



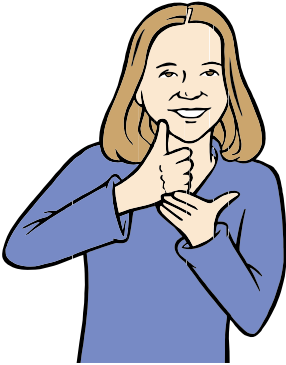
Easy English

# Vote in Local Council Postal Elections



Victorian Electoral Commission

# You can get this information in different ways



## Auslan

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission for a DVD in Auslan.



## Other languages

Read page 22 to 23.



Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre helped the Victorian Electoral Commission write this Easy English book. April 2016.

For more information about Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre phone 03 9843 2000 or go to [www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au)

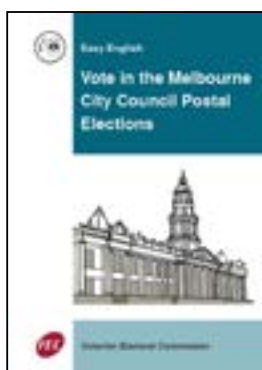
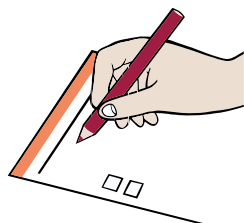
# What is in this book?

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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 attendance elections

or

the Melbourne City Council election.

Contact the VEC for more information.

Read page 21.

# Our democracy

## What is voting?



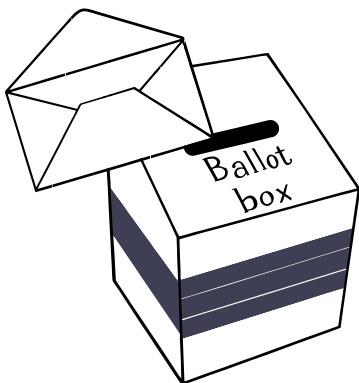
An election is when you make a choice about who is in charge.

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

All votes are equal.

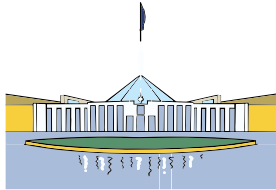
Voting is your human right.

## Voting is secret



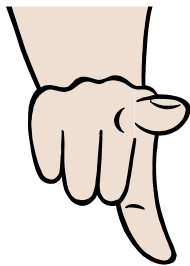
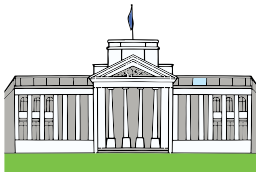
You do **not** have to show anyone your vote.

# Our democracy

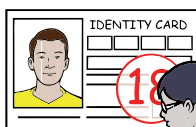


## Australia has 3 types of government

- Federal government
- State government
- local council.



Your vote helps to decide who is in charge.



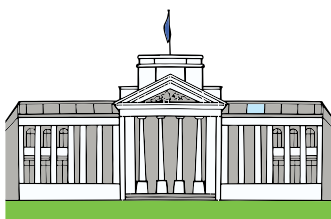
Every **Australian citizen** aged 18 years or older must enrol and vote.



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

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

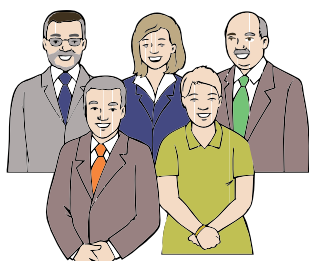
# Your local council



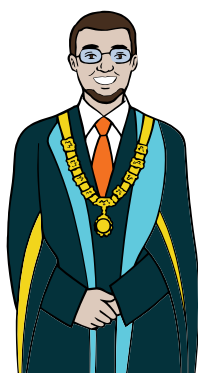
## Victorian local councils

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.

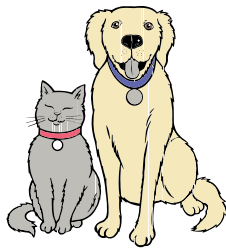
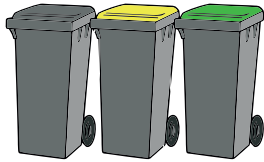
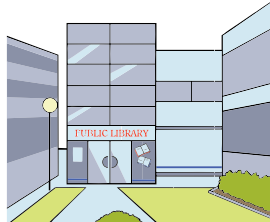
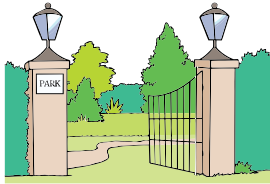


These people are called councillors.



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

# Your local council



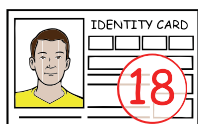
## What councillors do

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**.

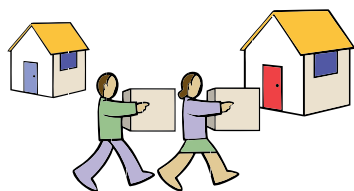
Get an enrolment form

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



Since the last election have you

- changed your address?
- changed your name?



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

# About voting

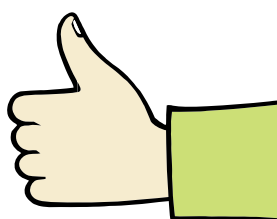
## Who else can enrol to vote?

You may also be able to enrol to vote if you pay **rates** to your local council.

Speak to your local council for more information.



# About voting

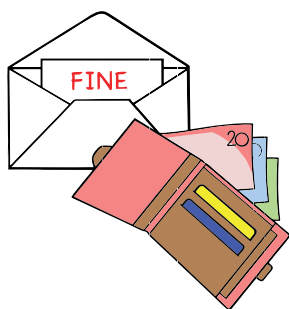


## Do I have to vote?

**Yes.**

You **must** vote in your local council election if

- you are an Australian citizen
- you are enrolled to vote
- you live in the council area
- you are under 70 years old.



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.**

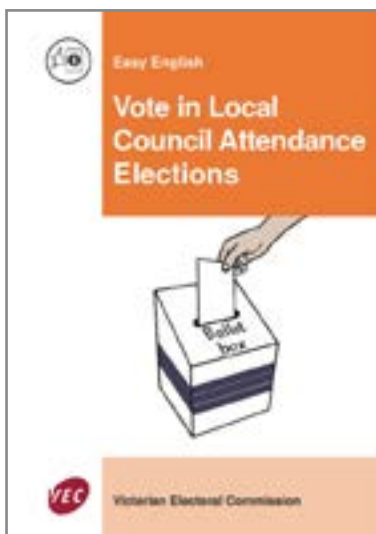
# Council elections

## How do I know if my council is having a postal election?

You will hear about your local council election



- in local newspapers
- in city newspapers
- on radio
- on social media
- by getting a ballot pack in the mail.



If your council is having an attendance election you need to read the Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections Easy English Guide.

Contact the Victorian Electoral Commission if you do not know. Read page 21.

# Council elections

OCTOBER 2016						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					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						

## When is my local council election?

All local council elections are held at the same time.

Local council elections are held every 4 years.

Ballot packs are mailed out in early October.

## 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

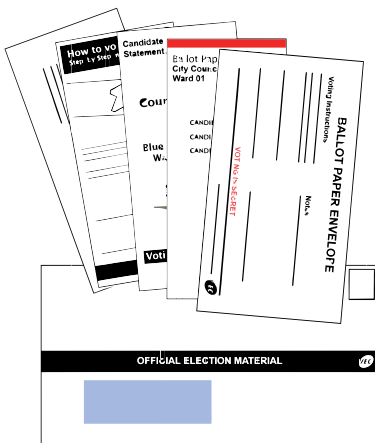
You will get a **ballot pack** in the mail.

Your ballot pack has

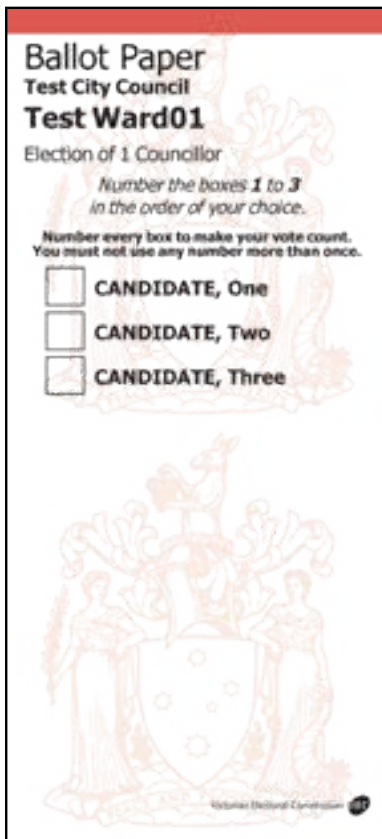
- a ballot paper
- a ballot paper envelope
- instructions about how to vote
- information about the candidates.  
These are called **candidate statements**.
- an envelope to mail your ballot paper back.

You should get it by the middle of October.

Call the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack. Read page 21.



# Postal voting

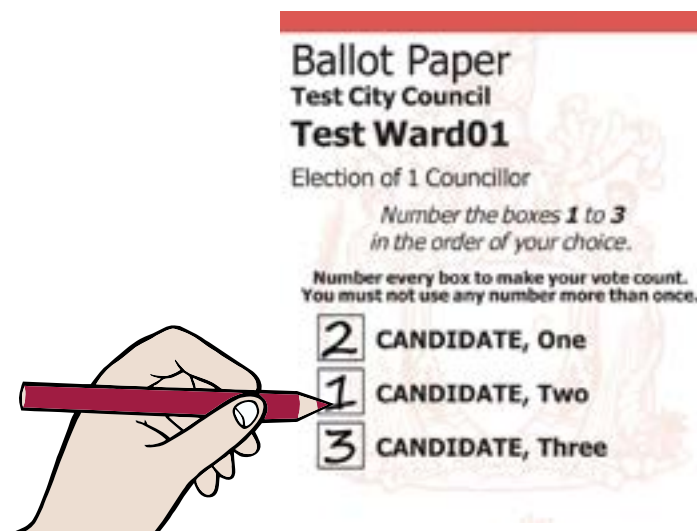


## How do I fill in my ballot paper?

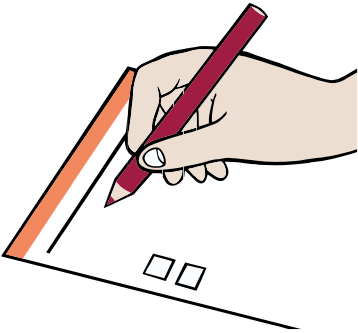
This is an example of a ballot paper.

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

- write 1 in the box next to the person 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.

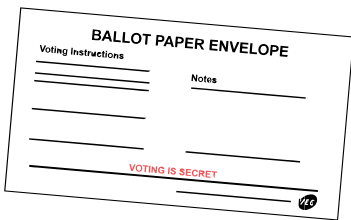


# Postal voting



## How to vote

- separate the ballot paper from the candidate statements
- fill in your ballot paper
- put your finished ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope
- write the date and sign your name on the flap of the ballot paper envelope
- put your ballot paper envelope in the bigger addressed reply post envelope
- you do **not** need a stamp
- put it in the post as soon as you can.





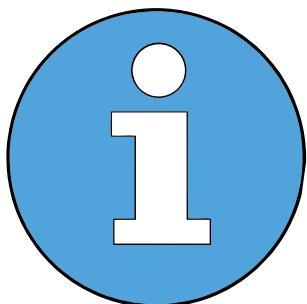
# Candidates



## 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 job best.



## 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 him or her.

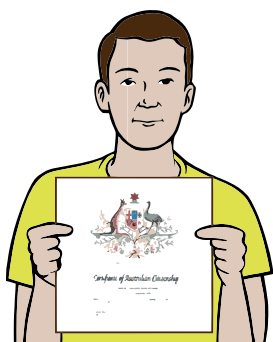


This information will help you make a choice.

# Candidates

## How do I become a candidate?

- you must be an Australian citizen
- you must be enrolled for this election.



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

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



Give your form and payment to the **returning officer**.

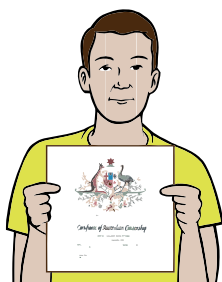
Some people cannot be a candidate.

Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

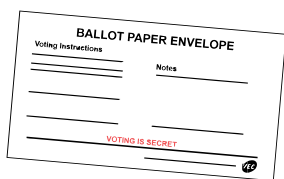
Read page 21 for how to contact us.

# Meanings

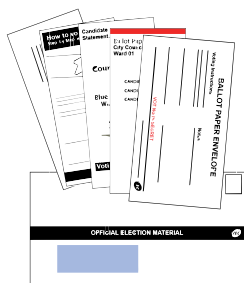
## Check the meanings of words



**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. It has a special flap on it. You sign your name and write the date on this flap.

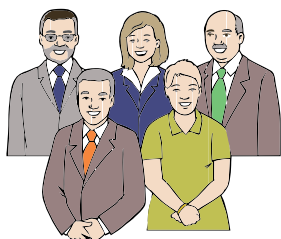


**Ballot pack** — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting.

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

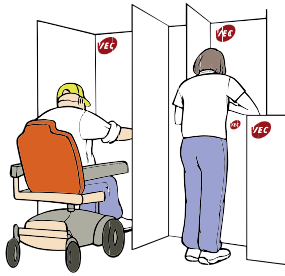
**Candidate** — a person who wants to be a councillor.

**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.

# Meanings



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

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

**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.

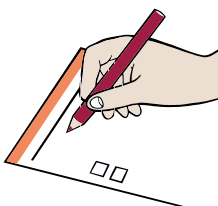


**Postal vote** — voting at home and sending your vote in the mail. Most local councils use this way of voting. Use the ballot pack you get in the mail.



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

**Returning Officer** — the person in charge of your local council election.



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

# More information

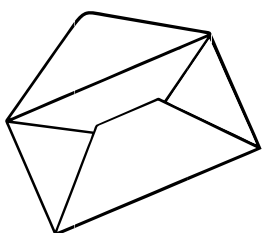


## Contact us

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

+ 61 3 8620 1100 (from outside Victoria)



If you are deaf or have a hearing or 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?

## አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ አርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለፎን (03) 9209 0190 መደወል።

## عربي (Arabic)

إذا أردت المزيد من المعلومات التفصيلية، وبحاجة للإستعانة بمترجم شفهي، يُرجى الاتصال على الرقم (03) 9209 0100.

## Bosanski (Bosnian)

Ako su vam potrebne detaljnije informacije i pomoć prevodioca, nazovite (03) 9209 0191.

## ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលម្អិតថែមទៀតហើយឱកាសជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាស្ទើរមិនស្មើស្មើទេ (03) 9209 0192។

## 中文繁體 (Cantonese)

如果需要詳細資料和傳譯員協助，請電 (03) 9209 0101。

## Hrvatski (Croatian)

Ako su vam potrebne podrobnije informacije i pomoć tumača, nazovite (03) 9209 0102.

## دري (Dari)

اگر به معلومات مفصلتر و کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید، به تيلفون شماره (03) 9209 0193 زنگ بزنيد.

## Dinka

Na kəər yin lək juəc cī kek cuiir ku kuəony de athok /raan ë thok waaric, yuöpë (03) 9209 0119.

## Ελληνικά (Greek)

Αν χρειάζεστε πιο λεπτομερείς πληροφορίες και τη βοήθεια διερμηνέα, τηλεφωνήστε στο (03) 9209 0103.

## Italiano (Italian)

Se hai bisogno di informazioni più particolareggiate e dell'assistenza di un interprete, telefona al (03) 9209 0104.

## 한국어 (Korean)

더 자세한 내용을 원하시거나 통역 서비스가 필요하시면 (03) 9209 0194번으로 연락하시기 바랍니다.

# How do I get this information in other languages?

## Македонски (Macedonian)

Ако сакате подетални информации и помош со преведувач јавете се на (03) 9209 0105.

## 中文简体 (Mandarin)

如果需要详细资料和传译员协助，请电 (03) 9209 0106。

## فارسی (Persian)

اگر اطلاعات مفصل تر یا کمک یک مترجم را می خواهید به شماره (03) 9209 0195 تلفن کنید.

## Русский (Russian)

Если вам нужна более подробная информация и помощь переводчика, то позвоните по номеру (03) 9209 0196.

## Српски (Serbian)

Ако су вам потребне детаљније информације и помоћ тумача, позовите (03) 9209 0107.

## Soomaali (Somali)

Haddii aad u baahan tahay macluumaad faahfaahsan oo intaas ka badan iyo caawimada mutarjumka, wac (03) 9209 0108.

## Español (Spanish)

Si necesita información más detallada y la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al teléfono (03) 9209 0109.

## Türkçe (Turkish)

Daha ayrıntılı bilgi edinmek istemeniz ve bir çevirmene gerek duymanız durumunda, (03) 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 (03) 9209 0111.

## All other languages

For enquiries in all other non-English languages call our interpreting service on (03) 9209 0112.

## Other Easy English Guides available from the VEC:

- Vote in Local Council Attendance Elections
- Vote in the Melbourne City Council Election
- Vote in Victorian State Elections
- Homeless not voteless



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



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