2026 State election

Availability of results guide

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Availability of results guide: region computer counts

2026 State election

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About this guide

This guide has been prepared for scrutineers who observe the computerised recheck of a Legislative Council region election at the 2026 State election.

It describes the reports available during data entry and after the calculation of results, and provides example reports for reference.

Chapter 1: Available reports

During computerised rechecks for Legislative Council region elections, certain reports are made available to scrutineers throughout the course of data entry, and to scrutineers, candidates and other interested parties following the calculation of the result.

Reports available during data entry

The reports that are available to scrutineers during data entry are:

- *First preference votes counted*
- *Ballot paper details*
- *Computer count results for Legislative Council*

First preference votes counted

The *First preference votes counted* report details progressive first preference results for each candidate. It shows the first preference totals for each candidate based on the above-the-line (ATL) and below-the-line (BTL) preferences that have been data-entered.

The report (see example A in chapter 2) will be generated and supplied on request during data entry.

During the computerised recheck, you can view the progressive results for each Legislative Council region election on the VEC website. Each parcel of votes in each region election goes through two rounds of data entry during a computerised recheck. Each parcel's results from the manual primary count will be replaced with updated results from the computerised recheck when the parcel completes its first round of data entry, and then again after its second round of data entry.

Ballot paper details

The *Ballot paper details* report will be generated during data entry for use in any quality assurance procedures or when an audit of a batch is required. There are two versions of the report: one for ATL data entry (see example B in chapter 2) and one for BTL data entry (see example C in chapter 2). Each version shows the preferences recorded in the *computer count application* for each formal ballot paper for a defined batch range.

Batch audits will be conducted regularly throughout the computer count by election officials. Randomly selected batches from each data entry operator will be checked for accuracy against the *Ballot paper details* reports.

Scrutineers are also able to:

- query the formality of a ballot paper being data-entered. If this occurs, the data entry operator will flag the ballot paper as 'formality to be determined' for review by the team leader, who will examine the ballot paper to decide formality.

- query the accuracy of the data entry of a specific ballot paper or batch. To do this, scrutineers must take note of the batch number and ballot paper number and advise the computer count team leader that they wish to have the batch/ballot paper checked. Scrutineers can see the batch number and ballot paper number in the VEC's *computer count application*.
- For each query, the computer count team leader will review the relevant ballot papers with the scrutineer by comparing them to the *Ballot paper details* report. If any errors are found, the team leader will correct these. If a scrutineer does not agree with what has been data entered for a specific ballot paper, or they would like to challenge the ballot paper, they can request that the team leader sets the ballot paper aside for formality checking by the team leader.

Scrutineers at the computer count can request a copy of the *Ballot paper details* report, which is a comma delimited text file (.csv file), at the end of each day's data entry for ATL preferences, BTL preferences or both. Scrutineers will need to provide their email address to the activity lead for the file/s to be emailed to them.

Computer count results for Legislative Council

The *Computer count results for Legislative Council* report (see example D in chapter 2) will be generated at the end of all data entry, after reconciliation for the region election has been completed. This report will be posted in a central location at the centralised computer count venue for scrutineers to view.

This report shows a breakdown of ATL/BTL votes received by each group/ungrouped candidate, the percentage of formal votes received by each group/ungrouped candidate, the indicative seats as at that stage of the count, and a summary of all votes received for the region.

Reports available after calculation

The reports that are available following the calculation of the result are:

- *First preference votes counted*
- *Distribution report*
- *Ballot paper details*
- *Region votes received details*

First preference votes counted

The final version of this report for each region will be printed and made available to scrutineers, candidates and other interested parties who attend the calculation of results for the Legislative Council region elections. Final first preference results will also be available from the VEC website.

Distribution report

The *Distribution Report* for each region will be published on our website as well as made available to scrutineers, candidates and other interested parties who attend the calculation of results for the Legislative Council region elections. The report will detail all distributions of preferences. Please see an example from the 2022 State election on our website: Eastern Victoria Region-Distribution of Preferences.xls

Ballot paper details report

Following the declaration of results, the two versions of this report (ATL and BTL) for each region election will be made available upon request. The reports will contain the ATL or BTL preferences for formal ballot papers data-entered into the *computer count application* for the requested region.

Region votes received (details) report

Following the declaration of results, we will publish this report on our website. The report contains the first preference votes allocated to each candidate below the line and each group above the line (for each vote parcel counted for each district in a region election). Please see an example from the 2022 State election on our website: Eastern Victoria Region-Votes Received.xls

Chapter 2: Examples

Example A: *First preference votes counted*

Date: 16/12/2026
Time: 14:56
State Election 2026
Eastern Victoria Region
First preference vote count – Computer count
Batch Range: 1 to 9999

Group	Candidates	Votes
A - Group name	CANDIDATE, Aa	85,015
	CANDIDATE, Bb	279
B - Group name	CANDIDATE, Cc	10,029
	CANDIDATE, Dd	516
	CANDIDATE, Ee	123
C - Group name	CANDIDATE, Ff	98,678
	CANDIDATE, Gg	675
	CANDIDATE, Hh	230
	CANDIDATE, Ii	56
	CANDIDATE, Jj	23
D - Group name	CANDIDATE, Kk	86,398
	CANDIDATE, Ll	435
	CANDIDATE, Mm	126
	CANDIDATE, Nn	67
	CANDIDATE, Oo	36
E - Group name	CANDIDATE, Pp	55,076
	CANDIDATE, Qq	489
	CANDIDATE, Rr	315

F - Group name	CANDIDATE, Ss	36,005
	CANDIDATE, Tt	698
	CANDIDATE, Ww	176
Total Formal Votes		375,445
Total Informal Votes		14,948
Total		390,393

Example B: *Ballot paper details – ATL*

Column one of this comma delimited text file (.csv file) displays the ballot paper number (maximum number of ballot papers in a batch is 50). Preferences are displayed in the subsequent columns against groups in ballot paper order. If the group did not receive a preference, the column will be blank.

Date: 05/12/2026

Time: 15:40

State Election 2026

Eastern Victoria Region

Ballot Paper Details – ATL Report

Total formal batches included in report: 4

Total informal batches included in report: 0

Total formal ballot papers included in report: 40

Batch No. 1

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Groups in Ballot Paper Order

1	1	2	4	3	5
2	1				
3	1	2	4	3	
4	1		3	4	5
5	1	2	4	3	5
6	1				
7	1	2	4	3	
8	1	2	3		5
9	1	2	4	3	5
10	1				

Batch No. 2

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Groups in Ballot Paper Order

1	1	2	4	5	3
2	1	2	4	5	3
3		1	2		
4		1	2		
5		1	2	3	
6		1	2		
7		1			
8	2	3	1	4	5
9	5	4	1	3	2
10	5	4	1	3	2

Batch No. 3

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Groups in Ballot Paper Order

1	5	4	1	3	2
2	5	4	1	3	2
3	5	4	1	3	2
4	3	4	5	1	2
5	3	4	5	1	2
6	3	4	5	1	2
7	3	4	5	1	2
8	3	4	5	1	2
9	3	4	5	1	2
10	3	4	5	1	2

Batch No. 4

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Groups in Ballot Paper Order

1	3	4	5	1	2
2	3	4	5	1	2
3	3	4	5	1	2
4					1
5					1
6	1				
7	1	2	4	3	
8	1	2	3		5
9	1	2	4	3	5
10	1				

Example C: *Ballot paper details - BTL*

Column one of this comma delimited text file (.csv file) displays the ballot paper number (maximum number of ballot papers in a batch is 50). Preferences are displayed in the subsequent columns against candidates in ballot paper order. If the candidate did not receive a preference, the column will be blank.

Date: 05/12/2026

Time: 15:40

State Election 2026

Eastern Victoria Region

Ballot Paper Details – BTL Report

Total formal batches included in report: 4

Total informal batches included in report: 0

Total formal ballot papers included in report: 40

Batch No. 21

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Candidates in Ballot Paper Order

1	1	2	4	3	5
2	1	2	4	3	5
3	1	2	4	3	5
4	1	2	4	3	5
5	1	2	4	3	5
6	1	2	4	3	5
7	1	2	4	5	3
8	1	2	4	5	3
9	1	2	4	5	3
10	1	2	4	5	3

Batch No. 22

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Candidates in Ballot Paper Order

1	1	2	4	5	3
2	1	2	4	5	3
3	3	1	2	4	5
4	5	1	2	4	3
5	5	1	2	3	4
6	4	1	2	3	5
7	4	1	2	3	5
8	2	3	1	4	5
9	5	4	1	3	2
10	5	4	1	3	2

Batch No. 23

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Candidates in Ballot Paper Order

1	5	4	1	3	2
2	5	4	1	3	2
3	5	4	1	3	2
4	3	4	5	1	2
5	3	4	5	1	2
6	3	4	5	1	2
7	3	4	5	1	2
8	3	4	5	1	2
9	3	4	5	1	2
10	3	4	5	1	2

Batch No. 24

Round 2

Ballot Paper Preferences Recorded Against Candidates in Ballot Paper Order

1	3	4	5	1	2
2	3	4	5	1	2
3	3	4	5	1	2
4	3	4	5	2	1
5	3	4	5	2	1
6	3	4	5	2	1
7	3	4	5	2	1
8	3	4	5	2	1
9	3	4	5	2	1
10	3	4	5	2	1

Example D: *Computer count results for Legislative Council*

Computer Count Results for Legislative Council

Print Date/Time: 15/12/2026 11:42:46AM

State Election 2026

Eastern Victoria Region

Group Name	ATL/BTL	Number of Votes	% Formal Votes	Indicative Seats	% All Votes
GROUP A					
	ATL	83,317	22.19%		21.34%
	BTL	1,977	0.53%		0.51%
	Total	**85,294**	**22.72%**	**1.36**	**21.85%**
GROUP B					
	ATL	9,401	2.50%		2.41%
	BTL	1,267	0.34%		0.32%
	Total	**10,668**	**2.84%**	**0.17**	**2.73%**
GROUP C					
	ATL	92,242	24.57%		23.63%
	BTL	7,420	1.98%		1.90%
	Total	**99,662**	**26.55%**	**1.59**	**25.53%**
GROUP D					
	ATL	84,771	22.58%		21.71%
	BTL	2,291	0.61%		0.59%
	Total	**87,062**	**23.19%**	**1.39**	**22.30%**
GROUP E					
	ATL	52,709	14.04%		13.50%
	BTL	3,171	0.84%		0.81%
	Total	**55,880**	**14.88%**	**0.89**	**14.31%**

GROUP F					
	ATL	34,212	9.11%		8.76%
	BTL	2,667	0.71%		0.68%
	Total	**36,879**	**9.82%**	**0.59**	**9.45%**
Totals For Region	**ATL**	**356,652**	**94.99%**		**91.36%**
	BTL	**18,793**	**5.01%**		**4.81%**
Total Formal Region Votes		**375,445**			**96.17%**
Total Informal Region Votes		**14,948**			**3.83%**
Total Region Votes		**390,393**			

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Victorian Electoral Commission

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