

## Glossary

<b>ACT Electoral Commission</b>	Independent statutory authority established to conduct ACT Legislative Assembly elections and referendums. It is made up of the Chairperson, the Electoral Commissioner and a third Member.
<b>Ballot</b>	The voting process used to choose between candidates in an election or options in a referendum; the voting paper itself.
<b>Campaign</b>	Activities by parties, candidates and pressure groups in an election to persuade electors to vote in a particular way. Also called canvassing.
<b>Candidate</b>	A person who has been nominated for election.
<b>Casual vacancy</b>	A vacancy in the Legislative Assembly caused by the retirement, death or resignation of a Member. See fact sheet <i>Casual vacancies</i> .
<b>Compulsory voting</b>	Every Australian citizen of 18 years and over must enrol and vote at elections and <b>referendums</b> .
<b>Declaration of nominations</b>	Public announcement of the names of candidates for an election by the Electoral Commissioner after nominations close.
<b>Declaration of poll</b>	The announcement by the Electoral Commissioner of the result of the election and the names of the candidates elected.
<b>Declaration vote</b>	A vote sealed in an envelope by an elector with completed enrolment details provided on the envelope and a declaration of eligibility to vote signed by the voter.
<b>Draw for ballot paper position</b>	A random draw conducted to determine the column on the ballot paper for each party and the position within each column for each candidate.
<b>Election</b>	The choosing of representative by the voters.
<b>Elections ACT</b>	The operating name for the Electoral Commissioner and staff assisting the Electoral Commissioner.
<b>Election day</b>	The day when the election takes place. Also known as polling day.
<b>Elector</b>	A person entitled to vote at an election.

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<b>Electoral roll</b>	A list of names of all the people who are entitled to vote in an election.
<b>Electorate</b>	An area represented by one or more members of parliament. Also known as a seat, division or a constituency. For ACT Legislative Assembly elections there are five electorates: Brindabella, Ginninderra, Murrumbidgee, Kurrajong and Yerrabi.
<b>Enrolment</b>	Having one's name added to the list of <b>electors</b> entitled to vote.
<b>Excluded candidate</b>	A <b>candidate</b> who is taken out of the count of votes because he or she has fewer votes than any other candidate.
<b>Exhausted vote</b>	A ballot paper that can no longer be distributed because no preferences are shown for any candidates remaining in the count.
<b>Formal vote</b>	A ballot paper which has been marked correctly. In the ACT under <b>Hare-Clark</b> electors must use numbers to show their preferences. Electors are asked to vote for at least as many candidates as there are vacancies in their <b>electorate</b> . See <b>informal vote</b> .
<b>Government</b>	The political party or coalition of parties which is led by the Chief Minister.
<b>Hare-Clark</b>	An electoral system which draws its name from two men: Thomas Hare (1806-1891), an English solicitor who wrote a famous book on <b>proportional representation</b> and Andrew Inglis Clark (1848-1907), a Tasmanian Attorney-General who introduced proportional representation into State law. A fact sheet, <i>Hare-Clark</i> , is available.
<b>Informal vote</b>	A ballot paper which has not been marked correctly. In the ACT, examples of informal votes include: a ballot paper with no first preference; a ballot paper with two or more first preferences; or a ballot paper where the name of the voter can be identified.
<b>Legislative Assembly</b>	The lower house of some parliaments and the only house in the ACT. A total of 25 Members are elected from five electorates to represent the citizens of the ACT and make decisions on their behalf.
<b>Minority government</b>	A government formed by a party or a coalition of parties (two or more parties) when they don't have a parliamentary majority.
<b>MLA</b>	A Member of the Legislative Assembly.
<b>Opposition</b>	The Legislative Assembly members of the major political party or coalition who oppose the government.
<b>Parliament</b>	The political assembly in which elected representatives debate and vote upon proposed laws. The word 'parliament' comes from 15th century English, and from a French word meaning 'talking place'. In the ACT, the Legislative Assembly is the parliament.

<b>Preferential voting</b>	A voting system which allows voters to list candidates in order of preference. If a voter's first choice is for an <b>excluded candidate</b> , the voter's second choice will be counted. If the voter's second choice is also for an excluded candidate, the voter's third choice will be counted, and so on.
<b>Proportional representation</b>	Used when more than one candidate is to be elected in one electorate. Each elected candidate represents the same proportion of voters as each other elected candidate.
<b>Quota</b>	The number of votes a candidate must receive to be elected.
<b>Redistribution</b>	A redrawing of electoral boundaries which aims to ensure that, as nearly as practicable, each ACT electorate gains representation in the ACT Legislative Assembly in proportion to the electorate's voting population.
<b>Referendum</b>	A process of referring a matter proposed or passed by a legislative body to the electorate to vote for approval or rejection.
<b>Robson rotation</b>	Where the names in each column of candidates are printed in different orders on consecutive ballot papers so that no candidate in a column has the advantage of appearing in the same position on every ballot paper.
<b>Scrutineer</b>	A person appointed by a candidate to observe voting and the counting of ballot papers to ensure that the process is conducted properly.
<b>Scrutiny</b>	The counting of ballot papers in which they are checked for formality and allocation of preferences.
<b>Surplus votes</b>	Those votes that a candidate receives in excess of the <b>quota</b> . They are distributed to other candidates according to the further preferences indicated on the ballot papers by those voters.

For a more comprehensive list visit our website at:  
<http://www.elections.act.gov.au/glossary>