Easy English

Vote in the 2020 Melbourne City Council Postal Elections

You can get this information in different ways
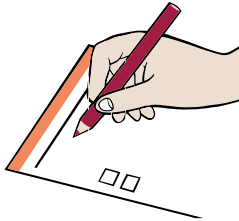
Other languages

Read page 26 to 27.

Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write the first Easy English version of this book.

What is in this book?
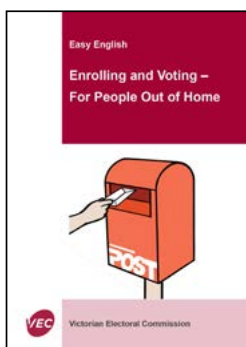
About this book

This book is about

- Melbourne City Council postal elections

- how to vote

- voting

- how to become a candidate.

There are other books for people who vote in

other postal elections

or

for people who are out of home.

Contact the VEC for more information.
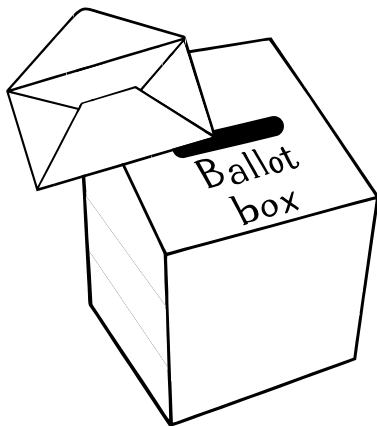Read page 25.

Our democracy

What is voting?

An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

To make a choice you need to **vote.**
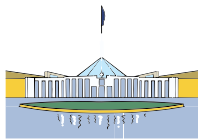
All votes are equal.

Voting is your human right.

Voting is secret

You do **not** have to show anyone your vote.
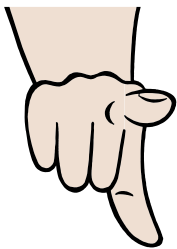
Our democracy

Australia's government

Australia has 3 types of government

- Federal government

- State government

- local council.

Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.

Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years or older must enrol and vote.

You **must vote** at every Federal, State and local council election.

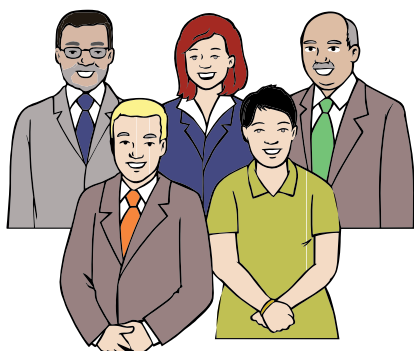If you do **not** vote you may have to pay a fine.

Your local council

Victorian local councils
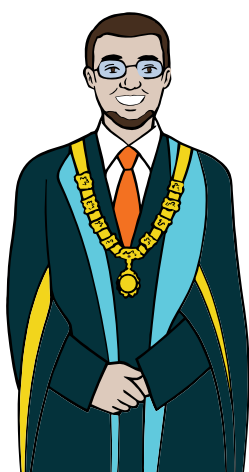
Victoria has 79 local councils. Your local council depends on where you live.

For local council elections you vote for people who make decisions about your local area.

These people are called **councillors**.

Melbourne City Council also has a **Leadership Team**. This team is the **Lord Mayor** and **Deputy Lord Mayor**. They are the leaders of the council.

What councillors do

Your local council

Your councillors and the Leadership Team make decisions about

- parks and sporting grounds

- community services

- libraries

- roads and footpaths

- rubbish and recycling

- public buildings and halls

- dog and cat registration

- building and construction.
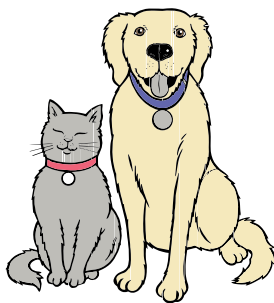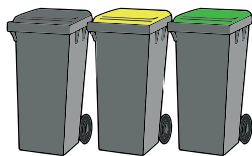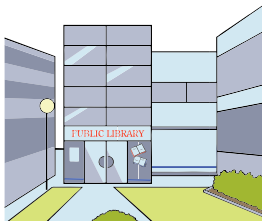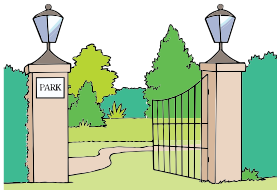
About voting
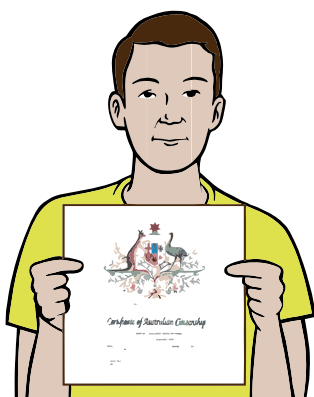
Enrol to vote

To vote in the Melbourne City Council election you must be enrolled. Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years of age and over must enrol to vote.

You must fill in an **enrolment form**.

Get an enrolment form

- from the Victorian Electoral Commission

- from the Australian Electoral Commission

- online from **vec.vic.gov.au**

Since the last election have you

- changed your address?

- changed your name?

You **must** tell the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Who else can enrol to vote?

Special enrolment rules apply in the City of Melbourne.
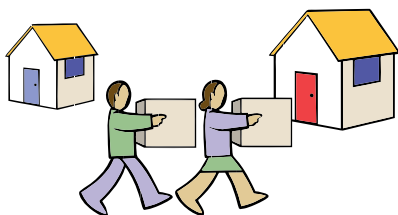
They apply to
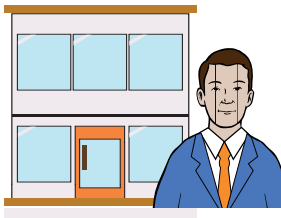
- people who run companies in the City of Melbourne, for example, **company directors** and **company secretaries**

- people who pay **rates** in the City of Melbourne

- people who live in the City of Melbourne and are **not** Australian citizens.

You may already be enrolled if you own or occupy property in Melbourne City Council and pay rates.

Call the Melbourne City Council election hotline on 1300 735 427 for more information about enrolment.

About voting

Do I have to vote?

Yes.

If you are enrolled you **must** vote in the Melbourne City Council elections.

You will be sent two different ballot papers and you need to vote on both.
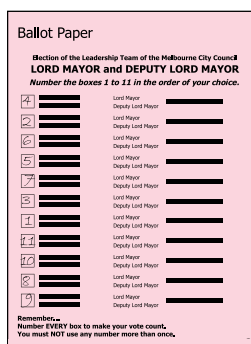
There is a

- pink one for the Leadership Team

and

- blue one for the councillors.
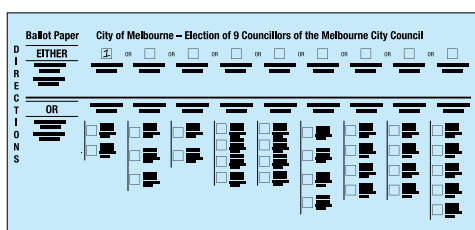
If you **do not** vote you may be sent a letter.

You will be asked why you did **not** vote.

You may have to pay a fine.
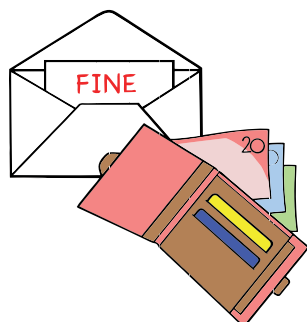
How do I know about Melbourne City Council elections?

You will hear about the Melbourne City Council elections

- on the VEC website **vec.vic.gov.au**

- in local newspapers

- in city newspapers

- on social media

- on radio

- by getting a ballot pack in the mail.

- if you are on the State roll and have asked for **VoterAlert** reminders.

Council elections

OCTOBER 2020

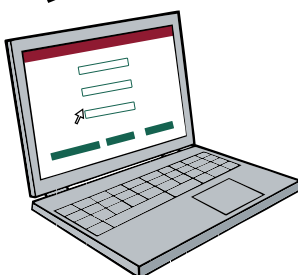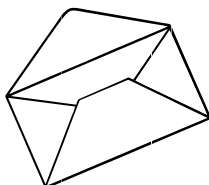| MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

When are the Melbourne City Council elections?

Melbourne City Council elections are held in October every 4 years. Ballot packs are mailed out from 6 to 8 of October.
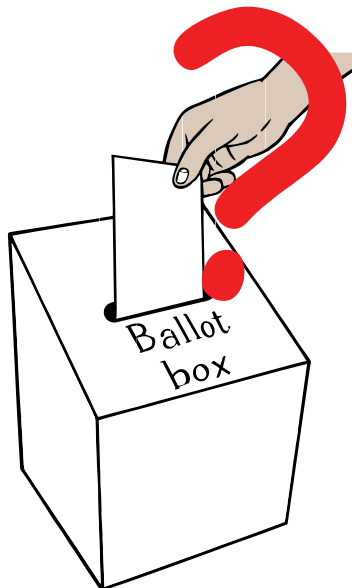
How do I vote?

You will get a ballot pack in the mail. Read pages 14 to 18 for more information on how to vote.

Voting in postal elections

Your ballot pack

You will get a **ballot pack** in the mail.

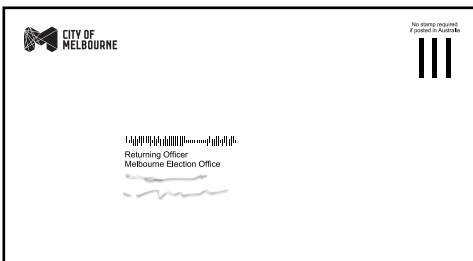Your ballot pack has

- words and photos from the councillor candidates (these are called councillor **candidate statements)**.

- words and photos about the Leadership Team candidates (these are called Leadership Team candidate statements)

- a booklet showing which councillor candidates get your votes if you vote 1 above the line on the large ballot paper

- a ballot paper envelope with a flap.

Voting in postal elections

- information about the Leadership Team (these are called Leadership Team candidate statements).

- a bigger reply paid envelope for the return of your ballot paper envelope.

You should get your ballot pack by the middle of October.

Contact the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack by Friday 16 October. Read page 25.
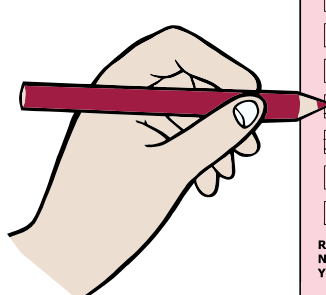
Voting in postal elections

How do I fill in my ballot paper?

This is an example of a Leadership Team ballot paper.

You must put a number in each box on the ballot paper.

- write 1 in the box next to the team who you want to win.

- write 2 in the box next to your second choice

- keep numbering until every box has a number

- use numbers only.

Ballot Paper

Election of the Leadership Team of the Melbourne City Council
LORD MAYOR and DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
Number the boxes 1 to 11 in the order of your choice.

4 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
2 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
6 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
5 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
7 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
3 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
1 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
11 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
10 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
8 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor
9 — Lord Mayor / Deputy Lord Mayor

Remember...
Number EVERY box to make your vote count.
You must NOT use any number more than once.

Voting in postal elections

This is an example of a councillor ballot paper.

You can put a 1 in the box above the line

for the councillor group you want to win.

Or

Number **ALL** the boxes below the line in order of your choice.

Start from the number 1.

Voting in postal elections
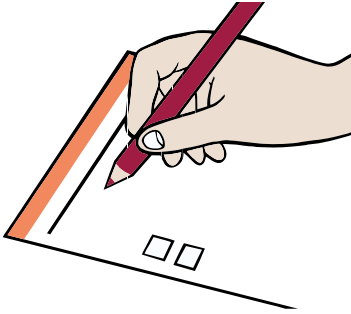
How to vote

- Fill in your ballot papers.

- Put your finished ballot papers in the ballot paper envelope.

- Complete your details then sign and date the flap of the ballot paper envelope.

- Put your ballot paper envelope in the bigger addressed reply-paid envelope. You do **not** need a stamp.

- Put it in the post as soon as you can.

- Your votes must be in the mail or hand delivered by 6 pm on Friday 23 October.
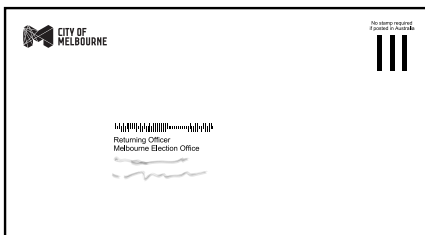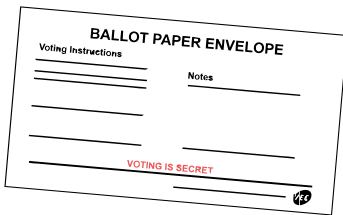
Candidates

Who do I vote for?

People who want to be on the Melbourne City Council are called **candidates**.

You need to pick the people and team who you think will do the best job.

You need to choose councillors. You also need to choose the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team is the 2 people who will be Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

Candidates
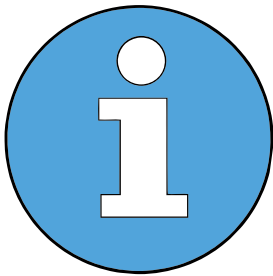
How do I get more information about the candidates?

Each candidate writes to voters about their ideas.

- You will get candidate statements in your ballot pack

or

- You can phone the candidate and talk to them

This information will help you make a choice.

Contact details for candidates are on the VEC website.
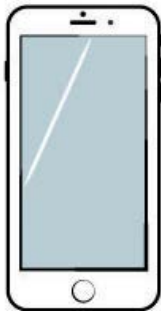
Candidates
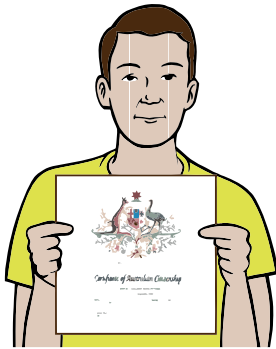
How do I become a candidate?

- you must be an Australian citizen

- you must be enrolled for this election.

You must fill out a form. Ask the VEC for the form that says you want to be a councillor or part of the Leadership Team.
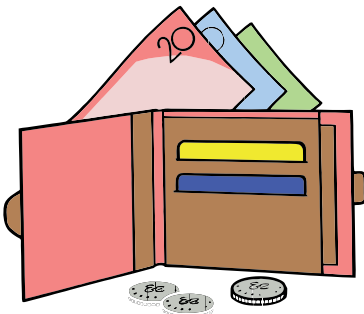
You must pay $250. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.

Provide your completed form and payment to the **Election Manager** at the VEC.

Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

Read page 25 for how to contact us.

Meanings

Check the meanings of words

Australian citizen — a person who was born in Australia
or
who was born overseas but now lives in Australia. This person has made a special promise to follow all the laws of Australia.
This person has become an Australian citizen.
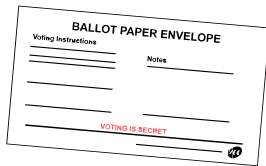
Ballot paper envelope — an envelope where you put your filled-in ballot papers. It has a special flap on it. You sign your name and write the date on this flap.
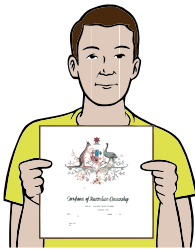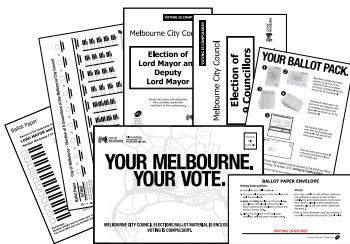
Ballot pack — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting.

Ballot paper — a sheet of paper you write your vote on.

Candidate — a person who wants to be a councillor or on the Leadership Team.

Candidate statements — information about each candidate in your ballot pack.

Meanings
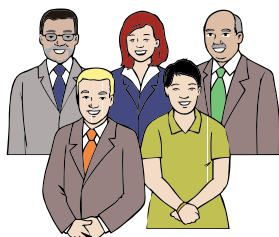
Councillors — a group of people chosen by the people enrolled to vote in the City of Melbourne.
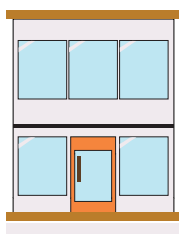
Company — A place, like an office, shop or factory, where people work.

Company director — is a leader from a group of workers who makes decisions about the business.
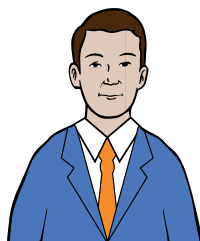
Company secretary — A company secretary is a senior position in a company, normally with management responsibility.

Democracy — a country where people have the right to vote for who is in charge.
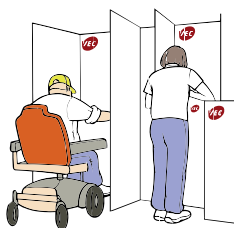
Deputy Lord Mayor — the deputy leader of the council.

Election — making a decision by voting or choosing someone.

Meanings

Election Manager — the person in charge of your local council election.

Enrol — put your name on a list to vote.

Leadership Team — the team who will be Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

Local council — your local area and the people who make decisions about it.

Lord Mayor — the leader of the council.

Postal vote — voting at home and sending your vote in the mail. All local council elections use postal voting. Use the ballot pack you get in the mail.

Vote or voting — to make your choice on your ballot papers.

VoterAlert — free SMS or email service for voting reminders if you are on the State roll.

More information

Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Website   **vec.vic.gov.au**

Email   info@vec.vic.gov.au

Postal address
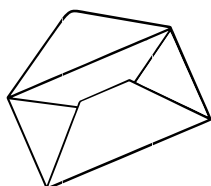
Victorian Electoral Commission,

Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
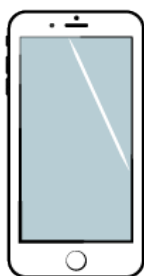
Phone

131 832

+ 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Victoria)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech impairment phone National Relay Service 133 677 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

For speech-to-speech relay phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

An Australian Government Initiative

National Relay Service

How do I get this information in another language?

አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ እርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለፎን (03) 9209 0190 መደወል።

عربي (Arabic)

إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبحاجة للإستعانة بمترجم شفهي، يُرجى الاتصال على الرقم 0100 9209 (03).

Bosanski (Bosnian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć prevodioca, nazovite (03) 9209 0191.

中文繁體 (Cantonese)

如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電 (03) 9209 0101。

Hrvatski (Croatian)

Ako su vam potrebne podrobnije informacije i pomoć tumača, nazovite (03) 9209 0102.

دری (Dari)

اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید، به تیلفون شماره 0193 9209 (03) زنگ بزنید.

Dinka

Na kɔɔr yïn lëk juɛc cï kek cuiir ku kuɔɔny de athok /raan ë thok waaric, yuɔ̈pë (03) 9209 0119.

Ελληνικά (Greek)

Αν χρειάζεστε πιο λεπτομερείς πληροφορίες και τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στο (03) 9209 0103.

Italiano (Italian)

Se hai bisogno di informazioni più particolareggiate e dell'assistenza di un interprete, telefona al (03) 9209 0104.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលំអិតថែមទៀតហើយនិងជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសា, សូមទូរស័ព្ទលេខ (03) 9209 0192។

한국어 (Korean)

더 자세한 내용을 원하시거나 통역 서비스가 필요하시면 (03) 9209 0194번으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

How do I get this information in another language?

Македонски (Macedonian)
Ако сакате подетални информации и помош со преведувач јавете се на (03) 9209 0105.

中文简体 (Mandarin)
如果需要详细资料和传译员协助，请电 (03) 9209 0106。

فارسی (Persian)
اگر اطلاعات مفصل تر یا کمک یک مترجم را می خواهید به شمارۀ 0195 9209 (03) تلفن کنید.

Русский (Russian)
Если вам нужна более подробная информация и помощь переводчика, то позвоните по номеру (03) 9209 0196.

Српски (Serbian)
Ако су вам потребне детаљније информације и помоћ тумача, позовите (03) 9209 0107.

Soomaali (Somali)
Haddii aad u baahan tahay macluumaad faahfaahsan oo intaas ka badan iyo caawimada mutarjumka, wac (03) 9209 0108.

Español (Spanish)
Si necesita información más detallada y la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al teléfono (03) 9209 0109.

Türkçe (Turkish)
Daha ayrıntılı bilgi edinmek istemeniz ve bir çevirmene gerek duymanız durumunda, (03) 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayın.

Việt-ngữ (Vietnamese)
Nếu quý vị cần thêm thông tin chi tiết và sự giúp đỡ của thông dịch viên, hãy điện thoại số (03) 9209 0111.

All other languages
For enquiries in all other non-English languages call our interpreting service on (03) 9209 0112.

Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in 2020 Local Council Postal Elections

- Homeless not voteless

Address all enquiries to the Victorian Electoral Commission, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000