

Easy English

Vote in the 2024 local council elections



Victorian Electoral Commission

You can get this information in different ways



Other languages

Read page 22 to 23.

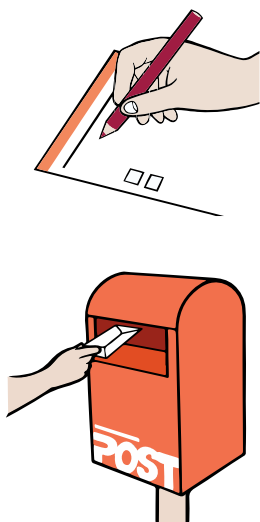


Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write the first Easy English version of this book.

What is in this book?

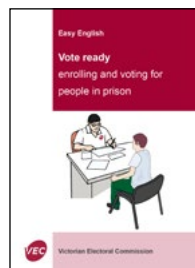
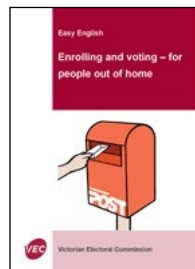
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About this book



This book is about

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



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

or

for people who are out of home

or

for people in prison.

Contact the VEC for more information.

Read page 21.

Our democracy



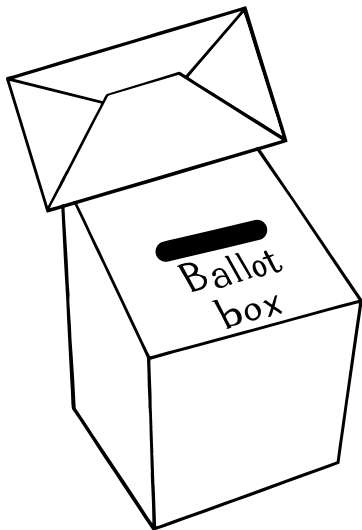
What is voting?

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

To make a choice you need to vote.

All votes are equal.

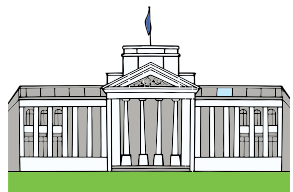
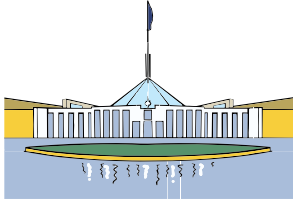
Voting is your human right.



Voting is secret

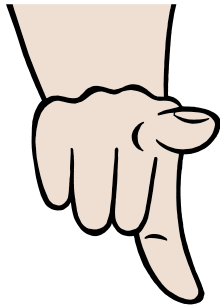
You do **not** have to show anyone your vote.

Our democracy

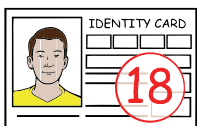


Australia has 3 types of government

- Federal government
- State government
- local council.



Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.



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



You **must** vote at every Federal, State and local council election.

If you do **not** vote you may have to pay a fine.

Your local council

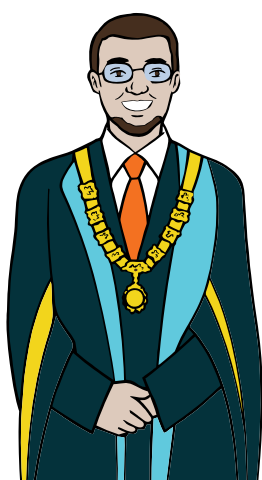
Victorian local councils

Victoria has 79 local councils. Your local council depends on where you live.

For local council elections you vote for people who make decisions about your local area.

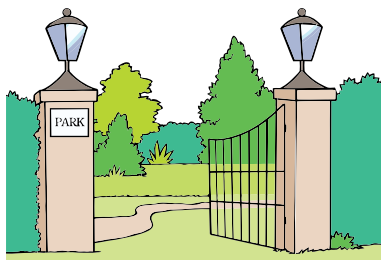


These people are called councillors.



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

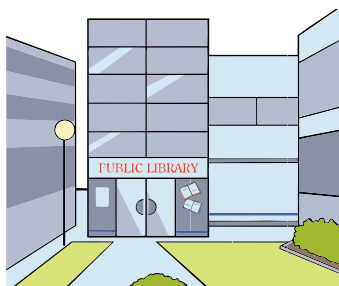
Your local council



What councillors do

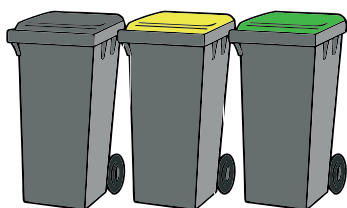
Your councillors make decisions about

- parks and sporting grounds



- community services

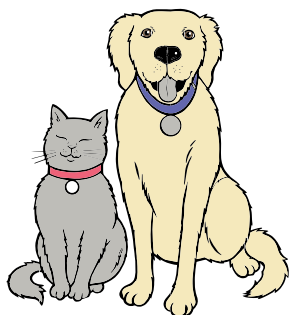
- libraries



- roads and footpaths

- rubbish and recycling

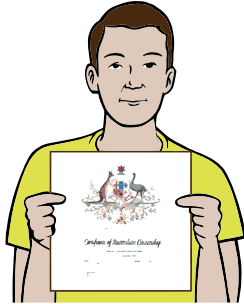
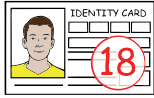
- public buildings and halls



- dog and cat registration

- building and construction.

About voting



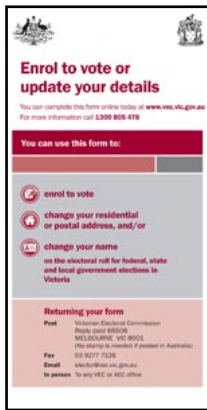
Enrol to vote

To vote you must enrol.

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

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

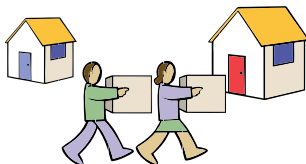
You can enrol online at **vec.vic.gov.au**



If you want a paper enrolment form, phone the VEC on 131 832.

Since the last election have you

- changed your address?
- changed your name?



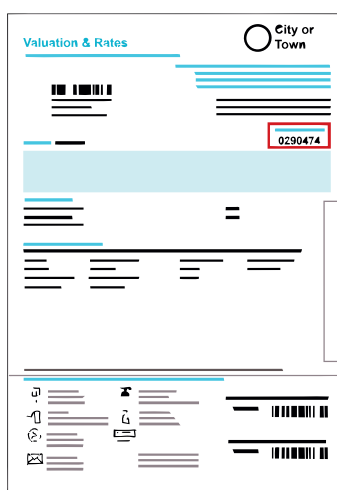
You **must** tell the Victorian Electoral Commission.



You can only vote once in any council election.

About voting

Who else can choose to vote



You may also be able to enrol if you:

pay **rates** to another local council that is not the one you live in, but you have a property or run a business in that council area.

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

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

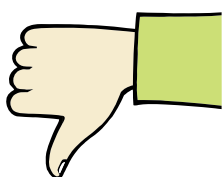
You can only vote once in any council election.

About voting

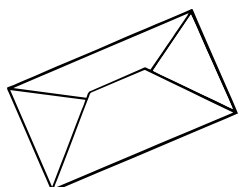
Do I have to vote?



You **must** vote in your local council election if you are enrolled to vote.



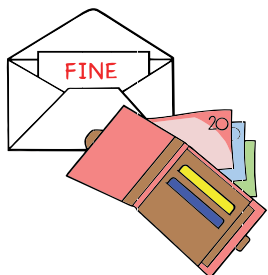
You do **not** need to vote if your local council is **Moira Shire Council**.



If you get a ballot pack and do **not** vote, you will be sent a letter.



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

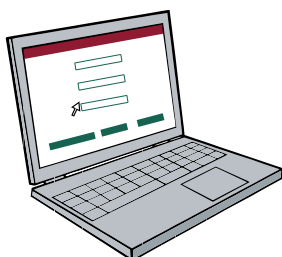
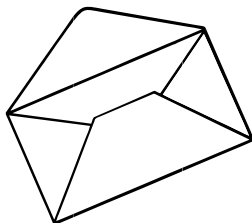


You may have to pay a fine.

Council elections

How do I know if my council is having an election?

You will hear about your local council election



- on the VEC website **vec.vic.gov.au**
- in local newspapers
- in city newspapers
- on social media
- on radio
- by getting a ballot pack in the mail
- if you are on the State roll and have asked for **VoterAlert** reminders.

Council elections

When is my local council election?

OCTOBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Local council elections are held every 4 years.

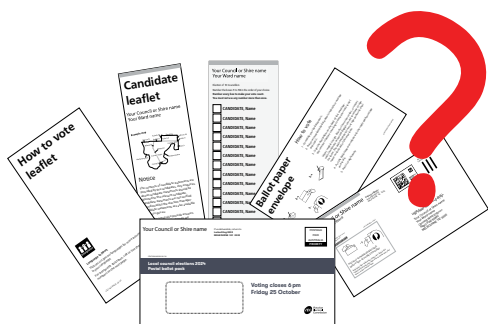
Ballot packs are mailed out in October.

Contact the VEC if you do **not** get your ballot pack by Tuesday 15 October. Read page 21 for how to contact us.

How do I vote?

You will get a ballot pack in the mail.

Read pages 14 to 16 for more information on how to vote.



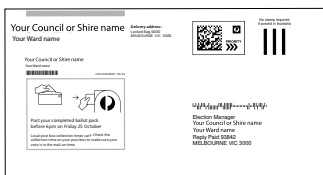
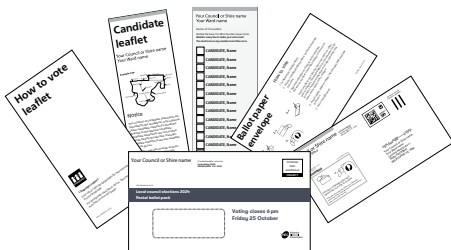
Postal voting

My ballot pack

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

Your ballot pack has

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

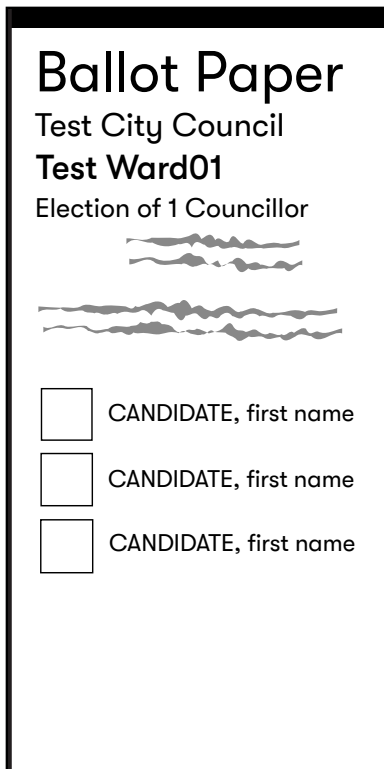


OCTOBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30	31		

Phone the VEC if you do **not** get your ballot pack by Tuesday 15 October.

Read page 21 for how to contact us.

Postal voting

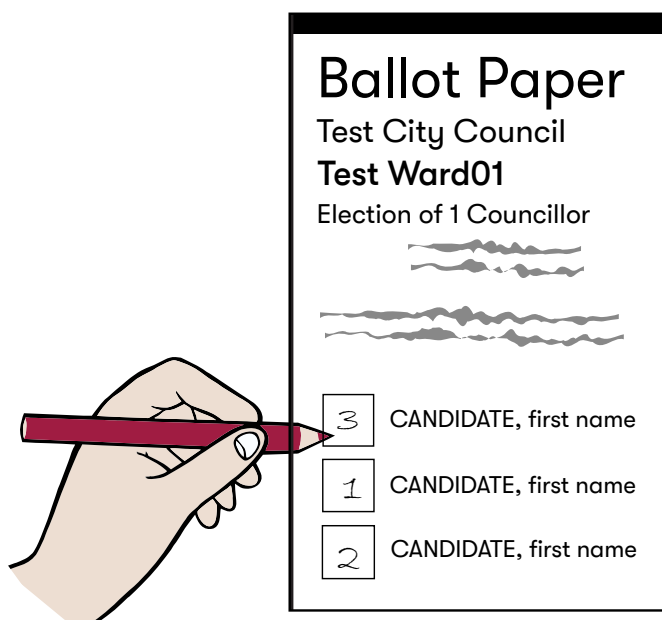


How do I fill in my ballot paper?

This is an example of a ballot paper.

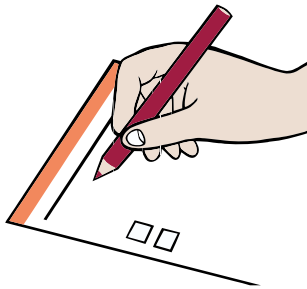
You must write a number in each box on the ballot paper

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



Postal voting

How to vote



- fill in your ballot paper
- put your finished ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope
- complete your details on the back, write your date of birth, sign and date it
- put your ballot paper envelope in the bigger addressed reply-paid envelope
- you do **not** need a stamp
- put it in the post as soon as you can
- Your vote must be in the mail or hand delivered to your local election office by 6 pm on Friday 25 October.

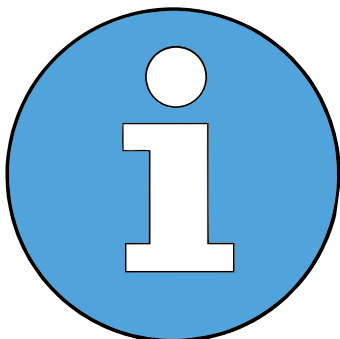
Candidates



Who do I vote for?

People who want to be on the local council are called **candidates**.

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



How do I get more information about each candidate?

Each candidate writes to voters about their ideas.

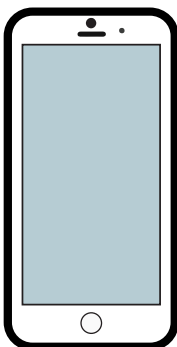
- You will get candidate statements in your ballot pack

or

- You can phone the candidate and talk to them

This information will help you make a choice.

Contact details for candidates are on the VEC website.



Candidates



How do I become a candidate?

- you must be an Australian citizen
- you must be enrolled in the council you want to nominate for. You must fill out a form. Ask the VEC for the form that says you want to be a candidate.



You must pay \$250. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.

Provide your completed form and payment to the **Election Manager** at your council.



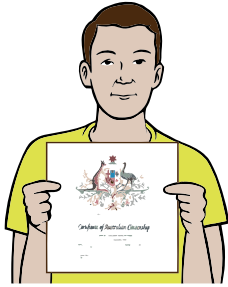
Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the VEC for more information.

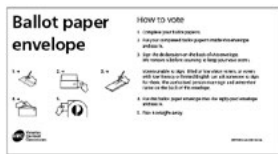
Read page 21 for how to contact us.

Meanings

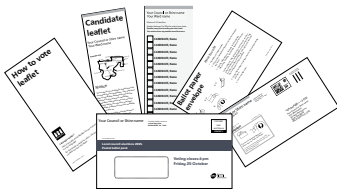
Check the meanings of words



Australian citizen — a person who was born in Australia. **Or** a person who was born overseas but now lives in Australia. This person has made a special promise to follow all the laws of Australia. This person has become an Australian citizen.



Ballot paper envelope — an envelope where you put your filled-in ballot paper. You sign your name and write the date on this flap.

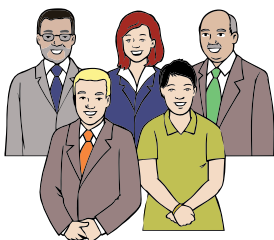


Ballot pack — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting.

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

Candidate — a person who wants to be a councillor.

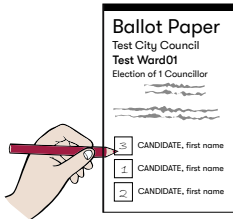
Candidate statements — information about each candidate in your ballot pack.



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

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

Meanings



Election — choosing someone or making a decision by voting.

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

Enrol — put your name on a list to vote.



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

Mayor — the leader of councillors.

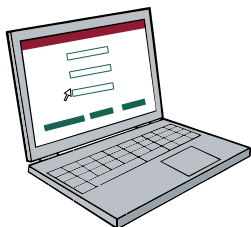


Postal vote — voting at home and sending your vote in the mail. All local councils use postal voting. Use the ballot pack you get in the mail.



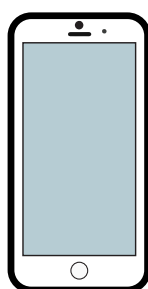
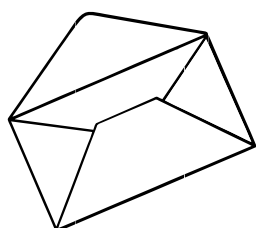
Rates — money you pay to your local council. Your council uses this money for roads, public buildings and community services.

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



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

More information



Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Website vec.vic.gov.au

Email info@vec.vic.gov.au

Postal address

Victorian Electoral Commission,
Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

Phone

131 832

+ 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Victoria)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech impairment phone National Relay Service 133 677 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

For speech-to-speech relay phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 03 8620 1100.

How do I get this information in other languages?

عربي (Modern Standard Arabic)
للحصول على مساعدة الترجمة الفورية، اتصل بالرقم 03 9209 0100.

ܐܘܪܝܬܝܢܐ (Assyrian Neo-Aramaic)
ܠܗܘܠܘܬܝܢܐ ܕܗܘܠܘܬܝܢܐ، ܦܫܝܕܘܗܝܢܐ 03 9209 0160.

မြန်မာ (Burmese)

စကားပြန် အကူအညီအတွက် ဖုန်း 03 9209 0161 ကိုခေါ်ဆိုပါ။

廣東話 (Cantonese)

如需口譯員協助，請致電 03 9209 0101。

Hrvatski (Croatian)

Za pomoć tumača, nazovite 03 9209 0102.

دري (Dari)

برای گرفتن کمک از ترجمان شفاهی، با شماره 03 9209 0193 به تماس شوید.

Thuɔŋjäŋ (Dinka)

Tënë görë yï kuɔny raan agamlöŋ/athook, ke yuöp 03 9209 0119 .

Ελληνικά (Greek)

Για βοήθεια από διερμηνέα, καλέστε στο 03 9209 0103 .

آزرگی (Hazaragi)

بلده کمک ترجمان، به شماره 03 9209 0162 زنگ بزید.

Italiano (Italian)

Per richiedere l'assistenza di un interprete, chiamare il numero 03 9209 0104.

How do I get this information in other languages?

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

សម្រាប់ជំនួយអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់មាត់ សូមហៅទូរសព្ទលេខ 03 9209 0192 .

한국어 (Korean)

통역사 지원을 받으시려면 03 9209 0194 로 전화하십시오.

Македонски (Macedonian)

За помош за преведувач, јавете се на 03 9209 0105.

普通话 (Mandarin)

如需口译协助，请致电 03 9209 0106。

नेपाली (Nepali)

दोभाषे सहायताको लागि, 03 9209 0163 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्।

فارسي (Persian – Farsi)

برای دریافت کمک از مترجم شفاهی، با شماره 03 9209 0195 تماس بگیرید.

ไทย (Thai)

หากต้องการความช่วยเหลือจากล่าม โทร 03 9209 0164 .

Türkçe (Turkish)

Sözlü tercüman yardımı için 03 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayın.

اردو (Urdu)

مترجم کی مدد کے لیے، 03 9209 0165 پر کال کریں۔

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Muốn có thông dịch viên giúp, hãy gọi 03 9209 0111 .

All other languages

To speak to us in any other language, phone (03) 9209 0112.

Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in the 2024 Melbourne City Council Election
- Enrolling and Voting – for people out of home
- Vote ready – enrolling and voting for people in prison

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



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