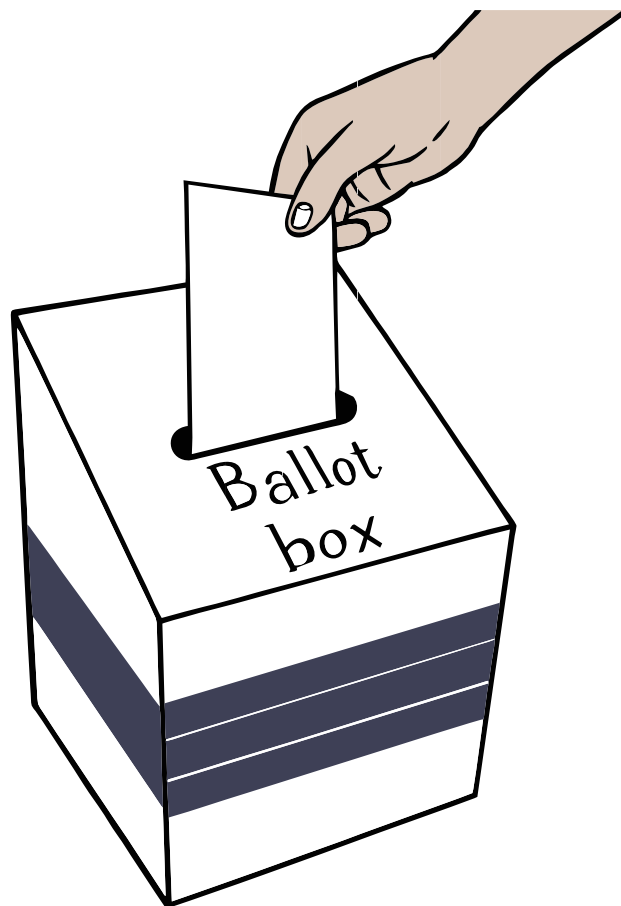




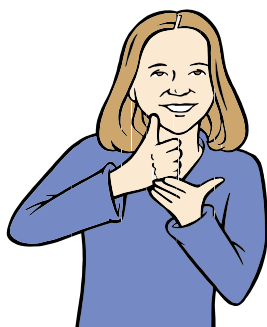
Easy English

# Vote in Victorian State Elections



Victorian Electoral Commission  
2014

# You can get this information in different ways



## **Auslan**

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission for a DVD in Auslan.



## **Other languages**

Look at page 25.

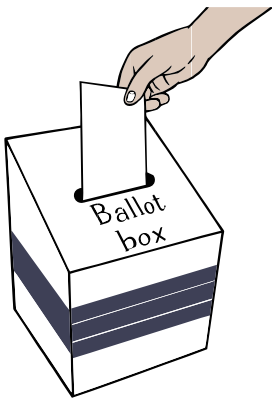
# What is in this book?

<b>About this book</b>	What this book is about	4
	Our democracy	5
<b>About voting</b>	Enrol to vote	6
	Do I have to vote?	7
<b>State election</b>	When is the Victorian State election?	9
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<b>Become a candidate</b>	How do I become a candidate?	20
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# About this book

## This book is about

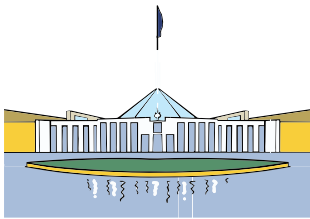
- Victorian State elections
- how to vote
- what to do at a voting centre
- how to become a candidate.



# About this book

## This book is also about our democracy

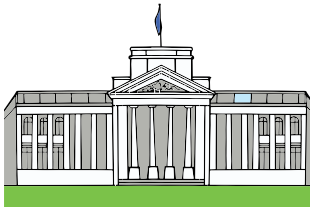
Australia has 3 types of government



- Federal Government



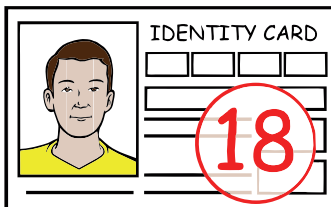
- State Government



- Local council.



Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.



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

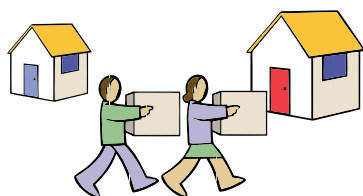
You **must vote** at every Federal, State and local council election.

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

# About voting

## Enrol to vote

You **must** tell the Victorian Electoral Commission if you have



- changed your address
- changed your name.

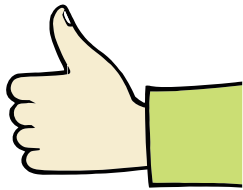
You must fill in an **enrolment form**.



Get an enrolment form

- at any post office
- from a Centrelink office
- from the Victorian Electoral Commission
- online at [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

# About voting

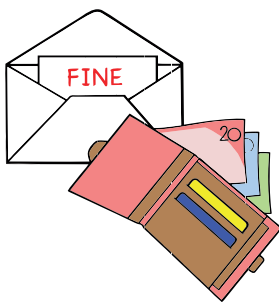


**Do I have to vote?**

**Yes.**

You **must** vote in the Victorian State election.

If you **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.**

# About voting



## Why should I vote?

To vote means you

- have your say
- help to choose who is representing you.

Voting is your right.

Voting gives you power.



# State election

## When is the Victorian State election?

The Victorian State election is held every 4 years.

November 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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						

It is held on the last Saturday in November.

The next Victorian State election is on

**Saturday 29 November 2014.**

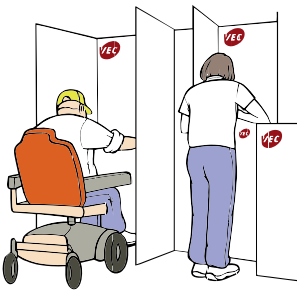
You will hear about election day

- on television
- on radio
- in newspapers.



# State election

## How do I vote in the State election?



Go to a voting centre on election day.

See pages 14-15 for more information.

If you can not get to a voting centre you can

- vote early
- by post.



See page 19 for more information.

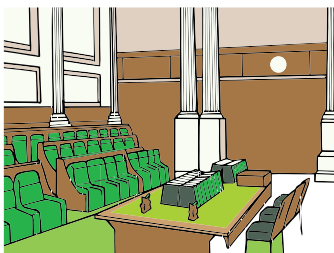
# Our State Government

## State Parliament

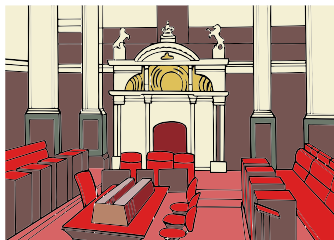


For a Victorian State election you vote for people in 2 parts of the Victorian State Parliament. You will vote on 2 different ballot papers.

## The 2 parts of the Victorian State Parliament are



- **Legislative Assembly.** It is also called the Lower House.



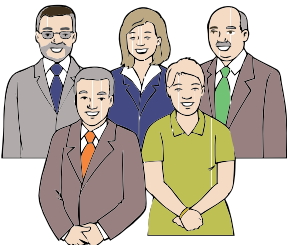
- **Legislative Council.** It is also called the Upper House.

# Our State Government

Votes help people get elected. Elected people are called Members of Parliament.

The Members of Parliament are the people who will speak for you in Parliament.

## Victorian State Government



Each Member of Parliament has a seat in Parliament House.

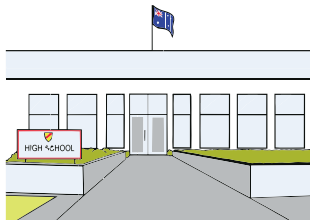
The group of people who win the most seats in the **Legislative Assembly** or **Lower House** become the Victorian State Government.

The leader of this group is called the **Premier**.  
The Premier and his group are the Victorian State Government.

The State Government is in charge of Victoria.

# Our State Government

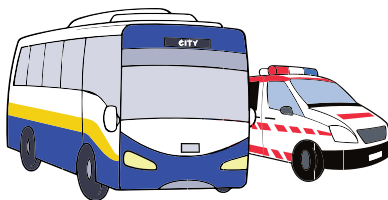
**The people elected to Parliament make laws about**



- primary schools
- secondary schools



- police and prisons



- ambulance and fire services
- trams, trains and buses.

# At the voting centre

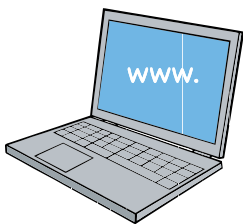
## Where is my voting centre?



Look in the newspaper on election day.

It will tell you where all the voting centres are.

Or



Go to the Victorian Electoral Commission website.

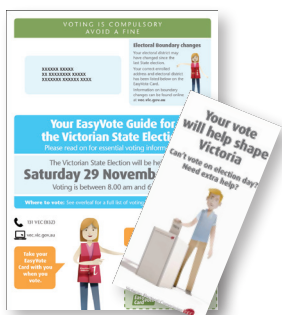
The website is [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au)

Or



Call the Victorian Electoral Commission  
on 131 832.

Or



Check your **EasyVote Guide**.

You will receive one in the mail before the election.

# At the voting centre

## What to do at the voting centre



You will be shown to a table.

Tell your name and address to the election official.

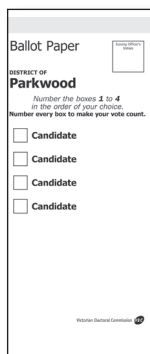
Or

Give your **EasyVote Guide** to the election official.

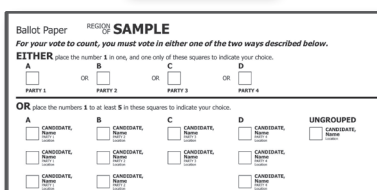
The election official will mark your name on the list.

You will get 2 different ballot papers.

You will get a ballot paper for the  
Legislative Assembly.



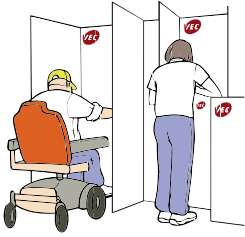
You will get a ballot paper for the  
Legislative Council.



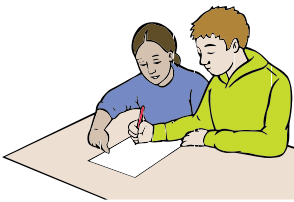
You must vote on **each** ballot paper.

# Voting

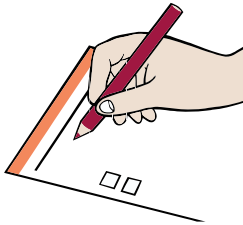
## What must I do to vote?



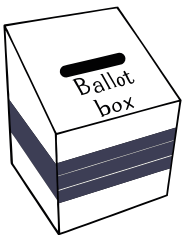
Take your ballot papers to the voting booth.



You can ask an election official, a family member or friend to help you fill out your ballot papers.



Follow the instructions on your ballot papers.  
Fill in each ballot paper using **only numbers**.



Take your finished ballot papers to the ballot box.



The election official can help you put your ballot papers in the ballot box.



# Voting



## Who do I vote for?

People who want to be in State Parliament are called **candidates**.

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

Some people belong to a political party.

Some people are Independents.

# Voting



**Do you need more information about each candidate?**

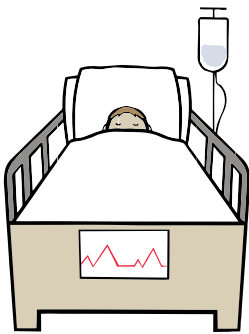
You can telephone the candidate and talk to him or her.

You can ask these people for written information about their ideas.

How-to-vote cards from candidates are given out at the voting centre on election day.

This information will help you make a choice.

# Early voting



## I cannot vote on election day

You must vote **before** election day.

You can vote at an early voting centre. Your EasyVote Guide will tell you where your early voting centre is and what days and times it is open.

Or



You can **vote by post**. Get a postal vote application form at the post office or the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Or

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission before the election. Look on page 24 for how to contact us.

# Become a candidate

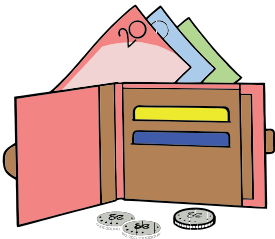


## How do I become a candidate?

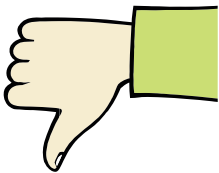
You must be enrolled to vote in Victoria.



You must fill out a form. This form says you want to be a candidate.



You must pay \$350. You get this money back if you win or get enough votes.



Some people cannot be a candidate.

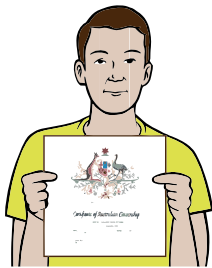


Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

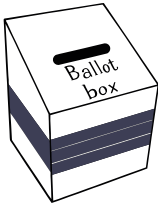
Look on page 24 for how to contact us.

# Meanings

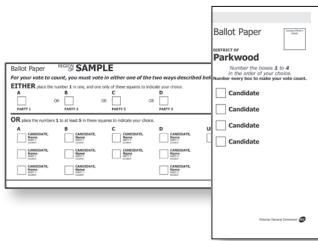
## What do words mean?



**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 box** — a box in the voting centre where you put your filled-in ballot paper.



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

**Candidate** — a person who wants to represent you in Parliament.

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

# Meanings

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

**Election day** — the day you go to vote.

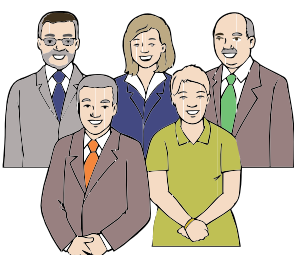
**Election official** — a person who works at elections.



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

**How-to-vote card** — a page of information about candidates and how to vote for them. These are given out at voting centres on election day.

**Independent** — by yourself. An independent person in Parliament does not belong to a group or political party.



**Political party** — a group of people who have similar ideas about things.

# Meanings

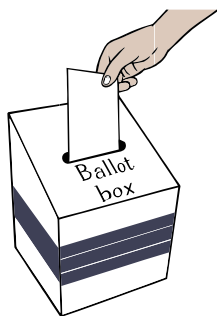


**Postal vote** — you can vote before the election. Often you will vote at home. You will send your vote back in an envelope before election day.



**Victorian State Government** — the largest group of people in State Parliament is called the Victorian State Government. The State Government is in charge of Victoria.

**Victorian State Parliament** — a group of people who are chosen by the people in Victoria to represent them.



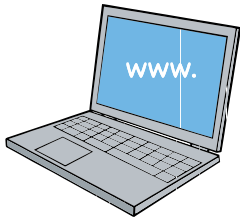
**Vote or voting** — to make your choice on your ballot paper.

**Voting centre** — the place you go on election day to vote.

# More information

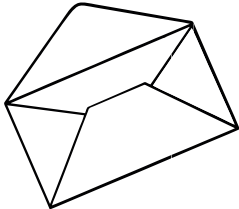
## How to contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.



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

0011 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Australia)



# Do you need this information in a different language?

## አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ እርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለፎን 9209 0190 መደወል።

## عربي (Arabic)

إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبجاجة للإستعانة بمترجم شفهي، يُرجى الاتصال على الرقم 9209 0100.

## Bosanski (Bosnian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć prevodioca, nazovite 9209 0191.

## 中文繁體 (Cantonese)

如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電9209 0101。

## Hrvatski (Croatian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć tumača, nazovite 9209 0102.

## دری (Dari)

اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید، به تيلفون شماره 9209 0193 زنگ بنيد.

## Dinka

Na koor yin lëk juëc cï kek cuiir ku kuwoony de athok /raan ë thok waaric, yuöpä 9209 0119.

## Ελληνικά (Greek)

Αν χρειάζεστε πιο λεπτομερείς πληροφορίες και τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στο 9209 0103.

## Italiano (Italian)

Se hai bisogno di informazioni più particolareggiate e dell'assistenza di un interprete, telefona al 9209 0104.

## ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលម្អិតថែមទៀតហើយដឹងជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសា, សូមទូរស័ព្ទលេខ 9209 0192។

# Do you need this information in a different language?

## 한국어 (Korean)

더 자세한 내용을 원하시거나 통역 서비스가 필요하시면 9209 0194번으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

## Македонски (Macedonian)

Ако сакате подетални информации и помош со преведувач јавете се на 9209 0105.

## 中文简体 (Mandarin)

如果需要详细资料和传译员协助，请电9209 0106。

## فارسی (Persian)

اگر اطلاعات مفصل تر یا کمک یک مترجم را می خواهید به شماره 9209 0195 تلفن کنید

## Русский (Russian)

Если вам нужна более подробная информация и помощь переводчика, то позвоните по номеру 9209 0196.

## Српски (Serbian)

Ако су вам потребне детаљније информације и помоћ тумача, позовите 9209 0107.

## Soomaali (Somali)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay macluumaad faahfaahsan oo intaas ka badan iyo caawimada mutarjumka, wac 9209 0108.

## Español (Spanish)

Si necesita información más detallada y la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al teléfono 9209 0109.

## Türkçe (Turkish)

Daha ayrıntılı bilgi edinmek istemeniz ve bir çevirmene gerek duymanız durumunda, 9209 0110 numaralı telefonu arayın.

## Việt-ngữ (Vietnamese)

Nếu quý vị cần thêm thông tin chi tiết và sự giúp đỡ của thông dịch viên, hãy điện thoại số 9209 0111.

# With thanks



The Scope Communication Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write the template on which this Easy English book is based.

For more information about the Scope Communication Resource Centre, phone 03 9843 2000 or visit [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)

# Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in Local Council Postal Elections
- Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections
- Vote in Melbourne City Council Postal Elections
- Vote in the Greater Geelong City Council Postal Elections

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

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