

Election FAQs



1. Why is voting important for people with disability?

Voting gives people with disability a say about who makes decisions that impact their lives. Decisions about healthcare, transport, housing, and support services. Voting is a human right, not a privilege.

2. Is voting compulsory for people with disability in Victoria?

Yes.

Voting is compulsory for all eligible Victorian citizens aged 18 and over, including people with disability. If someone cannot vote for a valid reason (for example, illness), they can apply for an exemption.

3. Can someone with an intellectual disability vote?

Yes.

As long as they are enrolled and understand the nature of voting, they can vote. Disability does not disqualify someone from voting.

4. How can we support someone who finds voting overwhelming or confusing?

There are many ways to support people in this situation. You could:

- use social stories or Easy Read guides (like our accessible voting resources)
- break down the process into simple steps
- offer support and care while someone votes
- allow extra time for someone to vote if needed
- encourage early voting so the person can avoid crowds and noise
- Encourage voting at a low sensory mobile voting location

5. Can support workers help someone vote?

Yes.

A support worker can help a voter:

- understand the process
- read or complete the ballot paper (if asked to by the voter)
- navigate the voting centre (supported by our resources).

6. What accessibility options are available at voting centres?

Voting centres have different accessibility levels. Some have:

- independent wheelchair access
- assisted wheelchair access
- access guides
- early voting

All voting centres have:

- magnifiers and large print guides
- maxi pencils
- an accessible voting screen
- support from our staff

We also offer:

- braille ballot papers (ordered in advance)
- large print ballot papers (ordered in advance)
- postal voting
- telephone voting (for eligible voters)
- mobile voting

Visit vec.vic.gov.au for details.

7. What if someone cannot write on the ballot paper?

If someone can't write on the ballot paper, they can:

- ask a trusted person or our staff to write on the ballot paper for them
- use assistive technology (if available)
- use telephone voting (if eligible)

8. How can we help someone prepare to vote?

You can:

- check their enrolment at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment/check-my-enrolment
- talk to them about what voting means vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote
- review sample ballot papers together
- practice numbering preferences on the ballot paper with them aec.gov.au/Voting/How_to_vote/practice/
- discuss the choices of candidates without influencing them

9. Can someone vote from home or a care facility?

Yes.

Options include:

- postal voting
- mobile voting teams (for some voters)
- telephone voting (for eligible voters with who are blind, have low vision, or have a physical disability and can not vote without assistance)

10. What if someone refuses to vote or doesn't understand the process?

If a person genuinely cannot understand the nature and significance of voting, they may not have to vote. However, refusal alone does not exempt someone. If you are concerned, write down what happened and contact us for advice.

Call 131 823 or email info@vec.vic.gov.au

11. Are there resources for voters with sensory disabilities?

Yes.

We provide:

- social stories
- Easy Read guides
- Auslan videos
- tactile voting tools
- low-sensory mobile voting

12. Can the VEC run a practice voting session at our organisation?

Yes.

We provide many learning options. These include:

- Practice voting sessions including how votes are counted
- staff training materials
- democracy ambassadors, who deliver community education and information sessions

Please contact us if you're interested in any of these tools or services.

vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote

13. What should staff do on election day?

To help voters on election day, you should:

- know where the nearest accessible voting centre is (vec.vic.gov.au/elections)
- offer support to people as needed (for example, help preparing to vote, support at the voting centre, or providing VEC resources)
- allow extra time and space for people to vote if they need it
- encourage voters' independence
- ask our staff at the voting centre for help if you need it

14. Where can we find training or resources?

Visit vec.vic.gov.au or contact our Public Engagement Branch on 131 832. We can help you with:

- staff resources to support people with disability
- social stories and other education resources
- information for carers and support workers
- information in Easy Read
- Be Heard sessions — book online at vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote/book-an-information-session