail before every federal election. You do not need to apply every time an election is called.

You may choose someone to help you complete the ballot papers and envelope according to your instruction, but you must sign or make a mark as your signature on the envelope.

#### Early Voting Centre

If you cannot get to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to vote at an early voting centre. A list of early voting centres will be available on the AEC website in the weeks after an election is announced. Eligibility criteria for early voting can be found on the AEC website or by contacting the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26.

#### Mobile polling

The AEC provides mobile polling to some locations. Mobile polling locations are available on the AEC website shortly after an election is announced.

#### Telephone voting

If you are blind or have low vision you can cast a vote in secret by telephone from any location, including your own home. Information on how to register for telephone voting will be available on the AEC website after an election is announced.

Senate Ballot Paper  
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

**Above the line**  
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

Or

**Below the line**  
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

Sample Senate ballot paper

House of Representatives  
Ballot Paper

State  
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

Sample House of Representatives ballot paper

## How do I make my vote count?

At a federal election, you are voting to elect people to represent you in the two houses of the Australian Parliament: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

You will receive two ballot papers:

- a green one to vote for a representative of your local area (electoral division) in the House of Representatives, and
- a white one to vote for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

Instructions on how to vote are printed on the ballot papers. If you make a mistake or are unsure of what to do, just ask a polling official for help or contact the AEC.

## Want to know more?

You can learn more about the electoral system and about enrolment and voting at [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) or by contacting the AEC via telephone on 13 23 26.

Electoral information, including the official guide to the federal election and candidate lists, will be available in accessible formats. This information can be obtained from the AEC website after the election is announced, or hard copy versions can be ordered by contacting the AEC.

[www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) 13 23 26

