The Victorian Electoral Commission

**Our vision**
All Victorians actively participating in their democracy.

**Our purpose**
To deliver high quality, accessible electoral services with innovation, integrity, and independence.

**Our values**
- Independence: acting with impartiality and integrity
- Accountability: transparent reporting and effective stewardship of resources
- Innovation: shaping our future through creativity and leadership
- Respect: consideration of self, others, and the environment
- Collaboration: working as a team with partners and communities
On 29 November 2014, Victorians will be casting their votes to elect the 58th Victorian Parliament. This is a significant event where electors will make their decisions on their Parliamentary representatives in 88 Legislative Assembly districts and eight Legislative Council regions.

As the responsible agency, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will manage every element of the election which, under a strict statutory regime, requires forward planning and strong project management.

This State election will consume considerable financial, logistical, human and administrative resources. The VEC is recruiting more than 19,000 staff to run almost 1800 voting centres, servicing up to 3.8 million eligible voters.

At election time, accessible voting venues, services and resources will also be made available to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to fully participate.

Underpinning these services is a newly redeveloped accessible website, which I hope demonstrates the VEC’s commitment to inclusiveness through the various design and content considerations made to improve accessibility to all Victorians, regardless of location, technology or ability.

This information kit has been prepared to provide you with answers to our most frequently asked questions and key electoral information. The VEC website is also a good source of regularly updated election information and has a dedicated media centre available.

I hope you find this information kit useful.

Warwick Gately, AM
Electoral Commissioner
## State election timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue of the writs</td>
<td>Tuesday 4 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of electoral roll</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 November (8.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of nominations for registered political parties</td>
<td>Thursday 13 November (12 noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final day for lodgement of candidate groupings</td>
<td>Thursday 13 November (12 noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of nominations for independent candidates</td>
<td>Friday 14 November (12 noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot draws</td>
<td>Friday 14 November (around 1.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final day of lodgement for group voting tickets</td>
<td>Sunday 16 November (12 noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early voting commences</td>
<td>Monday 17 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day for submission of how-to-vote cards to VEC for registration</td>
<td>Monday 17 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final day for submission for how-to-vote cards for registration</td>
<td>Friday 21 November (12 noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of Postal Voting</td>
<td>Thursday 27 November (6.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of Early Voting</td>
<td>Friday 28 November (6.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELECTION DAY</td>
<td>Saturday 29 November (voting 8.00 am to 6.00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day that votes can be admitted to scrutiny</td>
<td>Monday 8 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return of the writs</td>
<td>On or before Saturday 20 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**About elections**

**How often are State elections held?**

Victorian State elections are held on the last Saturday in November every four years.

**What is the timeframe for an election?**

The election period is 25 days. The Governor of Victoria formally commences the election process by issuing the writs to the VEC. The Governor issues one writ for the Legislative Assembly election and a second writ for the Legislative Council election. The writs name the key dates for the election:

- The close of roll (seven days after the issue of the writs)
- The close of nominations for candidates who want to stand for Parliament (ten days after the issue of writs)
- Election day (15 days after the close of nominations)
- The return of the writs (up to 21 days after election day)

After the issue of the writs, people have seven days to make sure that their names are on the roll. Australian citizens aged 18 years and over who have recently changed address without updating their enrolment, or who have never enrolled, need to act quickly.

**What’s new for the 2014 State election?**

**Accessibility supercentres**

Six accessibility supercentres will be available during the early voting period. Services available at these centres include:

- electronically assisted voting
- Auslan interpreters and audio loops
- full wheelchair access and accessible parking space
- talking boards for voters with communication difficulties
- magnifying sheets and large pencils
- bilingual/multilingual election staff.

(The addresses of these accessibility supercentres are available on page 28.)
Accessible website

The VEC recently redeveloped its website to create a more positive experience for users in terms of ease of use and accessible information.

The site’s refined navigation means most information is now only one or two clicks away. Greater emphasis has also been placed on making information easy to understand; using plain English throughout and providing additional Easy English explanations for critical information about the enrolling and voting process.

Additional features of the website include:

- Open Dyslexic — a special weighted font to assist readers who are dyslexic
- AccessIN — a reporting service for people who use assistive technology that facilitates continuous improvements for the life of the website
- Readspeaker — text-to-speech technology
- Translated content, audio files and interpreter assistance — available in 20 languages.

Continuing programs

The VEC will be rolling out a wide range of electoral products and services aimed at increasing participation in the State election.

Underpinning the entire campaign will be the EasyVote Guide. All electors on the roll will receive an EasyVote Guide mailed to their home (during the week commencing Monday 17 November), which will detail voting information, the location of all the voting centres in their district and what to do if they can’t vote on election day. The Guide will also advise voters that electoral boundary changes may apply to their electorate. An EasyVote card will be included in the Guide to streamline the voting process at the voting centre.

2014 State election advertising campaign

The 2014 State election advertising campaign has been designed to engage Victorian voters and deliver key messages throughout the election cycle to motivate people to enrol and vote.

The visual elements of the campaign are made of paper to signify the ballot paper voting process.

Dubbed ‘close run’, the campaign incorporates real electoral statistics to demonstrate the difference that each vote can make. Each ad concludes with the line ‘Your vote will help shape Victoria’ to drive home the fact that every vote counts.
Electronically Assisted Voting

Electronically Assisted Voting (EAV) will be available at selected early voting centres in Victoria — from Monday 17 November to Friday 28 November — for any voter who is blind or has low vision, a motor impairment, or English language or literacy difficulties.

Voters can vote independently now using tablet-based technology with simple gesture and audio prompts. The device is equipped with headphones to allow voting options to be read out in 20 languages including English. This allows voters to cast a completely independent and secret vote in language.

Electronic voting in Victoria features a suite of security layers that work independently from each other to reduce the possibility of electoral fraud, ensuring that the system is secure and verifiable.

Electronic voting will also be available at the VEC’s early voting centre in London.

VEC Driving Votes — roadshow

The VEC Driving Votes roadshow will be driving home the importance of correctly enrolling to vote in the upcoming State election, reminding Victorians to check their enrolment and offering them a chance to ask VEC staff questions.

The Driving Votes van will be visiting electoral districts that have been historically under-represented in the electoral process, including Albert Park, Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Dandenong, Fitzroy, Footscray, Mildura, Richmond and South Yarra.

The event program is backed up by a comprehensive social media rollout. Visitors at the Driving Votes van will get the chance to take a picture with the cast of paper people from the advertising campaign. The best photograph submitted to the Driving Votes website — enrolnow.vec.vic.gov.au (online from 13 October) — every two weeks wins an iPad Mini.

Education program

The VEC’s Education Team is conducting a range of activities to increase engagement and participation in the democratic process. Grassroots school and community-based outreach and education programs, include:

- Passport to Democracy, delivered at secondary schools with the aim of increasing political literacy of students
- Democracy Ambassador Program, aimed at raising electoral awareness within new and emerging communities
- Homeless not Voteless, providing Victorians experiencing homelessness with opportunities to vote
- Voting is for Everyone, an outreach and education program aimed at people with a disability, workers and carers.

The Education Team has also distributed information kits to community sector audiences with essential resources to support electoral education and promote the election.
Key facts and figures

Enrolment

- There are 3,781,696 voters are on the roll (figure as at 8 October 2014).
- Every voter on the roll as at 8.00 pm on 11 November 2014 will receive an EasyVote Guide with all the information they need on how, when and where to vote.

Election resources

- 12.7 million ballot papers will be printed.
- 200,000 pencils will be used.
- 41,064 cardboard items (such as voting screens and ballot boxes) will be produced.

Voting centres

- There will be 1,784 voting centres across Victoria on election day.
- Almost 19,000 people will be assisting at voting centres during the election.
- There will be 100 early voting centres in Victoria.
- Six of the 100 early voting centres will also be accessibility supercentres.
- There will be an early voting centre available at 11 interstate and 32 overseas locations.
- Voting instructions will be available in 20 languages, including English, on every voting screen.

Electoral districts and regions

- There are 88 districts in Victoria with approximately 43,000 electors in each district.
- There are eight regions in Victoria. Five Members of Parliament represent each region in the Victorian Parliament’s Legislative Council (Upper House). There are approximately 470,000 electors in each region.
- The smallest region is Southern Metropolitan (233 square kilometres).
- The largest region is Northern Victoria (100,562 square kilometres).
- The smallest district is Prahran (12 square kilometres).
- The largest district is Lowan (39,182 square kilometres).
## 2010 State election statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolment</td>
<td>3,582,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter turnout</td>
<td>92.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary votes</td>
<td>2,289,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early votes cast</td>
<td>543,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal votes cast</td>
<td>247,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent votes cast</td>
<td>220,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas and interstate votes cast</td>
<td>10,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antarctic votes</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total candidates</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total below the line votes</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of informality (Lower House)</td>
<td>4.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of informality (Upper House)</td>
<td>3.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cost of the 2010 State election was $36.64M.
Amendments to the Electoral Act since 2010

There have been several minor amendments to the *Electoral Act 2002* since the 2010 State election. The most important amendments were:

- The *Equal Opportunity Amendment Act 2011*, which permits the VEC to discriminate against a person in relation to offering employment on the basis of that person’s political belief or activity. The purpose of this provision is to protect the political impartiality of the VEC.

- The *Integrity and Accountability Legislation Amendment Act 2012*, which requires the Electoral Commissioner to notify the IBAC of any matter which appears to involve corrupt conduct of which the Electoral Commissioner becomes aware in the performance of statutory functions, and allows the Electoral Commissioner to consult with the IBAC on relevant matters.

- The *Statute Law Amendment (Directors’ Liability) Act 2013*, which affects the level of liability of a director of a body corporate that has committed an offence against a provision of the Electoral Act.

- The *Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2013*, which allows the VEC to use information that the VEC has gained under the joint enrolment arrangement with the Commonwealth to assist the VEC’s direct enrolment program.

Composition of the Victorian Parliament

Four by-elections have taken place since the State election on 27 November 2010:

- Broadmeadows District, 19 February 2011
  Frank McGuire (ALP) won the seat following the resignation of John Brumby (ALP)

- Niddrie District, 24 March 2012
  Ben Carroll (ALP) won the seat following the resignation of Rob Hulls (ALP)

- Melbourne District, 21 July 2012
  Jennifer Kanis (ALP) won the seat following the resignation of Bronwyn Pike (ALP)

- Lyndhurst District, 27 April 2013
  Martin Pakula (ALP) won the seat following the resignation of Tim Holding (ALP)

None of the results altered the composition of Parliament.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Legislative Assembly</th>
<th>Legislative Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Seats</td>
<td>Number of Seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Party</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Party</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Labor Party</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Australian Greens</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other candidates</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures as at 8 October 2014.
New electoral boundaries

During 2012–2013, the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) conducted its first electoral redivision for both Houses of Parliament since 2001 to ensure that each vote at the Victorian State election has an equal value. That is, each electorate should contain approximately the same number of voters, not varying from the average by more than 10 per cent.

Over time, electorates may get out of balance because of demographic changes. Redivisions are necessary to restore the electorates to approximate equality.

The redivision resulted in 15 districts being abolished and 15 new districts being created. Adjustments were made to all but two district boundaries across the entire State.

Approximately one million voters will be directly affected by electoral boundary changes.

The boundaries will come into operation at the 2014 State election from 4 November 2014. The new boundaries will be available on the VEC website from 13 October. To view these before 13 October, please visit the EBC website (ebc.vic.gov.au).
**Electoral pendulum**

The following electoral pendulum has been sourced from the ABC’s 2014 Victorian Election website (www.abc.net.au/news/vic-election-2014/guide/pendulum) and is based on an analysis conducted independently by the ABC. An electoral pendulum displays the estimated percentage swing required for each Legislative Assembly seat to change hands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liberal/National (38/9)</th>
<th>Electorate</th>
<th>Party and Margin (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wendouree</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yan Yean (*)</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrum</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentleigh</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monbulk (*)</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mordialloc</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon (*)</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellarine (*)</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Hill</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prahran</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>4.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Barwon</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>4.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwood</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringwood</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayswater</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eildon</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Waverley</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>8.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gembrook</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Hill</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>9.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>9.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caulfield</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>9.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferntree Gully</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-West Coast</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>11.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croydon</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>12.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>12.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>12.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor (40)</th>
<th>Electorate</th>
<th>Party and Margin (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eltham</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Park</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranbourne</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buninyong</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivanhoe</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedon</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulgrave</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo West</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo East</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>ALP v GRN</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essendon</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niddrie</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>ALP v GRN</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narre Warren North</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakleigh</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>ALP v GRN</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbury</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narre Warren South</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keysborough</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northcote</td>
<td>ALP v GRN</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundoora</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarneit</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werribee</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydenham</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electorate</td>
<td>Party</td>
<td>Margin (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowville</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>13.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morwell</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>13.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euroa</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>13.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepean</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polwarth</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>14.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulleen</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandringham</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kew</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benambra</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narracan</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mornington</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrandyte</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovens Valley</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>19.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvern</td>
<td>LIB</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowan</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>21.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland South</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>22.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland East</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>23.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepparton</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>25.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Plains</td>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>30.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altona</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarinda</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamstown</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melton</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandenong</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Albans</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuroke</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Park</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kororoit</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pascoe Vale</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadmeadows</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomastown</td>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>21.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Independents (1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electorate</th>
<th>Party and Margin (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frankston</td>
<td>IND LIB v ALP 0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(* - The party status of this electorate has been changed due to the redivision. 
(**) - The party status of this electorate has been changed due to the sitting MP leaving the Liberal Party.

**Electorate profiles**

Profiles on all electoral districts will be available on the VEC website from 13 October. Each profile page will also have Census Quick Stats for the corresponding new electorate available for download.

The following maps were prepared by the Victorian Electoral Commission, based on an analysis conducted independently by the ABC. (The content of the following maps is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian Government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.)
## Political parties and candidates

### Registered political parties — as at 8 October 2014

The VEC maintains an up-to-date register of current political parties. The list is available on the VEC website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political party</th>
<th>Registered Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Justice Party</td>
<td>Ms Magda Wozny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registered Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 Melissa Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vermont South Victoria 3133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>PO Box 6193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vermont South Victoria 3133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Christians</td>
<td>Mr Spero Katos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 10 December 2012</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 Sycamore Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caulfield Victoria 3171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>PO Box 258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Croydon Victoria 3136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Country Alliance</td>
<td>Mr Russell William Bate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 22 October 2012</td>
<td>Registered Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Laidlaws Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamieson Victoria 3723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address of Registered Officer:</strong></td>
<td>PO Box 24415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne Victoria 3001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Labor Party - Victorian Branch</td>
<td>Mr Noah Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 26 November 2012</td>
<td>State Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>438 Docklands Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Docklands Victoria 3008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>Locked Bag 3240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne Victoria 3001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Sex Party - Victoria</td>
<td>Ms Ange Hopkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 30 January 2013</td>
<td>64 Hamilton Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gisborne Vic 3437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>PO Box 1131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carlton Victoria 3053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Labor Party (DLP) of Australia</td>
<td>Mr Michael Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 10 December 2012</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Coventry Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Melbourne Victoria 3205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>GPO Box 1402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne Victoria 3001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family First Party Victoria Inc.</td>
<td>Mr Ashley Fenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-registered 30 April 2013</td>
<td>State Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suite 1, Level 1, 441 Canterbury Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surrey Hills Victoria 3127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal address:</strong></td>
<td>PO Box 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canterbury Victoria 3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political party</td>
<td>Registered Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Liberal Party of Australia - Victorian Division     | Mr Damien Mantach  
Re-registered 26 November 2012                  |
|                                                    | State Director  
104 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000                          |
| National Party of Australia - Victoria              | Mrs Jenny Hammett  
Re-registered 26 November 2012                   |
|                                                    | State Director  
Level 5  
30 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000                           |
| Palmer United Party                                  | Mr Daniel Gaylor  
Registered Officer  
20 Benjamin Street  
Sunshine Victoria 3020                            |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
PO Box 3138  
Brisbane Queensland 4001                          |
| People Power Victoria - No Smart Meters             | Mr Marco Florio  
Secretary  
18 Keith Grove  
Keilor East Victoria 3033                          |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
PO Box 460  
Carnegie Victoria 3163                            |
| Rise Up Australia Party                             | Ms Yvonne Gentle  
State President  
30 Star Crescent  
Hallam Victoria 3803                              |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
PO Box 1100  
Pearcedale Victoria 3912                          |
| Socialist Alliance (Victoria)                       | Ms Susanne Bolton  
Registered Officer  
Resistance Centre  
Level 5, 407 Swanston Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000                           |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
PO Box 12427  
A'Beckett Street Victoria 8006                     |
| The Australian Greens - Victoria                    | Mr Gurmeet Sekhon  
Registered Officer  
Level 1, 362 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000                            |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
GPO Box 4589  
Melbourne Victoria 3001                           |
| Voluntary Euthanasia Party (Victoria)               | Ms Bertha Franklin  
Secretary  
4 Sherwood Street  
Glenroy Victoria 3046                              |
|                                                    | **Postal address:**  
PO Box 2106  
Oak Park Victoria 3046                            |
How do political parties register?

Political parties are eligible to apply to the VEC for registration if they have more than 500 members. The VEC verifies that the party has at least 500 members and advertises in the press to enable any person to object, on grounds set out in Victorian electoral law, to the party being registered. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal can review the VEC’s decision on whether or not to register a political party.

Who can stand as a candidate?

To be entitled to stand for election, a candidate must live in Victoria and be enrolled as an elector.

Candidates do not need to live in the electorate for which they are standing.

A person is not eligible to nominate if they are:

- not enrolled as an elector;
- a judge of a court of Victoria;
- an elector who has been convicted or found guilty of an indictable offence, which is punishable upon first conviction by imprisonment for life, or for a term of five years or more. This offence must have been committed when aged 18 years or over, under the law of Victoria, or under the law of any other part of the British Commonwealth of Nations;
- an undischarged bankrupt; or
- a member of either House of the Commonwealth Parliament.

Municipal councillors and those employed in the Victorian or Commonwealth Public Service are eligible to stand for election, but must resign their position if elected.

When do nominations open and close?

Nominations open on Wednesday 5 November and close 12 noon on Friday 14 November. The deadline for candidates endorsed by a registered political party is 12 noon on Thursday 13 November. Nominations will be updated on the VEC website as they are processed.

How do candidates nominate?

Candidates for registered political parties can only be nominated by the registered officer of the party. These nominations must be lodged with the VEC.

Candidates who are not endorsed by a political party must nominate with the Election Manager for the District for which they are nominating. The nomination form must be signed by at least six electors for that District. Candidates nominating for a region may nominate with the Election Manager for any district within the region for which they are nominating. The nomination form must be signed by at least 50 electors for that Region.

Candidates can only nominate for one Legislative Assembly (Lower House) district or one Legislative Council (Upper House) region. If someone nominates as a candidate in more than one District and/or Region, all of their nominations are declared void.

Two or more Upper House candidates for a region may request that their names be grouped on the ballot paper.
How much does it cost?

Each nomination must be accompanied by a deposit of $350. The nomination deposit will be returned to the candidate, or someone authorised by the candidate, if the candidate:

- is elected
- receives at least four per cent of the first preference votes in the electorate
- was not declared elected, but was a member of a designated group of candidates at the election and the combined first preference vote received by all the candidates in the group was at least four per cent of the total number of first preference votes in the election
- retires before the close of nominations
- dies before 6.00 pm on election day
- is a candidate in a failed election.

All other candidates will forfeit their deposits.

How is the order on the ballot papers decided?

A computer-generated draw takes place at the election office. It happens soon after the close of nominations and candidates and media are welcome to witness the draws.

For a Lower House district, a single draw takes place at the office of the Election Manager for the district.

For an Upper House region, there are three draws: one to determine the order of groups; one to determine the order of candidates in a group where this has not been specified by the group; and, one to determine the order of ungrouped candidates. These draws take place at the office of the delegated Election Manager within the Region as soon as practicable after the close of nominations.

For a list of districts responsible for region ballot draws, refer to page 26 of the 2014 State General Election Service Plan (http://vec.vic.gov.au/Publications/StateElectionReports.html).

What is the role of scrutineers?

Candidates can appoint personal representatives (scrutineers) to observe both the voting and the counting of votes (scrutiny). A candidate can appoint one scrutineer for each election official issuing votes and, later, during the counting of votes, one for each election official engaged in the count. Candidates must appoint scrutineers in writing and appointment forms must be shown to the Voting Centre Manager in charge of the voting centre, if they request to see them.

What are the restrictions on political advertising?

Election advertising must be authorised and must have the name and address of the person willing to authorise it on the advertisement. Electoral advertising must not include:

- anything that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector, in relation to the casting of the elector’s vote
- a depiction of a ballot paper that is likely to induce an elector to vote otherwise than in accordance with the directions on a ballot paper.
Authorisation

When placing any election-related advertising in a newspaper, flyer, pamphlet, leaflet, notice or on a website the following information **MUST** be included:

- the name and address (not a PO Box) of the person who authorised the advertisement;
- the name and place of business of the printer or publisher (if the material is printed otherwise than in a newspaper). This is not required for online platforms.

The above requirements do not extend to items such as car stickers, clothing, lapel buttons, fridge magnets, pens, pencils or balloons.

Letters or cards do not need to be authorised as long as they bear the name and address of the sender and do not contain a representation of a ballot paper.

**Election matter**

**Election matter broadcast or televised (media blackout period)**

The broadcast on radio or television of all political and election matter (including election advertisements) must comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 2 of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (Commonwealth).

The VEC is not in a position to offer any advice regarding the operation of Commonwealth legislation. Any enquiries concerning the operation of the above Commonwealth Act should be directed to:

- The Australian Communications and Media Authority
  - PO Box 13112 Law Courts
  - Melbourne Vic 8010.
  - Tel: 03 9963 6800 / Fax: 03 9963 6899

**Heading to electoral advertisements**

Newspaper proprietors must print the word ‘advertisement’ as a headline (in at least 10 point font) to each article or paragraph printed in the newspaper containing electoral matter which is paid for, or for which compensation is to be made.

**Identification of author(s)**

During an election period, all articles or letters containing electoral matter, which are printed, published or distributed in a newspaper, circular or pamphlet must include the name and address (not a PO Box) of the author at the end. However, letters to a newspaper simply have to include the author’s name and the suburb or locality in which the author’s address is located.

The identification requirement does not apply to a newspaper leading article or an article that is solely a report of a meeting.
Complaints

The VEC will only accept and act (if appropriate) on complaints made in writing — these may either be in letter, fax or email form or via social media. Complainants should address their complaints to their Election Manager or to:

   Electoral Commissioner  
   Victorian Electoral Commission  
   Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
   Melbourne VIC 3000.  
   Fax: 9629 8624, Email: complaints@vec.vic.gov.au

It is the VEC’s policy that it will not discuss individual complaints with members of the media under any circumstances, not even to confirm or deny that a complaint has been received, as this would be an infringement of an individual’s privacy. The VEC is also reluctant to be unintentionally ‘giving legs’ to attempts by candidates or members of the public to try to gain some free publicity.

In most cases, complainants are alleging that there has been a breach of the law and as such there must be an evidentiary trial.

**Electoral funding — 2010 State election**

In accordance with the *Electoral Act 2002*, after each State election eligible parties and candidates can apply to be paid entitlements in line with the number of first preference votes they receive.

To be eligible to apply for this entitlement the party or candidate must have received at least 4% of the first preference votes in the election.

The amount per vote is indexed against the CPI. For the 2014 State election the amount per vote will be $1.646.
Counting of the votes

Where and how are votes counted?

The counting of the votes begins following the close of voting at 6.00 pm on election day. The doors of each voting centre are locked and only election officials and scrutineers are permitted to be present. Election officials are the only people allowed to handle the ballot-papers.

Election officials start by counting the first preference votes for the Legislative Assembly. This is followed by a ‘two candidate preferred count’ in which preferences are distributed to the two candidates for each electorate who are considered most likely to be in the lead. The purpose of the two candidate preferred count is to get an early picture of the likely result.

The primary votes for the Legislative Council are then counted. Ordinary votes are counted at voting centres on election night. At least 2,000 postal votes will be counted for each district at election offices on election night. Any remaining postal votes will be counted from Monday 1 December.

Legislative Assembly – preferential counting

The preferential counting system is used for Legislative Assembly when only one person is to be elected for each district.

To win an election that is being counted using the preferential system, the candidate must have more than half of the total formal votes. This is known as an absolute majority.

At the close of voting, election officials count all of the number "1" votes (first preferences) for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total first preference votes, that candidate is elected.

If none of the candidates has an absolute majority, the candidate with the smallest number of first preference votes is excluded. That candidate's ballot papers are then transferred to the remaining candidates according to the second preferences marked.

If there is still no candidate with an absolute majority, then the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded. That candidate's votes are transferred to the remaining candidates according to the preferences marked on them. This process continues until one candidate has an absolute majority. The candidate who gets an absolute majority is then declared elected.

Legislative Council – proportional counting

The proportional counting system is used when more than one person is to be elected. Five people are elected to each Victorian region.

The proportional counting system ensures that the required number of candidates is elected in proportion to their support in the electorate.

Candidates must win a specific proportion (or quota) of votes to be elected. The quota is calculated by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of vacancies to be filled, and adding 1 to the result.

\[
\frac{\text{Number of formal votes}}{\text{Number of vacancies} + 1} + 1 = \text{quota}
\]

A candidate who achieves the required quota is elected.
For example, if there were 15,000 formal votes to fill two vacancies, a candidate would need 5,001 votes to be elected.

When a candidate receives more votes than the quota, the candidate's surplus votes are transferred to the remaining candidates according to the preferences on the ballot papers. Because it is not possible to tell which votes elected the candidate and which are surplus, all the candidate's votes are transferred, but at a value less than 1. The value of the transferred votes is determined by dividing the surplus by the total number of ballot papers for the candidate. Each ballot paper transferred to another candidate has this value. Any candidate who has gained the quota once the surplus votes have been transferred is elected.

If there are still vacancies to fill once the surplus votes have been distributed, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is excluded. The excluded candidate's ballot papers are then transferred to the remaining candidates (at the value they were received) according to the preferences on them.

This process of transferring surpluses from elected candidates and distributing preferences from excluded candidates continues until all positions have been filled.

What is the difference between a recount and a recheck?

A recount is a re-examination and count of all formal and informal ballot papers. They are typically only ordered when the result is extremely close.

Recounts can only occur before the declaration of the result. At State elections, both the Election Manager and the Electoral Commissioner can order a recount. Candidates can request a recount, but the decision to accept that request is at the discretion of the Election Manager. During the recount, any disputed ballot papers can be set aside for a final decision by the Electoral Commissioner.

A recheck is a normal procedure undertaken by an Election Manager before a preference count is conducted. All ballot papers are re-examined and counted again.

Election results

On election night, progressive figures for all electorates will be displayed on the VEC website. Usually the first trickle of results is posted by 7.00 pm.

All ordinary votes cast throughout the State are generally counted to first preferences and displayed on the website by approximately 10.30 pm. These results will represent the votes of an estimated 70 per cent of the enrolled electors as early votes and declaration votes are not counted until the Monday after the election.

The result will be clear on election night for most electorates. However, in close contests, it may take up to two weeks for the result to become known. By law, declaration votes and interstate/overseas postal votes can be received into the count for nine days after election day.

Counting schedule breakdown:

- Election night (29 November): All votes cast on election day and up to 2,000 received postal votes per district are counted to first preferences and a two candidate preferred result is determined.

- From Monday 1 December: The count from election night is rechecked and all early and declaration votes are counted along with any further postal votes that have arrived. This count will start with first preferences then proceed to a preference distribution if required.

For more information about the counting process and the proposed counting timetable, please view the 2014 State General Election Service Plan (http://vec.vic.gov.au/Publications/StateElectionReports.html).
Data feed — results media feed

Elections results will be available as downloadable data files in a form that can be programmed for media coverage. These files will include information on candidates, party affiliation (where applicable) and voting locations.

The XML feed drills down to the provisional results at individual voting centres within each district. This is a tap into the complete feed that the VEC has running.

Further information and results data configuration files will be available shortly along with instructions for use at: vec.vic.gov.au/Media

Any enquiries about the feeds can be directed to Glenda Frazer at glenda.frazer@vec.vic.gov.au or on 8620 1151.

Virtual Tally Room

Results data files will also be published at regular intervals on the Virtual Tally Room on the VEC website, which will be available from 6.00 pm on election night. A summary page will have an ‘at a glance’ reference and then provisional results for each district and region. The district results will contain the provisional results of the first preference count and also a provisional two candidate preferred result where possible.

Each result set will be in ballot paper position order and will contain the total number of votes received by each candidate.

When are the final election results known?

Final results will begin to be known in the week following the election (for districts) and for the week commencing 15 December for regions.
Enrolment

How many Victorians are on the roll?

Almost 3.8 million Victorians are expected to be enrolled for the State election.

Who can enrol to vote?

Australian citizens aged 18 years or older, who reside in Victoria, are entitled to be on the State electoral roll.

British subjects who were on the Commonwealth or State enrolment register on 26 January 1984 and reside in Victoria are also entitled to enrol.

People may not enrol if they:

- are serving a sentence of five years imprisonment or longer;
- have been convicted of treason;
- are of unsound mind; or
- are not Australian citizens (except for British subjects who were enrolled in 1984).

How do people enrol to vote?

The easiest way to enrol or update enrolment details is online at the VEC website — vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment forms are also available at all post offices, Centrelink offices and offices of the VEC and Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

Is enrolment compulsory?

Enrolment is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 and over who have lived at their current address for at least a month. From 1 July 2014 the penalty amount for failing to enrol is $148. This figure is indexed at the beginning of every financial year.

Direct enrolment

In August 2010, provisions were made to the Electoral Act 2002 that enabled the VEC to directly enrol eligible citizens on the Victorian register of electors, without the person having to initiate the action. The process commences following the receipt and analysis of reliable data. Currently, the VEC uses data received from VicRoads, VCAA and the Australian Electoral Commission to initiate the direct enrolment process. The eligibility of electors is determined using information provided by the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

This process requires the VEC to notify the person in writing regarding the VEC’s awareness of entitlement and its intention to enrol the person unless notified of any ineligibility. If notification of ineligibility is not received, within a specified period of less than 14 days, the VEC will then place the person on the Victorian register of electors and advise them in writing accordingly.
Voting

What is the fine for not voting?

The fine for not voting is currently $74.00 (half a penalty unit). This figure is indexed at the beginning of every financial year. If the fine is not paid by the due date a ‘Penalty Reminder Notice’ will be sent out.

The compulsory voting enforcement process involves three stages:

1. Apparent failure to vote notice — requesting non-voters to provide an excuse for their apparent failure to vote. No infringement is attached to this notice.
2. Infringement notice — issued to non-voters who failed to provide a satisfactory excuse for failing to vote following the first notice (including nil responses). A penalty of half a penalty unit is attached to this notice — $74.
3. Penalty reminder notice — for outstanding infringements.

It is important to note that the number of fines that will be issued for any one election is not represented by the turnout figure.

As described above, ‘Apparent failure to vote notices’ are sent to everyone on the roll for whom the VEC does not have a record of voting. A significant number of these notices will be returned with valid and sufficient reasons and no fine will be issued.

The VEC cannot provide a list of what constitutes a valid and sufficient reason.

How many voting centres will there be?

There will be 1,784 voting centres around the State. There will also be 100 early voting centres open around Victoria in the two weeks before election day. Six of these venues will also be classified as accessibility supercentres and will be equipped with additional assistive services.

Voting centres

Voting centres open at 8.00 am and close at 6.00 pm on election day. Voting centre locations for election day voting will be available on the VEC website from Monday 13 October. A spreadsheet with all voting centre locations will be also available at this time for download.

Voters will be able to access voting centre locations through the website, their EasyVote Guide, press advertising or by contacting the VEC on 131 832.
Early voting

Voters who are unable to get to a voting centre on election day, may vote early at an early voting centre. Early voting centres within Victoria are open from Monday 17 November to Friday 28 November during the following hours:

- Monday 17 November, 9.00 am to 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 18 November to Friday 28 November, 8.30 am to 6.00 pm (weekdays only)
- Saturday 22 November, 9.00 am to 2.00 pm
- Thursday 27 November, 8.30 am to 8.00 pm
- Friday 28 November, 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Location details of early voting centres will be listed on the VEC website from 13 October.

Accessibility supercentre locations (early voting centres)

The accessibility supercentre locations are:

- 12–14 Nelson Road, Box Hill
- 34–36 Cowie Street, North Geelong
- Cnr Lakeside Boulevard and Shearwater Drive, Pakenham
- Unit 3, 311 Gillies Street, Wendouree
- 18–36 Keilor Road, Essendon North
- 160–166 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood

Voting by post

Voters who cannot attend a voting centre on election day, or an early voting centre prior to election day, can apply for a postal vote from Wednesday 5 November to have voting material sent to them once available after the close of nominations. Postal vote applications close at 6.00 pm on Thursday 27 November.

Airports

Voters flying out of Victoria and not returning before the election, can vote at Melbourne or Avalon airports from Monday 17 November to Friday 28 November.

Melbourne Airport early voting hours of operation are:

- Monday 17 November, 9.00 am to 10.00 pm
- Tuesday 18 to Thursday 27 November, 5.00 am to 10.00 pm (including Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November)
- Friday 28 November 5.00 am to 6.00 pm

Avalon Airport early voting hours of operation are:

- Monday 17 November, 9.00 am to 8.00 pm
- Tuesday 18 to Thursday 27 November, 5.00 am to 8.00 pm (including Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 November)
- Friday 28 November, 5.00 am to 6.00 pm

These voting centres will also be open from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on election day.
What are how-to-vote cards?

Supporters of candidates, political parties and interest groups often distribute cards outside voting centres on election day, providing suggestions to electors of how to cast their votes. All such ‘how-to-vote’ cards must be registered by the VEC. Registered how-to-vote cards are the only form of printed electoral material that may be lawfully distributed within 400 metres of a voting centre on election day.

What are group voting tickets?

Group voting tickets inform the voter how preferences will be directed for a vote 'above the line' for the State Legislative Council (Upper House). If the voter selects a group or party above the line on the ballot paper, the voter's preferences are deemed to follow the group voting ticket.

Registered parties or groups of candidates can lodge up to three group voting tickets with the VEC. Group voting tickets are published on the VEC website (vec.vic.gov.au) as they are registered and are available on request at all election day voting centres.
**Glossary**

**2CP** Short for 'two candidate preferred'

**2PP** Short for 'two party preferred'

**Absent votes** A vote cast at a voting centre by an elector who is outside his/her district on election day.

**Absolute majority** More than 50% of the formal votes in an electorate.

**Ballot** A method of secret voting.

**Ballot box** The sealed container into which an elector places a completed ballot paper.

**Ballot paper** The paper on which a vote is marked. The ballot paper shows the candidates' names and party affiliation, if any. It also contains voting instructions.

**Candidate** A candidate is an eligible elector who nominates for election to the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council.

**Compulsory enrolment** If you are 18 years or over and an Australian citizen you are required by law to enrol.

**Compulsory voting** All electors must vote at State elections. There is a penalty of half a penalty unit ($74) for failing to vote without a valid reason.

**Constitution** The set of basic rules by which a country or state is governed. In Victoria, the Constitution Act 1975 sets out the structure of state politics. Some parts of the Constitution such as provisions relating to the number of seats and the term of Parliament can only be amended through a referendum of Victorian voters. Other parts require a 3/5 majority of both Houses to be amended. Other parts again require an absolute majority of each House.

**Court of Disputed Returns** The Supreme Court sits as the Court of Disputed Returns when it hears a petition disputing an election result. It has jurisdiction to try cases in which the validity of an election or return is in dispute. The jurisdiction may be exercised by a single judge.

**Declaration of the result** The announcement by the election manager of the result of the election and the name of the candidate elected.

**Declaration votes** Votes which require a written declaration by the voter. There are several types of declaration vote: postal votes, absent votes and provisional votes.

**Democracy** Government by the people usually through elected representatives.

**Distribution of preferences** The process used to determine the winning candidate in a State or local council election for a single vacancy when no candidate wins an absolute majority of first preference votes.

**District** One of the 88 Legislative Assembly electorates.

**Donkey vote** The term used to describe a ballot paper marked with preferences for candidates without consideration of their policies or abilities. A classic donkey vote is one which records preferences straight down the ballot paper in the same order as the names printed. A donkey vote is a formal vote.

**Early voting** Electors who are unable to vote on election day can vote beforehand at an early voting centre.

**Election** The choosing of representatives by the voters.

**Election manager** A person appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election for an electoral district or region.

**Election office** An office from which an election is conducted.
Elector A person whose name appears on the register of electors and who is entitled to vote in elections.

Electoral Commissioner The statutory officer appointed by the Governor-in-Council with responsibility for the proper conduct of Parliamentary elections.

Electoral roll A list of the names of all the people who are entitled to vote in an election.

Electorate An area represented by one or more members of parliament. Also, the total body of electors within such an area.

Enfranchise To give a person the right to vote.

Enrolment The placement of one's name and address on the register of electors. You cannot vote at an election unless you are enrolled. Australian citizens over 18 years of age (with a few exceptions) must enrol to vote.

First past the post A voting system in which the candidate with the most votes is elected whether or not that person has more than half the votes counted. This system is used in many countries including the UK, USA, and Canada.

Formal vote A vote cast in an election that has been marked according to the rules for that election. A vote not marked correctly is an informal vote.

Franchise The right to vote.

General election An election for all the seats in both Houses of Parliament.

General Postal Voter (GPV) A voter who always has difficulty getting to a voting centre on election day can register as a GPV. GPVs include people with a disability, prisoners, those in remote communities and people who are 70 or over. After the close of nominations for an election, GPVs are sent postal ballot papers and certificate envelopes.

Gerrymander The drawing of electoral boundaries in a way which gives one political party an unfair advantage in elections.

Government The political party, or coalition of parties, which has won a majority of support in the Lower House (Legislative Assembly) forms the Government. The Premier and the Leader of the Opposition are always Members of the Lower House.

Group Candidates standing for election to the Upper House (Legislative Council) can join together in groups. Groups are separated from other candidates on the ballot paper. Candidates endorsed by a registered political party will be in a group.

Group voting ticket A group of candidates standing for election to the Upper House (Legislative Council) can register up to three group voting tickets with the VEC. A group that has lodged a group voting ticket will receive a square ‘above the line’ on the ballot paper. If a voter votes for a group above the line, the preferences will be allocated according to the group voting ticket. Group voting tickets are displayed on the VEC website and also at voting centres on election day.

How-to-vote cards Cards handed out to voters by party supporters at voting centres showing how a party or candidate would like voters to fill in their ballot papers. In Victoria, how-to-vote cards handed out within 400 metres of a voting centre on election day must be registered by the VEC. Registered How-to-vote cards are available on the VEC website.

Independent A candidate or elected Member of Parliament who has no political party affiliations.

Informal vote A ballot paper that is either left blank or is incorrectly marked. These ballot papers are excluded from the count and therefore do not contribute to the election of a candidate.

Legislative Assembly (Lower House) One of the two houses in State Parliament. There are 88 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), one from each district. The party or coalition of parties that wins majority support in this House forms the Government.
Legislative Council (Upper House) One of the two houses in State Parliament. There are 40 Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs), five from each region. The Legislative Council is often referred to as the ‘house of review’.

Lower House The Lower House is an alternative name for the State Legislative Assembly.

Malapportionment The situation which arises when there are large differences in the number of voters in different electorates.

Mobile voting centre Mobile voting facilities are provided to assist electors in such places as hospitals and aged care facilities to cast a vote. The voting is mobile because election officials move around the premises, taking portable ballot boxes and voting compartments directly to patients.

No fixed address elector A person who does not reside in any district, but whose name has been placed on the register of electors.

Nomination The process by which a person becomes a candidate at an election.

Opposition The party, or coalition of parties in Parliament, which has the next highest number of seats after the Government.

Ordinary vote A vote cast at a voting centre in the elector's home district on election day.

Overseas elector An elector who is going overseas for six years or less can apply to be an overseas elector either before leaving Australia, or while overseas.

Parliament The political assembly in which elected representatives debate and vote upon proposed laws. The word 'parliament' comes from 15th century English, and from a French word meaning 'talking place'.

Parliamentary democracy A system of government where the people exercise their political power by electing representatives to Parliament to make laws. Victoria is a parliamentary democracy.

Platform The policies or plans that the candidates and parties say they will carry out if elected.

Political party A group of people with similar ideas or aims, some of whose members nominate as candidates at elections in the hope that they will be elected to parliament. A political party can register with the Victorian Electoral Commission for State elections. This enables party names to appear on the ballot paper, and facilitates nominations and registration of how-to-vote cards.

Preferential voting A vote for all candidates in order of preference. If no candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes, preferences are distributed until one candidate has an absolute majority. This system of voting is used for the Legislative Assembly in Victoria, for the House of Representatives in Federal elections, and for the Lower House in most other states.

Preselection The choice by a political party of its candidates for an election.

Proportional representation A system of voting designed to elect representatives in proportion to the amount of support each has in the electorate. Variations of this system are used in the Commonwealth Senate, in most other states, and in many other countries. Multi-vacancy municipal electorates began using this system in 2004. From the 2006 State election, this system has been used in elections for Victoria's Legislative Council (Upper House).

Provisional enrolment A 17-year-old Australian citizen may apply for provisional enrolment to enable him or her to vote if they attain the age of 18 in the period between the close of rolls and election day. A person whose name cannot be found on the roll may apply to enrol and cast a provisional vote at a voting centre.

Recheck A recheck is a normal procedure undertaken by an election manager before a preference count is conducted. All ballot papers are re-examined and counted again. Scrutineers are entitled to be present and should be aware of any corrected figures before
a preference count is commenced. (This term should not be confused with the term 'recount').

**Recount** A re-examination and count of all formal and informal ballot papers by an election manager before the declaration of the result. A recount does not include a re-examination of declarations of postal, absent and unenrolled voters.

**Redivision** The redrawing of electoral boundaries to ensure that there are, as near as possible, equal numbers of voters in each electorate within Victoria.

**Referendum** A proposal to alter the Constitution put to the vote.

**Region** There are 8 regions for the Legislative Council. Each region returns 5 members.

**Register of electors** The VEC's database of all Victorian electors.

**Representative** A person elected to Parliament to represent the people of a district or region.

**Scrutineer** A person appointed by a candidate to observe voting and the scrutiny and count of ballot papers to satisfy their candidate that the poll was conducted strictly in accordance with the law.

**Scrutiny** The checking and counting of ballot papers to ascertain the result of an election.

**Seat** A seat in a Parliament held by an elected Member. It can also refer to a Member's electorate.

**Secret ballot** A vote made in secret. Victoria founded the secret ballot in 1856.

**Silent elector** An elector who believes that having their name on the roll will place their personal safety or that of members of their family at risk can apply to have their address not shown on the roll.

**Suffrage** The right to vote at elections. All Australian citizens 18 or over have suffrage.

**Swing** The difference between the performance of a candidate or party at one election in comparison to a previous election.

**Swinging voter** A voter who does not have a steady pattern of voting for the same party.

**Turnout** The percentage of enrolled electors who voted.

**Two candidate preferred (2CP)** A distribution of preferences to the two candidates who are expected to come first and second in the election.

**Two party preferred (2PP)** A distribution of preferences where, by convention, comparisons are made between the ALP and the leading Liberal/National candidates. In seats where the final two candidates are not from the ALP and the Liberal or National parties, a two party preferred count may be conducted to find the result of preference flows to the ALP and the Liberal/National candidates.

**Upper House** The Upper House is an alternative name for the State Legislative Council.

**Victorian Electoral Commission** The agency established in 1995 to maintain and update the Victorian State electoral roll and conduct State and other non-parliamentary elections.

**Vote** The formal act of a voter in an election to choose the candidate the voter most wants to be the representative for that electorate. Australia has a secret vote, and enforces compulsory voting.

**Voting Centre** A place where electors can vote in an election. There are three types in State elections:

- early voting centres
- mobile voting centres
- election day voting centres

**Voting screen** A small compartment at the voting centre where people fill in their ballot papers in secret at elections.
For media enquiries contact:

**Mary Sammut**  
Communication Officer  
Phone: 86201190  
Mobile: 0457 740 022  
mary.sammut@vec.vic.gov.au

**Paul Thornton-Smith**  
Senior Information and Research Officer  
Phone: 86201187  
paul.thornton-smith@vec.vic.gov.au

**Thomas Harper**  
Senior Communication Officer  
Phone: 86201189  
Mobile: 0402 462 759  
thomas.harper@vec.vic.gov.au

**Sue Lang**  
Manager, Communication, Education and Research Branch  
Phone: 8620 1237  
Mobile: 0438 028 994  
sue.lang@vec.vic.gov.au

The most up-to-date electoral information, including media releases and results information is available on the Victorian Electoral Commission website: vec.vic.gov.au/Media/