

ELECTION
2019

Local Government
Ordinary Elections

Formality of Ballot Papers

GUIDE



Formality of Ballot Papers

The formality requirements for Local Government elections differ from those of State and Federal parliamentary elections.

Examples of formal and informal ballot papers are on the following pages.

Giving Effect to the Elector's Wishes

The key words in the legislation refer to accepting a ballot paper that 'clearly indicates the elector's wishes'.

Marking of the Ballot Paper

In an election where one office is to be filled and two or more candidates are named on the ballot paper an elector is to mark the ballot paper in accordance with regulations, so as to indicate the candidate named on the ballot paper who the elector wishes to be elected.

If two or more offices are to be filled at the election an elector is to mark the ballot paper by placing a tick in the box(es) opposite the name of the candidate(s) for whom the elector wishes to be elected.

Initials and Other Markings

A ballot paper is not rendered informal because the voter by choice reveals their identity.

Returning Officer Decision is Final

The final decision on whether a ballot paper is to be accepted rests with the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer will refer to the Electoral Commissioner's guidelines as well as the Act and Regulations, but the determination of validity will always be circumstance specific.

The physical appearance of markings on the ballot paper may well influence the Returning Officer's decision on the formality of the ballot paper.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

1. Formal Two clear ticks. While large, the ticks can be seen to be in two boxes.

Ballot Paper

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How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

2. Formal Two candidates are ticked. Initials do not invalidate a ballot paper.

Ballot Paper

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How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

J. Smith

3. Formal The corrections are sufficiently clear to enable acceptance of the two ticks. The signature does not invalidate the ballot paper.

Ballot Paper

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WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

Don't like Mr G.

4. Formal Two candidates are indicated. The writing does not invalidate the vote.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>All polling officials are lovely people.</i>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Formal The ticks indicate a choice. The words on the paper are to be disregarded.

Ballot Paper

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

6. Formal The first two preferences are clear.

Ballot Paper

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How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>	I
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>	II
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>	VI
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>	VI
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>	III
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>	IV

7. Formal The first two preferences are clear. Other preferences are numbered but cannot be counted.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>	

8. Formal In a first-past-the-post contest, two identical numbers can be interpreted as two ticks.

Ballot Paper

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How to vote

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If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Formal Two ticks indicate two choices. The cross is disregarded.

Ballot Paper

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WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

10. Formal Two ticks indicate two choices. The crosses are disregarded.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

11. Formal The ticks represent two formal votes and the crosses can be disregarded.

Ballot Paper

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Formal The ticks are close enough to the candidate boxes for the RO to make a decision that these are formal votes for candidates B and E.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

13. Formal No other markings enable two crosses to be accepted as a clear expression of choice.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

14. Formal The ticks are sufficiently close to the names to indicate a choice for candidates A and D.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A 2
CANDIDATE, B 1
CANDIDATE, C 3
CANDIDATE, D 4
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

15. Formal Numbers 1 and 2 can be considered formal votes.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: SaturdayXX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

16. Formal The arrows indicate two identifiable choices.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
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Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A

CANDIDATE, B

CANDIDATE, C

CANDIDATE, D

CANDIDATE, E

CANDIDATE, F

17. Formal The marks are taken to indicate two choices.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A

CANDIDATE, B

CANDIDATE, C

CANDIDATE, D

CANDIDATE, E 2

CANDIDATE, F

18. Formal Two marks are made for the two candidates. The others are blank, indicating no choices.

Ballot Paper

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WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A -

CANDIDATE, B

CANDIDATE, C -

CANDIDATE, D

CANDIDATE, E

CANDIDATE, F

19. Formal Two clear marks indicate a choice.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
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WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A

~~CANDIDATE, B~~

~~CANDIDATE, C~~

~~CANDIDATE, D~~

CANDIDATE, E

~~CANDIDATE, F~~

20. Formal The names crossed out indicate that these candidates are not to be selected.

Ballot Paper

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

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How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

21. Formal The two candidates circled indicate a choice.

Ballot Paper

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WEST WARD**

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How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. Formal Two candidates are definitely indicated.

Ballot Paper

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WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

23. Formal The 1's indicate choice and the bullets indicate no vote.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. One formal The cross is a clear indication of preference.

Ballot Paper

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How to vote

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If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

25. One formal The tick indicates a clear preference. It is not clear whether the 1 or the 2 is the second choice, so the other marks are not counted.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

26. One formal The tick indicates a clear preference. It is not clear whether the cross is an indication of preference or rejection.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. One formal The 'yes' indicates a clear preference, and the deletions indicate rejection. It is not clear whether the unmarked candidate is a choice.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, B	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, C	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, E	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE, F	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. One formal One candidate is clearly preferred. There is no other choice indicated.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

29. *One formal* The tick indicates a preference for candidate B. The other marks cannot be interpreted as an indication of preference.

Ballot Paper

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

30. *Informal* There is no tick and no clear indication whether the cross is a rejection or a preference. The voter's intention is not clear.

Ballot Paper

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

31. *Informal* It is not clear whether the crosses are indications of preference or rejection, nor whether the numerals or the crosses are more significant.

Ballot Paper

**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD**

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates.
If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid.
Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

- CANDIDATE, A
- CANDIDATE, B
- CANDIDATE, C
- CANDIDATE, D
- CANDIDATE, E
- CANDIDATE, F

32. *Informal* Two preferences cannot be discerned.

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Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

GPO Box F316
Perth WA 6841

PHONE (08) 9214 0400 or 13 63 06
EMAIL waec@waec.wa.gov.au
WEBSITE www.elections.wa.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)
13 14 50 and then ask for (08) 9214 0400

National Relay Service (NRS)
Speak and Listen number 1300 555 727
SMS Relay number 0423 677 767

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