

The ACT Electoral Commission

ACT Electoral Commission

The ACT Electoral Commission is responsible for:

- Running elections for the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory
- Changing electorate boundaries to make sure they are fair.

The ACT Electoral Commission is also known as Elections ACT for short.

Elections ACT gives information about elections to the:

- Speaker
- Parliament
- Government ministers
- People living in the ACT
- Political parties and candidates.

Elections ACT can also be asked to run elections for other groups. These groups can be:

- Schools
- Public service
- Other organisations.

More information

You can find out more from Elections ACT. The contact details are at the bottom of this page.

Information Elections ACT can supply includes:

- Fact sheets
- Election statistics.

1988

- ACT self-government bills introduced into Commonwealth parliament with Royal Assent being given on 6 December 1988.
- Elections were run according to the *Australian Capital Territory (Electoral) Act 1988*.

1989

- First ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 4 March 1989 using the modified d'Hondt electoral system.
- ACT voted as a single electorate.
- Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected for fixed 3 year terms.

1991

- Commonwealth parliament legislated to give control of the ACT electoral system to the people of the ACT.
- The *Australian Capital Territory (Electoral) Amendment Act 1991* sets out conditions for a referendum on an ACT electoral system to choose between a single member electorate system or Hare-Clark proportional representation system.

1992

- Second ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 15 February 1992 using the modified d'Hondt system again.
- Referendum to choose a new electoral system was held at the same time as the election.
- The Hare-Clark electoral system was chosen. 65.3% of people voted for this system.
- ACT Electoral Commission established by *Electoral Act 1992*.

1995

- Third ACT Legislative Assembly election held on 18 February 1995 using the Hare-Clark electoral system for the first time.
- ACT divided into 3 multi-member electorates: Brindabella with 5 MLAs, Ginninderra with 5 MLAs and Molonglo with 7 MLAs.
- Entrenchment referendum on the Hare-Clark system. Entrenchment means that the electoral system can only be changed by another referendum or by a special majority of two-thirds of the Assembly.

1998

- Fourth ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 21 February 1998.
- Elections moved from third Saturday in February to third Saturday in October every 3 years.

2001

- Fifth ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 20 October 2001.
- New electorate boundaries used at this election after a redistribution in 2000.
- Electronic voting used for the first time for an ACT election.

2004

- Sixth ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 16 October 2004.
- Elections changed from third Saturday in October every 3 years to every 4 years.
- Members now elected for fixed 4 year terms.

2008

- Seventh ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 18 October 2008.
- New electorate boundaries used at this election after a redistribution in 2007.

2012

- Eighth ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 20 October 2012.
- New electorate boundaries used at this election after a redistribution in 2011.

2016

- Legislation was enacted by the Legislative Assembly in 2014 to increase the size of the Assembly to 25 members.
- A redistribution was carried out in 2015 to create 5 new electorates, each electing 5 MLAs.
- New electorates are Brindabella, Ginninderra, Kurrajong, Murrumbidgee and Yerrabi.
- New electorate boundaries applied from the ninth ACT Legislative Assembly election held on 15 October 2016

2020

- Tenth ACT Legislative Assembly election was held on 17 October 2020.
- New electorate boundaries used at this election after a redistribution in 2019.