

Appendices

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State General Election Dates – Legislative Assembly

Parliament	Date of Election	Total Seats	Party Elected
1st Parliament	* 27 November to 12 December 1890	30	Forrest Party
2nd Parliament	* 14 June to 3 July 1894	33	Forrest Party
3rd Parliament	* 27 April to 28 May 1897	44	Forrest Party
4th Parliament	24 April 1901	50	Leake Party
5th Parliament	28 June 1904	50	Labor
6th Parliament	27 October 1905	50	Liberal
7th Parliament	11 September 1908	50	Liberal
8th Parliament	3 October 1911	50	Labor
9th Parliament	21 October 1914	50	Labor
10th Parliament	29 September 1917	50	Nationalist & Country Party Coalition
11th Parliament	12 March 1921	50	Nationalist & Country Party Coalition
12th Parliament	22 March 1924	50	Australian Labor Party
13th Parliament	26 March 1927	50	Australian Labor Party
14th Parliament	12 April 1930	50	Nationalist & Country Party Coalition
15th Parliament	8 April 1933	50	Australian Labor Party
16th Parliament	15 February 1936	50	Australian Labor Party
17th Parliament	18 March 1939	50	Australian Labor Party
18th Parliament	20 November 1943	50	Australian Labor Party
19th Parliament	15 March 1947	50	Liberal & Country Party Coalition
20th Parliament	25 March 1950	50	Liberal & Country League and Country Party Coalition
21st Parliament	14 February 1953	50	Australian Labor Party
22nd Parliament	7 April 1956	50	Australian Labor Party
23rd Parliament	21 March 1959	50	Liberal & Country League and Country Party Coalition
24th Parliament	31 March 1962	50	Liberal & Country League and Country Party Coalition
25th Parliament	20 February 1965	50	Liberal & Country League and Country Party Coalition
26th Parliament	23 March 1968	51	Liberal & Country League and Country Party Coalition
27th Parliament	20 February 1971	51	Australian Labor Party
28th Parliament	30 March 1974	51	Liberal & National Alliance Coalition
29th Parliament	19 February 1977	55	Liberal & National Country Party Coalition
30th Parliament	23 February 1980	55	Liberal & National Country Party Coalition
31st Parliament	19 February 1983	57	Australian Labor Party
32nd Parliament	8 February 1986	57	Australian Labor Party
33rd Parliament	4 February 1989	57	Australian Labor Party
34th Parliament	6 February 1993	57	Liberal / National Party Coalition
35th Parliament	14 December 1996	57	Liberal / National Party Coalition
36th Parliament	10 February 2001	57	Australian Labor Party
37th Parliament	26 February 2005	57	Australian Labor Party
38th Parliament	6 September 2008	59	Liberal / National Party Alliance
39th Parliament	9 March 2013	59	Liberal / National Party Alliance
40th Parliament	11 March 2017	59	WA Labor

* Until 1970, the Governor in Council had the power under the provision of section 41 of the *Constitution Act 1889* to fix different dates for election in the different districts. According to section 71(3) of the *Electoral Act 1907* the same date shall be fixed for the polling in each region or district, as the case requires, however elections for northern seats were still held separately until 1930.

In 2011 legislation was proclaimed that introduced fixed date elections, with polling day to be held on the second Saturday in March every four years.

State General Election Dates – Legislative Council

- 1832 The first sitting of the Legislative Council was held on 7 February 1832. The first constituted Legislative Council consisted of five official members nominated by, and including, the Governor.
- 1870 Under the terms of the *Australian Colonies Government Act 1850*, 12 elected councillors together with six nominated by the Governor, three official and three non-official, formed the Legislative Council.
- 1887 By 1887 the Legislative Council had increased to a total of 26 members.
- 1894 The first fully elective Legislative Council was elected on 16 July 1894. Twenty-one members were elected, three from each of seven provinces, one to retire every two years. Enrolment to vote was based on a restricted property franchise.
- 1965 Commencing from 1965, conjoint State General Elections were held for the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

The following table shows the State General Election dates for the Legislative Council since 1894:

Date of Election	Total Seats	Date of Election	Total Seats
16 July 1894	21	8 May 1948	30
27 July 1896	21	6 May 1950	30
9 May 1898	24	3 May 1952	30
14 May 1900	24	8 May 1954	30
12 May 1902	30	7 April 1956	30
30 May 1904	30	10 May 1958	30
13 May 1908	30	30 April 1960	30
13 May 1910	30	12 May 1962	30
14 May 1912	30	20 February 1965	30
16 May 1914	30	23 March 1968	30
13 May 1916	30	February 1971	30
11 May 1918	30	March 1974	30
8 May 1920	30	February 1977	32
13 May 1922	30	February 1980	32
10 May 1924	30	February 1983	34
8 May 1926	30	February 1986	34
12 May 1928	30	February 1989	34
10 May 1930	30	February 1993	34
7 May 1932	30	December 1996	34
12 May 1934	30	10 February 2001	34
9 May 1936	30	26 February 2005	34
7 May 1938	30	6 September 2008	36
11 May 1940	30	9 March 2013	36
29 April 1944	30	11 March 2017	36
4 May 1946	30		

Preferential Voting System – Legislative Assembly

Preferential voting is a system whereby a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the total formal vote (i.e. in excess of 50%) in order to be elected to the vacancy.

Under a full preferential system, a voter is required to indicate a preference for each candidate on the ballot paper by using the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on up to the number of candidates. If, after all first preference votes have been counted, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of all formal votes then the candidate with the fewest number of first preference votes is excluded from the count. The excluded candidate's second preference votes are then distributed to the remaining candidates at this stage.

If, after that exclusion, no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of formal votes the next remaining candidate with the fewest votes is excluded and all of his or her votes (second preferences and those received from the previously excluded candidate) are distributed to the remaining candidates.

The above process is repeated until one candidate obtains an absolute majority of formal votes, at which point they are to be declared duly elected. Since 1989 preference distributions are required to continue until there are only two remaining candidates, even if one has already been declared elected.

The absolute majority is calculated excluding informal and exhausted votes. An example of the above process is shown below for the District of Kalgoorlie in 2013.

Example

Full Distribution of Preferences

Count	ALP Smith	NAT Duncan	ACP Patterson	LIB Price	GRN Hall	Total Formal Votes	Exhausted Votes	Total Votes
First Preference Votes	1,928	3,717	202	3,748	450	10,045		10,045

Step 1

The absolute majority at this stage of the count is 5,023. As no candidate has achieved this on first preference votes, Patterson, the candidate with the fewest number of first preference votes is excluded. The excluded candidate's second preference votes are then distributed to the remaining candidates and those votes added to the remaining candidates' progressive totals. Exhausted votes are formal; however, these are not added to any candidate's progressive total as no consecutive preference has been indicated for the remaining candidates on the ballot paper (e.g. ballot papers marked 1, 2, 2, 2 or 1, 2, 3, 3).

Count	ALP Smith	NAT Duncan	ACP Patterson	LIB Price	GRN Hall	Total Formal Votes	Exhausted Votes	Total Votes
			Excluded					
First Distribution	24	80	-202	73	24	201	1	202
Progressive Total	1,952	3,797		3,821	474	10,044	1	10,045

Step 2

At this stage of the count, 5,023 votes are still required for an absolute majority. As no candidate has yet achieved this, Hall the candidate with the fewest number of votes following the first distribution (474) is excluded. The excluded candidate's second preference votes from the first preferences (450) are then distributed to the remaining candidates, and the third preference votes from the first distribution (24) are also distributed to the remaining candidates and added to their progressive total.

Count	ALP Smith	NAT Duncan	ACP Patterson	LIB Price	GRN Hall	Total Formal Votes	Exhausted Votes	Total Votes
					Excluded			
Second Distribution	209	157		107	-474	473	1	474
Progressive Total	2,161	3,954		3,928		10,043	2	10,045

Step 3

After the second distribution 5,022 votes are required for an absolute majority. The process in step 2 is repeated at this stage and Winner is the next candidate excluded. His votes (2,161), which include all those transferred to him during the first and second distributions, are distributed to the remaining two candidates, Duncan and Price.

Count	ALP Smith	NAT Duncan	ACP Patterson	LIB Price	GRN Hall	Total Formal Votes	Exhausted Votes	Total Votes
	Excluded							
Third Distribution	-2,161	1,697		451		2,148	13	2,161
Progressive Total		5,651		4,379		10,030	15	10,045

As there are only two candidates remaining, the candidate with the absolute majority is elected. The absolute majority at this stage of the count is now 5,016, with the 15 exhausted votes having the effect of reducing the absolute majority.

Result

Wendy Duncan (NAT) is elected as the member for Kalgoorlie with a majority of 1,272 votes.

Proportional Representation Voting System – Legislative Council

This is a voting system used in multi-member electorates which is designed to ensure that the number of successful candidates from each party and independents reflects as closely as possible the total vote received as a proportion of all the formal votes cast in an election. To be successful, a candidate is required to receive enough votes to reach a quota (not an absolute majority) that is based on the number of formal votes and the number of candidates to be elected. The Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia is elected using a proportional representation system.

In very general terms, under the notion of proportional representation, if a party or group of independents received 15% of the formal vote then that party or group would gain about 15% of the seats in the Legislative Council. Thus if a political party received 15% of the vote in the Mining and Pastoral Region it could expect to gain one of the six seats allocated to this region.

The quota required is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of formal votes per region}}{(\text{Number of MLCs to be elected per region} + 1)} + 1 = \text{quota required}$$

For example:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Mining and Pastoral Region} \\ 57,146 \\ \hline (6 + 1) \end{array} + 1 = 8,165$$

In this example for the Mining and Pastoral region a candidate would need 8,165 votes (or 14.29%) to be elected.

Note: The fraction is obtained by dividing the number of formal votes (57,146) by the number of MLCs (6) plus 1. The fraction is rounded down before the 1 is added to ascertain the required quota (i.e. 8,165).

Surplus Votes

Candidates who receive a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota are elected immediately. Any votes of these elected candidates that are surplus to the quota are transferred to the remaining candidates at a reduced value known as a 'transfer value'. The transfer value is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Candidate's number of surplus votes}}{\text{Total number of ballot papers the candidate received}} = \text{transfer value}$$

Excluding Candidates

If at any stage there are no candidates with a surplus of votes and not all Council seats have been filled, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded from the count.

The excluded candidate's ballot papers are distributed to the remaining candidates at the same vote value as they were received. In some counts this will mean ballot papers are transferred at the value of 1 while others will have various transfer values.

This process of distributing surplus votes from elected candidates and excluding the candidate with the fewest votes is continued until all vacancies are filled.