Vote in the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election
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You can get this information in different ways

**Auslan**

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission for a DVD in Auslan.

**Other languages**

Read page 23 to 24.


For more information about Scope’s Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre phone 03 9843 2000 or go to [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)
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About this book

This book is about

• the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election

• how to vote

• voting

• how to become a candidate
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.
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 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 Lord Mayor by-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

• at any post office
• from the Victorian Electoral Commission
• online from www.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?

There is also special enrolment and voting in the City of Melbourne.

They are for

• people who run companies in the City of Melbourne. For example, company directors and company secretaries

• 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.

Call the Melbourne City Council election hotline on 1300 735 427 for more information.
Do I have to vote?

Yes.

If you are enrolled you must vote in the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election.

If you are 70 years of age or over you can vote, but will not be fined if you do not vote.

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 the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election?

You will hear about the by-election

• in local newspapers
• in city newspapers
• on radio
• on social media
• by getting a ballot pack in the mail.
When is the Lord Mayor by-election?

The Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor by-election is held in **May 2018**.

Ballot packs are mailed out in late April 2018.

How do I vote?

You will get a ballot pack in the mail.

Read pages 13 to 15 for more information on how to vote.
Your 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 bigger reply post envelope to put your ballot paper envelope in.

You should get the ballot pack by late April.

Contact the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack.

Read page 22.
Voting in the Lord Mayor by-election

How do I fill in my ballot paper?

This is an example of a ballot paper.

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

- Write 1 in the box next to the candidate 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.
How to vote

• Tear off the ballot paper.

• Fill in your ballot paper.

• Put your finished ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope.

• Write the date and sign your name on the flap of the ballot paper envelope.

• Put your ballot paper envelope in the bigger addressed reply post envelope. You do not need a stamp.

• Put it in the post.

• You need to send your ballot paper before 6.00 pm on Friday 11 May.
Candidates

Who do I vote for?

People who want to be the Melbourne City Council Lord Mayor are called candidates.

Each person has different ideas.

You need to pick the person who you think will do the best job.
Candidates

How do I get more information about each candidate?

The candidates write about their ideas.

These statements will be included in your ballot pack.

This information will help you make a choice.

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. This form says you want to be the Lord Mayor.
You must pay $250. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.

Give your completed form and payment to the Returning Officer.

Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

Read page 22 for how to contact us.
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 the Lord Mayor.
Meanings

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

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

**Enrol** — put your name on a list to vote.

**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. Most local councils use this way of voting. Use the ballot pack you get in the mail.

**Returning Officer** — the person in charge of your local council election.

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

Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Website   www.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 or have a hearing or 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 another language?

-Amharic-
K'amam ከጋዲ መጆች እና ከልማት ከርሃሽ ከላይ ከጋዲ ለላይ (03) 9209 0190 የሚጠበኝ

-Arabic-
إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبدلاً من استعانة بمترجم شفهي، يرجى الاتصال على الرقم 0100 9209 (03).

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

-Cantonese-
如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電 (03) 9209 0101。

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

-Dari-
اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمه ضرورت دارید، به تلفن شماره 0193 9209 0119 زنگ بزنید.

-Dinka-
Na koor yín lèk cî kek cuir ku kuony de athok /raan ê thok waaric, yuōpē (03) 9209 0119.

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

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

-Khmer-
បើចុះចិត្តក្នុងការស្វែងរកពត័មានតាមតំបន់វេទវីន់ឆ្លងអាយុប្រវែងចុះព្រៃ្ការ, ប្រៀបធៀបប្រារមុំ (03) 9209 0192-1
How do I get this information in another language?

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

Македонски (Macedonian)
Ако сакате подетални информации и помощ со преведуваач 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 9209 0195 (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.

Сомали (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.
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Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

• Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections
• Vote in Local Council Postal Elections
• Homeless not voteless
• Vote in Victorian State Elections

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


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