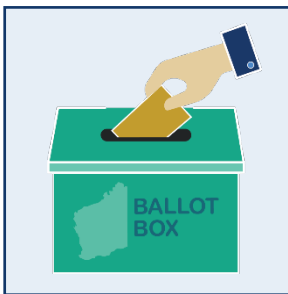




# How do I make my vote count on election day?



The right to vote is a basic democratic freedom and is considered one of the most important responsibilities of citizens living in a democratic country.

Voting in a local, State or federal election is important. It's your way to have a say about who is elected to represent you.

## How do I make my vote count?

For your vote to be counted, it must be 'formal'. This means the ballot paper has been correctly filled out. If you don't fill out your ballot paper correctly, it is 'informal'. This means it can't be counted.

A ballot paper is informal if it:

- is blank
- does not show preferences according to the instructions
- does not show the voter's intention clearly
- has any marks which can identify the voter

It's ok if you make a mistake. Staff can give you a replacement ballot paper so you can make sure your vote gets counted.

## Completing your ballot papers correctly in a WA State election

### Legislative Assembly (lower house) ballot paper:

Clearly write the number '1' in the square next to your preferred candidate or party of your first choice.

Write number '2' in the square next to the candidate or party of your second choice, and continue to number all the squares until there is a different number in every square in order of preference.

### Legislative Council (upper house) ballot paper:

You must choose if you want to complete the section **above-the-line** OR the section **below-the-line**, but not both.

**Above-the-line:** number one or more squares in the order of your preference.

**Below-the-line:** number 20 or more squares in the order of your preference.

## Learn more

For more information on how to complete your ballot papers or what happens at a polling place, see the fact sheets:

- *What happens in a polling place?*
- *How to complete a ballot paper?*

