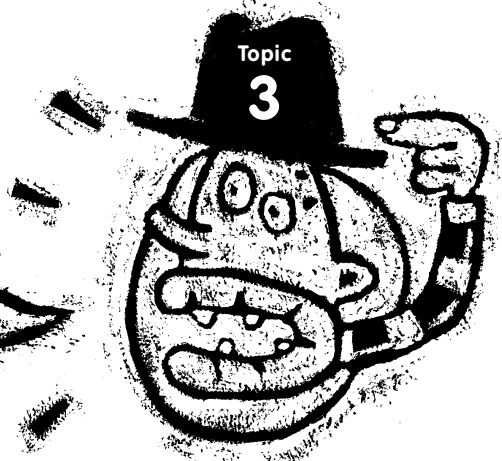


# CANDIDATES



Becoming a member of Parliament often takes considerable time and effort. In 2002 only 23% of all candidates were successful in being elected. To win a seat in the Legislative Assembly (Lower House), a candidate must win over 50% of the vote after all preferences are distributed. To win a seat in the Legislative Council (Upper House) a candidate must win 'one-sixth plus one' of the votes after preferences are distributed. Members then swear

allegiance to the Crown to allow them to take their place on one of the 128 seats of Parliament.

Usually, a candidate has more chance of success if he/she joins one of the most successful parties.

Each candidate is required to comply with a number of election rules.

The table below outlines some of the rules and responsibilities expected of candidates.



Subject	Responsibility	Purpose
Nomination form	A candidate must complete and lodge a nomination form with the Victorian Electoral Commission in the period between the issue of the writs and the close of nominations.	Means that the person nominated is officially a candidate for the election.
	A candidate has to be endorsed by a registered political party, or nominated by at least six persons entitled to vote for the candidate's Legislative Assembly district, or at least 50 persons entitled to vote for the candidate's Legislative Council region.	Ensures that the candidate has some degree of State-wide or local support.
	The candidate must sign a declaration that he or she is eligible to be elected.	Designed to prevent ineligible candidates nominating.

Subject	Responsibility	Purpose
Deposit	A candidate must lodge a deposit of \$350 to nominate for Parliament. The deposit is returned if the candidate obtains more than 4% of the formal votes.	Designed to ensure that the candidate is serious about standing.
Authorisation of election advertising	Printed electoral advertising produced on behalf of a candidate must be authorised by the candidate or a person authorised by the candidate. The authorisation must include the authoriser's name and address, and the printer's name and place of business.	Designed to ensure that those who produce election advertising are accountable for it.
Misleading or deceptive material	It is illegal to print, publish or distribute anything that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting of the elector's vote.	Designed to ensure a fair election.
Registration of how-to-vote cards	A candidate intending to distribute how-to-vote cards at voting centres on election day must have them registered by the Victorian Electoral Commission. To be registered, a card must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clearly identify on whose behalf it is to be distributed;</li> <li>• contain correct voting instructions;</li> <li>• not be likely to mislead or deceive an elector in casting his/her vote; and</li> <li>• not contain offensive or obscene material.</li> </ul>	To ensure that offensive or misleading how-to-vote cards do not suddenly appear on election day, without restricting freedom of expression.

Subject	Responsibility	Purpose
Bribery	It is an offence for a candidate or anyone else to bribe a person to vote or not to vote in a certain way.	To ensure fair, clean elections.
Intimidation	It is an offence to intimidate a person to vote or not to vote, or to interfere with a person's political liberty.	To ensure fair, clean elections.
Public address systems	No candidate or other person may use a public address system within 400 metres of a voting centre during the hours of voting.	To prevent a candidate gaining an unfair advantage, and to prevent interference with the process of voting.
Scrutineers	Candidates may appoint scrutineers to observe voting and counting.	To ensure fair, clean elections.



1. Why are candidates required to lodge a deposit when they nominate?
2. Do you think the rules and procedures for candidates for Victorian State elections are demanding? Provide two reasons to support your answer.
3. Are there any rules/procedures you consider to be unfair? If yes, briefly explain your view.