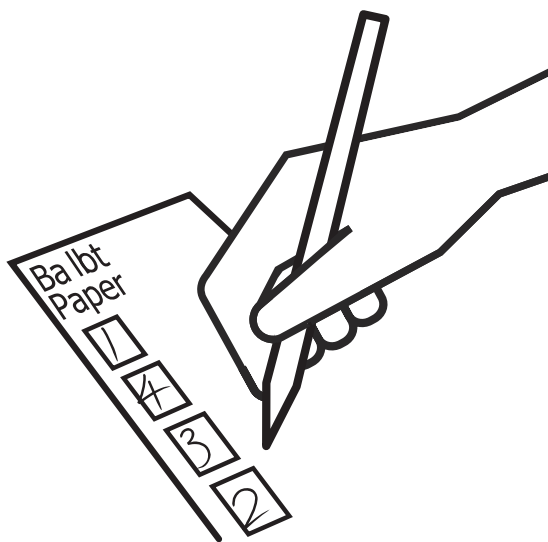


ENROLMENT AND VOTING

Information for prisoners

This leaflet provides information about enrolment and voting obligations for people in prison. This information covers Federal, State and council elections for Australian citizens aged 18 years or over.



The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is committed to providing the most appropriate services to help all eligible Victorians participate in the democratic process.

As part of this commitment, this leaflet has been produced to provide you with information about your enrolment and voting obligations.

Federal, State and council elections

Can I enrol while I'm in prison?

Yes, if you are eligible to enrol while in custody (you have turned 18, choose to enrol or need to update your enrolment address) you can request a special prisoner enrolment form by calling 131 832 or by writing to the Victorian Electoral Commission, Reply Paid 66506, Melbourne Victoria 8001.

Where am I enrolled while I'm in prison?

If you're already enrolled, your enrolment address stays the same, but it's a good idea to let the VEC know that you will be absent from your enrolled address so that you're not removed from the roll in error.

If you're enrolling for the first time, your address will be either:

- the last place in which you were eligible to enrol (usually your home address prior to conviction); or
- the address at which one of your next of kin is enrolled; or
- the address where you were born; or
- the address where you feel the strongest connection.

Victorian State and council elections only

Do I have to enrol and vote for Victorian State elections?

For prisoners in Victoria, if you are serving a sentence of less than five years then enrolment and voting is compulsory (this is the top sentence, not the sentence before parole). You should maintain your enrolment and vote in any State or council elections.

My sentence is five years or more. What does this mean for me?

If you're serving a sentence of five years or more, you'll be automatically taken off the State electoral roll and you won't be able to vote at State or council elections. After

your sentence is completed, including parole, you should re-enrol to vote for State and council elections.

Do I need to re-enrol once I'm released?

Once you're released you might need to update your enrolment details—you can check your details online at the VEC website (vec.vic.gov.au) or by calling the VEC on 131 832. If you need to re-enrol, you can get an enrolment form from any post office or online at the VEC website.

How can I vote while I'm in prison?

Voting will be arranged at some prisons in the two weeks before election day. Alternatively, you can ask prison administration for an application for a postal vote. Return this application to the VEC in the reply paid envelope and a ballot pack will be mailed to you.

Where can I find more information on State and council enrolment and voting?

For further information on enrolment and voting for State and council elections, please call the VEC on 131 832.

Federal elections only

Do I have to enrol and vote for Federal elections?

If you are serving a sentence of less than three years, serving a sentence of periodic detention, on early release, or on parole, you are entitled to enrol and vote.

You are not entitled to enrol and vote if you are serving a sentence of three years or longer.

Once released from prison, you are entitled to enrol and vote.

Where can I get more information on Federal enrolment and voting?

For further information on enrolment and voting for Federal elections, visit the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) online at aec.gov.au or call them on 132 326.

Information in the 'Federal elections only' section has been supplied by the AEC.

Victorian Electoral Commission



Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Telephone: 131 832

Fax: (03) 9629 8632

Internet: vec.vic.gov.au