

Voting in a federal election

Polling place

A SOCIAL STORY



On election day, I will vote.

When I vote, I help to choose who is part of Australia's government.

The government makes decisions on our behalf about how to run the country.

It's important for me to have a say about who makes the decisions that affect me.



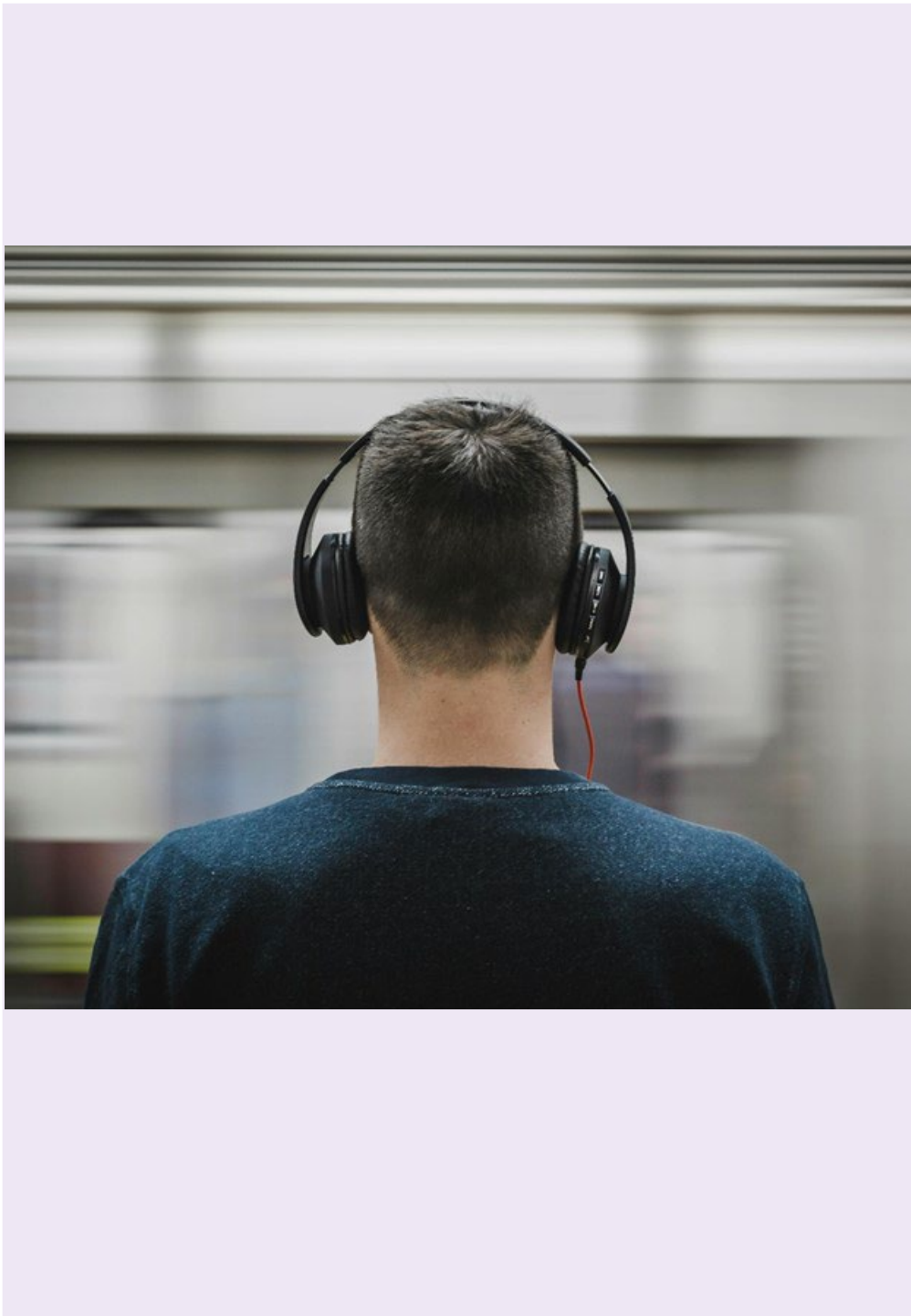
For me to make the best choice possible I can research the candidates or get advice from someone I trust.

My vote is secret. It's my choice who I vote for, and I don't need to tell anyone how I voted unless I want to.



On election day, I will go to a polling place.

When I arrive at the polling place there might be a lot of people, and I might need to wait in a line.



It might be very noisy, and I might want to take ear plugs, headphones or a support person to help me.



I might see people handing out pieces of paper. These pieces of paper explain how I might like to vote for a particular party.

I don't have to take one if I don't want to.



The Australian Electoral Commission, or AEC, is responsible for running the election.

When I go inside, I will speak to an AEC staff member in a purple vest with a lanyard around their neck. I can ask someone to help me at any time.



I might need to line up and wait for my turn before I get to vote.



The staff member will help me find the table where I will speak to another AEC staff member.

This person will ask me 3 questions so they can find my name on the list.



First, they will ask,
“What is your name?”

I need to tell them my first and
last name.



Next, they will ask,
“What is your address?”

I need to tell them the address
I gave when I enrolled to vote.
This address will probably be
where I live.




The third question they will ask is, “Have you voted before in this election?”

I need to say “No” if I haven’t voted in this election. I need to say “Yes” if I have already voted in this election.



The AEC staff member will cross my name off the list.


 House of Representatives
 Ballot Paper


State


Electoral Division of Division Name


Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

SURNAME, Given Names
 INDEPENDENT


 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY


 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY

 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY

 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY


 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY

 SURNAME, Given Names
 PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your ballot valid

SAMPLE







I will be given 2 ballot papers.

 Senate Ballot Paper

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line
 By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY
 PARTY

Or

Below the line
 By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

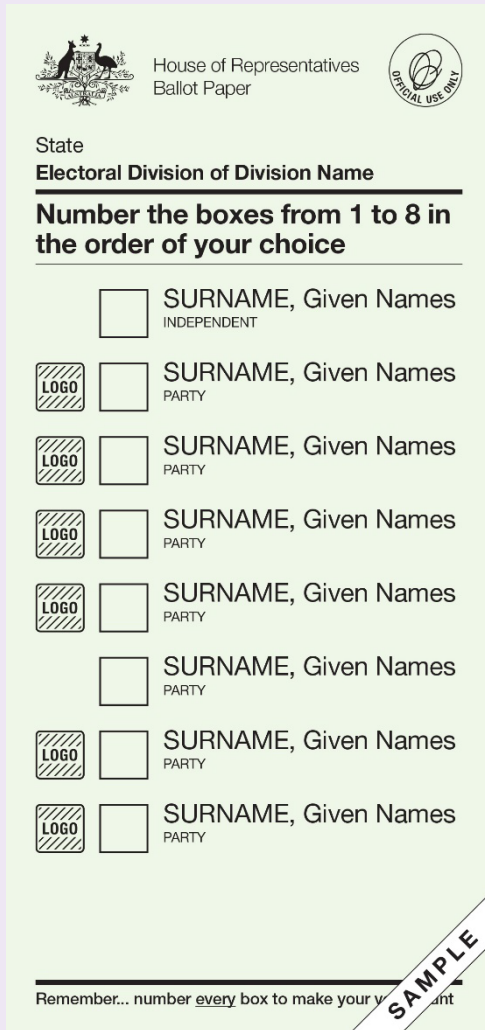
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
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SAMPLE



I need to take my ballot papers to the voting tables.

I will be given a pencil to fill out the ballot papers. I can also bring and use my own pen or pencil if I want to.



The green ballot paper is for the House of Representatives, and it has a list of all the candidates I can vote for.

A candidate is a person who wants to be part of the Parliament.

If the candidate belongs to a political party, it will be written under their name.



House of Representatives
Ballot Paper



State

Electoral Division of Division Name

**Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in
the order of your choice**

SURNAME, Given Names
INDEPENDENT



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY



SURNAME, Given Names
PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your v... ant

SAMPLE

On the green ballot paper,
I need to write 1 in the box
next to my favourite candidate,
then 2 in the box for my
second favourite.

There are instructions on the
ballot paper telling me how
many numbers to write.

I need to keep writing numbers
until **all** the boxes are filled.



You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line

By numbering at least 9 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

Or

Below the line

By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY
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SAMPLE

The white ballot paper is for the Senate, and it has a list of all the candidates I can vote for.

Senate Ballot Paper

You may vote in one of two ways

Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice with number 1 as your first choice.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice with number 1 as your first choice.

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY		UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names PARTY	SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED

SAMPLE

There is a list of groups above the black line.

Most of the groups are political parties.

A political party is a group of people who:

- share some of the same ideas
- work together on a plan for how government should run our country.

There is a list of candidates below the black line.

Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways
Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY
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SAMPLE

There are two ways I can vote. I get to choose.

I can vote above the line and vote for groups or political parties.

Or

I can vote below the line and vote for candidates.

I should read and follow the instructions on the ballot paper carefully to make sure my vote counts.

Senate Ballot Paper
State – Election of 6 Senators

You may vote in one of two ways
Either

Above the line
By numbering at least 6 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

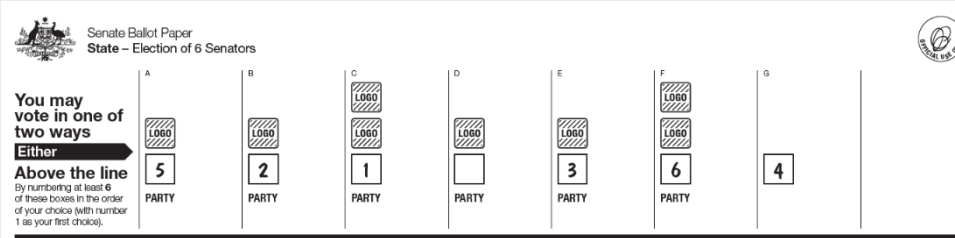
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	

Or

Below the line
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY
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SAMPLE



Write numbers 1–6

1 = my favourite

To vote above the line, I can put numbers in the boxes **above** the black line.

I will write a number 1 in the box for my favourite group, then 2 in the box for my second favourite.

I need to keep going until I have written numbers **1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.**

I can finish at 6 or keep going and write numbers in as many boxes above the line as I like.

Or **Below the line**
By numbering at least 12 of these boxes in the order of your choice (with number 1 as your first choice).

PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	8 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	6 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	10 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
1 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	3 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	9 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	7 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	2 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	12 <input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY		<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names UNGROUPED
	<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY					<input type="checkbox"/> SURNAME Given Names PARTY	

SAMPLE

Write numbers 1–12

1 = my favourite

To vote below the line, I can put numbers in the boxes **below** the black line.

I will write 1 in the box next to my favourite candidate, then 2 in the box for my second favourite.

I need to keep going until I have written numbers **1 to 12**.

I can finish at 12 or I can keep going and write numbers in as many boxes below the line as I like.



If I need help, I can ask one of the AEC staff or a friend or family member

If I make a mistake on my ballot papers, I can take them back to the AEC staff member who gave them to me.



I can tell them I made a mistake and need a new ballot paper.

The AEC staff will:

- take the ballot paper with the mistake
- give me a new one

I will take the new ballot paper and fill it out.



When I have voted I need to put my ballot papers in the ballot boxes.

There is one box for the green ballot paper and one box for the white ballot paper.



I will put my green ballot paper
in the box that says: Green.

I will put my white ballot paper
in the box that says: White.



The AEC staff member can help show me which boxes to put my ballot papers in.



Now I have finished voting and I can leave.

aec.gov.au 13 23 26

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

