

The ACT Legislative Assembly Election

# ELECTION GUIDE

Shaping Canberra's Future

Saturday 18 October 2008

Your official election guide from the ACT Electoral Commission



# The ACT Election at a glance

#### When is the election?

The election for the 17–member ACT Legislative Assembly will be held on Saturday 18 October. Polling places will be open from 8am until 6pm on polling day.

# Do you have to vote?

If you're on the electoral roll for an ACT address and you are 18 or over, you must vote in this election. Voting is compulsory.

# Why voting is important.

The Legislative Assembly has the power to make laws and form a government for the ACT. By voting in this election you have an opportunity to choose who will represent you in the Assembly. When you vote, you help to shape Canberra's future.

## Voting on election day.

You can vote at any polling place in the ACT between 8am and 6pm.

# No how-to-vote cards at polling places.

Political canvassing, including handing out howto-vote cards, is banned within 100 metres of a polling place at ACT elections. This means you will need to plan how you want to vote before you go to the polling place.

# Voting before election day.

If you can't get to a polling place on election day, you can cast a pre–poll vote at a pre–poll centre in Belconnen, Civic, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong or Woden. If you can't get to a pre–poll centre, you can apply for a postal vote. You can also vote interstate.

pg 4

pg 4

pg 5

pg 6

# About your ballot paper.

In the ACT, we have a system of rotating candidates' positions on the ballot paper, called Robson rotation. Sample ballot papers are shown on pages 8-9.

pg 7

# How to fill in your ballot paper.

To record a valid vote, write the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and so on, in the squares on your ballot paper in order of your choice. No ticks or crosses please, and don't use the same number twice.

pg 10-11

## **Electronic voting.**

At this election computerised voting will be available at pre–poll centres and some polling places.

pg 12-13

#### How the votes are counted.

The votes are counted using the Hare–Clark proportional representation system which was chosen by ACT voters at a referendum in 1992.

pg 14-17

# Where to go to vote.

# Your local polling place may have changed.

There is a complete list of polling places and addresses on pages 14–15. Pre-poll and interstate voting centres are listed on pages 16-17.

pg 19

# Which electorate are you in?

There are three electorates—Brindabella, Ginninderra and Molonglo—and 17 members of the Legislative Assembly, seven from Molonglo, five from Brindabella and five from Ginninderra. **Electorate boundaries have changed.** There is a map showing the electorate boundaries on page 19 of this booklet.

## Voting on election day.

Election day is Saturday 18 October. The easiest way to vote is to go to your nearest polling place (see the list on pages 14 and 15 of this booklet). All polling places are open from 8am to 6pm. You don't have to go to a polling place in your own electorate.

# Assistance with voting.

Polling officials are there to help you. If you have any difficulty with voting or if you need help to fill in your ballot paper, just ask. If you prefer, you can ask a friend, relative or a candidate's scrutineer to help you. If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, just take it back to the polling official who gave it to you and ask for another.

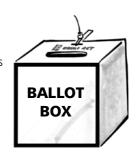
If you need help with electronic voting, just ask a polling official.

Some polling places have officials who speak languages other than English. Phone Elections ACT on 6205 0033 for details. Polling places with suitable access for people with a disability are marked with the symbol & in the list on pages 14–15 of this booklet. Polling place staff will be happy to provide any assistance you need.

# No how-to-vote cards at polling places.

Remember that political canvassing, including distributing how–to–vote cards, is banned within 100 metres of a polling place.

This means that you need to plan in advance how you want to vote as no how–to–vote information will be available within 100 metres of the polling place.



# Voting before election day.

If you can't get to a polling place on election day, there are several other ways of casting your vote.

#### PRE-POLL VOTING

You can cast a pre–poll vote any weekday between now and the election (except the public holiday on Monday 6 October), and also on Saturday 11 October. Addresses and opening hours of the five pre–poll voting centres can be found on page 16 of this Election Guide.

#### **POSTAL VOTING**

If you can't get to a polling place or pre-poll voting centre, you can apply for a postal vote by:

- alling Elections ACT on 6205 0033
- **applying on-line** at the Elections ACT website: www.elections.act.gov.au
- completing an application form available from any ACT Post Office, ACT Government Shopfront, ACT electoral office or any Australian overseas mission.

If you are overseas, your postal vote application must reach Elections ACT by 10 October. If you are in Australia, your application must be in by 16 October. To make sure your ballot papers arrive in time, get your application in as soon as you can.

When your application is received your ballot paper will be mailed to you. When you receive it, fill it out, have another person witness your signature and mail it back to Elections ACT. Note: Postal ballot papers must be posted before polling day and they must reach Elections ACT by 24 October.

#### MOBILE POLLING

If you are a patient in a hospital, a resident of a nursing home, in a remand centre or prison, you may be visited by a mobile polling team. Contact your institution for details or phone Elections ACT on 6205 0033.

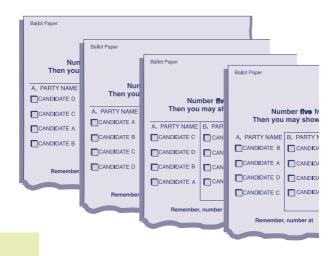
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#### About your ballot paper.

A feature of the ACT electoral system is the Robson rotation method of rotating the positions of candidates within each column on the ballot paper.

Candidates' names are printed in different positions within a column on each ballot paper. The order of the names on your ballot paper may be different from the order on the ballot paper given to the voter next to you. This means that no candidate has the advantage of appearing in the top position on every ballot paper.

By combining Robson rotation with the ban on canvassing within 100 metres of a polling place, the ACT electoral system places in your hands the opportunity to consider each candidate and vote for candidates by name in the order of your choice.



# How to fill in your ballot paper.

To record a valid vote, write the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and so on, in the squares in the order of your choice.

Don't use the same number twice.

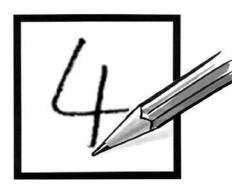
Remember, use numbers only! One of the most common mistakes is for people to use ticks and crosses on their ballot papers. This means that their vote can not be counted.

You should fill in at least as many squares as there are vacancies in your electorate: seven for Molonglo, five for Brindabella or Ginninderra.

If you don't fill in this many squares (even if you vote for only one candidate) your vote will still be counted. However, to make the most of your vote, we suggest you continue to fill in the squares until all your preferences are recorded. You may fill in every square if you wish.

If you don't vote for any candidates, your vote will be informal

If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, just return it to a polling official and ask for another.

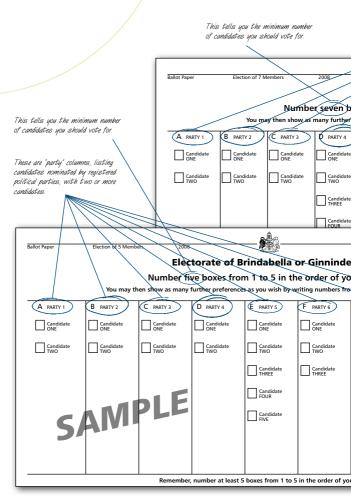


## What your ballot paper will look like.

These ballot papers show the general format to be used in the 18 October election for a 7 member and a 5 member electorate.

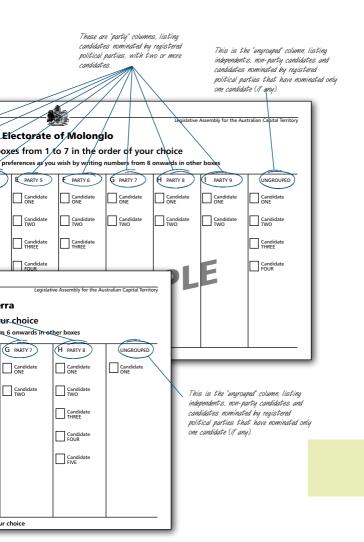
While the party columns won't change, remember, under Robson rotation candidates' names can appear in different positions within each column.

Please read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Write numbers in the squares - no ticks or crosses - and don't repeat any number.



Need more information? If you have any questions about the election, call our Elections ACT Information Line on 6205 0033.

You can also visit the Elections ACT website at: www.elections.act.gov.au to see **sample ballot papers** for each electorate.



# Electronic voting.

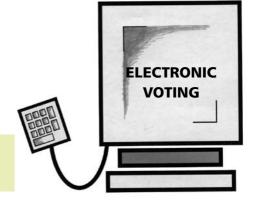
Electors at certain polling places will have the option of voting electronically. Computerised voting will be available on polling day at the following five polling places:

- BELCONNEN 🕯 Belconnen Community Centre, Swanson Ct
- CANBERRA CITY 🕹
  Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Ave
- TUGGERANONG 🎁 Salvation Army Hall, cnr of Ankatell and Reed St North
- WODEN 🕹 The Smith Family, cnr Easty and Launceston Sts

Those polling places will also be open from Monday 29 September as pre-poll centres (see page 16).

At polling places where electronic voting is available it will also be possible to vote using a traditional paper ballot if you prefer.

Votes cast electronically will be stored securely and combined with the results from paper ballots.



# Key steps in the electronic voting process.

- If you choose to vote electronically you will be issued with a barcode instead of a ballot paper. This barcode will give you secure access to an easy-to-use voting screen.
- When you swipe your barcode you will see a ballot paper for your electorate on the screen.
- By using direction keys on a key pad you can move to any candidate.
- As you SELECT the candidates you wish to vote for, preference numbers will be automatically listed for you, starting with your first preference.
- When you have completed your selection and pressed the FINISH key, you will be able to see a list of the candidates you have chosen in the order you have ranked them.
- If you wish to change your selection you can simply go back and correct it.
- If you are happy with your selection, swipe your barcode a second time and your vote will be securely recorded.
- The barcode must be deposited in the ballot box as you leave the polling place. Each barcode can be used only once.

Electronic voting instructions will be available in a number of community languages, and special audio facilities will be available to enable sight-impaired electors to vote electronically.

Further information about electronic voting is available at the Commission's website: **www.elections.act.gov.au** 

#### How the votes are counted.

Your vote is counted according to the preferences you indicate on your ballot paper. First preference (number 1) votes are counted first, then your later preferences (numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and so on) are counted as described below

To be certain of election under the Hare—Clark system, a candidate must obtain a set proportion (or quota) of the votes for his or her electorate. Any candidate whose votes equal or exceed a quota is elected.

A quota is calculated using the following formula:

quota = 
$$\frac{\text{total number of valid votes}}{\text{number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$$

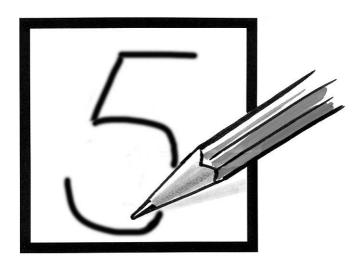
The quota in the two 5-member electorates is one-sixth, plus one, or roughly 16.67% of the valid votes. The quota in the 7-member electorate is one eighth, plus one, or roughly 12.5% of the valid votes.

A candidate may reach the quota simply by receiving first preference (number 1) votes, or by receiving a combination of first preference votes and votes transferred from other candidates who have been elected or excluded.

If a candidate has more votes than the quota, and not all vacancies have been filled, the surplus votes of that candidate are distributed to other candidates according to the preferences indicated on those ballot papers.

If, after all the surplus votes have been distributed, vacancies remain to be filled, the candidate with the fewest total votes is "excluded" and his or her ballot papers are distributed to continuing candidates according to the preferences shown by voters.

After ballot papers are distributed from an excluded candidate, the total votes for each continuing candidate are recalculated to determine whether any candidate has now received votes equal to or greater than the quota. The process of distributing surplus votes from elected candidates and excluding the candidate with the fewest votes continues until all vacancies are filled.



# **Polling Places**

# Your local polling place may have changed. Check this list carefully.

# POLLING DAY POLLING PLACES Open 8am to 6pm.

- 🕯 AINSLIE Ainslie North Primary School, Majura Ave
  - AINSLIE Ainslie Baker Gardens Pre-School, Baker Gdns
  - AMAROO Amaroo Primary School, Katherine Ave ARANDA Aranda Primary School, Banambila St
- & BARTON Telopea Park High School, New South Wales Cres
- BELCONNEN Belconnen Community Centre, Swanson Ct
  - BONYTHON Bonython Primary School, Hurtle Ave
  - BRADDON Ainslie Primary School, Elder St
    - BRUCE Calvary Hospital, Haydon Dr
    - & CALWELL Calwell High School, Casey Cres
    - & CAMPBELL Campbell Primary School, Chauvel St
- ☐ ♣ CANBERRA CITY Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Ave
  - & CHAPMAN Chapman Primary School, Perry Drive
  - & CHARNWOOD St Thomas Aguinas Primary School, Lhotsky St
  - CHISHOLM Chisholm Primary School, Hambidge Cres
  - & CONDER Charles Conder Primary School, Tom Roberts Ave
  - 🕯 CURTIN Curtin Primary School, Theodore St
  - Å DEAKIN CGGS Junior School, Grey St
    - 🕹 DICKSON Daramalan College, Cowper St
  - DOWNER Downer Community Centre, Frencham Pl
    - DUFFY Duffy Primary School, Burrinjuck Cres
    - & EVATT Evatt Primary School, Heydon Cres
    - & EVATT Miles Franklin Primary School, Alderman St
    - & FADDEN Fadden Primary School, Hanlon Cres
    - FARRER Farrer Primary School, Lambrigg St
  - 🕯 FLOREY St Francis Xavier College, Barnard Cct
  - 🕯 FRASER Fraser Primary School, Tillyard Dr
    - 🕹 GARRAN Canberra Hospital, Yamba Dr
    - & GILMORE Gilmore Primary School, Heagney Cres
    - GIRALANG Giralang Primary School, Atalumba Cl
    - & GORDON Gordon Primary School, Knoke Ave
  - 🕏 GOWRIE Gowrie Primary School, Jeffries St
    - GRIFFITH St Edmund's College, Canberra Ave
- □ 🕹 GUNGAHLIN Birralee Scout Hall, 5 The Valley Way
  - & HALL Hall Pavilion, Gladstone St
  - A HIGGINS Higgins Primary School, Fullagar Cres
  - H& HOLDER St Judes Primary School, Mulley St
  - H& HOLT Holt Primary School, Beaurepaire Cres
    - the HUGHES Hughes Primary School, Kent St
  - 🕯 ISABELLA PLAINS Isabella Plains Primary School, Ellerston Ave

- ☐ electronic voting
- full wheelchair access
- is assisted wheelchair access
- & KALEEN Kaleen Primary School, Ashburton St
- & KALEEN Maribyrnong Primary School, Alberga St
- & KAMBAH Taylor Primary School, Marconi Cres
- & KAMBAH Urambi Primary School, O'Halloran Crct
- & KAMBAH St Thomas the Apostle Primary, Boddington Cres
- & LATHAM Latham Primary School, O'Loghlen St
- 🕹 LYNEHAM Lyneham Primary School, Hall St
- LYONS Lyons Primary School, Tarraleah Cres
- MACGREGOR Macgregor Primary School, Hirschfeld Cres
- & MACQUARIE Macquarie Primary School, Bennelong Cres
- MAWSON Mawson Primary School, Ainsworth St
  - 🕹 MELBA Mt Rogers Community School Melba Campus, Alfred Hill Dr
- \* MONASH Monash Primary School, Corlette Cres

  NARRABUNDAH Narrabundah Primary School, Kootara Cres
  - & NGUNNAWAL Ngunnawal Primary School, Unaipon Ave
  - & NGUNNAWAL Ngunnawal Neighbourhood Centre, Yarrawonga St
  - NICHOLLS Gold Creek Primary School, Kelleway Ave
  - & OAKS ESTATE Oaks Estate Community Hall, 2 William St
- Å O'CONNOR Scout Hall, Hovea St
  - A PAGE St Matthew's School, Stutchbury St
  - & PALMERSTON Palmerston Primary School, Kosciusko Ave
  - & PEARCE Melrose High School, Marr St
- ዜ RED HILL Red Hill Primary School, Astrolabe St
  - & REID Reid Uniting Church Hall, 54 Coranderrk St
- RICHARDSON Richardson Primary School, May Gibbs Cl
  - SCULLIN Scullin Salvation Army Hall, Ross Smith Cres STIRLING Canberra College, Weston Campus, 71 Freemantle Dr
  - **THARWA** Tharwa Public Hall, North St
  - 🕹 THEODORE Theodore Primary School, Lawrence Wackett Cres
- ☐ Î ♣ TUGGERANONG Salvation Army Hall, Cnr Anketell St and Reed St North
  - & TURNER Turner Primary School, Condamine St
  - ★ WANNIASSA Wanniassa High School, Wheeler Cres WANNIASSA Wanniassa Hills Primary School, Langdon Ave
    - & WARAMANGA Arawang Primary School, Nemarang Cres
    - 🕹 WATSON Majura Primary School, Knox St
    - $\boldsymbol{\dot{\xi}}$  WEETANGERA Weetangera Primary School, Southwell St
  - **†** ★ WESTON Weston Creek Community Centre, Parkinson St
- ☐ ♣ WODEN The Smith Family, Cnr Easty and Launceston Sts YARRALUMLA Yarralumla Primary School, Loftus St

# **Pre-poll voting centres**

These centres are open:

- from 9am to 5pm each weekday (except the public holiday on Monday 6 October);
- from 9am to 5pm on Saturday 11 October; and
- from 9am to 8pm on Friday 17 October.

They will also open on polling day as ordinary polling places.

- BELCONNEN I & Belconnen Community Centre, Swanson Ct
- CANBERRA CITY & Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Ave
- GUNGAHLIN ♣
  Birralee Scout Hall, 5 The Valley Way
- TUGGERANONG † Salvation Army Hall, cnr of Ankatell and Reed St North
- WODEN &
  The Smith Family, cnr Easty and Launceston Sts

Electronic voting is available at these polling places. *See pages 10–11*.



## Interstate voting centres

Voting will be available at the following state and territory electoral authorities during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, from 30 September.

#### New South Wales

Electoral Commission New South Wales, Level 25. Maritime Trade Towers, 201 Kent St, Sydney

Ph: (02) 9290 5999

#### Northern Territory

Northern Territory Electoral Commission, 2nd Floor, AANT Building, 79-81 Smith St, Darwin Ph: (08) 8999 5617

#### Queensland

Electoral Commission Queensland, Level 6, Forestry House, 160 Mary Street, Brisbane Ph: 1300 881 665

#### South Australia

State Electoral Office South Australia, 134 Fullarton Rd, Rose Park, Adelaide Ph: (08) 8401 4300

#### Tasmania

Tasmanian Electoral Commission, Level 2, Telstra Centre, 70 Collins St, Hobart Ph: (03) 6233 2000

#### Victoria

Victorian Electoral Commission, Level 8. 505 Little Collins St, Melbourne Ph: (03) 9299 0520

#### Western Australia

Western Australian Electoral Commission, Level 2, 111 St George's Terrace, Perth Ph: (08) 9214 0400

Voting will also be available at the following Australian Electoral Commission offices during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, from 30 September.

GOULBURN

40 Goldsmith St Ph: (02) 4821 2980

NARRANDERA

Wade-Ferrell's Building, 4 Twynam St

Ph: (02) 6959 2300

NOWRA

3B Nowra Lane Ph: (02) 4423 3057 Elections ACT is committed to making its information, services, events and venues accessible to as many people as possible.

#### TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING SERVICE

اگر به کمک ترجمه شفاهی ضرورت دارید, به این شماره تیلفون کنید:

GREEK Αν γρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήσετε στο:

ITALIAN Se avete bisogno di un interprete, telefonate al numero:

LAO ຕ້ອ ການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫລືອກຸງລກັບການພປພາສາ. ໃຫ້ໂທຣະສັບຫາ MALTESE Jekk ghandek bzonn l-ghajnuna t'interpretu, cempel: PERSIAN اگر به ترجمه شفاهی احتیاج دارید به این شماره نلفن کنید:

RUSSIAN Если вам нужна помощь переводчика, звоните по телефону: SPANISH Si necessita la asistencia de un intérprete, llame al: Nếu bạn cần một người thông ngôn hãy gọi điện thoại:

#### TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING SERVICE

131 450

Canberra and District - 24 hours a day, seven days a week

#### ALTERNATIVE PRINT FORMAT

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format – such as large print or audio – please phone (02) 6205 0033

#### NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE (NRS)

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment you can call Elections ACT through the NRS.

#### TTY users:

Phone 133 677 and ask for (02) 6205 0033

#### Speak and listen users:

Phone 1300 555 727 and ask for (02) 6205 0033

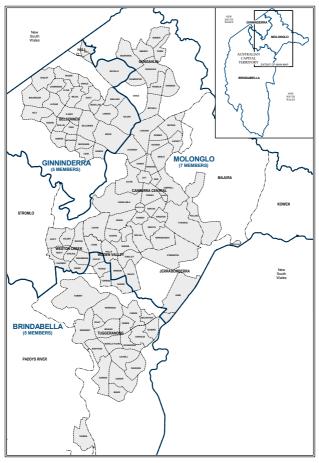
#### Internet relay users:

Connect to the NRS and ask for (02) 6205 0033

# Which electorate are you in?

# ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE 2004 ACT ELECTION.

Farrer is now in the electorate of BRINDABELLA.



# YOUR LOCAL POLLING PLACE MAY HAVE CHANGED!

If you live in or near one of these suburbs, your local polling place may have changed:

- Belconnen
- Hall
- Scullin

- Chifley
- Kambah
- Stirling

- ☐ Flynn☐ Griffith
- O'Connor Rivett
- ☐ Tharwa☐ Woden

Gungahlin

To find your nearest polling place, see pages 14-15.

# ELECTORATE BOUNDARIES HAVE ALSO CHANGED!

Electorate boundaries have changed since the 2004 election. Residents living in **FARRER** are now included in the electorate of **BRINDABELLA**. See the electorate boundaries map on page 19.

#### **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

Call our Elections ACT Information Line:

6205 0033

or email us at:

elections@act.gov.au

You can also visit the Elections ACT website at:

www.elections.act.gov.au

Authorised by Phillip Green ACT Electoral Commissioner O'Connell Centre Cnr Stuart Street and Blaxland Crescent GRIFFITH ACT 2603