

Easy Read version

About enrolling and voting

For families, carers
and supporters



Victorian Electoral Commission

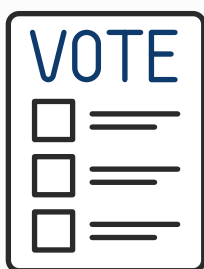
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About this guide



This guide is from the Victorian Electoral Commission. We hold elections in Victoria.



Elections are where people vote.



When you vote, you help choose who is part of government.



In Australia, people get to vote because everyone is part of a democracy. This means you get to help decide how things happen.



This guide is for people who need help to:

- understand information about elections, enrolment and voting
- enrol
- vote.



Enrolment means you give us your personal details so you can vote.



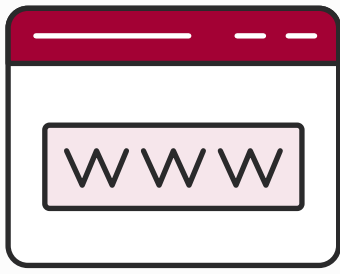
You can get someone to help you with this guide. For example, a family member or a carer.



This guide is an Easy Read summary of our brochure about how to help people understand information about elections, enrolment and voting.



Summary means we only include our most important ideas.

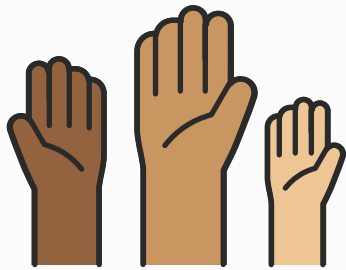


You can read the full version of this guide on our website.



You can find our contact information on page 27 at the end of this guide.

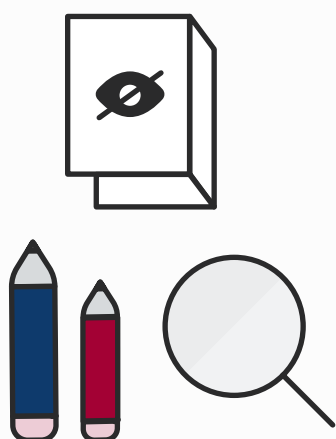
Summary of important information from this guide



It is important that everyone can get help to enrol and vote if they need it, so everyone can be part of our democracy.



We can help you find the enrolment form that you need.



When you are at a voting centre, you can get help from our staff if you need it. For example, you can ask for:

- screens for privacy and somewhere to sit while you vote
- big pencils
- magnifiers if you have low vision.



Family, carers or our staff can help you:

- read and understand information
- fill in your ballot.

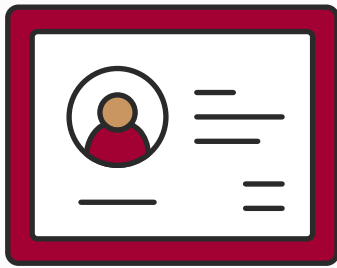


If you vote at home, someone like a family member or carer can help you vote.

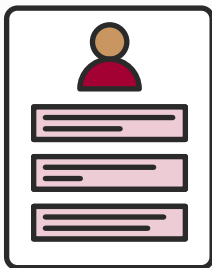


The person who helps you must respect your decision about who you choose to vote for.

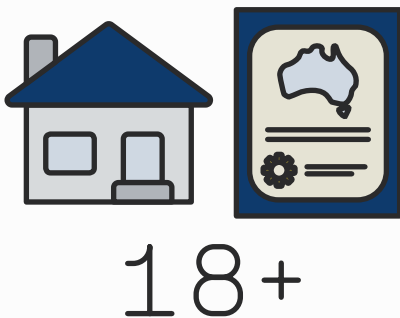
About enrolment



Enrolment means you give us your personal details so you can vote. Personal details are things like your name and address.



You must enrol before you can vote.



You must enrol if you:

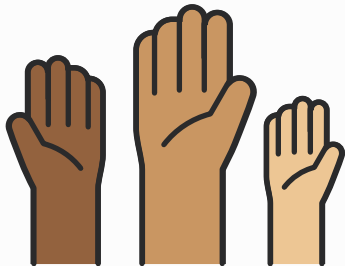
- are an Australian citizen
- are 18 years of age or over
- have lived at the address you do now for 1 month or more.

Some people might have been told they are not able to vote. For example, people who:

- have a cognitive disability
- have a brain injury
- are very old.



Everyone has the right to enrol and vote. You can ask for help.



It is important that everyone can be part of our democracy.

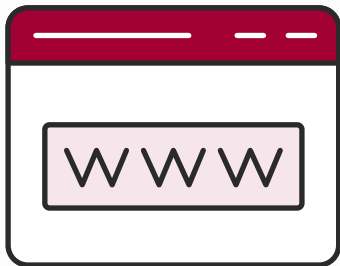
How to enrol



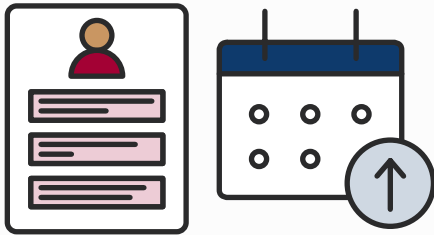
To enrol, you must give us your personal details or update your personal details.



We have an enrolment form that you can do online.



The form is on the [Victorian Electoral Commission website](#)



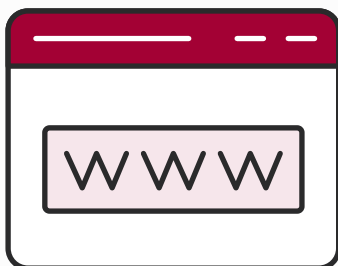
Even if you think you have already enrolled, you can still check:

- that you are enrolled to vote
- that your details are up to date. For example, your address.



We have different forms to help with what people need. For example, if you:

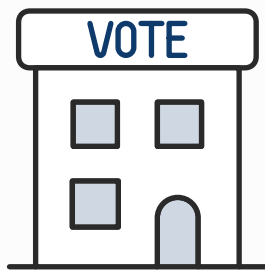
- cannot sign your own name because of a disability
- cannot vote in person and need to vote by mail.



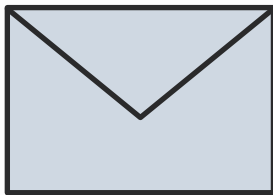
If you cannot sign your name, the form is on the [Victorian Electoral Commission website](#)

You might not be able to
vote in person if you:

- are very sick
- live in an aged care home
- live more than 20 kilometres from a
voting centre or cannot get to a voting
centre.



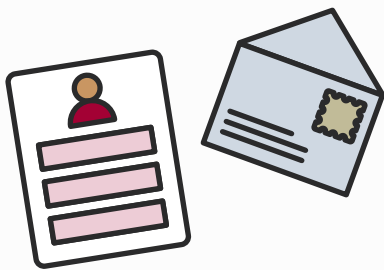
A voting centre is a place
where people go to vote.



If you need to vote by mail, the form is on
the [Victorian Electoral Commission website](#)



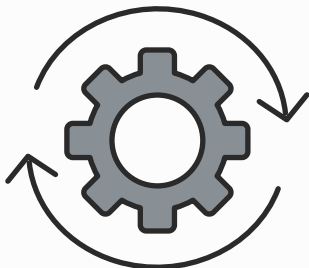
We can help you find the enrolment form that you need.



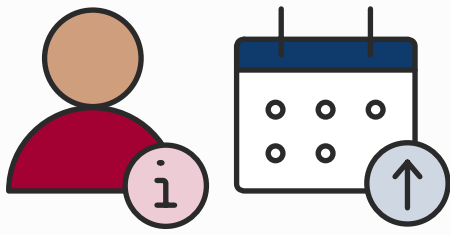
We can send you a paper copy of the form, with an envelope that already has a stamp and our address on it. This is called a “reply-paid” envelope.



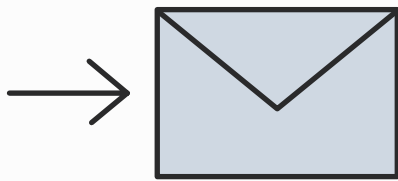
When you have filled in the paper form, you can send it back in the reply-paid envelope.



Sometimes, you can be enrolled automatically.

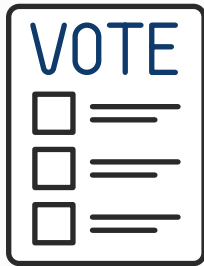


Enrolled automatically means we got information about you from the government, and enrolled you to vote.

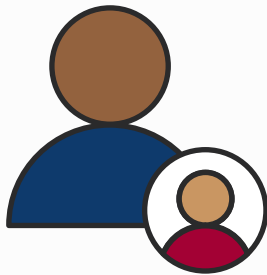


We will send you a letter to tell you if you are enrolled automatically.

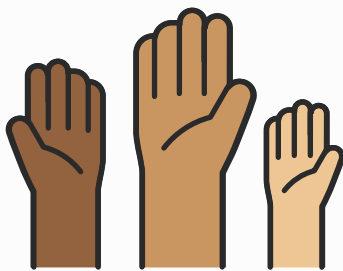
About voting



People who are enrolled must vote.

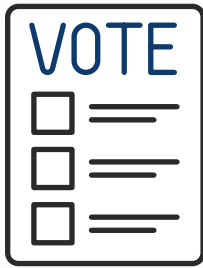


If you vote in an election you get to say who you think should represent you in the government.



Voting is an important part of democracy, and it is important that everyone can take part.

When to vote



In Victoria, we vote in Council, State, and Federal elections.



Council elections are to choose people to represent your local area.



State elections are to choose the Victorian government.



Federal elections are to choose the Australian government.

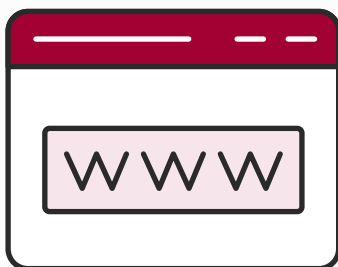


Council and State elections happen every 4 years.



Federal elections normally happen every 3 years.

You can check online to find out when the next elections are.

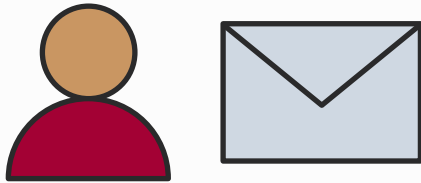


Check for the next Council or State election on the [Victorian Electoral Commission website](#)



Check for the next Federal election on the [Australian Electoral Commission website](#)

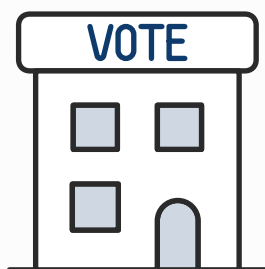
How to vote



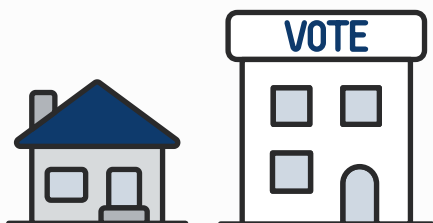
When there is an election,
you can normally vote:

- in person
- by mail.

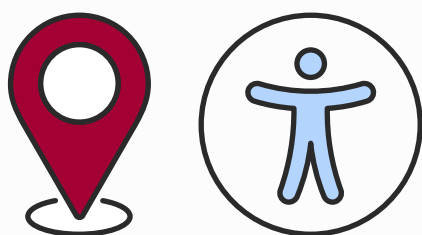
Voting in person



To vote in person, you must go to a voting centre.



When there is an election in Victoria, you can find a voting centre near where you live.

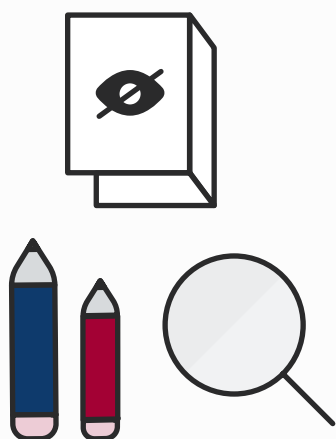


You can go to our website to find out:

- where the voting centres are
- how accessible the voting centres are.

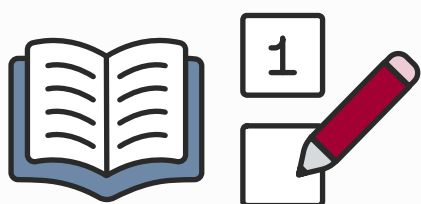


Accessible means the space is easy to use.



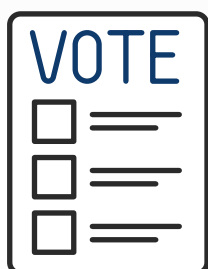
When you are at a voting centre, you can get help from our staff if you need it. For example, you can ask for:

- screens for privacy and somewhere to sit while you vote
- big pencils
- magnifiers if you have low vision.



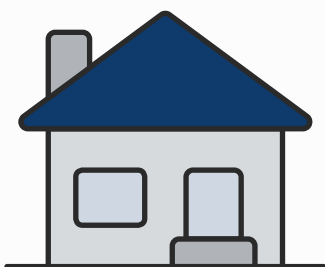
Family, carers or our staff can help you:

- read and understand information
- fill in your ballot.

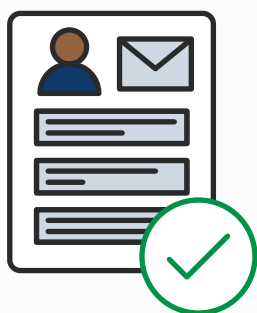


A ballot is the piece of paper that you use to vote.

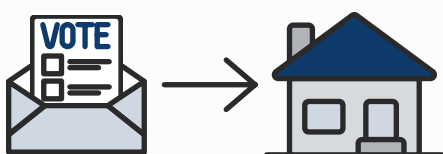
Voting by mail



Voting by mail means you can vote from your home.

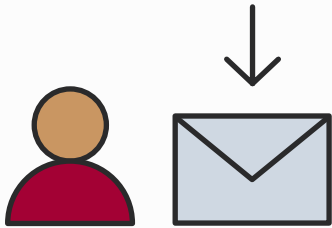


You can only vote by mail if you are enrolled to vote by mail.



If you are enrolled to vote by mail, everything you need to vote will get sent to the address on your enrolment.

You can contact us if you want to vote by mail.



Some elections are only done by mail voting. For example, Council elections.

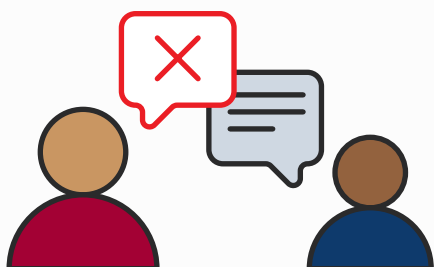


If you vote at home, someone like a family member or carer can help you vote.

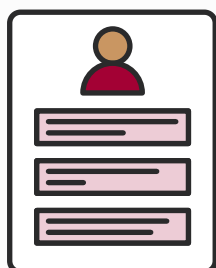


The person who helps you must respect your decision about who you choose to vote for.

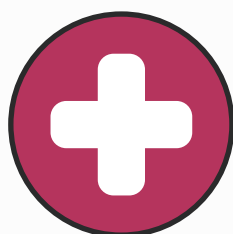
If you cannot understand voting anymore



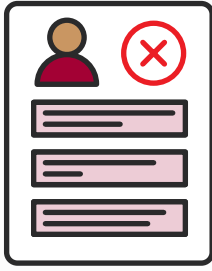
If you do not understand what voting is anymore, a family member or carer can ask for you to be taken off the roll.



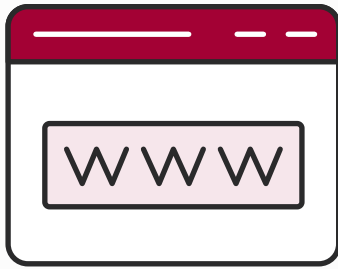
This means you will not be enrolled to vote anymore.



This might happen if you have a serious injury or are very sick.



A doctor must fill in a form called the “removal from roll” form.

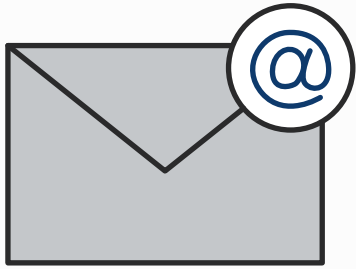


You can get the form from the [Victorian Electoral Commission website](#)



If you have been taken off the roll but want to go back on, you can contact us.

Contact information



Email

info@vec.vic.gov.au

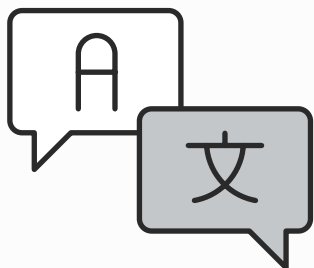


Call

131 832

We will answer the phone between 8:30 am and 5 pm local time. We are in Melbourne.

If you are outside Victoria, you can call us on 03 8620 1100.



Use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Call 131 450 and ask to speak to Victorian Electoral Commission on 131 832.



Use the National Relay Service (NRS)

Visit the [National Relay Service website](https://www.nationalrelayservice.org.au)

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