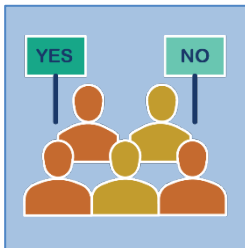




What is a referendum?



When a change is proposed to the State or Commonwealth Constitution, a referendum is held to gauge the opinion of electors about the proposed change.

A referendum usually asks a 'yes' or 'no' question.

For electors, referendums are very similar to elections. You have to be enrolled in order to vote in a referendum.

On referendum day, electors go to a polling place and cast their vote on a ballot paper. Electors can also vote early in person or by post, if they can't go to a polling place on referendum day.

There have been 11 State referendums held in Western Australia since 1900. The most recent referendum was held in 2009.

History shows that in Australia, most referendums are not successful because the required majority for the proposed change to be implemented has not been achieved.

Referendums in WA

- 31 July 1900 Popular Referendum on Australian Federation**
The majority supported Western Australia in joining the Australian Commonwealth.
- 26 April 1911 Local Option Vote**
The majority voted for publican licenses to be held and managed by the State, but increasing the existing number of licenses was not supported.
- 30 April 1921 Local Option Referendum**
The majority did not support prohibition.
- 4 April 1925 First Prohibition Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of prohibition.
- 8 April 1933 Secession Referendum**
The majority supported secession, but the British Parliament ruled it invalid as the petition was received from the State and not the Commonwealth.
- 9 December 1950 Second Prohibition Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of prohibition.
- 8 March 1975 First Daylight Saving Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of daylight saving.
- 7 April 1984 Second Daylight Saving Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of daylight saving.
- 4 April 1992 Third Daylight Saving Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of daylight saving.
- 26 February 2005 Retail Trading Hours Referendum**
The majority did not support extending trading hours in Perth.
- 16 May 2009 Fourth Daylight Saving Referendum**
The majority did not support the introduction of daylight saving.