

**Easy English**

# **Vote in the 2024 Melbourne City Council election**



**Victorian Electoral Commission**

# You can get this information in different ways



## Other languages

Read page 26 to 27.



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

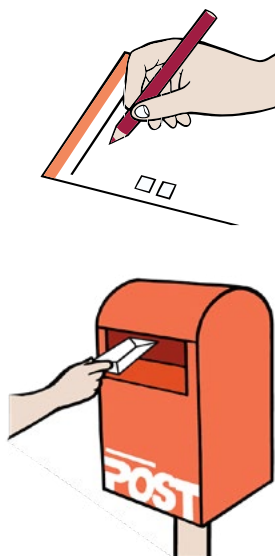
# What is in this book?

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# About this book

## This book is about

- Melbourne City Council elections
- how to vote
- voting
- how to become a candidate.



There are other books for people who vote in other council elections

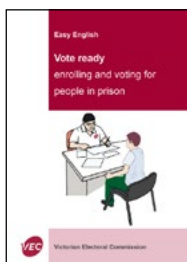
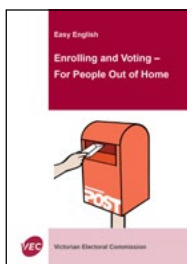
or

for people who are out of home

or

for people in prison.

Contact the VEC for more information.  
Read page 25 for how to contact us.



# Our democracy

## What is voting?

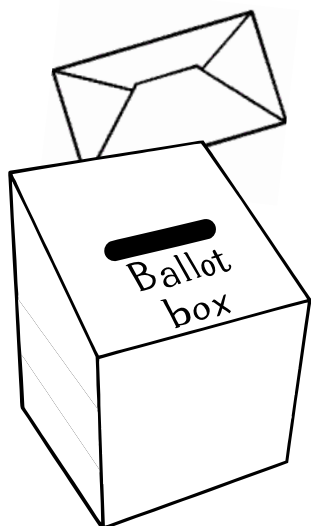


An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

To make a choice you need to **vote**.

All votes are equal.

Voting is your human right.



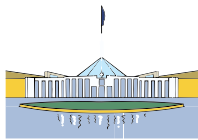
## Voting is secret

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

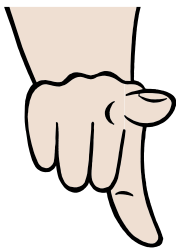
# Our democracy

## Australia's government

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.

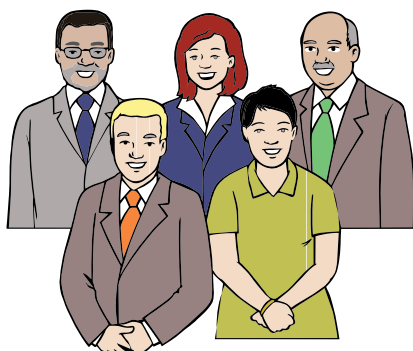


# Your local council

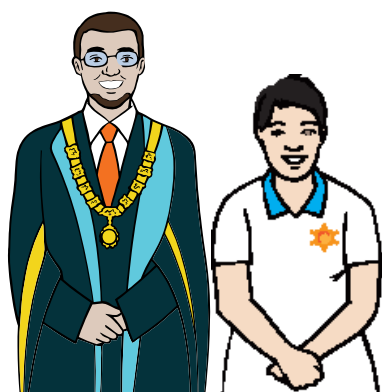
## Victorian local councils



Victoria has 79 local councils.  
For the Melbourne City Council election,  
you will get 2 ballot papers.



You will be choosing 9 people.  
These people are called **councillors**.  
There will be one ballot paper for the councillors.

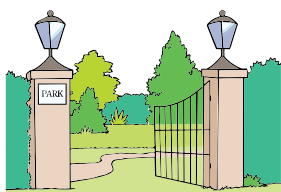


Melbourne City Council has a **Leadership Team**.  
This team is the **Lord Mayor** and **Deputy Lord Mayor**. They are the leaders of the council.  
There will one ballot paper for the  
Leadership Team.

# Your local council

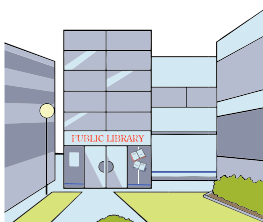
## What councillors do

Your councillors and the Leadership Team make decisions about



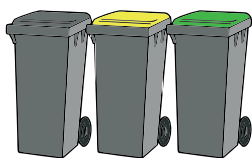
- parks and sporting grounds

- community services



- libraries

- roads and footpaths

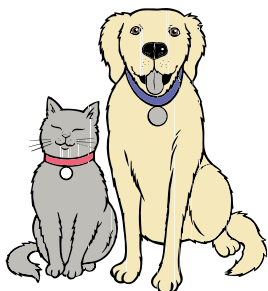


- rubbish and recycling

- public buildings and halls

- building and construction

- dog and cat registration.





# About voting



## Enrol to vote

To vote in the Melbourne City Council election you must be enrolled. Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years of age and over must enrol to vote.



You can only vote once in the Melbourne City Council election.



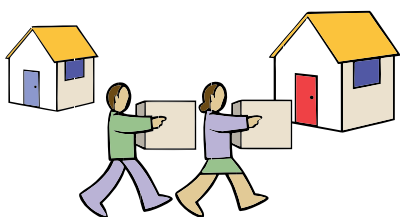
You can enrol online at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

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 VEC.

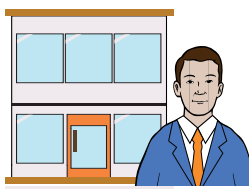


# About voting

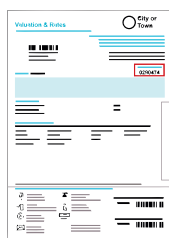
## Who else can enrol to vote?

Special enrolment rules apply in the City of Melbourne.

They apply to



- people who run companies in the City of Melbourne, for example, **company directors** and **company secretaries**



- people who pay **rates** in the City of Melbourne



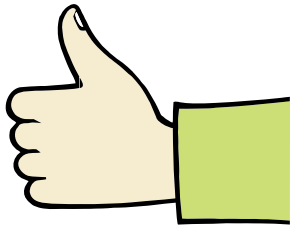
- people who live in the City of Melbourne and are **not** Australian citizens.



You may already be enrolled if you own or occupy property in Melbourne City Council and pay rates.

Call the Melbourne City Council election hotline on 1300 735 427 for more information about enrolment.

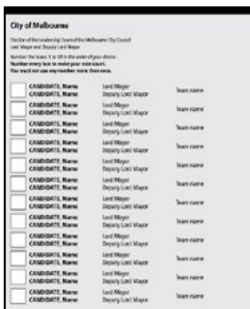
# About voting



Do I have to vote?

Yes.

If you are enrolled you **must** vote in the Melbourne City Council elections.



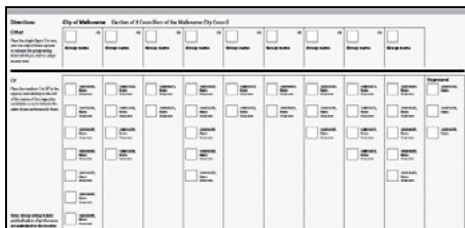
You will be sent 2 different ballot papers and you need to vote on both.

There is

- one for the Leadership Team

and

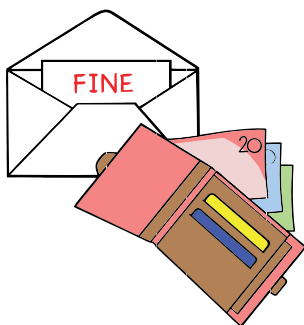
- one for the councillors.



If you get a ballot pack but **do not** vote, you may be sent a letter.

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

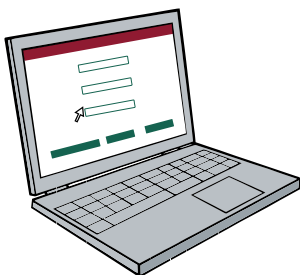
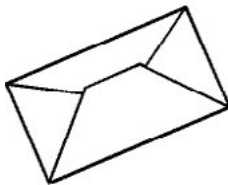
You may have to pay a fine.



# Council elections

## How do I know about Melbourne City Council elections?

You will hear about the Melbourne City Council elections



- on the VEC website [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)
- 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 are the Melbourne City Council elections?

OCTOBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Melbourne City Council elections are held in October 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 25 for how to contact us.

## How do I vote?



You will get a ballot pack in the mail.

Read pages 14 to 18 for more information on how to vote.

# Voting in postal elections

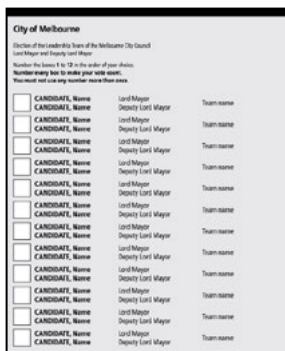
## Your ballot pack

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

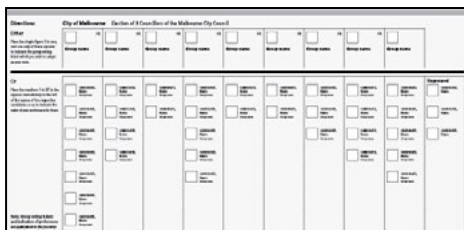
Your ballot pack has



- instructions about how to vote

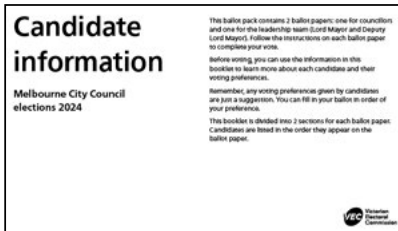


- a ballot paper for the Leadership Team



- a ballot paper for the councillors.

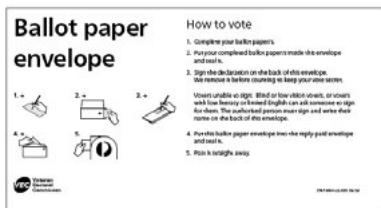
# Voting in postal elections



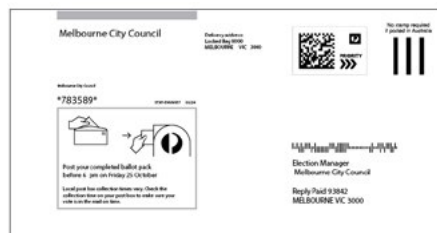
- a booklet with words and photos from the candidates

and

- information showing which candidates get your votes if you vote 1 above the line on the large ballot paper



- a ballot paper envelope to sign



- a bigger reply paid envelope for the return of your ballot paper envelope.



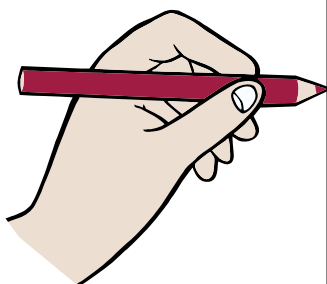
Contact the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack by Tuesday 15 October. Read page 25 for how to contact us.

## How do I fill in my ballot paper?

This is an example of a Leadership Team ballot paper.

You must put a number in each box on the ballot paper.

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

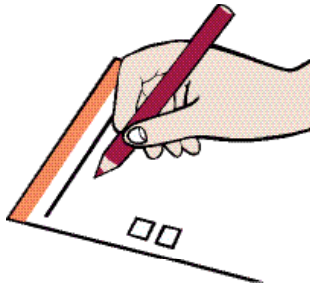


City of Melbourne		
Faction of the Leadership Team of the Melbourne City Council		
Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor		
Number the boxes 1 to 12 in the order of your choice. Number every box to make your vote count. You must not use any number more than once.		
12	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
7	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
4	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
7	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
6	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
11	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
9	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
3	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
5	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
10	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
8	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name
2	CANDIDATE, Name CANDIDATE, Name	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor Team name



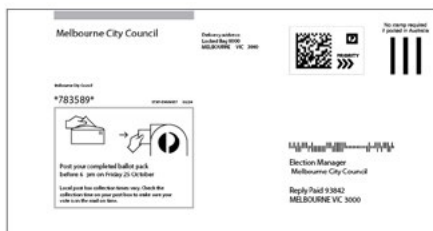
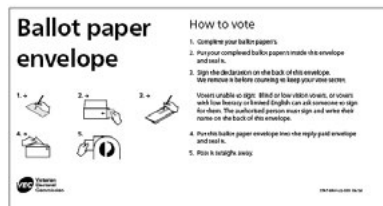


# Voting in postal elections



## How to vote

- Fill in both your ballot papers.
- Put your finished ballot papers in the ballot paper envelope.
- Complete your details and your date-of-birth. Then sign and date the ballot paper envelope.
- 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 votes must be in the mail or hand delivered by 6 pm on Friday 25 October.



# Candidates



## Who do I vote for?

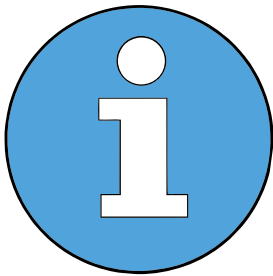
People who want to be on the Melbourne City Council are called **candidates**.

You need to pick the people and team who you think will do the best job.

You need to choose councillors. You also need to choose the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team is the 2 people who will be Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

# Candidates



## How do I get more information about the candidates?

Each candidate writes to voters about their ideas.

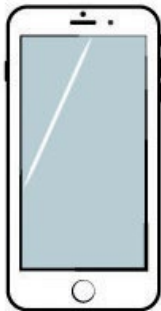
- You will get candidate statements in your ballot pack

**or**

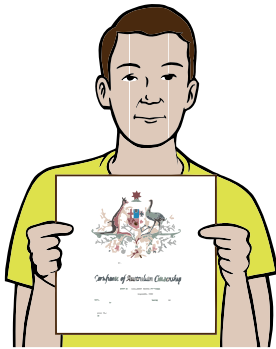
- You can phone the candidate and talk to them

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 on the roll for this election.

You must fill out a form. Ask the VEC for the form that says you want to be a councillor or part of the Leadership Team.

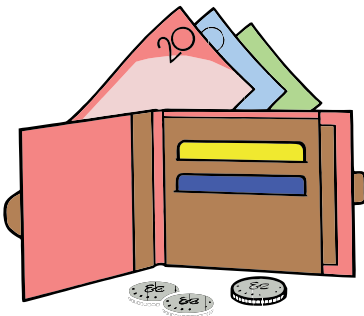
You must pay \$250. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.

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

Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

Read page 25 for how to contact us.



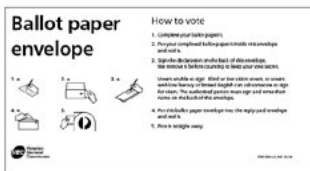
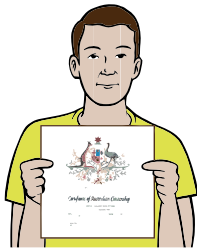
# Meanings

## Check the meanings of words

**Australian citizen** — a person who was born in Australia

or

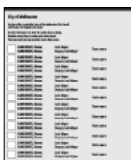
who was born overseas but now lives in Australia. This person has made a special promise to follow all the laws of Australia. This person has become an Australian citizen.



**Ballot paper envelope** — an envelope where you put your filled-in ballot papers. It has a special flap on it. 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.



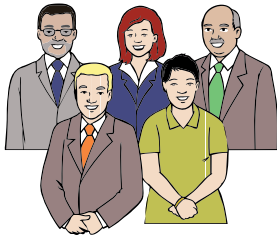
**Ballot paper** — a sheet of paper you write your vote on.

**Candidate** — a person who wants to be a councillor or on the Leadership Team.

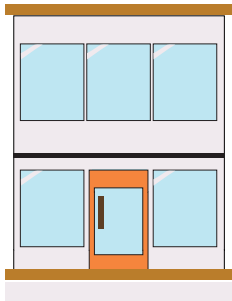


**Candidate statements** — information about each candidate in your ballot pack.

# Meanings

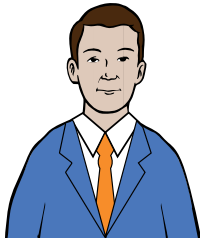


**Councillors** — a group of people chosen by the people enrolled to vote in the City of Melbourne.



**Company** — A place, like an office, shop or factory, where people work.

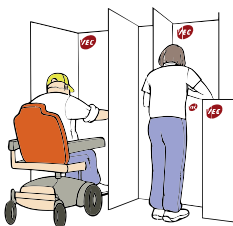
**Company director** — is a leader from a group of workers who makes decisions about the business.



**Company secretary** — A company secretary is a senior position in a company, normally with management responsibility.

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

**Deputy Lord Mayor** — the deputy leader of the council.



**Election** — making a decision by voting or choosing someone.

# Meanings

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

**Enrol** — put your name on a list to vote.

**Leadership Team** — the team who will be Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.

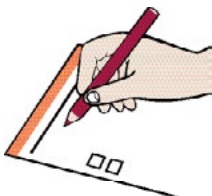
**Local council** — your local area and the people who make decisions about it.



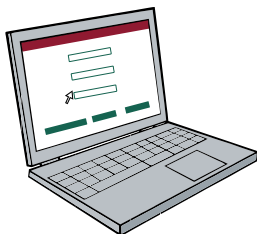
**Lord Mayor** — the leader of the council.



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



**Vote or voting** — to make your choice on your ballot papers.



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



# More information



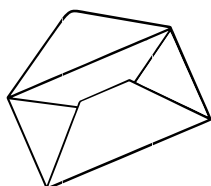
## Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.



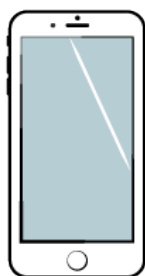
**Website** [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

**Email** [info@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 another language?

## **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।

## **فارسی (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 2024 local council elections
- 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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