Enrolment and Voting

Information for Senior Victorians

Victorian Electoral Commission
Your vote is important
By voting in Federal, State and local council elections, you contribute to the decision making process.

Your elected representatives make decisions about issues that directly affect your everyday life.

For example:
• Medicare
• pensions
• social services
• housing
• Seniors Card
• employment
  and
• community development.

This brochure outlines your voting eligibility, voting rights, how to update your enrolment and how to vote at election time.
Am I eligible to vote?
There is no upper age limit on voting in State or local council elections.

You are eligible to enrol and vote if you:

• have lived in your current residence for one month
• are an Australian citizen
  or
• you are a British subject who was enrolled on 25 January 1984.

All voters must be enrolled for their principal place of residence.

If you are not an Australian citizen but are a resident ratepayer in your municipality, you are eligible to enrol and vote in council elections only.

Staying in care for a short amount of time?
If you are staying at a care facility for a short amount of time and intending to return home, your enrolled address is your usual residence.

Do I have to vote?
Voting is compulsory at Federal and State elections for all voters on the electoral roll, regardless of age.
It is also compulsory for voters aged under 70 years to vote in local council elections.

Voters can be removed from the roll on the grounds of being incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolling and voting.

A 'Removal of elector’s name' form can be requested from the VEC. It must be completed by someone who is currently on the electoral roll and signed by a medical practitioner.

This one form will remove the voter from Federal, State and local council rolls.

**How do I update my enrolment?**

An enrolment form is included with this brochure. Simply complete, sign and return this form to enrol, or to update your details.

This one form allows you to vote at Federal, State and local council elections.

Alternatively you can enrol or update your details online at vec.vic.gov.au

**How do I vote?**

For State elections, most people vote at voting centres on election day or at early voting centres in the two weeks before election day.

Local council elections are either conducted by attendance or post at the discretion of the council. You will receive information in the mail prior to each election.
Aids and assistance for voters
Magnifiers, maxi pencils and wheelchair accessible voting screens are available at every voting centre for State and council attendance elections.

Many centres will have wheelchair access.

Electronically Assisted Voting
Electronically Assisted Voting enables eligible voters to cast an unaided secret vote in 19 languages, plus English. It is available to any voter who: is blind or vision impaired, has English language or literacy difficulties, or a motor impairment.

It is only available at selected State election early voting centres and is NOT available on election day (or for council elections).

Mobile voting teams
Mobile voting teams make prearranged visits to aged care facilities and take residents' votes. Mobile voting is conducted in the two weeks before election day.

These visits are arranged with the aged care facility directly. Please contact your facility for more details.
Postal voting

If there is no mobile voting centre at your facility, or if you cannot vote on election day, you can apply to vote by post for State and local council attendance elections.

The VEC supplies postal vote applications to many facilities in the month before election day. You can also get a postal vote application at the post office, via the VEC's website: vec.vic.gov.au or by contacting the VEC.

If you are enrolled in a council that has postal elections, ballot material will be sent to you. You will not need to apply.

General Postal Voters

If it is always difficult for you to get to a voting centre on election day, you can register to have your ballot papers automatically mailed to you.

Voters who are 70 years of age or over can become General Postal Voters for State and local council elections by filling out the General Postal Voter form included with this brochure.

If you meet other criteria, you may also be eligible to have your Federal election ballot papers mailed to you.
Please find enclosed:

- Enrolment form
- General Postal Voter application
Do you need more information?
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 11, 530 Collins Street
Melbourne, Vic 3000.
131 832 (131 VEC)
vec.vic.gov.au

National Relay Service
People who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the VEC via the National Relay Service.

National Relay Service users should phone 133 677 then ask for 03 8620 1100.

Internet relay users should connect to the National Relay Service via relayservice.gov.au and then ask for 03 8620 1100.

Speak & Listen users (speech-to-speech relay) should phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 8620 1100.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:
- ኢትዮጵያ 9209 0190 Amharic
- العربية 9209 0100 Arabic
- Bosanski 9209 0191 Bosnian
- ភាសាខ្មែរ 9209 0192 Khmer
- 粵語 9209 0101 Cantonese
- 國語 9209 0106 Mandarin
- Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian
- كوردی 9209 0193 Dari
- Dinka 9209 0119 Dinka
- Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
- Italiano 9209 0104 Italian
- 한국어 9209 0194 Korean
- Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian
- فارسی 9209 0195 Persian
- Русский 9209 0196 Russian
- Српски 9209 0107 Serbian
- Soomali 9209 0108 Somali
- Español 9209 0109 Spanish
- Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt- ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese
- All other languages 9209 0112

Victorian Electoral Commission VEC