



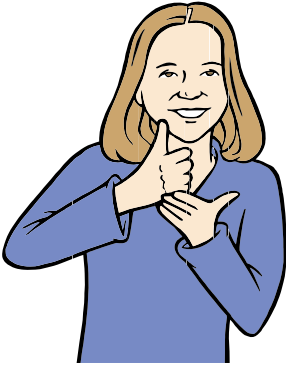
Easy English

Vote in the Melbourne City 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 26 to 27.

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

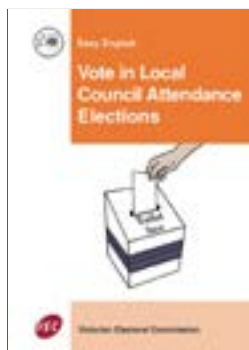
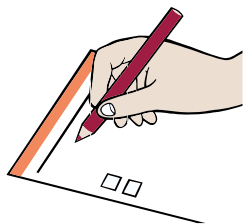
What is in this book?

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About this book

This book is about

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



There are other books for people who vote in attendance elections

or

other postal elections.

Contact the VEC for more information.

Read page 25.

Our democracy



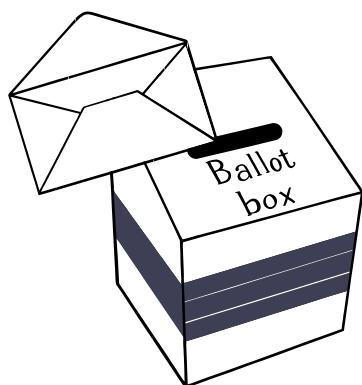
What is voting?

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.



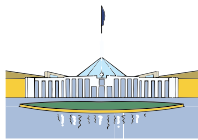
Voting is secret

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

Our democracy

Australia's government

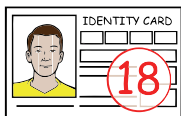
Australia has 3 types of government



- 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.

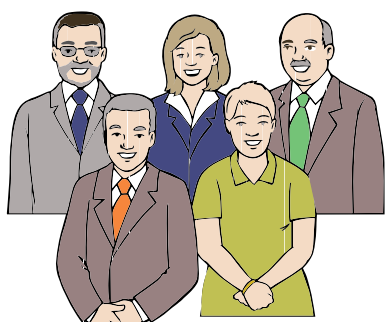
Your local council



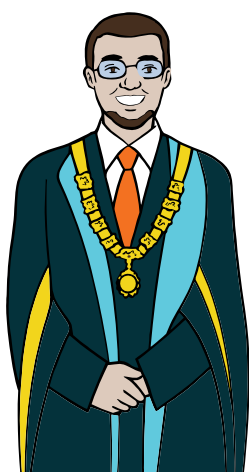
Victorian local councils

Victoria has 79 local councils. 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**.

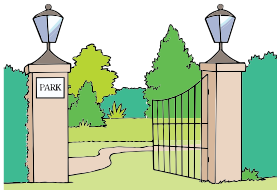


Melbourne City Council also has a **Leadership Team**. This team is the **Lord Mayor** and **Deputy Lord Mayor**. They are the leaders of the council.

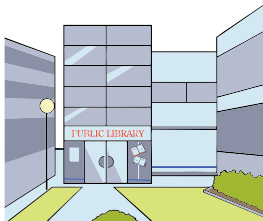
Your local council

What councillors do

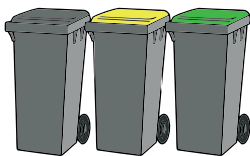
Your councillors and the Leadership Team make decisions about



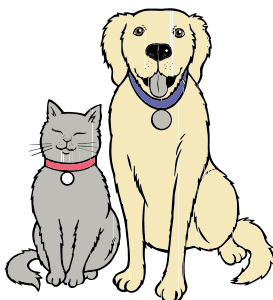
- parks and sporting grounds
- community services



- libraries
- roads and footpaths

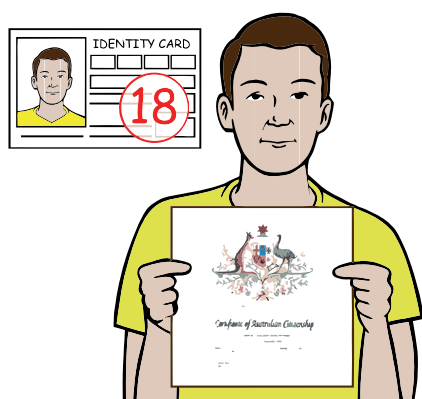


- rubbish and recycling
- public buildings and halls



- dog and cat registration
- building and construction.

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 must fill in an **enrolment form**.

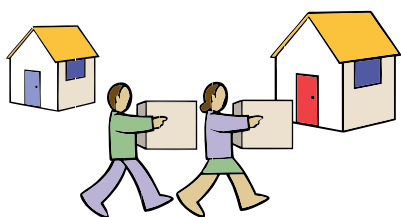
Get an enrolment form

- at any post office
- from the Victorian Electoral Commission
- online from www.vec.vic.gov.au



Since the last election have you

- changed your address?
- changed your name?



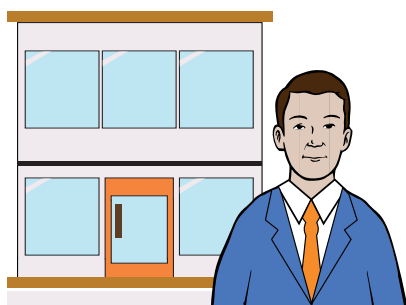
You **must** tell the Victorian Electoral Commission.

About voting

Who else can enrol to vote?

Special enrolment and voting conditions 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 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.

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

About voting



Do I have to vote?

Yes.

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

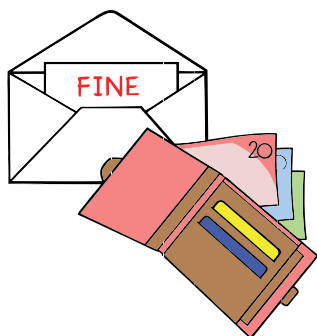
You need to vote once for the Leadership Team and once for the 9 councillors.

If you are 70 years of age or over you can vote, but will not be fined if you do not vote.

If you **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



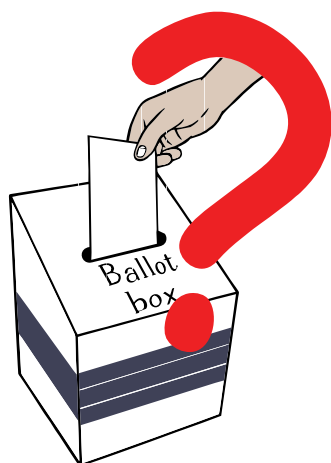
- in local newspapers
- in city newspapers
- on radio
- on social media
- by getting a ballot pack in the mail.

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 are the Melbourne City Council elections?

Melbourne City Council elections are held in October 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 18 for more information on how to vote.

Voting in postal elections

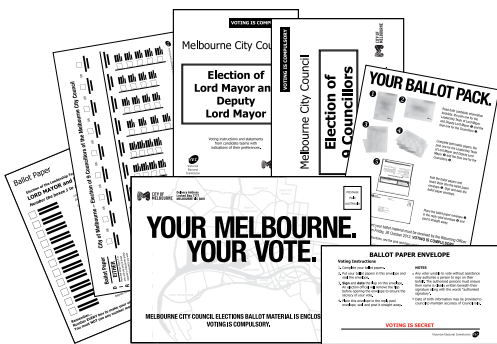
Your ballot pack

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

Your ballot pack has

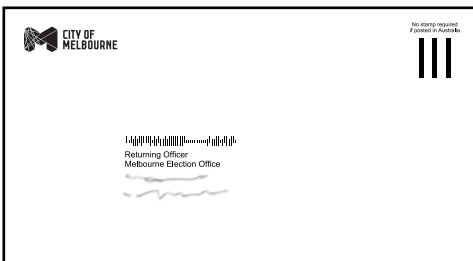
- a ballot paper for the Leadership Team election
- a ballot paper for the councillors election
- a ballot paper envelope
- instructions about how to vote
- information about the councillor candidates.

These are called councillor candidate statements.



Voting in postal elections

- information about the Leadership Team. These are called Leadership Team candidate statements.
- a bigger reply post envelope to put your ballot paper envelope in.



You should get your ballot pack by the middle of October.

Contact the VEC if you **do not** get your ballot pack. Read page 25.

Voting in postal elections

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.

Ballot Paper

Election of the Leadership Team of the Melbourne City Council
LORD MAYOR and DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
Number the boxes 1 to 11 in the order of your choice.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor	_____

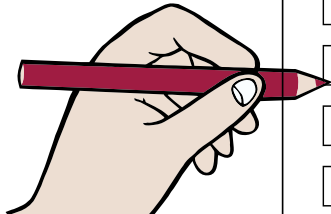
Remember...
Number EVERY box to make your vote count.
You must NOT use any number more than once.

Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

Ballot Paper

Election of the Leadership Team of the Melbourne City Council
LORD MAYOR and DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
Number the boxes 1 to 11 in the order of your choice.

<input type="checkbox"/>	3	_____	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	_____	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	_____	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	_____	Lord Mayor Deputy Lord Mayor



Voting in postal elections

Ballot Paper **City of Melbourne – Election of 9 Councillors of the Melbourne City Council**

D I R E C T I O N S

EITHER OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR

Place the single figure 1 in one, and one only of these squares to indicate the group voting ticket which you wish to adopt as your vote.

OR

Place the numbers 1 to 32 in the squares immediately to the left of the names of the respective candidates so as to indicate the order of your preference for them.

Note: Group Voting Tickets and Indication of Preferences are published in the blue booklet provided in your ballot pack.

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

This is an example of a councillor ballot paper.

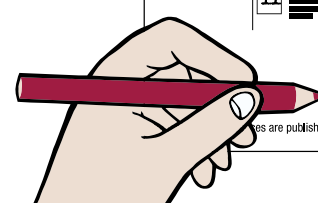
You can put a 1 in the box above the line for the councillor group who you want to win

City of Melbourne – Election of 9 Councillors of the Melbourne City Council

1 OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR OR

Or

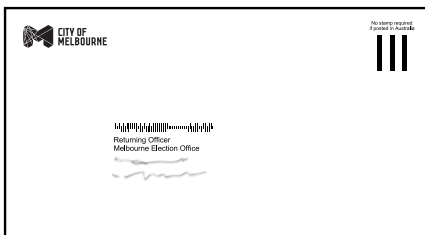
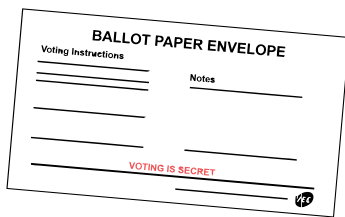
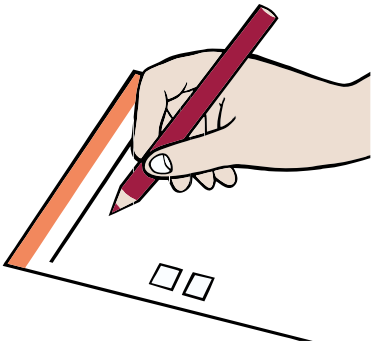
Number **ALL** the boxes below the line in order of your choice. Start from the number 1.



es are published in the blue booklet provided in your ballot pack.

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Voting in postal elections



How to vote

- Fill in your ballot papers.
- Put your finished ballot papers 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?

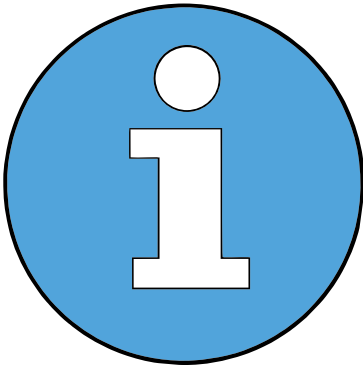
People who want to be on the Melbourne City Council are called **candidates**.

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

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?

The candidates write about their ideas.

These statements will be included in your ballot pack.

This information will help you make a choice.

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 councillor or part of the Leadership Team.

Candidates



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

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

Some people cannot be a candidate.

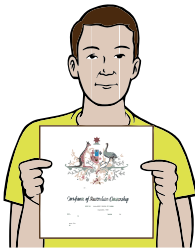
Ask the Victorian Electoral Commission for more information.

Read page 25 for how to contact us.

Meanings

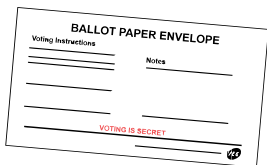
Check the meanings of words

Australian citizen — a person who was born in Australia.

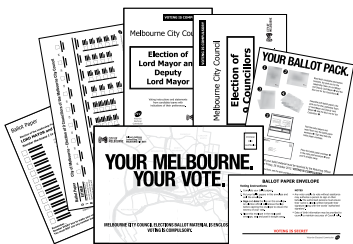


Or

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.

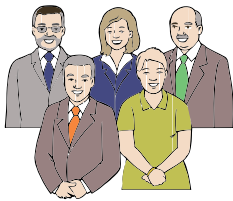


Ballot pack — a set of papers, envelopes and instructions to use for postal voting.

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

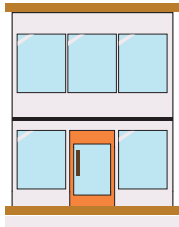
Candidate — a person who wants to be a councillor or on the Leadership Team.

Meanings



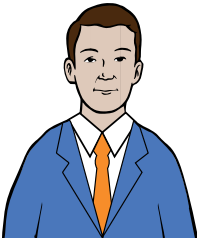
Candidate statements — information about each candidate in your ballot pack.

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.

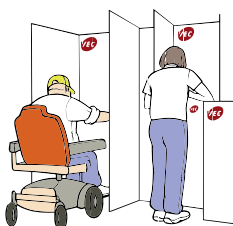
Company director — is a leader from a group of workers who makes decisions about the business.



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

Enrol — put your name on a list to vote.

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



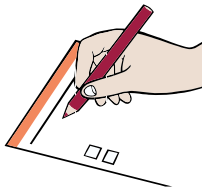
Local council — your local area and the people who make decisions about it.

Lord Mayor — the leader of the council.



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

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



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

More information

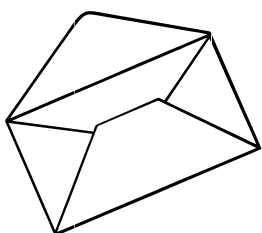


Contact us

You can get more information from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Website www.vec.vic.gov.au

Email 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 another language?

አማርኛ (Amharic)

የበለጠ ዝርዝር መረጃ እና በአስተርጓሚ እርዳታ ከፈለጉ በተለይ (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.

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.

دری (Dari)

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

Dinka

Na koor yin lek juec ci kek cuiir ku kuwoony de athok /raan e thok waaric, yuöpä (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.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការព័ត៌មានលម្អិតថែមទៀតហើយនិងជំនួយពីអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាស៊ុមទ្រូសព្រលេខ (03) 9209 0192។

한국어 (Korean)

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

How do I get this information in another language?

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 Local Council Postal Elections
- Homeless not voteless
- Vote in Victorian State Elections



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



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