

Candidates Guide

2026 Secret Harbour State By-election

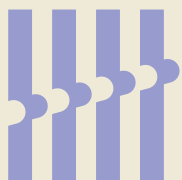


WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
Electoral Commission

Our Purpose and Values

The WA Electoral Commission's purpose is to provide all Western Australians with accessible, efficient and high quality electoral and enrolment services.

The Commission is guided by its four core Values:



Make It Count

We strive for excellence in everything we do, because the work we do matters. We're curious, always looking for opportunities to learn, grow and be open to new ideas and ways of working.



Check Every Box

We are accountable and take responsibility for our choices and actions. We are empowered to succeed and take pride in delivering quality outcomes.



Focus On Fairness

We are committed to doing what is right, not what is easy. We act with integrity and sound judgement, fostering trust through fair, impartial, and transparent decision-making.



Achieve Together

We're united in our shared purpose. Strengthened by diversity, we collaborate through open and respectful communication, welcoming every voice.

The Western Australian Electoral Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our electoral activities take place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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1 About this Guide

Are you considering standing, or assisting someone to stand, in the 2026 Secret Harbour By-election for the Western Australian Parliament?

If so, it is important to have a clear understanding of the legislative requirements, as well as your role and responsibilities.

We have produced this Guide to provide general information about the candidate nomination process and campaign activities. However, we are unable to provide either formal or informal legal advice.

Candidates are responsible for satisfying themselves of their legal obligations and, where necessary, should seek independent legal advice.

State Government elections and by-elections in Western Australia are governed by the *Electoral Act 1907 (Electoral Act)* and subsidiary legislation. By-elections are held in Western Australia when a vacancy becomes available in the Legislative Assembly, and this Guide provides key information for candidates and explains stages of the electoral process before, during and after a by-election. Note that there is a separate Guide for election campaign workers and scrutineers (refer pg 2).

The following Section also includes a candidate checklist to help you navigate this process. This checklist outlines the key actions and requirements you will need to complete as a candidate and directs you to the relevant Sections of the Guide for more detailed information.

A glossary of key terms is provided at Appendix 1. Please note that the terms 'voters' and 'electors' are used interchangeably.

For more information, please contact:

- WAEC: (08) 9214 0400 (for more contact options, please see Section 3)
- Returning Officer, Shaun Major:
 - Email: SGBro_Secret-Harbour@elections.wa.gov.au
 - Phone: 0418 536 873

Or visit our website at elections.wa.gov.au

1.1 Material available to candidates

Prospective candidates can download the following key materials from our website at elections.wa.gov.au:

- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Expected Behaviours Brochure*
- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Funding and Disclosure in Western Australia Guide*
- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election How-to-vote Card Registration Guide*
- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Formality of Ballot Papers Guide*
- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide*
- *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament*

To receive the electronic electoral roll candidates must complete an *RM27C – Candidate or Registered Party Application for the Supply of Election Rolls*. Candidates will receive the final roll within eight days of the close of enrolments. Candidates who belong to a registered political party may be able to obtain a copy of the roll directly from their party administration.

Form *RM27C – Candidate or Registered Party Application for the Supply of Election Rolls* can be downloaded from our website, elections.wa.gov.au. It should be lodged directly using the email enrolment@waec.wa.gov.au. Once a request has been processed, the electronic roll is provided for download through a secure internet site.

1.2 Candidate's checklist

Check		Section of this Guide
	I have reviewed and understand the expected behaviours of candidates and election campaign workers in Western Australian State elections.	Expected behaviours (Section 4, pgs 10-11)
	I am aware of key dates in the election period following the issue of the writ.	Secret Harbour By-election timeline (Section 2, pgs 9)
	I have familiarised myself with the law relating to electoral offences.	Electoral offences (Section 5, pg 12)
	My nomination forms and deposit have been lodged by the required deadline.	Nominations (Section 6, pgs 13-18)
	I am aware of my responsibilities with regard to electoral communications and authorisations, particularly in relation to how-to-vote cards.	Campaigning (Section 7, pgs 19-23)
	I have nominated a candidate agent or assume this responsibility myself.	Disclosures (Section 8, pgs 23-25)
	I have, or my agent has, lodged my financial disclosure return by the due date.	Disclosures (Section 8, pgs 23-25)
	I have appointed scrutineers (optional) by completing and signing the <i>PP016 - Scrutineer Appointment</i> form.	Appoint scrutineers (Subsection 9.1, pg 25)
	I am aware of the circumstances and procedures that may lead to a re-count of votes in an election.	Voting, counting and results (Section 9, pgs 25-31)

2026 Secret Harbour By-election forms and Guides are available to candidates on our website at elections.wa.gov.au

2 Secret Harbour By-election timeline

Milestone events	Days from polling day	Date	Day
Postal vote applications commence	55	JUL 7	Tues
DAY OF ISSUE OF WRIT (6pm), nominations may commence after 6 pm	48	JUL 13	Mon
Nominations commence	47	JUL 14	Tues
	46	JUL 15	Wed
	45	JUL 16	Thurs
	44	JUL 17	Fri
	43	JUL 18	Sat
	42	JUL 19	Sun
Close of party nominations (12 noon)	41	JUL 20	Mon
CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS (12 noon), draw for ballot paper positions may commence	40	JUL 21	Tues
Close of rolls (6pm)			
How-to-vote card registration commences (8am)	39	JUL 22	Wed
	38	JUL 23	Thurs
	37	JUL 24	Fri
	36	JUL 25	Sat
	35	JUL 26	Sun
	34	JUL 27	Mon
Postal voting mail out commences	33	JUL 28	Tues
	32	JUL 29	Wed
	31	JUL 30	Thurs
	30	JUL 31	Fri
	29	AUG 1	Sat
	28	AUG 2	Sun
	27	AUG 3	Mon
	26	AUG 4	Tues
	25	AUG 5	Wed
	24	AUG 6	Thurs
	23	AUG 7	Fri
	22	AUG 8	Sat
	21	AUG 9	Sun
	20	AUG 10	Mon
	19	AUG 11	Tues
	18	AUG 12	Wed
	17	AUG 13	Thurs
	16	AUG 14	Fri
	15	AUG 15	Sat
Mobile voting for institutions, hospitals and remote areas may commence	14	AUG 16	Sun
Early polling commences	13	AUG 17	Mon
	12	AUG 18	Tues
	11	AUG 19	Wed
	10	AUG 20	Thurs
Close of how-to-vote card registration (5pm)	9	AUG 21	Fri
	8	AUG 22	Sat
	7	AUG 23	Sun
	6	AUG 24	Mon
	5	AUG 25	Tues
Scrutiny of postal votes may commence (8am)	4	AUG 26	Wed
Close of written applications for postal votes (6pm)	3	AUG 27	Thu
	2	AUG 28	Fri
POLLING DAY (8am to 6pm)	1	AUG 29	Sat
	2	AUG 30	Sun
	3	AUG 31	Mon
	4	SEP 1	Tue
	5	SEP 2	Wed
Close for receipt of postal votes (9am)	6	SEP 3	Thu
Last possible date for return of writ	42	OCT 10	Sat

The 2026 Secret Harbour By-election timeline illustrated above is in accordance with the provisions of the *Electoral Act 1907* that came into force on 1 July 2024.

3 Complaints, questions and feedback

3.1 Candidate complaints and disputes

Candidate complaints or queries should be directed to the Returning Officer (RO) in the first instance.

If you are not satisfied with the RO response, you may seek a review of the matter. You should put your concerns in writing addressed to the Electoral Commissioner or via the online complaints and feedback webform under the 'Contact Us' section on our website at elections.wa.gov.au. If your concern relates to electoral material, you will need to supply original examples of those documents with your complaint.

Complaints lodged with us will be responded to or acknowledged within 24 hours or by the next business day.

3.2 Call centre

The WAEC Call Centre is operational to assist voters with questions relating to the by-election including on polling day. The opening hours are available on our website elections.wa.gov.au

- Call Centre contact: 13 63 06 or (08) 9214 0400
- Returning Officer, Shaun Major:
 - Email: SGBro_Secret-Harbour@elections.wa.gov.au
 - Phone: 0418 536 873

Note that political parties and candidates should first raise concerns with the Returning Officer before contacting the call centre (refer Section 3.1 above).

3.3 Feedback

Following a by-election, we complete a review of the conduct of the by-election. If you would like to provide any comments or feedback to inform the review, please provide these by email to feedback@waec.wa.gov.au or via our feedback form at elections.wa.gov.au/complaints

4 Expected behaviours

Elections often involve passionate debate and strong community engagement, which are important elements of a healthy democracy.

We are committed to fostering a voting environment that is safe, respectful and welcoming for voters, by-election staff, candidates, by-election campaign workers and scrutineers.

We have a zero-tolerance approach to abusive, aggressive or threatening behaviour. People engaged in such behaviours will be directed to leave the area, and police assistance will be sought if required.

The *Electoral Act* gives us certain powers to help everyone involved in a by-election participate fairly and make informed decisions. For example, the *Electoral Act* specifies that we supervise conduct inside polling places and within six metres of the entrance (refer Section 7.2), which means candidates and campaign workers cannot place promotional material or engage with voters within these boundaries.

Promoting a respectful voting environment is a shared responsibility, and all political participants are expected to conduct themselves respectfully, including but not limited to the following:¹

- understanding and complying with all the relevant legal obligations²
- engaging respectfully with other candidates, election campaign workers, WAEC staff and members of the public
- supporting a safe voting environment by ensuring no one feels pressured, threatened or intimidated
- keeping polling places and surrounding public areas accessible, ensuring footpaths, entrances, and carparks are clear and unobstructed
- displaying or distributing campaign material, including when communicating online, that assist voters to make informed choices and is properly authorised. Do not distribute information that could mislead or confuse voters about any aspect of the by-election.
- respecting the campaign materials of others, leaving posters and signs belonging to other candidates, political parties, or third parties intact and visible
- using original campaign material, colours and design elements. Do not imitate other candidates' or political parties' names, acronyms, or symbols, or their branding or uniform.
- seeking permission from landowners before erecting signage, structures or other material. Obtain any required permits or other approvals from the relevant local government.

¹This is a general Guide and candidates must satisfy themselves of their obligations under the *Electoral Act* and subsidiary legislation.

²Note that candidates and political parties have responsibilities for their election campaign workers under section 92H of the *Electoral Act* (refer to 2026 *Secret Harbour By-election Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide*).

5 Electoral offences

The following is a brief list of activities that election campaign workers, candidates, scrutineers and the public are not permitted to engage in as specified in Part VII of the *Electoral Act*:

- incorrectly authorising electoral material
- permitting or authorising any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive the casting of the elector's vote
- impersonating any person to secure a ballot paper to which the impersonator is not entitled
- fraudulently destroying or defacing any nomination or ballot paper
- forging or uttering, knowing the same to be forged, any nomination or ballot paper
- fraudulently putting any ballot or other paper into the ballot box
- fraudulently taking any ballot paper out of any polling place
- supplying ballot papers without authority
- unlawfully destroying, taking, opening or otherwise interfering with ballot boxes or ballot papers
- voting more than once at the same election
- wilfully defacing, mutilating, destroying or removing any notice, list or other document affixed by any Returning Officer or by their authority
- publishing material without stating the name and address of the person authorising it
- publishing or distributing unregistered How-To-Vote Cards
- misconducting themselves or failing to obey directions from an Electoral Officer
- failing to lodge disclosure documents
- providing false or misleading information in disclosure documents
- failing to keep and properly use a State campaign bank account
- exceeding expenditure caps
- misusing or disclosing of elector or enrolment information (protected information) provided by us.

Penalties are prescribed for these offences. Candidates are responsible for satisfying themselves of their legal obligations and, where necessary, should seek independent legal advice.

6 Nominations

6.1 What you should know before you nominate

This sub-section describes the qualifications to nominate as a candidate and further requirements to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). It also provides guidance for public servants who nominate as candidates in a State election.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to lodge their nominations as early as possible from the opening of nominations. Early lodgement provides sufficient time for any issues or omissions to be identified and addressed before the close of nominations.

The booklet, *2026 Secret Harbour By-Election Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament*, which summarises the qualifications and disqualifications for members of State Parliament, can be downloaded from our website at elections.wa.gov.au

6.1.1 Qualifications to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly

Any person is qualified to be elected as a Member if the person:

- has reached the age of 18
- is not subject to any legal incapacity
- is an Australian citizen
- has resided in Western Australia for one year
- is an elector entitled to vote in the district.

Refer to *2026 Secret Harbour By-Election Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament* for more information.

6.1.2 Disqualifications to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly

A person cannot nominate as a candidate in a by-election if, prior to and until the close of nominations, the person is, either by the *Electoral Act* or any other Act, disqualified from being elected at that by-election as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

The penalty for nominating when a candidate is not qualified is \$2,500.

Refer to *2026 Secret Harbour By-Election Eligibility for Membership of State Parliament* for more information.

6.1.3 Public employees standing for by-election

A member of the judiciary or a Parliament of the Commonwealth, another State or Territory must resign their office in order to nominate. Holders of certain other senior positions must also resign in order to nominate.

State public sector employees may nominate but must take leave of absence for the by-election period commencing on the first working day after nomination. The *Electoral Regulations 1996* outlines that public sector employees are to apply for and take leave and for public sector employers to grant leave during this period.

A State employee may be required to resign, by other legislation, before nominating for a by-election. Subject to some conditions, a state employee may be entitled to re-enter public sector employment after results have been declared, should he or she not be elected.

It is recommended that public sector employees considering nominating as a candidate seek independent legal advice if at all unclear about their rights and obligations under their present employment.

6.2 Nominating as a candidate

This sub-section describes the process to nominate as a candidate.

6.2.1 How and when is a candidate nominated?

Nominations may be received at any time between 6pm on the day of the issue of the writ and 12 noon on the day that nominations close (refer to Section 2).

Candidates can nominate in two ways:

- With the Electoral Commission:
 - Candidates endorsed by a registered political party may complete a *RO30 Centralised Nomination Form – Legislative Assembly*. The secretary of the party must complete and sign a *HO002 – Party Nominations Lodgement Form and Receipt – Legislative Assembly* endorsing the candidate and authorising the use of the party name (or abbreviation) on the ballot paper. These forms are submitted centrally to the WAEC by the party secretary.
- With the Returning Officer:
 - Candidates who are not endorsed by registered political parties can nominate themselves, using form *RO17 – Nomination Form and Receipt – Legislative Assembly*, with the Returning Officer by noon on the day that nominations close.
 - Candidates who are endorsed by a registered political party may alternatively lodge their nomination with the Returning Officer but must include an *RO18 – Application for Registered Political Party Name to be Printed on the Ballot Papers – Legislative Assembly* signed by the party secretary.

These forms can be obtained by contacting the Returning Officer or via our website elections.wa.gov.au

6.2.2 Deposit

Nominations are not valid unless a deposit of \$250 is paid and received before the close of nominations (refer to Section 2).

Payments can be made in cash or by electronic funds transfer (EFT).

To ensure your money is safe, EFT payments may be held by the financial institution for up to 24 hours if further authentication is required. Accordingly, it is advised to transfer funds at least 24 hours prior to meeting with the Returning Officer to submit your nomination documentation. The Returning Officer must contact us to ensure funds have been deposited before a nomination can be accepted. Our bank details are provided on the bottom right corner of the nomination form.

Please ensure that you reference your name when making the EFT deposit. A personal cheque or credit card payment is NOT acceptable.

The deposit is returned:

- in a by-election with two candidates, if the total number of votes polled by the candidate is more than 4% of the total votes polled by both candidates;
- in a by-election with three or more candidates, if the total number of first preference votes polled by the candidate is more than 4% of the total number of first preference votes polled by all the candidates; or
- on the death of a candidate either before polling day or on polling day before the close of the poll.

Deposits not returned are forfeited to the Crown.

6.3 How candidate names appear on the Legislative Assembly ballot paper

The manner in which a candidate's name is to appear on the ballot paper is specified on the nomination form. It must include the candidate's surname (in capital letters) and may include one or more of the candidate's given names, which may be stated as one of the following:

- the given name or names in full
- an initial, or initials, standing for the given name or names or
- a commonly accepted variation of the given name (including an abbreviation or truncation of the name or an alternative form of the name – e.g. Pina instead of Giuseppina).

Where two or more candidates' names are similar and are likely to cause confusion, the names of those candidates may be arranged with such description or addition as to distinguish them from one another by the Returning Officer.

A candidate's name must be written in the alphabet used for the English language and may include hyphens, apostrophes, accents or diaereses.

6.3.1 Use of a registered political party name on a ballot paper

Only candidates endorsed by a registered political party may apply to have the name of that party printed underneath their name on the ballot paper. The use of this political party name must be authorised by the secretary of the party or, in the case of a composite name of two registered political parties, by the secretaries of both parties, by endorsement on the forms:

- *HO2 – Party Nomination Lodgement Form and Receipt – Legislative Assembly,*
- *RO18 - Application for Registered Political Party Name to be Printed on the Ballot Papers – Legislative Assembly* (for candidates who do not nominate centrally).

Names are printed on ballot papers in the following format:

SMITH, Lee
Purple Party

6.3.2 Applications for word 'Independent' to be used on a ballot paper

A candidate may apply to have the word 'Independent' printed on the ballot paper by completing the relevant section on the form *RO17 - Nomination Form and Receipt – Legislative Assembly*.

This will be shown on the ballot papers as:

SMITH, Lee
Independent

Candidates may also opt to have no designation beside their name on the ballot paper. This will be shown on the ballot paper as:

SMITH, Lee

6.4 What happens after you have nominated?

This section describes what happens after you have lodged your nomination form with the Electoral Commissioner or Returning Officer.

6.4.1 Can a person nominate more than once?

No. If at the close of nomination (refer Section 2) a person has nominated more than once to be a candidate in a particular electorate, each nomination is invalid and the nominee will not be listed as a candidate in any of the by-elections.

6.4.2 Can a nomination be withdrawn?

A candidate may withdraw a nomination up to the close of nominations by written notice to the Returning Officer. A candidate may not withdraw a nomination after the close of nominations.

Upon withdrawal of nomination, the deposit is forfeited to the Crown.

6.4.3 Close of nominations

The date and place for the close of nominations for the by-election is published on our website at elections.wa.gov.au. Information is also available from the Returning Officer or the WAEC.

The Returning Officer will be available at the place of declaration of nominations between 11am and 12 noon on the day of close of nominations. At other times a suitable place and time to lodge a nomination can be negotiated with the Returning Officer.

6.4.4 Draw for position on ballot paper

A draw to determine the order of candidates on the ballot paper is conducted by the Returning Officer at the designated place of declaration of nominations as soon as practicable after the close of nominations.

At the draw, the Returning Officer:

- places a slip bearing the name of each candidate in separate hollow opaque spheres, places all spheres in a ballot box and closes it
- shakes and rotates the ballot box and permits any other person present to do likewise upon request
- opens the ballot box
- takes out and opens one of the spheres to remove the slip enclosed, announces the name and records it
- repeats the procedure until all spheres have been removed and ballot paper position have been determined for all candidates.

The order of names derived from this process becomes the order in which they appear on the ballot paper, with the first name drawn being the first listed candidate on the ballot paper. Candidates and other interested persons are entitled to observe this process.

Candidate details will be published in ballot paper order on our website elections.wa.gov.au

6.4.5 Death of a candidate

If a candidate dies after the close of nominations and before, or on, polling day (before the hour of closing of the poll), the by-election is void. The deceased candidate's deposit shall be returned to his or her legal representative.

Should it become known that a candidate has died on polling day, the Returning Officer shall immediately:

- close the poll for the by-election in that district; and
- report the fact of the death and the time and close of the poll to the Electoral Commissioner.

If, after the close of poll on polling day and before the counting of votes has been completed, a candidate dies, and on completion of the count of votes it is found that this candidate would have been elected, no candidate shall be returned as elected at the by-election. A new writ shall forthwith be issued for a supplementary by-election.

6.4.6 Uncontested by-elections

If by the close of nominations only one candidate has nominated at a by-election, the Returning Officer will declare that candidate elected unopposed at the close of nominations.

6.4.7 Candidate details publicly available

Candidates should be aware that, once nominations close, at least one contact detail provided on their nomination form will become publicly available. The contact detail/s the candidate wishes to be made public can be indicated on the nomination form by ticking 'yes' next to the relevant contact detail.

We will publish these details on our website elections.wa.gov.au and may provide these details to the media and members of the public upon request.

The address details of a candidate registered as a silent elector under section 51B of the *Electoral Act* will not be disclosed, and they should not provide their address in the nomination form.

6.4.8 Copies of the electoral roll

Candidates may request electronic lists of electors enrolled in the by-election district. Candidates who belong to a registered political party will typically obtain a copy of the rolls

directly from their party administration. The data included on the electoral roll is to be used for electoral purposes only.

To receive the electronic roll for the district, candidates must first complete an application form/confidentiality agreement *RM27C – Candidate or Registered Party Application for the Supply of Election Rolls*. Candidates will receive the final roll within 8 days of the close of rolls.

If candidates receive roll information via their political party administrators, the same confidentiality agreement conditions apply as per *RM27C – Candidate or Registered Party Application for the Supply of Election Rolls*.

Form *RM27C – Candidate/Registered Party Application for the Supply of Election Rolls* can be downloaded from our website at elections.wa.gov.au. It should be lodged directly with us using the email address: enrolment@waec.wa.gov.au

Once a request has been processed, the electronic rolls are provided for download through a secure internet site.

7 Campaigning

Prospective candidates can commence their campaign for a by-election at any time. They do not have to formally nominate or have their nomination declared before they start campaigning.

Campaigning can take a number of forms, including advertising in the press, on radio and television, through websites, through distribution of pamphlets, flyers and posters, email, social media, public relations exercises or meeting the public face to face. How a candidate conducts their campaign is entirely up to the candidate (or the party they represent) within the confines of the law.

7.1 Election campaign workers

People who work for, or volunteer for a candidate, group or political party at a place to vote or a counting place are called election campaign workers and this includes scrutineers.

It is important to remember that election campaign workers represent you as a candidate and you are responsible for their conduct. A separate guide, *2026 Secret Harbour By-Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide*, is available from our website at elections.wa.gov.au, which outlines the roles and responsibilities in relation to campaigning.

7.1.1 Toilet facilities

Where practicable, election campaign workers will be provided access to toilet facilities at polling places. The Presiding Officer at each location can provide further information.

7.2 Prohibitions outside a polling place – six metre rule

This is specified in the *Electoral Act*, section 192.

The following activities are prohibited within six metres of the designated entrance to any polling place:

- canvassing for votes
- soliciting the vote of any elector
- inducing any elector not to vote for any particular candidate
- inducing any elector not to vote at the election.

The designated entrance to a polling place and the precise application of the ‘six metre rule’ will be determined by the Presiding Officer.

The penalty for this offence is a fine of \$1,000.

7.3 Prohibitions at mobile voting places

This is specified in the *Electoral Act*, section 192.

All activities which are prohibited within six metres of a polling place designated entrance are at all times prohibited in the grounds of a declared mobile voting place, or within six metres from the designated entrance or the entrance to the grounds, whichever entrance is the furthest distance away from the hospital or institution.

7.4 Restrictions relating to petitions, opinion polls or surveys in or near polling places

This is specified in the *Electoral Act*, section 193.

A person must not collect, canvass for, solicit or invite signatures or comments for the purpose of any petition, opinion poll or survey (or display or distribute of any information for such purpose) at or in a polling place.

The penalty for this offence is \$1,000.

7.5 Election material must be correctly authorised

Any publication of material that is intended to, calculated or likely to affect voting in an election is required to be authorised.

Any publication of any electoral advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or electoral notice (other than an advertisement in a newspaper announcing the holding of a meeting), must have at the end of it, the name and address of the person authorising it.

It must be a physical address, as opposed to a PO Box number.

Certain small items of a candidate or party promotional nature are exempt from the requirement to carry the authorisation and addresses. These include:

- T-shirts, lapel buttons, lapel badges, pens, pencils or balloons
- business or visiting cards that promote the candidacy of any person in an election
- letters and cards that bear the name and address of the sender and which do not contain a representation or purported representation of a ballot paper for use in an election.

A campaign website or social media site must be authorised, along with any advertising on the internet (e.g. banner ads). Comments posted to a social media site do not need to be authorised.

The *Electoral Act* requires that campaign material be authorised. The requirement to authorise radio and television advertising is regulated separately under the Commonwealth's *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Penalties may be applied to non-compliance with authorisation requirements.

7.6 Signage

The *Electoral Act* imposes no limitations on the size or placement of electoral signage (apart from in respect of the immediate vicinity of a polling location); however, it is recommended that candidates make themselves familiar with relevant local government by-laws and ensure the placement of signage near road verges does not impact on traffic safety.

WA's three key transport agencies – Main Roads, Department of Transport, and Public Transport Authority – have restrictions on the placement of signage near roads and intersections in the interest of public safety. If you are uncertain about signage placement, you should contact those agencies directly.

7.7 Misleading or deceptive publications must not be produced

A person must not, during the relevant period in relation to an election, print, publish or distribute or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed:

- any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting of the elector's vote, or
- an advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or notice that contains a representation of a ballot paper for use in that election that is likely to induce an elector to mark a ballot paper otherwise than in accordance with the directions on the ballot paper.

To 'publish' includes publish by radio, television, digital or other electronic means. The 'relevant period' means the period commencing when the notice of the issue of the writ is published in the *Government Gazette* and ending at the latest time on polling day at which an elector can enter a polling place to cast a vote (see Section 2).

7.8 eSafety

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia's independent regulator for online safety.

eSafety can help people experiencing online bullying or abuse to take action or make a complaint, and offers online safety training, presentations and workshops, research insights and other relevant information.

Adult cyber abuse is when someone sends seriously harmful content to a person who is 18 or older, or posts or shares harmful content about them, using an online or electronic service or platform. It can include posts, comments, emails, messages, chats, livestreams, memes, images and videos.

If someone is being rude, annoying or upsetting or you do not like their opinions, you can use simple strategies such as changing the settings on your device or online account to limit contact with them.

However, if the content is seriously harmful you should send a complaint to the service or platform that was used to send, post or share it.

You can find reporting links for common services and platforms in the eSafety Guide. Also, you can follow eSafety's tips about how to manage the impacts of adult cyber abuse. For more information go to the eSafety website: esafety.gov.au

7.9 How-To-Vote cards

A how-to-vote card (HTVC) is any electoral material that:

- is provided to an elector for the purpose of instructing them on how to vote for a particular candidate, party or group in the election, and
- lists the names of one or more candidates, along with an indication of the order of voting preference for those candidates.

A HTVC may include a representation of a ballot paper, which may be a partial representation of the ballot paper.

A person commits a crime if the person distributes, or causes, permits or authorises the distribution of a HTVC within 100m from a place to vote on a day on which voting occurs at the place unless it has been registered by us.

Additionally, a person commits a crime if the person publishes, or causes, permits or authorises the publication of, a HTVC unless it is registered by the us.

The penalty for both these crimes is imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24,000.

A separate guide for HTVC registration is available from our website at elections.wa.gov.au

7.10 Photographers and Media

Photographers and members of the media or their equipment must not hinder, inconvenience or delay any polling staff or voters. No photographs or videos may be taken of a person at a polling place or a counting place without the permission of the person in charge.

Members of the media or photographers must have the permission of the Returning Officer and institution concerned before visiting any place where mobile voting is being conducted.

Anyone arranging for photographers or media to visit polling places should contact the Returning Officer in sufficient time to enable arrangements to be made.

8 Disclosures

All candidates should be aware that they, or their official agent, have requirements they need to meet concerning gifts (donations) and electoral expenditure relating to the election contested.

8.1 Agents

The party agent is automatically the agent for a candidate that is endorsed by a political party. A party endorsed candidate can appoint their own agent, or appoint themselves as their own agent, if they so wish.

All other candidates are personally responsible for keeping and maintaining records for any gifts or electoral expenditure unless they appoint an agent to do so on their behalf.

The deadline for appointing an agent is before 6pm on the day before polling day.

8.2 Gifts

Once a candidate has nominated, they or their agent are required to disclose any gifts they receive over the specified amount, \$2,900, by the end of the next business day after the gift is received. This includes a combination of gifts by the same donor over the value of \$2,900.

8.3 Electoral expenditure and State campaign accounts

Each candidate needs to establish a State campaign account. Details of the account will need to be provided to the us within five days of the candidate's nomination. Candidates incurring electoral expenditure before they nominate will need to have a State campaign account, as electoral expenditure can only be paid for from this dedicated account. Party endorsed candidates can use the account of a registered political party that has endorsed them. In these cases, the party agent will notify us of creation of the State campaign account.

Candidates should be aware that only certain types of funds can be paid into their State campaign account.

If a candidate establishes a State campaign account for electoral expenditure, they will need to lodge a return concerning the account by 30 November 2026.

8.4 Caps on electoral expenditure

There is a limit on how much a candidate can spend on their election campaign. If a candidate is endorsed by a political party, their expenditure is included in the cap for the political party. The expenditure cap for the by-election is \$420,900.

8.5 Election return

After the election, the candidate or their agent, is required to submit a return to us summarising gifts received during the relevant disclosure period, and any electoral expenditure incurred for the election. Even if no gifts are received or no expenditure made, there is a requirement to indicate this to us by lodging a 'NIL' return. The return is due within 12 weeks after polling day.

8.6 Disclosure period – for returning candidates

If a candidate has previously stood for election within the past five years, the disclosure period for gifts and expenditure commences 31 days after polling day in the most recent previous election at which the person was a candidate. The disclosure period ends 30 days after polling in the current election.

8.7 Disclosure period – for new candidates

For new candidates, the disclosure period extends from one year before the candidate is nominated in the current election to 30 days after polling day in the current election. The *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Funding and Disclosure in Western Australia Guide* outlines in greater detail the disclosure obligations of political parties, associated entities, candidates, groups and other persons and is available on our website at elections.wa.gov.au

8.8 Reimbursement of electoral expenditure (public funding)

Candidates are not automatically entitled to a reimbursement of their electoral expenditure. Claims for reimbursement of electoral expenditure can be made if the number of valid first preference votes received by the candidate is over 4% of the total number of formal votes cast at the election.

If candidates meet the requirement, a claim must be submitted within 20 weeks of polling day. For candidates who are endorsed by a political party, the party agent must make the claim on their behalf.

The amount paid will be the lesser of the declared electoral expenditure or of the entitled amount. The entitled amount is the number of formal first preference votes multiplied by the public funding amount, which is \$2.43866 or \$4.74783 per eligible vote depending on their opt-in request lodged with us.

To opt-in for the higher reimbursement amount (\$4.74783), candidates not endorsed by a political party should complete and return *FD021 – Opt-in Request for Higher Reimbursement: Non-party candidate* and lodge it with us on or before the close of nominations. The agent or candidate may later apply to withdraw that request.

Please review the *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Funding and Disclosure in Western Australia Guide* available on our website at elections.wa.gov.au for further details about submitting a claim for reimbursement.

8.9 Third-party campaigners

A third-party campaigner is any individual, organisation or other entity that is not a registered political party, associated entity, candidate or Member of Parliament, who:

- receives a gift for a political purpose, or
- incurs electoral expenditure of \$500 or more in relation to an election.

Anyone who meets the above criteria will need to register with us as a third-party campaigner in relation to the election. Electoral expenditure caps and disclosure obligations will apply to third-party campaigners.

9 Voting, counting and results

9.1 Appoint scrutineers

A scrutineer is a person who observes the conduct of an election on behalf of a candidate. Although considered to be an election campaign worker, they are specifically appointed and can enter polling places or the count area. After a by-election is called and polling places are identified, the candidate or official agent can appoint scrutineers to act on their behalf at any polling places, technology assisted voting activity or at a counting place. The *PP16 -Scrutineer Appointment* form is available to appoint a scrutineer for these three activities, and more information can be found in the *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide*.

9.2 Voting and electoral roll

This sub-section describes the various means by which an elector may cast a vote in an election, as well as details about the electoral roll.

9.2.1 Electoral roll

The electoral roll contains the name and address of all WA residents who are eligible to vote at the by-election, except for the address of those electors whose address has been suppressed for reasons of personal safety (known as silent electors).

Enrolment for the by-election closes at 6pm eight days after the issue of the writ (refer to timeline in Section 2).

An electronic district roll using the Elector Recording System (ERS) will be used in the early polling place(s) and in polling places.

By connecting through wireless communication to a central copy of the electoral roll, ERS will:

- speed up the process of issuing votes
- identify electors who have already voted or been issued a postal vote
- reduce the risk of a voter being marked off the roll more than once, and
- reduce the manual tasks and time needed for reconciling and processing of rolls at the end of the election day.

9.2.2 Ordinary voting

Ordinary voting occurs on any polling day when electors cast their vote at a polling place within the district in which they are enrolled.

Each elector must answer three questions prior to being issued with their ballot papers:

1. Have you already voted in this election?
2. What is your full name?
3. What is the address of where you live?

After the elector has answered the three compulsory questions and been marked off the electoral roll using ERS, they are handed the ballot paper and directed to a voting screen. The ballot paper is then placed in a ballot box by the elector.

Note that a Presiding Officer supervises staff and ensures the smooth operation of the polling place prior to the commencement of the scrutiny of ballot papers and counting of votes. An Assistant Returning Officer is then responsible for the scrutiny of ballot papers and the counting of votes commencing after 6pm on polling day. Usually this will be the same person, but for those polling places that operate on polling day and early voting days, a separate person will be responsible for the conduct of the larger count at that location.

9.2.3 Postal voting

A postal vote is a vote cast by an elector by post after applying for and receiving a postal vote.

Electors can apply for a postal vote from 7 July until 6pm on the Wednesday prior to polling day. Postal votes must be sent before 6pm on polling day and received by us no later than 9am on the Thursday after polling day.

Candidates can apply to the WAEC for a list of the names and electoral addresses of electors whose postal vote applications have been approved (see Section 6.4.10). The request form, *RM27C – Candidate or Registered Party Application for the Supply of Electoral Rolls*, is available from our website at elections.wa.gov.au

9.2.4 Early polling

An early vote is a vote cast by an elector in person at a designated early polling place before the day of the by-election.

Early polling will be available for up to 11 days prior to polling day. These locations, and their operating hours, will be advertised on our website at elections.wa.gov.au

9.2.5 Phone assisted early voting

We are providing phone assisted voting to eligible electors to cast a secret vote. An eligible elector is defined as an elector who cannot vote without assistance because the elector has insufficient literacy skills or is sight impaired or has other physical impairment.

As a form of early polling, phone assisted voting (both application and vote casting) opens at 9am, 13 days prior to polling day. Phone assisted voting will be offered throughout the early polling period, up to and including polling day. Applications for phone assisted voting will close at 4pm on polling day, with vote casting for phone assisted voting closing 6pm on polling day. Phone assisted voting daily operating hours throughout the early voting period will be posted on our website at elections.wa.gov.au

9.2.6 Mobile voting

Mobile voting is conducted at appointed institutions. Historically this has included nursing homes and aged care facilities. A team of by-election officials conduct mobile voting in the 14 days prior to polling. Election officials may move around the venue issuing early votes to voters or establish a static voting area within the venue for a period of time.

Note that a hospital may be declared a normal polling place and may also function as a mobile voting polling place on polling day and the days preceding polling day.

Candidates or official agents may appoint scrutineers to accompany the mobile team. Returning Officers will advise candidates of arrangements for mobile voting. Refer to *2026 Secret Harbour By-Election Election Campaign and Scrutineers Guide* for more information.

9.2.7 Provisional declaration voting

A provisional declaration vote may be issued to an elector in a polling place in the following situations:

- the elector claims to have lived in the district and enrolled, yet the elector's name cannot be found on the roll
- the elector's entry on the electoral roll is already marked as having voted
- the elector's claim to vote is challenged by a scrutineer, or
- the elector's name has been objected to by an enrolment officer.

The elector will be asked to sign a declaration of eligibility. All electors who complete a provisional vote should also check, or update, their enrolment.

The elector will still be asked the three compulsory questions before being given ballot papers to complete and place into an envelope.

All provisional declarations are checked at the processing centre and, if accepted, the declaration form is removed, then the envelope opened by a separate team, before the ballot papers are removed and admitted to the final count of votes by the Returning Officer.

9.2.8 Enrol and vote on the day

Provisional voting also applies to an elector who enrolls on the day on which they intend to vote, if the elector makes a claim for enrolment and completes a declaration before an officer at a polling place on the day on which they intend to vote.

9.2.9 Further information on polling venues

For more information on arrangements in respect to campaigning activities at polling and early vote venues, refer to the *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide* available on our website at elections.wa.gov.au

9.3 Counting the votes

This sub-section describes the processes for the counting of votes. Counting of votes is undertaken over a number of stages including the initial indicative count at polling places, the check of declaration and postal votes at the processing centre, further scrutiny of ballot papers, and the final distribution of preferences count.

See the *2026 Secret Harbour By-election Election Campaign Workers and Scrutineers Guide* for more information on the scrutineers' role during counting.

9.3.1 At polling places

Counting of ordinary votes commences soon after the poll closes at 6pm on polling day and the last electors present have cast their vote.

First preference count

Legislative Assembly ballot papers are removed from the ballot box(es) and then sorted into the order of first preference for each candidate (i.e. ballot papers are sorted and then counted based on which candidate has the number 1 vote). Ballot papers which are possibly informal are put to one side for checking by the Returning Officer.

Two candidate preferred count

An indicative two candidate preferred count (2CP) is completed in each polling location. This involves the distribution of preferences from candidates who will probably be excluded under the preferential system. Before polling day, the Electoral Commissioner selects the two candidates in the district that he believes may be the final two candidates in the count. The preferences of the other candidates are distributed to the two selected candidates. When the results of all the polling places in the district are aggregated, it provides an indicative and unofficial, but typically fairly accurate, means of predicting the likely result on by-election night.

The Electoral Commissioner may choose to instruct the Presiding Officer to conduct a second 2CP count if they consider an alternative scenario likely.

After each of the two counts described above, the results are recorded and telephoned through to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer enters the figures into our computer systems for posting to the results section our website at elections.wa.gov.au

Provisional declaration envelopes are counted and packaged then sent to our processing centre as soon as practicable after election night, to be checked and if accepted, the votes within them counted in the days following polling day.

9.3.2 Results to be published online

As results become available, they will be progressively published online at elections.wa.gov.au. It should be noted that the count on polling day provides an indicative result only, as all ballot papers are rechecked and re-counted by the Returning Officer after the final processing of declaration votes.

Results will be available at polling place level. Results and party summaries will be updated every few minutes up to the close of counting on election night. Updates will also be available progressively as the counting of declaration votes proceeds after polling day.

9.3.3 Fresh scrutiny

In the 72 hours after polling day, the Returning Officer may conduct a fresh scrutiny of ballot papers to ensure that no gross errors have been made at the polling place.

Additionally, all ballot papers considered informal by Assistant Returning Officers will be verified. The fresh scrutiny is a quality assurance exercise that will help the Returning Officer prepare for the full distribution of preferences count.

9.3.4 Processing centre

The following activities will be undertaken at the processing centre:

- checking of declaration certificates from postal votes from 8am on the Wednesday before polling day
- preliminary counting of all declaration votes into first preferences and indicative two candidate preferred from 6pm on election night.

After the close of polling at 6pm on polling day, verified Legislative Assembly postal votes received up to that point will be counted at the processing centre.

9.3.5 Determination of the poll

The Returning Officer will contact all candidates in the district to notify them of the time and place for the full distribution of preferences count. The Returning Officer will be able to commence the full count after the processing of all declaration ballot papers for the district has been completed. This is likely to be on the Saturday following polling day.

After the count for the full distribution of preferences has occurred, the Returning Officer declares the results and returns a statement, endorsed with the name of the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, to the Electoral Commissioner.

Candidates and interested parties are welcome to attend the declaration of the election results.

9.3.6 Count checking and re-counts

Assistant Returning Officers or Presiding Officers may need to recheck some or all of the ballot papers from their polling place if the number of first preference votes plus informal and discarded ballot papers does not equal the number of ballot papers issued. A small discrepancy (less than 10) at the indicative counts on election night is allowable, as it is possible that a small number of electors do not place their ballot papers in the ballot box and instead retain them when they leave the polling place or place them in a rubbish bin.

If, after the full count for the distribution of preferences for a Legislative Assembly seat, the margin between the two highest polling candidates is approximately 100 votes or fewer, the Returning Officer will be advised to automatically offer the candidates another full count for the distribution of preferences before declaring the results.

Where the margin after the full count for the distribution of preferences is greater than 100 votes, the Returning Officer will only consider a full re-count where a candidate provides sufficient reasons in writing that in the Returning Officer's opinion calls into question the accuracy of the count figures.

A Returning Officer may also, at the written request of a candidate (setting out the reasons why) or scrutineer or of their own volition, re-count a particular bundle or group of ballot papers at any time prior to the poll being declared.

If after a full re-count of all votes there is a tied election, the Returning Officer will notify the Electoral Commissioner, who will petition the Court of Disputed Returns. If unable to declare a candidate elected, the Court may order that a new election take place.

10 Disputing the result of an election

The validity of an election may only be disputed by petition to the Supreme Court sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns after the determination of the poll by the Returning Officer and within 40 days after the return of the writ.

A petition disputing an election or return shall:

- set out the facts relied on to invalidate the election or return
- be in the format required by the *Electoral Rules 1908*
- be signed by a candidate at the election in dispute
- be attested by two witnesses whose occupations and addresses are stated
- be filed in the Central Office of the Supreme Court within 40 days after the return of the writ, and
- include a deposit of \$100 lodged with the Principal Registrar of the Supreme Court as a security for costs.

Any candidates wishing to apply to the Court of Disputed Returns should consult their own legal advisers.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Glossary

Term	Definition
6-Metre Rule	Electoral material must not be distributed within 6 metres of the designated entrance at any place to vote during the hours of voting. Election campaign workers must not cross this line when speaking to electors. A \$1,000 fine is applicable in offences convicted by a court.
Absolute Majority	The number of votes exceeding half of the total formal votes cast in an election.
Accessible Polling Place	A polling place that has been assessed by the Returning Officer as having easy access for people with a disability. Refer to the <i>RO8 – Polling Place Information</i> form for the guidelines in assessing venues. Approval as an accessible polling place does not follow the same standard used by disability groups to assess a venue as “accessible”.
Assistant Presiding Officer	A person who is appointed to assist the Presiding Officer as required.
Assistant Returning Officer	Appointed by a Returning Officer to open ballot boxes, count and tally votes at an appointed counting place or other polling places. Assistant Returning Officers can act in an official capacity to direct an Election Campaign Worker or Scrutineer to do, or refrain from doing, something in order to ensure the election campaign worker complies with s92H(1) of the Electoral Act. At the majority of polling places, the Presiding Officer and Assistant Returning Officer will be the same person.
Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)	The Electoral Commission responsible for conducting federal elections and referenda and maintaining the Commonwealth electoral roll.
Ballot Box	A sealed box in which ballot papers are placed by electors after voting.
Ballot Box Guard	Responsible for the security of the ballot box and ensures all electors place their ballot papers in the correct ballot box before leaving the polling place. May also perform other roles such as an Issuing Officer and a Queue Controller during the course of a shift. These positions are referred to in the Electoral Act as an Officer.
Ballot Draw	Random allocation of candidate names to a position on the ballot paper. It is a public event conducted by the Returning Officer and held as soon as practicable after the close of nominations, which will occur at 12 noon on Tuesday 21 July 2026.
Ballot Paper	A paper printed for an election showing candidate names, party affiliation (if any) which voters mark to record their vote choices. It also contains voting instructions.
Boundary Distribution	The review and redrawing of electoral boundaries. For State elections in Western Australia, it is conducted every four years by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> .

Business Day	Means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday.
By-election	In cases where a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) dies, resigns, or is disqualified during their period of office, a by-election may be held to fill the casual vacancy. In such cases, a person is elected for the remainder of the term of the former MLA.
Candidate	For the purposes of certain electoral offences, a person is defined as a candidate who, within three months before polling day in an election, publicly announces that they will be a candidate for the election. Otherwise, a person is defined as a candidate in an election once their nomination has been formally accepted and the period of nominations closes.
Casual Vacancy	A vacancy that arises for reasons other than the Parliament's expiration or dissolution, such as the resignation, retirement, disqualification, or death of the current member.
Central Vote Processing	Postal, Provisional, and out of state early polling votes are returned to a large metropolitan location to be processed. This will include sorting, checking and preliminary counting.
Close of Nominations	The close of nominations for a by-election is 12 noon on the day mentioned in the Writ for the election. Party nominations close at 12 noon on the preceding day
Close of Enrolments	Enrolments close at 6 pm on the day, eight days after the date of the writ. To be eligible to become a candidate, an elector must be enrolled. Refer to our website for more information on enrolment.
Count Card	A count card is prepared for each candidate or group and one for informal votes to help counting staff to sort first preference votes
Counting Place	Each polling place in a district is a counting place unless declared otherwise by the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer may appoint other places as counting places that are not polling places. These appointed places must be published on the Commission's website and in another manner approved by the Electoral Commissioner.
Court of Disputed Returns	The Court of Disputed Returns has jurisdiction to hear petitions in which the validity of any election or return is disputed. A single Supreme Court Judge exercises this jurisdiction for parliamentary elections
Declaration of the Poll	After the result of an election is determined, the Returning Officer is to formally declare the result of the election and the successful candidate(s).
Declaration Vote	Votes that require a written declaration or claim to vote by the voter. There are several types of declaration votes: postal vote and provisional vote.
Declaration Vote Envelope	The envelope electors complete to be issued with a ballot paper for a Declaration vote. Also referred to as a PP25 or PP90.
Designated Entrance	An entrance to a polling place that has been signed to designate it is an entrance for use by electors to enter the polling place.
Discarded Ballot Paper	A ballot paper left by an elector without placing it in a ballot box.

District	The State of Western Australia is divided into 59 electoral districts. For each of these districts, one member is elected to the Legislative Assembly.
Donkey Vote	A ballot paper that has been marked from top to bottom, 1, 2, 3, etc where an elector has not given any consideration to their candidate preferences. A reverse donkey vote is marked in the same way, but from bottom to top (eg 3, 2, 1).
Early Issuing Officer	A person appointed to issue ballot papers to electors at an early polling place. May also rotate as a Ballot Box Guard and a Queue Controller.
Early Polling Place	A polling place at which a person may vote in an election on an early voting day for that election.
Early Voting Days	The early voting days for the election which will be a maximum of 11 days before polling day. They may include a Saturday but not a Sunday.
Elected Member	A member of the Legislative Assembly.
Election Campaign Worker	A person who works or volunteers for a candidate, group, or political party at a place to vote or a counting place; and includes a scrutineer for a candidate, group, or political party. Their responsibilities are defined in section 92H of the <i>Electoral Act</i> .
Election Night	After 6pm on Polling Day.
Elector	A person whose name appears on a roll as eligible to vote for State, Federal or local government elections.
<i>Electoral Act 1907</i>	The Act of Parliament which stipulates statutory requirements for the conduct of State elections, by-elections or filling vacancies in the Legislative Council.
Electoral Commissioner	A person appointed by the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> to be responsible for the impartial administration of electoral laws in Western Australia.
Electorate	A State electoral district for the Legislative Assembly or whole of State electorate for the Legislative Council.
Endorsed Candidate	A candidate in an election who has been endorsed by a political party.
Enrol and Vote on the Day	Electors who are not enrolled, or who are enrolled for a different district, may now complete a provisional vote declaration to become eligible to vote in the current election. (Note: if an elector still lives in the same district, they should be issued an ordinary vote).
Enrolment	The act of adding or updating a person's name and other enrolment details on the register of electors.
Enrolment Officer	An officer who the Electoral Commissioner directs to enrol persons on the register of electors and performs the other functions of an enrolment officer.
Exhausted Ballot Paper	A ballot paper which has reached the stage where, when distributing preferences, no further preferences can be distributed to a continuing candidate.
Formal Vote	A ballot paper which has been correctly marked and counts towards the result of an election.
Fresh Scrutiny	Procedure undertaken within 72 hours of polling day where ballot papers are re-examined to ensure correct sorting of ballot paper

	bundles occurred at the polling place and a check of ballot papers classed as informal.
Full Distribution of Preferences	The process of excluding the candidate with the fewest votes then distributing those votes according to the next preferred candidate
General Postal Voter (GPV)	An elector may apply to be a general postal voter. If they meet specified criteria under the legislation, this means that ballot papers are automatically mailed to the elector after an election has been announced and the ballot papers have been printed.
Homeless Polling	Refer to Mobile Polling.
How-to-vote Card (HTVC)	A card distributed by candidates, political parties and election campaign workers indicating to electors how they may record their preferences when voting. These are to be approved by the Electoral Commissioner prior to being used in an election.
Independent Candidate	A candidate or elected Member of Parliament who is not endorsed by a political party.
Informal Vote	A ballot paper that is either left blank or does not show preferences in accordance with the law. In a State election a ballot paper will also be informal if the voter can be identified through some markings which has been made on it. These ballot papers do not contribute to the election of a candidates nor are they included in calculating the quota/absolute majority required to be successful.
Informal Ballot Paper Report	A report which categorises and counts the various types of informal votes cast. These may include blank ballot paper or ballot papers where the elector has just scribbled or made a comment on them.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Our technical team is responsible for supplying and supporting laptops, mobile phones and other computer related equipment and software systems used in the election.
Issue of the Writ	The writ is a legal document issued by the Governor directing the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.
Issuing Officer	An officer who issues ordinary votes to electors who are on the district roll. Also rotates as a Ballot Box Guard and a Queue Controller. This position is known in the Electoral Act as an Officer.
Issuing Point	The table in a polling place staffed by an Issuing Officer who issues ballot papers.
Legislative Assembly	In Western Australia, this is the Lower House of Parliament, and it is comprised of 59 members. The party or coalition of parties that achieves a majority of seats in this House forms the government.
Manual Count	A manual sort and count of ballot papers conducted at polling places on Election night.
Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)	A person elected by voters of a district to represent them in the Legislative Assembly.

Mobile Issuing Officer	An officer who travels to mobile voting places to issue ordinary votes, absent votes and provisional votes. Assists the Mobile Presiding Officer as required.
Mobile Polling	Polling which is carried out by officers who travel to institutions, i.e. aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons, homeless shelters or remote areas within a 14-day period prior to or on polling day, to allow eligible electors who would not be able to attend a polling place to vote.
Mobile Presiding Officer	A Mobile Presiding Officer manages the operation of mobile polling. This includes ensuring electoral procedures are adhered to and supervising staff.
Mobile Voting Place	A place appointed as a mobile voting place, located in aged care facilities, hospitals, homeless shelters, prisons or remote areas.
Mobile Voting Team	The Presiding Officer and other Issuing Officers appointed for the mobile voting place.
Multi-Voter	A person who appears to have voted more than once in an election.
Nomination	The formal process by which a person becomes a candidate in an election.
Nomination Period	The period between the opening of nominations and the close of nominations. Nominations are open for the period referred to in the timeline for the election.
Non-Party Candidate	A candidate in an election who is not endorsed by a political party.
Non-Voter	A person who appears to have failed to vote in an election.
Notional Distribution of Preferences	Refer to Two-Candidate Preferred (2CP) Count.
Officer	All persons appointed to any office by the Returning Officer or Electoral Commissioner.
Ordinary Vote	A vote cast by an elector at a polling place for the elector's own district during the days set aside for polling.
Parliamentary Party	A political party of which at least one member is a member of the Council or the Assembly.
Party Worker	Refer to Election Campaign Worker.
Political Entity	A member of the Legislative Council, a political party, an associated entity, a candidate, a group or a third-party campaigner.
Political Party	A political party is a body or organisation with a constitution or set of rules and stated political objectives. It may or may not be an incorporated body.
Polling Day	The date specified in the Writ for the elections to be held. Ordinarily, this is the second Saturday in March every four years. Polling is conducted from 8 am to 6 pm on that day.
Polling Place	A designated location, appointed by the Electoral Commissioner, where electors can vote.
Postal Vote	Electors may apply for a postal vote. When the application has been received by us ballot papers will be posted to the elector. The completed ballot papers must be posted or delivered to us at any time up to 6 pm on polling day. A postal vote eliminates the need to physically vote at a polling place.

Preferential Voting System	Candidates are elected to the Legislative Assembly through full preferential voting. The term “preferential voting” means voters indicate an order of preferences for candidates on the ballot paper, i.e. who they want as their 1st choice, 2nd choice and so on. The elector must show a preference for all candidates listed on the Legislative Assembly ballot paper. In Western Australia, preferential voting systems are majority systems where candidates must poll an absolute majority of the total formal votes (in excess of 50% in order to be elected).
Presiding Officer	The person appointed by the Returning Officer to preside over and manage the staff and operations of a polling place. This includes ensuring electoral procedures are adhered to and supervising staff at mobile voting places. The polling place may be open on polling day or on an early voting day or a mobile voting day
Primary Vote	The primary vote for a candidate is the number of first preferences received on formal ballot papers in a count.
Processing Centre	A location where Central Vote Processing takes place, polling materials are returned and where Full Distribution of Preferences counts can take place.
Provisional Vote	Where an elector, at a polling place, is unable to vote but believes they are entitled to do so, the elector is issued a provisional vote. The elector signs a declaration, and provides other details, which are used to determine their eligibility to vote prior to the ballot paper being included in the count. Reasons for an elector not being able to vote include not being identified on the roll, having been incorrectly marked off the roll as having already voted, or being subject to objection by a scrutineer. A person entitled to be enrolled may also be issued with a provisional vote if the person makes a claim for enrolment on the day on which they intend to vote.
Queue Controller	An officer who ensures a smooth flow of electors to issuing points as they become available, responds to elector’s enquiries and helps to identify an elector’s district (if required). Also rotates as an Issuing Officer and Ballot Box Guard. This position is known in the Electoral Act as an Officer
Re-count	A further re-examination and count of votes in an election, conducted at the discretion of the Returning Officer.
Register of Electors	The database containing a list of every person currently enrolled under the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> .
Registered How-to-Vote Card (HTVC)	HTVC that has complied with the requirements of Division 2A of the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> and has been published on our website by the Electoral Commissioner.
Registered Political Party	A political party that is registered in the register of political parties.
Remote Issuing Officer	An officer who issues ordinary votes, absent votes and provisional votes to electors who preside in a remote area. Assists the Remote Presiding Officer as required
Remote Polling	Polling which is carried out by officers who travel to remote locations within a 14-day period prior to and/or on polling day, to allow eligible

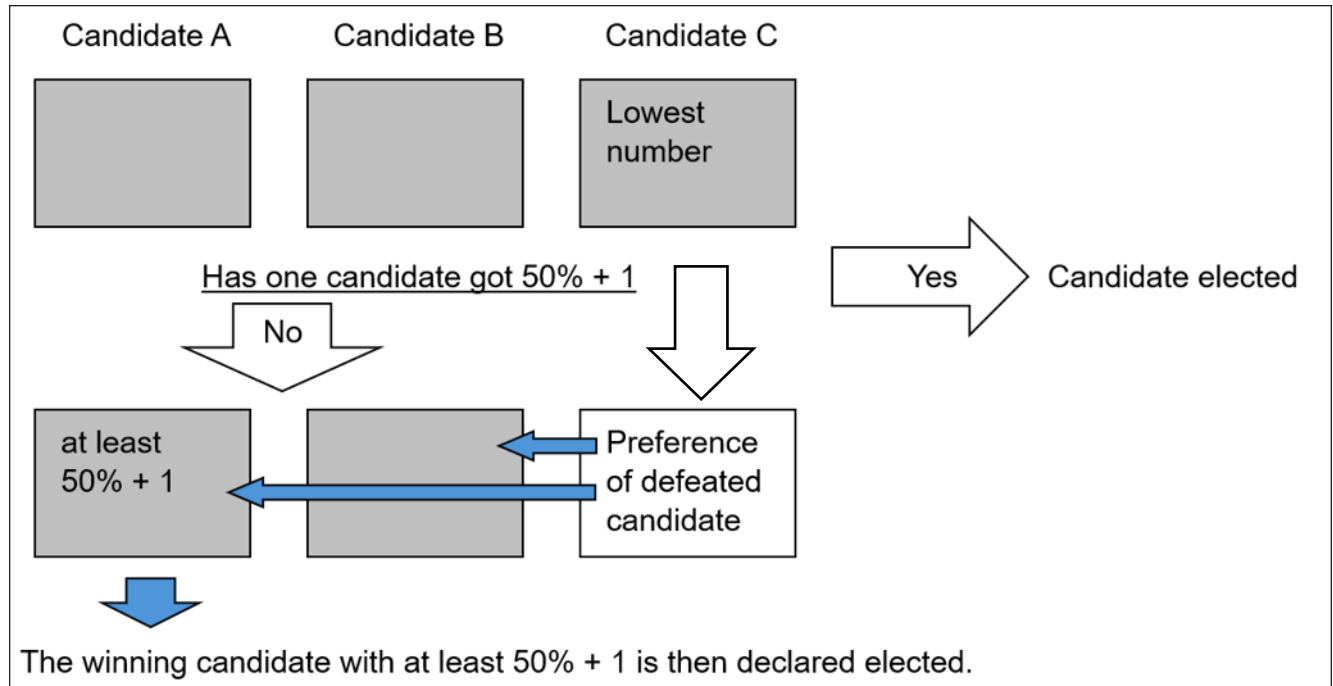
	electors who would not be able to attend a polling place to vote. The hours of advertised attendance varies depending on the community population.
Remote Voting Place	A place appointed as a mobile voting place located in Remote area, including Aboriginal communities and pastoral stations.
Remote Polling Team	The Presiding Officer and Issuing Officer(s) appointed for the remote voting place.
Remote Presiding Officer	A Remote Presiding Officer manages the operation of mobile polling at remote locations.
Responsible Person	The agent for a member of the Assembly, the agent for a political party, the financial controller of an associated entity, the agent of a candidate, the agent of a group, the agent of the third-party campaigner if an unincorporated body or the third-party campaigner.
Return of the Writ	The formal document where the Electoral Commissioner certifies the names of successful candidates at the state election and is returned to the Governor.
Returning Officer (RO)	An electoral officer who is appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to be responsible for the conduct of an election for a Legislative Assembly district or for the whole of State electorate for the Legislative Council.
Returning Officer Assistant (ROA)	Assists the Returning Officer with higher level duties, including receipt and entry of results on polling night, the conduct of mobile counts and assistance with the return of materials (RoM) from Presiding Officers. ROAs also assist the Returning Officer with the Fresh Scrutiny in the 72 hours after polling day.
Returning Officer Liaison Officer (ROLO)	A person employed by us to provide support and assistance to Returning Officers. Each ROLO must liaise with Returning Officers on a regular basis to provide advice, information, monitor their progress and to answer any queries or concerns. They will also assist with training Returning Officers and sharing information from us.
Roll	The roll is an extract from the register of electors as at the date of close of rolls. It is a list of names and addresses of electors entitled to vote in a State election or referendum. The roll may be electronic or paper copy and is used to record that an elector has attended and been issued a ballot paper(s).
Scrutineer	A person appointed by a candidate to observe the polling process and the scrutiny and count of ballot papers, and to ensure that election processes are conducted strictly in accordance with the legislation.
Scrutiny	The process following the close of polling to determine the formality of ballot papers and processes in accordance with the legislation.
Silent Elector	A person whose address is omitted from the roll for security reasons, as permitted in section 51B of the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> .
Spoilt Ballot Paper	A ballot paper incorrectly numbered or damaged by a voter. The voter is entitled to a replacement ballot paper after handing back the original.
Student Electoral Officer	Year 11 or 12 student engaged to assist in polling place duties performed by Officers. As they are generally under the age of 18 heightened duty of care is required by their supervisor.

Table Supervisor	A Table Supervisor is appointed for each counting table in a manual count. The Table Supervisor manages the count and count staff and reports to the Returning Officer.
Two-Candidate Preferred Count (2CP)	An indicative sort and count of votes following the first preference count of Legislative Assembly ballot papers at polling places on election night. It anticipates the flow of preferences to the two candidates selected as the likely highest first preference vote getters. The ballot papers of other candidates are examined, and each ballot paper is allocated to whichever of the two selected candidates has the lowest preference number opposite their name. The 2CP count has no impact on the final result.
Vote	An elector's indication of their preferred choice of candidates as indicated by the completion of a ballot paper.
Voting at a Polling Place on an Early Voting Day	Previously called Early Voting. Voting at a polling place on an early voting day gives electors the option of voting early. These services will be available for up to 11 days prior to polling day and will be managed by the Returning Officer in each district.
Western Australian Electoral Commission (the Commission)	The independent body established to facilitate the active participation of all eligible Western Australians in state elections, local government elections, and other elections. The Commission was established by the proclamation of the Acts Amendments (Electoral Reform) Act 1987.
Writ	The formal orders, issued by the Governor or Speaker of the House, requiring that an election (or by-election) be held. The writ contains the key dates for the election.

Appendix 2: Distribution of preferences

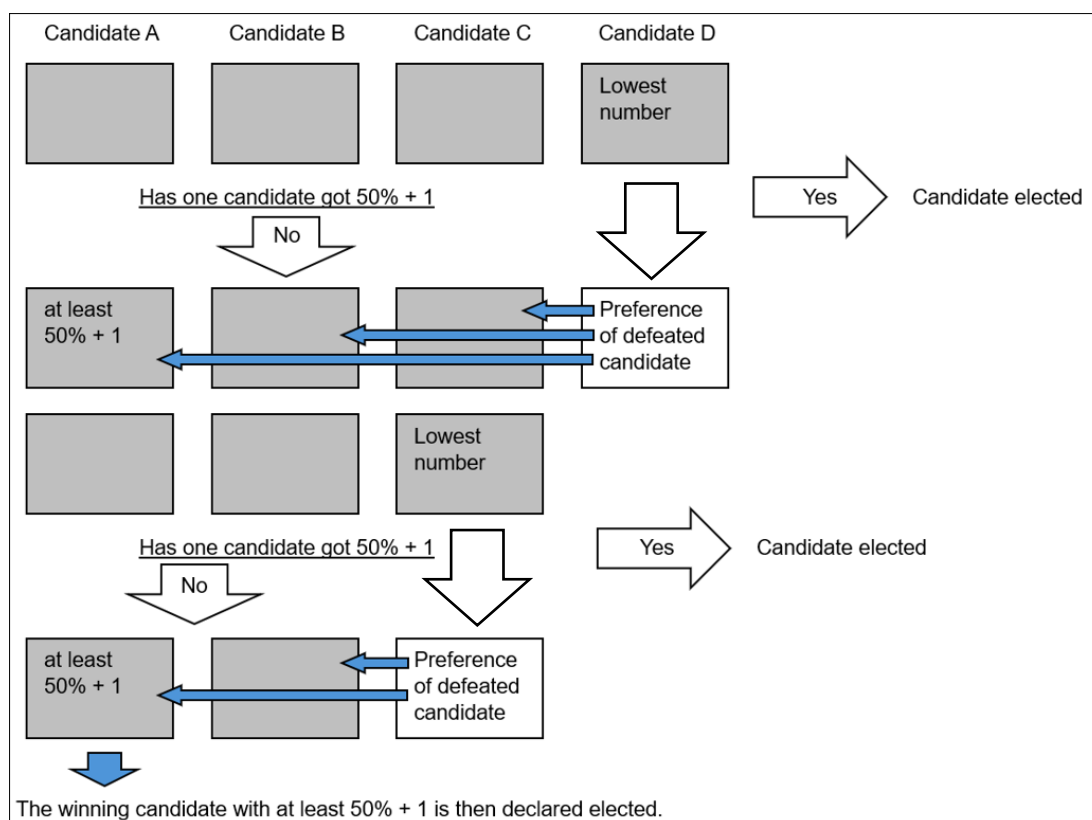
Distribution of preferences for three candidates

If there are three candidates and none has received an absolute majority ($50\% + 1$) of first preference votes, the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes will be the 'defeated candidate'. The preferences of the defeated candidate are then distributed to the other two continuing candidates, according to the next preference shown on the ballot paper.



Distribution of preferences for four or more candidates

Where no candidate has received an absolute majority of first preference votes, the candidate who has received the fewest number of first preference is declared a 'defeated candidate'. These ballot papers are distributed to each continuing candidate in order of the voters' preferences. If no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes, the candidate who has the next fewest votes is declared a defeated candidate and the defeated candidate's ballot papers are distributed to the continuing candidates in the order of the voters' preferences. This process is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority.



Exhausted ballot papers

With a formal vote containing numerals other than continuing numerals, the ballot paper should be included in the count up to the last valid preference. For example, if a four Candidate ballot paper is marked 1, 2, 5, 6 it is formal to the second preference. The ballot paper concerned is put aside as exhausted after the second preference and has no further impact on the count.

Western Australian Electoral Commission

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13 14 50 and then ask for (08) 9214 0400

National Relay Service (NRS)

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SMS Relay 0423 677 767



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