



Voting in the Victorian state election

A social story

Before election day

I check I'm enrolled to vote. I can do this online or on the phone.

If I don't like crowds, I plan to vote at a quieter time.

Early voting centres can be quieter than election day voting centres.

I can also plan to go to a low sensory early voting centre.



I can choose a support person. This could be my:

- friend
- family member
- carer
- support worker



I can also choose some comfort items to take to the voting centre. These could be:

- ear plugs
- headphones
- sunglasses
- fidget tools
- water



Who I can vote for

I will research the candidates running for election. I can also get advice from someone I trust.

It's my choice who I vote for. I don't need to tell anyone who I vote for, unless I want to.



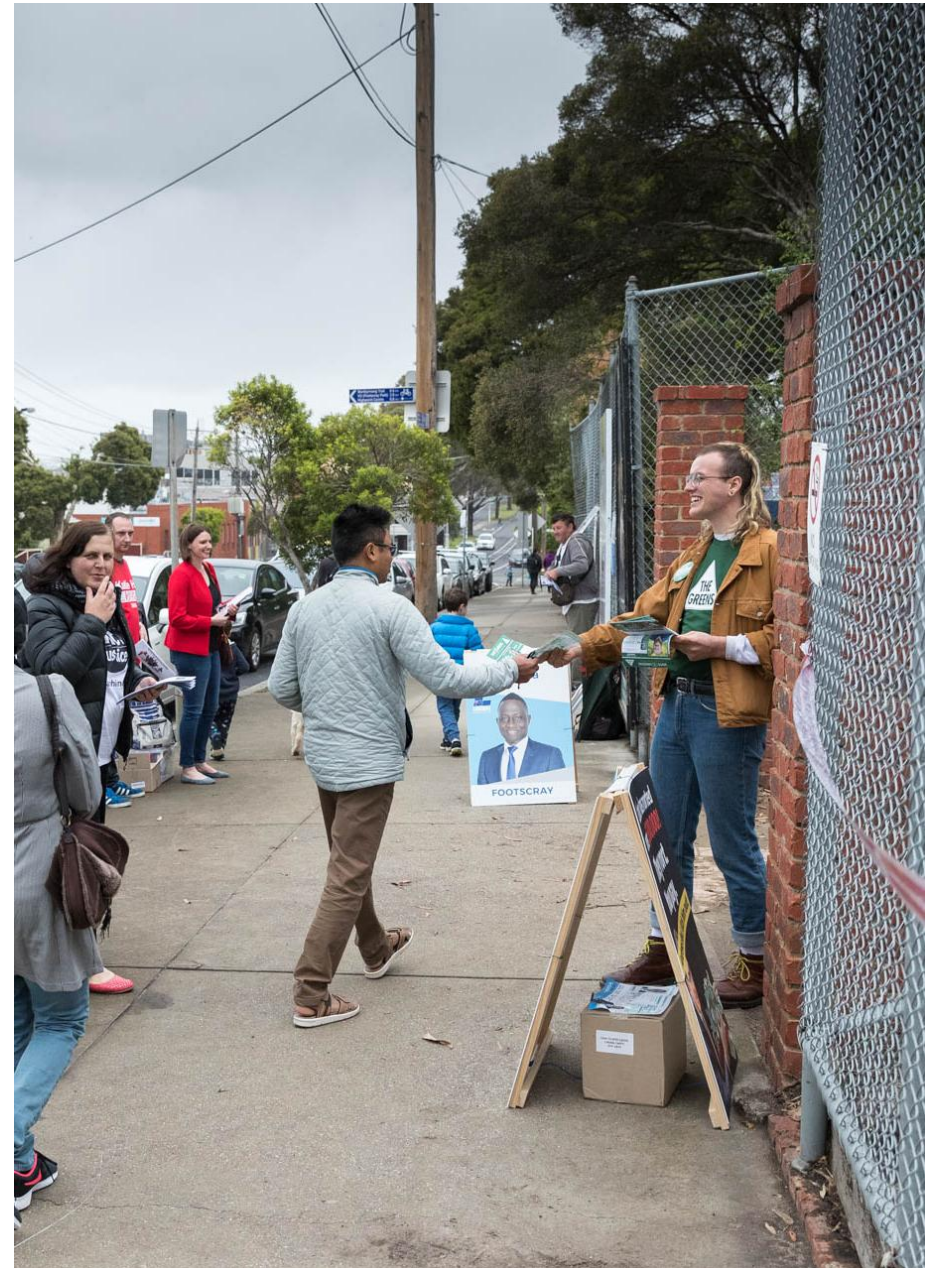
At the voting centre

On election day, I will go to a voting centre.

When I get to the voting centre I may see signs, lines, and people outside. It might be noisy.

I might see people handing out pieces of paper. These pieces of paper show how a political party wants me to number the boxes on the ballot paper.

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



The Victorian Electoral Commission is responsible for running the election.

When I go inside, I will speak to a Victorian Electoral Commission staff member in a maroon vest with a lanyard around their neck.

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

I can ask for a quieter area, a seat, or extra time to vote if I need it.

I can ask someone to help me at any time.



A staff member will help me find the table where I will get my ballot papers.

The person at this table 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 is probably where I live now.



Then they will ask, '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. I can only vote once in an election.

The staff member will mark my name off the list.



Voting

I will get 2 different ballot papers from the staff member.

I will take my ballot papers to a voting booth.

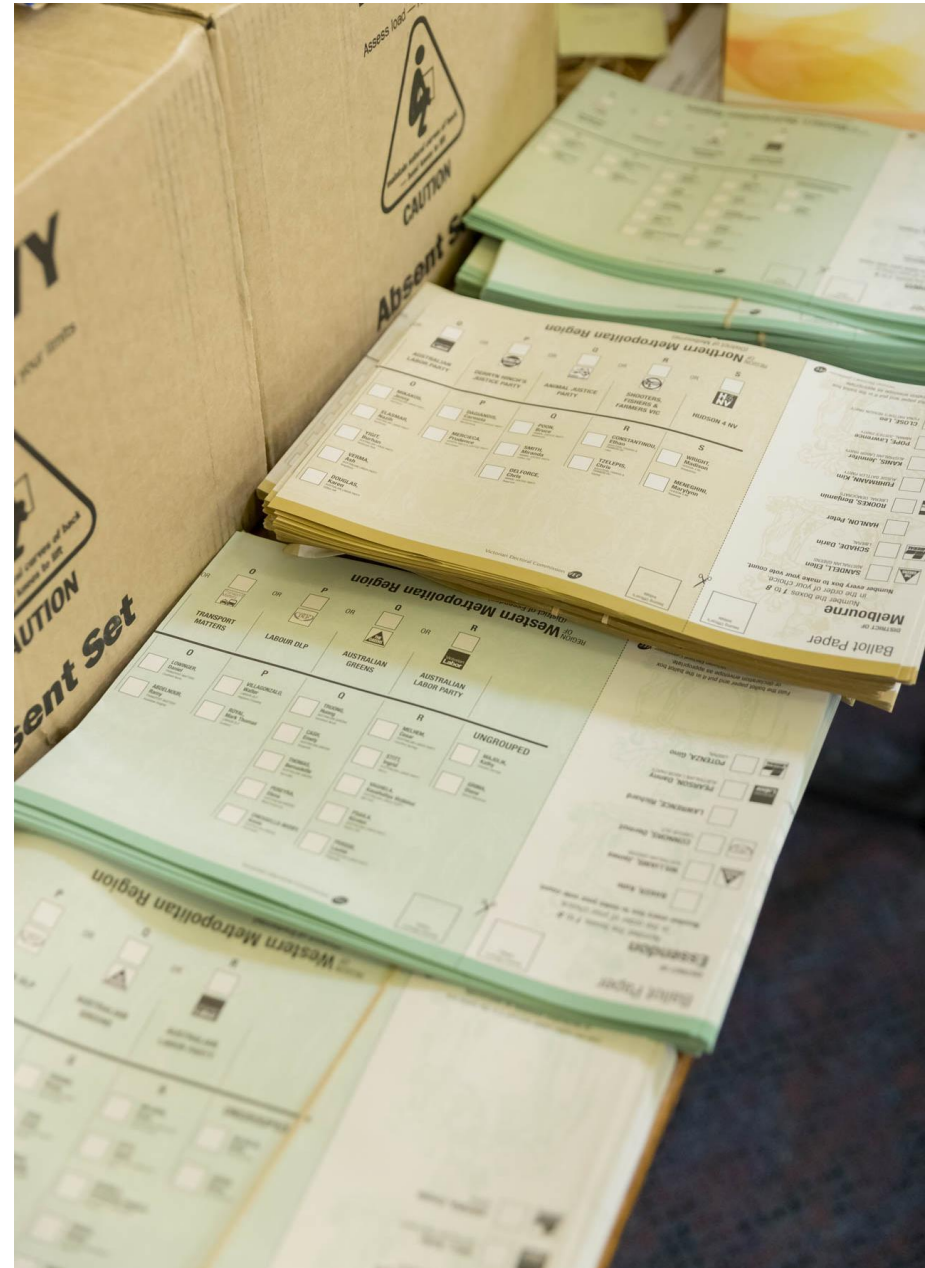
A different staff member might show me which booth I can use.



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 ballot papers have a list of all the candidates I can vote for.

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



If the candidate is from a political party, the ballot paper will have the party name under the candidate name. 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 state

Some candidates are not part of a political party. These are called independents.



The smaller ballot paper is for the Legislative Assembly. This is also called the lower house of parliament.

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

I will put a number in every box and use each number only once.

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

I will check that I have only used each number once.

Ballot paper

Sample District

Issuing official's
initials

Election of 1 member of the Legislative Assembly

Number the boxes **1** to **10** in the order of your choice.

Number every box to make your vote count.

	☐	CANDIDATE, One Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Two Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Three Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Four Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Five Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Six Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Seven Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Eight Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Nine Sample party name
	☐	CANDIDATE, Ten Sample party name

Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box or declaration envelope as appropriate.

SAMPLE

The larger ballot paper is for the Legislative Council. This is also called the upper house of parliament. The paper has a list of all the candidates I can vote for.

There is a list of groups above the black line.

Most of the groups are political parties.

There is a list of candidates under the black line.

Directions

For your vote to count, you must vote in either one of the two ways described below.

Either

Place the numbers 1 to at least 5 in these squares to indicate your choice.

Ballot paper

A

OR

B

OR

C

OR

D

OR

E

OR

F

Party logo

Sample group name 1

Party logo

Sample group name 2

Party logo

Sample group name 3

Party logo

Sample group name 4

Party logo

Sample group name 5

Party logo

Sample group name 6

Or

Place the numbers 1 to at least 5 in these squares to indicate your choice.

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 1
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 1
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 1
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 1
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 1
Suburb

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 2
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 2
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 2
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 2
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 2
Suburb

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 3
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 3
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 3
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 3
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 3
Suburb

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 4
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 4
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 4
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 4
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 4
Suburb

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 5
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 5
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 5
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 5
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 5
Suburb

CANDIDATE, One
Sample group name 6
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Two
Sample group name 6
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Three
Sample group name 6
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Four
Sample group name 6
Suburb

CANDIDATE, Five
Sample group name 6
Suburb

Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box or declaration envelope as appropriate.

SAMPLE

Victorian Electoral Commission

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There are 2 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 individual candidates

I should read and follow the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. I can ask my support person to help me. I need to make sure my vote counts.

Directions

For your vote to count, you must vote in either one of the two ways described below.

Either

Place the numbers 1 to at least 5 in these squares to indicate your choice.

Or

Place the numbers 1 to at least 5 in these squares to indicate your choice.

Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box or declaration envelope as appropriate.

Ballot paper **Sample Metropolitan Region** **Election of 5 members of the Legislative Council**

A	OR	B	OR	C	OR	D	OR	E	OR	F
☐  Sample group name 1		☐  Sample group name 2		☐  Sample group name 3		☐  Sample group name 4		☐  Sample group name 5		☐  Sample group name 6
☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 1 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 2 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 3 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 4 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 5 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, One Sample group name 6 Suburb
☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 1 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 2 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 3 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 4 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 5 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Two Sample group name 6 Suburb
☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 1 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 2 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 3 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 4 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 5 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Three Sample group name 6 Suburb
☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 1 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 2 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 3 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 4 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 5 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Four Sample group name 6 Suburb
☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 1 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 2 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 3 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 4 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 5 Suburb		☐ CANDIDATE, Five Sample group name 6 Suburb

SAMPLE

I will choose to vote above or below the line.

To vote above or below the line I need to number at least 5 of the boxes in order of my favourites.

I can put more than 5 numbers in the boxes if I want to, as long as I choose at least 5 candidates.



Making mistakes

If I need help, I can ask one of the staff or my support person.

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



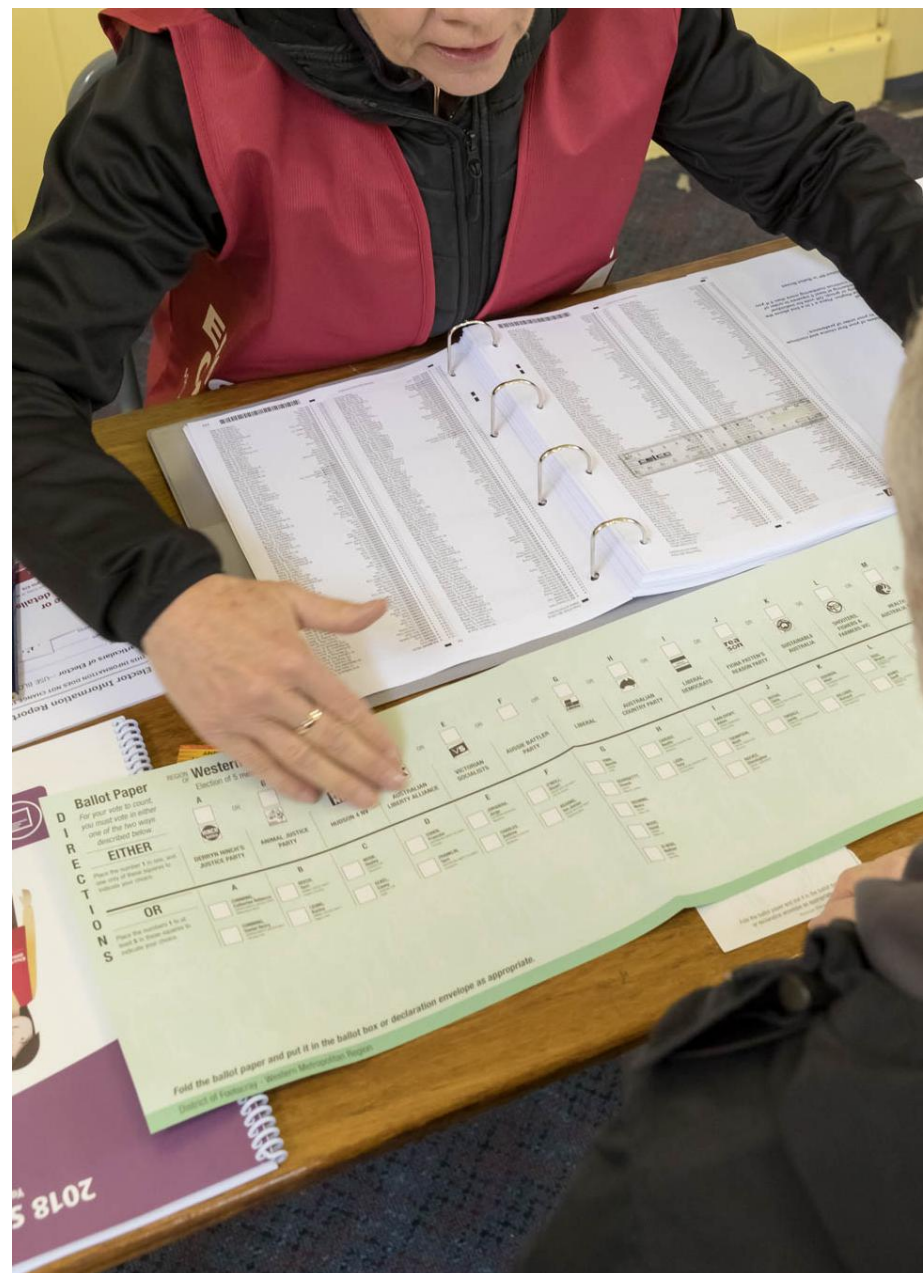
I can tell a staff member I made a mistake and need a new ballot paper.

The staff member will:

1. take my ballot paper with the mistake
2. give me a new one

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

My vote is still private.



After voting

When I have voted, I will 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.

A staff member can show me which boxes to put my ballot papers in.

When I have put my ballot papers in the boxes I have finished voting and can leave when I am ready.



**Make your voice heard.
Every vote counts.**