

Easy English

Vote in 2020 Local Council Postal Elections



Victorian Electoral Commission

You can get this information in different ways



Other languages

Read page 22 to 23.

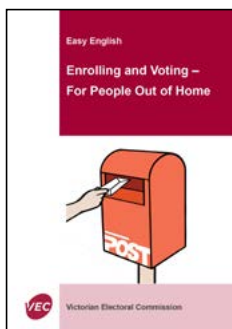
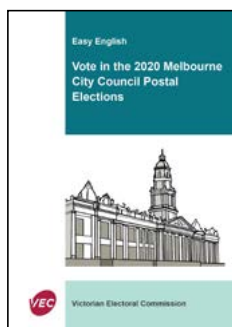
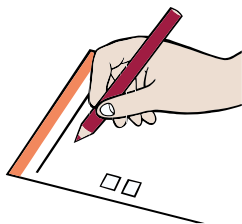


Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write the first Easy English version of this book.

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About this book



This book is about

- Victorian local council elections
- how to vote
- postal voting
- how to become a candidate.

There are other books for people who vote in the
Melbourne City Council election

or

for people who are out of home.

Contact the VEC for more information.

Read page 21.

Our democracy

What is voting?



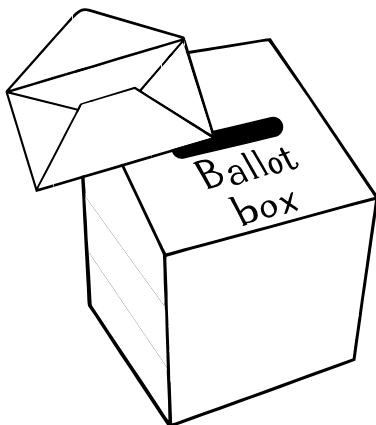
An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

To make a choice you need to vote.

All votes are equal.

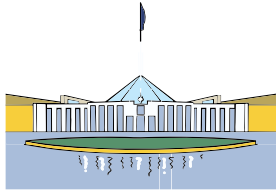
Voting is your human right.

Voting is secret



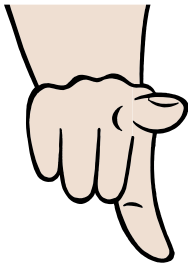
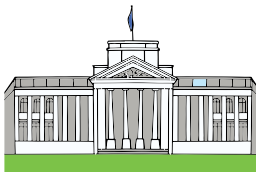
You do **not** have to show anyone your vote.

Our democracy

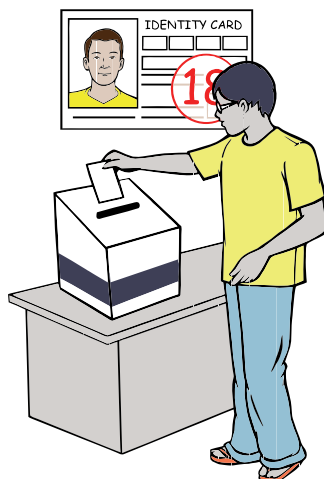


Australia has 3 types of government

- Federal government
- State government
- local council.



Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.

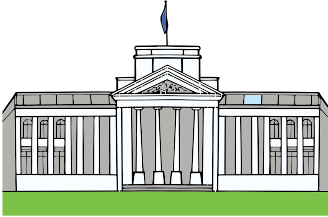


Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years or older must enrol and vote.

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



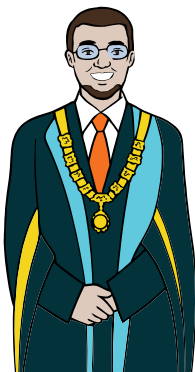
Victorian local councils

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.

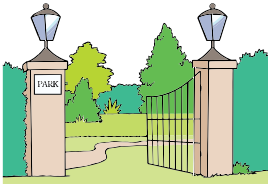


These people are called councillors.



The leader of the council is called the **mayor**.

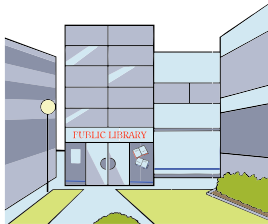
Your local council



What councillors do

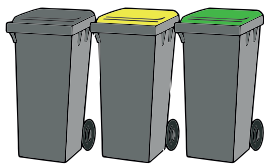
Your councillors make decisions about

- parks and sporting grounds



- community services

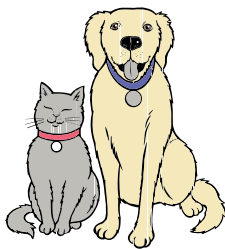
- libraries



- roads and footpaths

- rubbish and recycling

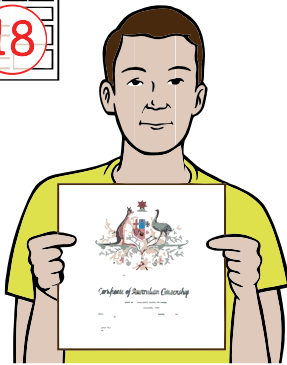
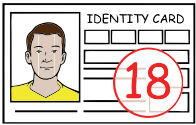
- public buildings and halls



- dog and cat registration

- building and construction.

About voting



Enrol to vote

To vote you must enrol. Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years of age and over must enrol to vote.

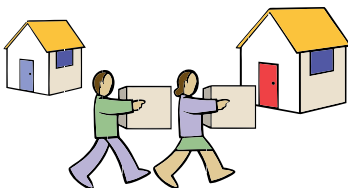
You must fill in an **enrolment form**.

Get an enrolment form

- from the Victorian Electoral Commission
- 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.

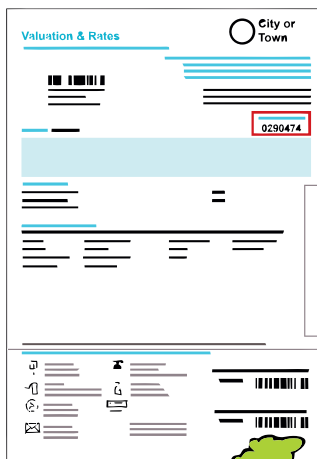
About voting

Who else can enrol to vote?

You may also be able to enrol if you pay **rates** to another local council (from where you live) where you have a property.

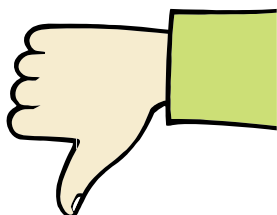
Non-Australian citizens who pay rates on a property within a council area can apply to council to vote.

Speak to your local council for more information about these enrolment categories.



About voting

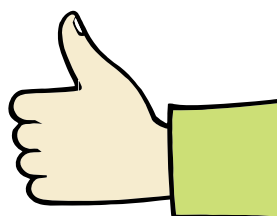
Do I have to vote?



You do **not** need to vote if your local council is

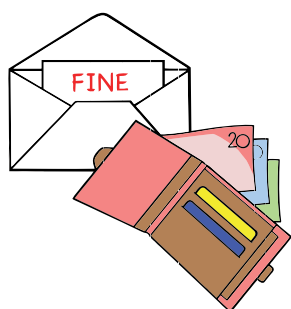
- Casey City Council
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- or Whittlesea City Council

these councils are not having elections this year.



You **must** vote in your local council election if

- you are an Australian citizen
- you are enrolled to vote
- you live in the council area



If you **do not** vote you will be sent a letter.

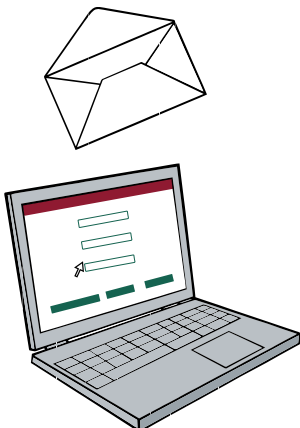
You will be asked why you did **not** vote.

You may have to pay a fine.

Council elections

How do I know if my council is having a postal election?

You will hear about your local council election



- 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

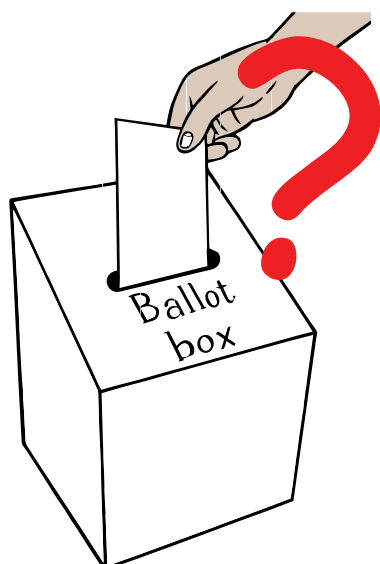
When is my local council election?

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	

All local council elections are held at the same time.

Local council elections are held 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 16 for more information on how to vote.

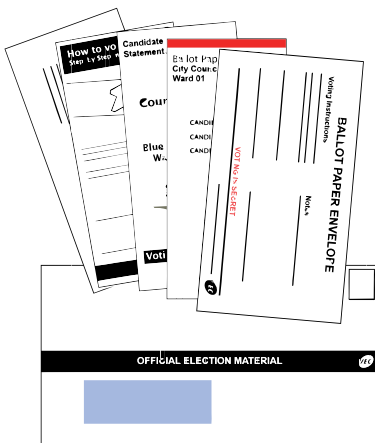
Postal voting

My ballot pack

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

Your ballot pack has

- a ballot paper
- a ballot paper envelope
- instructions about how to vote
- information about the candidates
(these are called **candidate statements**).
- a reply paid envelope to mail your ballot paper back.




Call the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack by Friday 16 October.

Read page 21.

Postal voting

Ballot Paper
Test City Council
Test Ward01
Election of 1 Councillor



☐ CANDIDATE, first name
☐ CANDIDATE, first name
☐ CANDIDATE, first name


How do I fill in my ballot paper?

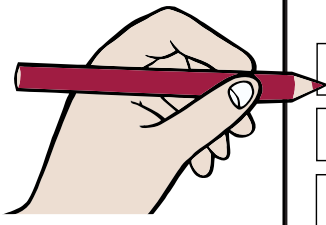
This is an example of a ballot paper.

You must write a number in each box on the ballot paper

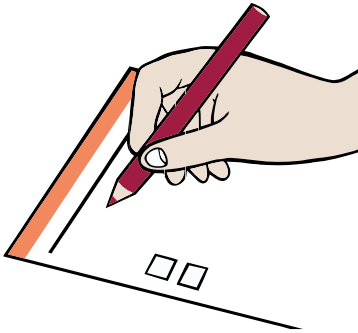
- write 1 in the box next to the person who you want to win
- write 2 in the box next to your second choice
- keep numbering until every box has a number
- use numbers only.

Ballot Paper
Test City Council
Test Ward01
Election of 1 Councillor



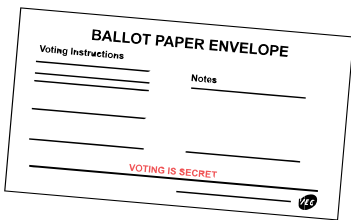
 CANDIDATE, first name
 CANDIDATE, first name
 CANDIDATE, first name

Postal voting



How to vote

- tear off the ballot paper from the candidate statements
- fill in your ballot paper
- put your finished ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope
- complete your details on the flap and sign and date it
- 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 vote 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 local council are called **candidates**.

Each person has different ideas. You need to pick the person or people who you think will do the best job.



How do I get more information about each candidate?

Each candidate writes to voters about their ideas.

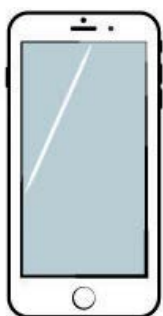
- You will get candidate statements in your ballot pack

or

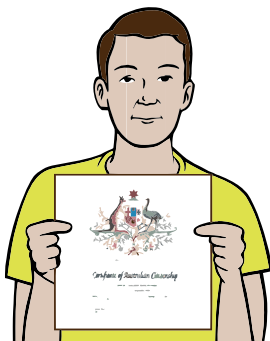
- You can phone the candidate and talk to them

This information will help you make a choice.

Contact details for candidates are on the VEC website.



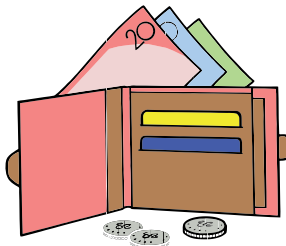
Candidates



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 Victorian Electoral Commission for the form that says you want to be a candidate.



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.

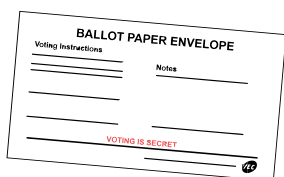
Read page 21 for how to contact us.

Meanings

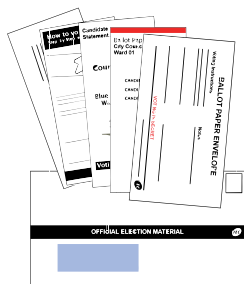
Check the meanings of words



Australian citizen — a person who was born in Australia. **Or** a person 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 paper. It has a special flap on it. You sign your name and write the date on this flap.

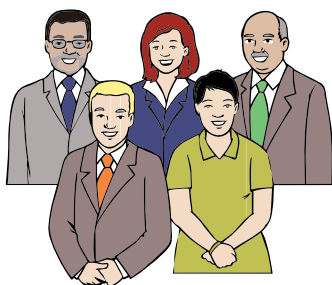


Ballot pack — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting.

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

Candidate — a person who wants to be a councillor.

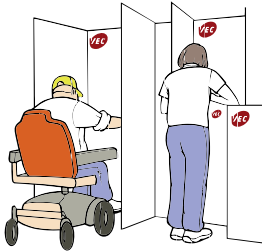
Candidate statements — information about each candidate in your ballot pack.



Councillors — a group of people chosen by the people in the local area to make decisions about this area.

Democracy — a country where people have the right to vote for who is in charge.

Meanings



Election — choosing someone or making a decision by voting.

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

Enrol — put your name on a list to vote.



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

Mayor — the leader of councillors.

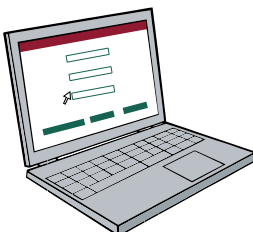


Postal vote — voting at home and sending your vote in the mail. All local councils use postal voting. Use the ballot pack you get in the mail.



Rates — money you pay to your local council. Your council uses this money for roads, public buildings and community services.

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



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

More information

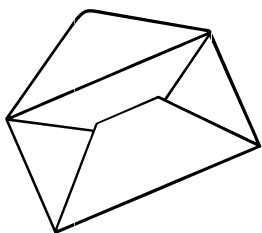


Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

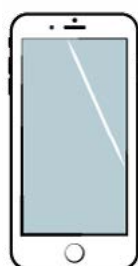
Website vec.vic.gov.au

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.

How do I get this information in other languages?

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 شماره (03) 9209 0195 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 the 2020 Melbourne City Council Election
- Enrolling and Voting – For People Out of Home

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



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