

State Election 2026

Candidate Briefing Session (Townhall)
27 January 2026

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**Electoral
Commission**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Briefing Session Topics



- Key Dates
- Significant Improvements and Changes
- Advertising
- Robo-Calls / AI Generated Advertisement
- Complaints
- Nominations
- Voting Services
- Scrutiny, Counting and Results

Significant Improvements



Improved Voting
Services



Issuing and counting
votes



Strengthening
Legislative Powers



New and improved
systems

Significant Changes

Managing Staff
Fatigue

Largest
Electoral Roll

Significant
Legislative
Change

Increase
Volume in Early
Voting

First Nations
Voice Election

Donation and
Funding
Reform

Improved Voting Services

- Enrolment up to and on Polling Day
- Online Postal Vote Applications
- Removing eligibility requirements to vote early
- Telephone Assisted Voting



Issuing and Counting Votes

- Reduction of Declaration votes in Voting Centres
- Counting Ordinary Early Votes cast within District on Polling Night
- Fatigue management policy to be applied to counting times



Key Dates

Event	Date
Issue of the Writs	Saturday 21 February 2026
Nominations Open	Monday 23 February 2026
Close of Rolls	5:00 pm Friday 27 February 2026
Party Nomination Lodgement	5:00 pm Friday 27 February 2026
Nominations Close	12:00 noon Monday 2 March 2026
Declaration of nominations	Monday 2 March 2026 3pm
	– (HA)
	Monday 2 March 2026 5pm
– (LC)	
Postal Voting Application close	Friday 13 March 2026 (Interstate / Overseas) Tuesday 17 March (Intrastate)
Early Voting Commences	Saturday 14 March 2026
Polling Day	Saturday 21 March 2026
Return of the Writ to certify results	By Friday 22 May 2026 (latest day)

Advertising



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S112 – Authorisations / S112A HTVC

Name by which the person authorising is usually known

Address, not being a PO Box
(Exemption may apply)

HTVC – Must contain the candidate's name and the word 'Candidate'

S112A – Special Provisions

An Independent (Unendorsed) Candidate may apply to the Electoral Commissioner to use a post office box address



The authorisation must then contain:

PO Box address

Suburb of residence

This is for information only to avoid unnecessary complaints

S113 – Misleading Advertising

Elements of the offence:

- Statement purporting to be a statement of fact
- Inaccurate and misleading
- Material extent

All three elements must be proven for the Electoral
Commissioner to take action

S115 – Display of Advertisements

Maximum size of 1 square metre

- Same party or candidate and within 1 metre they are a single advertisement

Applies:

- Vehicle and Vessel,
- Building, Hoarding or other structure

Removal is a matter for the Council

Doesn't apply to:

- Theatres – by means of cinematograph or
- Names of candidates or political parties at or near their office or room

Corflutes – Polling Place

Maximum of twelve (12)

- Between six (6) and fifty (50) metres of entrance
- Must comply with legislation (Number, Size, Placement etc)

Within boundary of polling place (Private Place)

- No requirement to remove

Outside boundary of polling place (Public Place)

- Must be removed when outside the hours of polling

Robo-Calls / AI Generated Advertisement

(New Legislation)



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S115A – Automated Political Calls (Robocall)

Designated Entity:

Political Party / Candidate / MP

Regulated Content:

Pre-recorded message / Opinion poll / Research (Using computer scripts)

Must not:

Make, or cause or permit the making of, a call by way of telephone (including associated technology) containing regulated content.

AI Generated Electoral Advertisement

An artificially generated electoral advertisement means an electoral advertisement containing audiovisual, visual or audio content that is generated wholly by artificial intelligence.

S115B – Prohibited Use of AI



Must not:



Distribute, or cause or permit to be distributed, an AI electoral advertisement that contains:

A depiction of a simulated person performing an act that the real person depicted in the depiction did not perform



Unless:

Written consent of the real person depicted

S115C – Authorisation (AI Generated)



Must not:



**Distribute, or cause
or permit to be
distributed, an AI
electoral
advertisement**



Unless authorised:

**Spoken – same
language for 3
seconds**

**Displayed – same
language for
duration**

S115C –Authorisation Statement

To comply with s 115C, the authorisation Statement must state that the advertisement is a prescribed artificially generated electoral advertisement

For example:

“This is a prescribed artificially generated electoral advertisement”

Electoral Complaints



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Analysis (2022)



Analysis (2022)

Only **55** of the 222 allegations were substantiated

Electoral Complaints

Electoral complaints are allegations of breaches of the Act

- Must be submitted in writing
- Facts must be established
- Proof must be provided
- ECSA will not conduct research or gather further evidence
- Handled in accordance with ECSA's Feedback & Complaint Policy

Lodging Complaints

- Electoral complaints are lodged via the Feedback and Complaints Portal on the ECSA Website

ecsa.sa.gov.au/feedback-and-complaints

Complaints will not be accepted via other means

Complaints that lack substance or merit will not be investigated

Nominations



**Electoral
Commission**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Key Dates

Event	Date
Nomination Close	Noon Monday 2 March 2026
Declaration of nominations– (HA)	3:00 pm Monday 2 March 2026
– (LC)	5:00 pm Monday 2 March 2026
Voting Tickets Due	Noon, Thursday 5 March 2026
HTVC Due	5:00 pm Friday 6 March 2026

Lodging a Nomination

Make

For the House of Assembly make an appointment to lodge nominations with the Returning Officer for the District you are nominating for

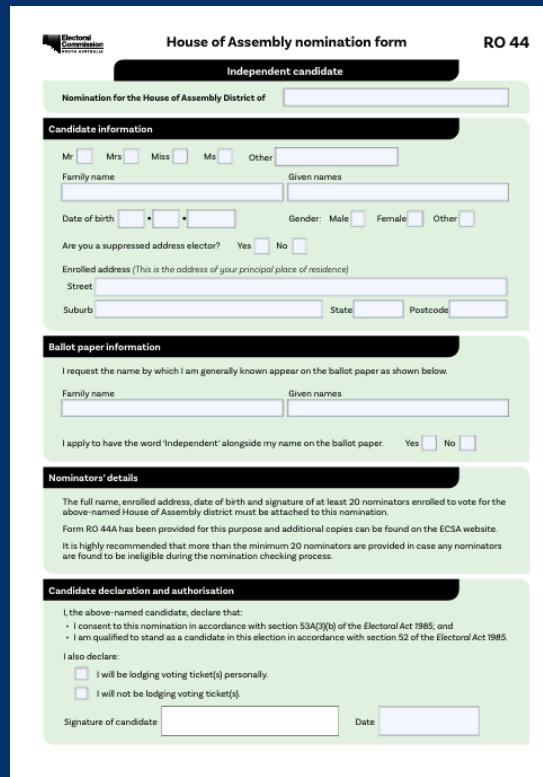
OR

For the Legislative Council with the Nominations Team

Lodged by

Nominations must be lodged by 12:00 noon on Monday 2 March 2026

Nomination Forms House of Assembly



House of Assembly nomination form
RO 44
Independent candidate

Nomination for the House of Assembly District of [REDACTED]

Candidate information

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other
Family name [REDACTED] Given names [REDACTED]
Date of birth [REDACTED] Gender: Male Female Other
Are you a suppressed address elector? Yes No
Enrolled address (This is the address of your principal place of residence)
Street [REDACTED]
Suburb [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Postcode [REDACTED]

Ballot paper information

I request the name by which I am generally known appear on the ballot paper as below.
Family name [REDACTED] Given names [REDACTED]

I apply to have the word 'Independent' alongside my name on the ballot paper. Yes No

Nominators' details

The full name, enrolled address, date of birth and signature of at least 20 nominators enrolled to vote for the above-named House of Assembly district must be attached to this nomination.

Form RO 44A has been provided for this purpose and additional copies can be found on the ECSA website. It is highly recommended that more than the minimum 20 nominators are provided in case any nominators are found to be ineligible during the nomination checking process.

Candidate declaration and authorisation

I, the above-named candidate, declare that:

- I consent to this nomination in accordance with section 53A(3)(b) of the Electoral Act 1985, and
- I am qualified to stand as a candidate in this election in accordance with section 52 of the Electoral Act 1985.

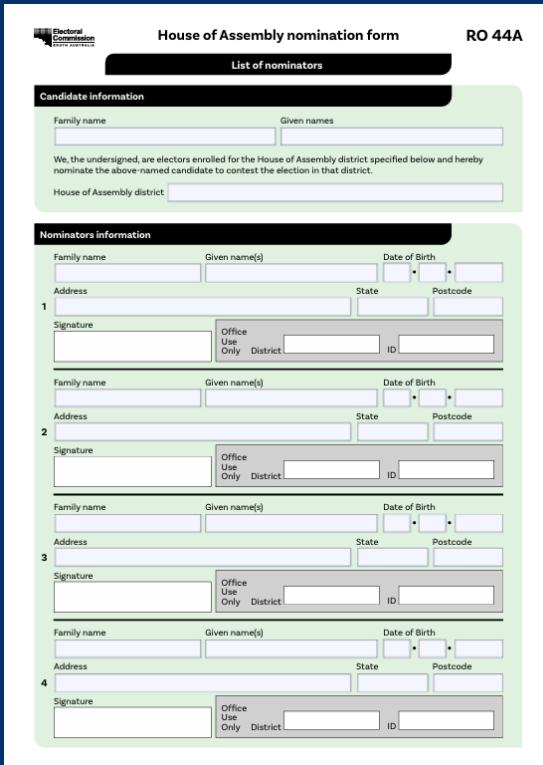
I also declare:

- I will be lodging voting ticket(s) personally.
- I will not be lodging voting ticket(s).

Signature of candidate [REDACTED] Date [REDACTED]

Form RO 44
Independent Candidate Nomination Form
Completed with various details, including candidate's enrolled address, contact details, ballot paper name, and voting ticket lodgement intention.

Nomination Forms House of Assembly



The image shows the 'House of Assembly nomination form RO 44A'. The form is titled 'House of Assembly nomination form' and 'RO 44A'. It is a 'List of nominators' declaration form. The 'Candidate information' section includes fields for 'Family name' and 'Given names', and a statement: 'We, the undersigned, are electors enrolled for the House of Assembly district specified below and hereby nominate the above-named candidate to contest the election in that district.' The 'House of Assembly district' is listed as 'SA 5000'. The 'Nominators information' section contains four rows, each for a nominator. Each row includes fields for 'Family name', 'Given name(s)', 'Date of Birth', 'Address', 'State', 'Postcode', 'Signature', and 'Office Use Only District ID'. The rows are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Form RO 44A
List of Nominators (Declaration Form)
Completed with the names, enrolled address, date of birth and signatures of at least 20 nominators who are electors enrolled for the House of Assembly district for which the candidate is nominating.
However, if an independent (entitled) candidate has lodged a 130PF certificate for advanced funding they do not need to lodge the form RO44A at the time of nomination.

Nomination Forms

Legislative Council – Independent ungrouped

The form is titled 'Legislative Council nomination form' and 'Independent ungrouped candidate nomination'. It is numbered 'RO 55'. The 'Candidate information' section includes fields for gender (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Other), family name, given names, date of birth, gender (Male, Female, Other), and address (Street, Suburb, State, SA, Postcode). The 'Ballot paper information' section includes fields for family name, given names, and a declaration about having 'Independent' printed on the ballot paper. The 'Nominators' details' section contains a note about nominators being unique to each candidate, a note about nominators supporting only one candidate, and a note about providing at least 250 nominators.

Form RO 55

This form includes a candidate's information and their candidate declaration. It should be used where a candidate is independent and does not intend to be part of a group of candidates. Independent ungrouped candidate nomination

Nomination Forms

Legislative Council – Independent ungrouped

Form RO 56 List of nominators

This form should be used to record the details and signatures of the 250 or more eligible electors who are nominating an independent candidate.

The 250 or more nominators must be unique to each candidate nominating in the Legislative Council election. Any elector that signs more than one nomination paper cannot be counted as part of the required 250 nominators for any of the candidates who they nominate.

Nomination Forms

Legislative Council – Independent grouped

Legislative Council nomination form
RO 54

Independent grouped candidate nomination

Candidate information

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other
Family name Given names
Date of birth / / Gender: Male Female Other
Are you a suppressed address elector? Yes No
Enrolled address (This is the address of your principal place of residence)
Street Suburb State SA Postcode

Ballot paper information

I request that the name by which I am generally known appear on the ballot paper as shown below.
Family name Given names

Nominators' details

The full name, enrolled address, date of birth and signature of at least 250 nominators enrolled to vote must be attached to this nomination.
Form RO 56 has been provided for the purpose of recording the above-listed details and signatures of the nominators.
The 250 nominators must be unique to each candidate nominating in the Legislative Council election. No nominator may support more than one candidate. A nominator attempting to support more than one candidate shall be ineligible to support any candidates.
It is highly recommended that more than the minimum 250 nominators are provided in case any nominators are found to be ineligible during the nomination checking process.

Candidate declaration and authorisation

I, the above-named candidate, declare that:

- I consent to this nomination in accordance with section 53A(3)(b) of the Electoral Act 1985; and
- I am qualified to stand as a candidate in this election in accordance with section 52 of the Electoral Act 1985.

Signature of candidate Date / /

Legislative Council nomination form
RO 54A

Application for a group on the ballot paper - independent group

Group authorised member information

Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other
Family name Given names
Phone number Email address
Signature of authorised member Date / /

Declaration and authorisation

We, the undersigned independent candidates nominating to contest the Legislative Council election, apply under section 58 of the Electoral Act 1985 to have our names grouped and printed on the ballot paper in the order shown below:

1. Candidate <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>
2. Candidate <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>
3. Candidate <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>
4. Candidate <input type="text"/>	Signature <input type="text"/>

We apply to have the word 'Independent' printed on the ballot paper alongside our names and group voting square (if requesting one above): Yes No

Notes

- This form must be lodged before the hour of nomination along with a completed form RO 54 for each candidate, as well as each candidate's completed lists of nominator forms RO 56.
- How-to-vote cards for display in polling booths under section 66 of the Electoral Act 1985 must be approved by the Electoral Commissioner and lodged with the Electoral Commission SA no later than 4 days after the day for nomination.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received / / Time AM PM Signature of receiving officer

Form RO54 Independent grouped candidate nomination

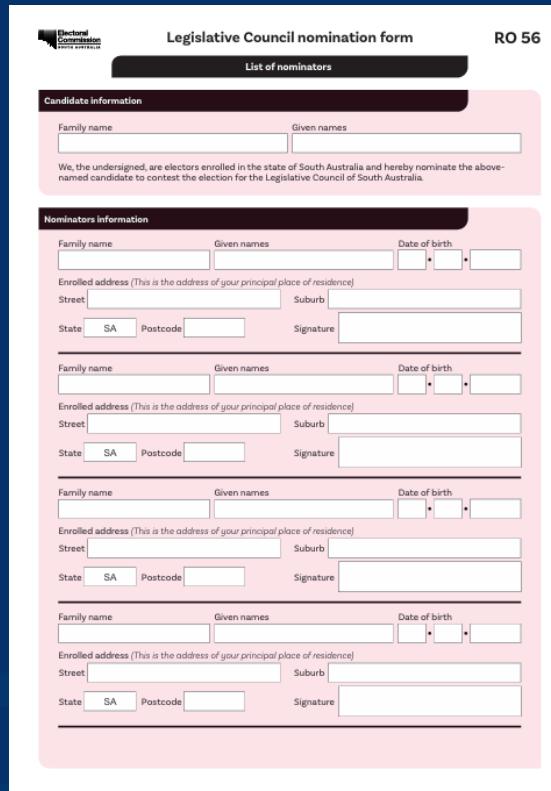
This form should be used where a candidate is independent and intends to be part of a group of candidates.

Form RO54A Application for a group on the ballot paper – independent group

This form should be used where two or more independent candidates are applying for a group on the ballot paper.

Nomination Forms

Legislative Council – Independent grouped



The form is a pink and white document with a header 'Legislative Council nomination form' and 'RO 56'. It has a section for 'Candidate information' and 'Nominators information'. The 'Nominators information' section is repeated five times, each with fields for Family name, Given names, Date of birth, Enrolled address, Suburb, State, Postcode, and Signature. A note at the top states: 'We, the undersigned, are electors enrolled in the state of South Australia and hereby nominate the above-named candidate to contest the election for the Legislative Council of South Australia.'

Form RO56 List of nominators

This form should be used to record the details and signatures of the 250 or more eligible electors who are nominating an independent candidate. The 250 or more nominators must be unique to each candidate nominating in the Legislative Council election. Any elector that signs more than one nomination paper cannot be counted as part of the required 250 nominators for any of the candidates who they nominate.

It is highly recommended that each independent candidate provide more than 250 unique nominators in support of their Legislative Council nomination. That way, the nomination will not

Candidate Declaration & Authorisation



CONSENT /
ELIGIBILITY



BALLOT PAPER
AUTHORISATION



VOTING TICKET
PATHWAY



DECIDE EARLY

Deposit

- Deposit (each endorsed candidate):

House of Assembly - \$1,000

Legislative Council - \$3,000

- Payment Method:

- Bankers cheque payable to the Electoral Commission of South Australia; or
- Electronic Funds Transfer using the payment identifier
{DISTRICT Name_SURNAME_HA/LC Deposit}
- You must provide a printed receipt

To obtain a refund of deposit a Candidate must receive 4% (HA) or 2% (LC) of the total first preference votes

Declaration of Nominations



House of Assembly

3:00 pm on Monday 2 March 2026



Legislative Council candidates

5:00 pm on Monday 2 March 2026



Addresses of candidates with suppressed addresses will be withheld



The draw for position of names on ballot papers will commence immediately following the declarations

Voting Tickets (House of Assembly)



**Electoral
Commission**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Voting Tickets

 **House of Assembly voting tickets lodgement** RO 45

Independent candidate

House of Assembly district of [Redacted]

I, the undersigned candidate, hereby lodge the following voting ticket(s) indicating a preference for ALL candidates contesting the above election.

Candidate information

Family name [Redacted] Given names [Redacted]

Signature of candidate [Redacted] Date [Redacted]

Voting tickets

Voting Ticket Number 1 (see Note 1)
Indicate order of preference (see Note 2)
Indicate names of candidates in the same order they will appear on the ballot paper (see Note 3)

Voting Ticket Number 2 (see Note 1)
Indicate order of preference (see Note 2)
Indicate names of candidates in the same order they will appear on the ballot paper (see Note 3)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received [Redacted] / [Redacted] / [Redacted] Time [Redacted] AM / PM Signature of receiving officer [Redacted]

Notes

1. Either 1 or 2 voting tickets may be lodged by each candidate.
2. The voting tickets must commence with the number 1 against the above-named candidate and then indicate by continuing consecutive numbers an order of preference for all candidates in the election.
3. Candidate names must be displayed on the voting ticket in the same order in which candidate names will appear on the ballot paper.
4. This form must reach either the Electoral Commission SA or the Returning Officer for the district within 72 hours from 12 noon of the day of the close of nominations.

Voting Tickets – cont'd

- They express preferences for all candidates contesting the election in a district
- The number 1 must be in the square for the candidate registering the voting ticket and indicate consecutive numbers/preferences
- Up to two separate voting tickets may be lodged per candidate

Voting Tickets – cont'd

- If a candidate intends to lodge a voting ticket they must indicate this on their nomination form* (s63)
- The Voting Ticket must be lodged by 12 noon, Thursday 5 March 2026 (72 hours after close of nominations) provided the candidate has indicated their intention to lodge voting ticket(s) on the nomination form*
- Returning Officers will use voting tickets to interpret partially completed ballot papers during scrutiny and counting

How to Vote Cards (HTVC)



**Electoral
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

How-To-Vote Cards

Each candidate may lodge a How-to-Vote card with ECSA for display in polling place voting screens and available in booklet form

House of Assembly: 150mm length and 90mm width

Legislative Council: 65mm length and 145mm width



May be submitted in hard copy or emailed (in PDF), adhering to the above size requirements and be correctly authorised

How-To-Vote Cards – cont'd



Format approval can be obtained from ECSA prior to lodgement deadline



How-to-Vote cards must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Friday 6 March 2026



The rules for How-to-Vote cards to be handed out by candidates/ party workers are different and are covered by s112A and Reg 20

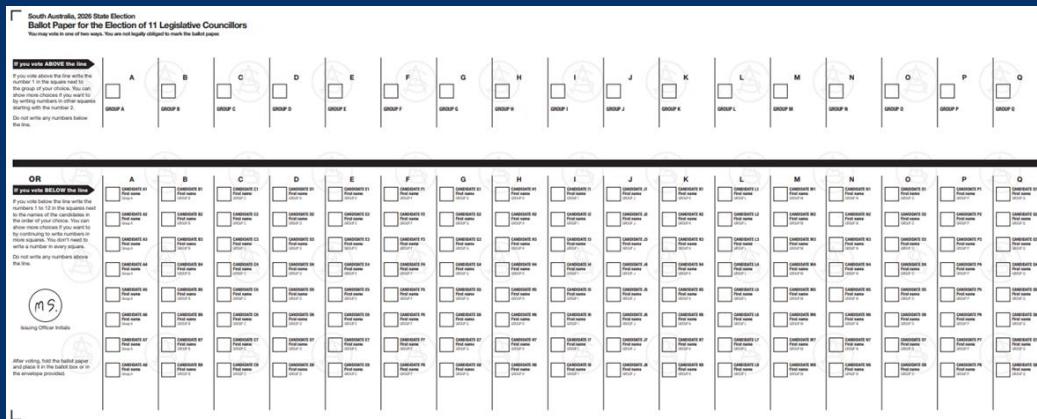


More information can be found in the Candidate Guides

Legislative Council – Ballot Paper

Changes to the Legislative Council ballot paper

- Following changes to the regulations, ballot paper instructions have been improved to make it easier for voters to understand how to vote formally above vs below the line



Ballot papers will now be printed black on white vs previously red on white

Legislative Council – Ballot Paper

The Legislative Council ballot paper has group voting squares above the line

A request for a group voting square can only be made by a group comprising 2 or more candidates .

Should a group consisting of two candidates have one candidate's nomination fail, the remaining candidate will not have a group voting square above the line and they will appear as an ungrouped candidate below the line in the last column

Voting Services

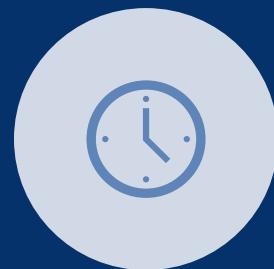


**Electoral
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Polling Booth



690 POLLING BOOTHS



OPEN BETWEEN 8:00 AM AND
6:00 PM



NO PERSON CAN CANVAS
FOR VOTES WITHIN 6
METRES OF THE ENTRANCE
OF A POLLING BOOTH (S125)



No scrutineer may wear or
display in a polling booth any
badge or emblem of a candidate
or political party (s121)

Early Voting Centres

59 Planned location

Saturday 14 to the Friday 20 March (Closed Sunday)

8am to 6pm – Monday to Saturday (Thurs 8pm- various locations)

Removed eligibility criteria and introduced ordinary voting.

In-person voting will be available at selected overseas locations and at all interstate Electoral Commissions across Australia.

Remote Mobile Polling Team



24 REMOTE LOCATIONS



MAY BE CONDUCTED DURING THE
12 DAYS UP TO AND INCLUDING
POLLING DAY



CANDIDATES/REGISTERED PARTIES
WILL BE ADVISED OF REMOTE
MOBILE POLLING SCHEDULES

Electoral Visitor

Electoral Visitor teams to provide voting services to electors who may have difficulty attending an early voting centre or polling booth on polling day.



Estimated ECSA will visit 266 institutions:

Residential care facilities, aged-care facilities, hospitals, and correctional institutions.

Telephone Assisted Voting

Intended for electors who are:

- sight impaired, or
- who cannot otherwise vote due to a motor impairment

Two-step process:

- Registration: Confirm identity and eligibility.
- Voting: Take vote (Elector details not known by vote-taker)

Hours:

- Saturday 14 to Saturday 21 March (closed Sunday)

Postal Voting

Applications Period:

- 2 February to Tuesday 17 March (13 March if Interstate/Overseas)

Application Process:

- Online Portal and Telephone

Postal Voting kits will be dispatched

- From Tuesday 10 March

Postal Votes must be received back by Saturday 28 March to be admitted in the count

Postal Vote Application

- Must not distribute, or cause or permit to be distributed, to an elector:
 - (a) a form for, or purporting to be for, the application for the issue of declaration voting papers (an application form); or
 - (b) material containing, or purporting to contain, a link, code or other means by which an elector is able to apply for the issue of declaration voting papers

Scrutiny, Count and Results



**Electoral
Commission**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Election Night

(Polling Booth & Early Voting Centre Counts)



House of Assembly

First preference count
Two-candidate preferred count



Legislative Council

First preference count
(only at polling booths)



Results

Data is entered by the Returning Officer
Transmitted to ECSA website and the media via live feed

Counting cut-off times: 11pm at polling booths; 1am at EVCs

Sunday Counts

(continuation of the Polling Booth & Early Voting Centre counts)

From midday:

At Early Voting Centres

- Finish HA counts if not completed on election night
- Perform the LC first preference count

At district Returning Officers' premises

- Finish any polling booth counts not completed on election night

Results are data entered and transmitted live to the ECSA website and media

House of Assembly – Recheck counts

(Commencing the Monday after polling day)

Every HA ballot paper counted on election night or on Sunday is counted a second time by the District Returning Officer



Polling booth and early voting
centre ballot papers

first preference recheck count
two-candidate preferred recheck
count*



Ballot papers are retained in polling place bundles

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

Absent Vote Counts

(Commencing the Tuesday after Polling Day)

- After Polling Day, all out-of-district votes cast at polling booths and early voting centres are transferred in their envelopes to the relevant district Returning Officer
- Ballot papers will be extracted, counted and reported in 2 separate categories:
 - Polling Day absent votes
 - Early voting absent votes



The Returning Officer will undertake the following counts:

House of Assembly

First preference count

Two-candidate preferred count*

Legislative Council

Group first preference count

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

Declaration Vote Counts

(From the Monday after Polling Day)

At the 2026 State Election there will be 5 separate categories of declaration votes:

- Polling Day declaration votes
- Early Voting declaration votes
- Postal votes
- Electoral visitor / mobile polling declaration votes
- Telephone, interstate and overseas votes

Each category will be counted and reported separately by the Returning Officers.



House of Assembly

First preference count
Two-candidate preferred count*



Legislative Council

Group first preference count

The Returning Officer will undertake the following counts:

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

House of Assembly Distribution of Preferences (on Sunday 29 March)



House of Assembly

The Returning Officers will amalgamate
polling place and other ballot papers

Group to first preference and count

Exclude in order the candidate with the least
votes until the final two candidates remain

Legislative Council – Counts

(Post-Election Weekend)

- Full scrutiny and counting of LC ballot papers takes 3-4 weeks longer than the HA counts.
- All LC ballot papers are transferred to the Central Processing Centre for a recheck count by the Returning Officer Legislative Council.
- Single preference above-the-line ballot papers are data entered into ECSA's count software.
- Ballot papers marked below-the-line, that have multiple preferences above-the-line, or are informal are sent to the scanning centre for scanning and data entry.
- After final reconciliation, ECSA's count software completes the full preference distribution and elects the 11 members.

Declarations of the Poll

House of Assembly

- Commencing Monday 30 March
- Finalised all districts by Thursday 2 April

Legislative Council

- Finalised by Friday 1 May

Sunday Counts

(Polling Booth & EVC Counts)

From midday:

EVCs

- Finish HA counts if not completed on election night
- perform LC first preference count

District ROs

- Finish any polling booth counts not completed on election night

Results are data entered and transmitted to the ECSA website and media

House of Assembly – Recheck counts

Every HA ballot paper counted on election night or Sunday is counted a second time by the District RO



Polling booth and EVCs

first preference recheck count

two-candidate preferred recheck count*



Ballot papers retained in polling place bundles

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

Absent Vote Counts

(From the Tuesday after Polling Day)

- All out of district votes from polling booths and EVCs are transferred in their envelopes to the relevant district RO after Polling Day.
- Ballot papers are extracted, counted and reported in 2 separate categories:
 - Polling Day absent votes
 - Early voting absent votes

The RO will undertake the following counts:



House of Assembly

First preference count
Two-candidate preferred count*



Legislative Council

Group first preference count

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

Declaration Vote Counts

(From the Monday after Polling Day)

There are 5 separate categories of declaration votes:

- Polling Day declaration votes
- Early Voting declaration votes
- Postal votes
- Electoral visitor / mobile polling declaration votes
- Telephone, interstate and overseas votes

Each category will be counted and reported separately.

The RO will undertake the following counts:



House of Assembly

First preference count
Two-candidate preferred count*



Legislative Council

Group first preference count

*If the two candidates selected for the Two Candidate Preferred count in a district are not the ALP and LIB candidates, a separate Two-Party Preferred count will be performed later in the week.

House of Assembly Distribution of Preferences



House of Assembly – Sunday 29 March

Amalgamate polling place and other ballot papers

Group to first preference and count

Exclude candidate with least votes until two remain

Legislative Council – Counts

(Post-Election Weekend)

- Full scrutiny and counting of LC ballot papers takes 3-4 weeks longer than the HA count.
- All LC ballot papers are transferred to the CPC for a recheck count by the RO LC.
- Single preference above-the-line ballot papers are data entered into ECSA's count software.
- Ballot papers marked below-the-line, that have multiple preferences above-the-line, or are informal are sent to the scanning centre for scanning and data entry.
- After final reconciliation, ECSA's software completes the full preference distribution and elects the 11 members.

Declaration of the Poll

House of Assembly

- Commencing Monday 30 March
- Finalised all districts by Thursday 2 April

Legislative Council

- Finalised by Friday 1 May

Scrutineers

The conduct of the election is open to scrutineers

Each candidate may appoint up to two scrutineers to represent them at any polling place, or scrutiny and count.

Please refer to the *Scrutineer Guide* and *Candidate Guide* for detailed information

Returning Officers will inform candidates of scrutiny and counting schedules following polling day.

Media Events

- Notify ECSA's Media Liaison Officer before any media activity at voting centres or ECSA locations.
 - Requests will be accommodated where possible.
 - Out of courtesy please seek permission before taking photographs of ECSA staff
 - ECSA staff will accompany media inside centres for filming.
- Attendance arrangements
ecsa.media@sa.gov.au | 0401 149 166

ECSA's priority during early voting and polling day is running electoral operations.



Inclusive Polling

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program

Polling officials will be trained to support voters with hidden disabilities. Officials will wear the white and green sunflower lanyard so voters can easily identify who to approach for assistance.

Three Inclusive Polling Locations

Three locations have been selected with set-down or decompression areas to provide a calmer entry into the polling place.

ECSA requests that Candidate / Party supporters minimise activities at these locations.

Strengthening Legislative Powers

Increased legislative provisions to deal with people that are:

- Misbehaving
- Obstructing and/or delaying proceedings



Conduct at or near Polling Location (or Count Centre)



A person must not:

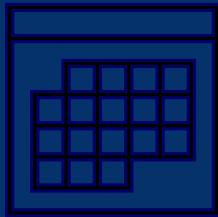
- (a) obstruct the access or approaches
- (b) obstruct or unnecessarily delay
- (c) behave in a disorderly manner



An authorised officer may give such directions as are necessary to maintain order at an election or at or in the immediate vicinity of a designated place

Key Take Homes

Plan Early



- Work backwards from key statutory deadlines.
- Avoid last-minute lodgements for nominations, HTVs, and voting tickets.



✓ Meet Compliance Obligations

- Authorise all campaign material.
- Ensure any factual statements are accurate.
- Follow size, placement, and display rules for advertising.

Key Take Homes

Nominations



- Use the correct HA/LC forms and ensure all signatures are complete.
- Bring deposit receipts (HA \$1,000 / LC \$3,000).
- Indicate voting-ticket intention on the nomination form.



Conduct Requirements

- No obstruction, delays or disorderly behaviour near polling or count locations.
- Authorised officers may direct individuals to maintain order.

Final Message



BE PREPARED



BE ACCURATE



BE COMPLIANT

GOOD PREPARATION ENSURES A SMOOTH ELECTION
PERIOD

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Quick Links

- [Electoral Reform](#)
- [Advance funding](#)
- [Disclosure returns](#)
- [Administrative Funding](#)
- [Policy Development Funding](#)
- [Electoral Advertising](#)