

# State Election 2026

*Candidate Briefing Session (Townhall)*  
*27 January 2026*

While ECSA provides information in relation to the operation of the Act, the information we provide does not constitute legal advice, an indication of liability, or an exemption of liability for offences under the Act.

ECSA takes no responsibility for decisions made by recipients, donors, agents, or other entities with obligations under the Act. ECSA lawfully cannot and will not exempt any person from prosecution for any offence under the Act.

# 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	– (HA)	Monday 2 March 2026 3pm
	– (LC)	Monday 2 March 2026 5pm
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



**Electoral  
Commission**  

---

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



# 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

## Doesn't apply to:

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

Removal is a  
matter for the  
Council

# 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)



**Electoral  
Commission**

---

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# 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



**Electoral  
Commission**  

---

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# 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](https://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

**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  Postcode

**Ballot paper information**

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

Family name  Given names

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 52A(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  Date

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

 **House of Assembly nomination form** **RO 44A**

**List of nominators**

**Candidate information**

Family name  Given names

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.

House of Assembly district

**Nominators information**

1

Family name  Given name(s)  Date of Birth

Address  State  Postcode

Signature  Office Use Only  District  ID

2

Family name  Given name(s)  Date of Birth

Address  State  Postcode

Signature  Office Use Only  District  ID

3

Family name  Given name(s)  Date of Birth

Address  State  Postcode

Signature  Office Use Only  District  ID

4

Family name  Given name(s)  Date of Birth

Address  State  Postcode

Signature  Office Use Only  District  ID

## 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

 **Legislative Council nomination form** **RO 55**

**Independent ungrouped 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

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

**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.

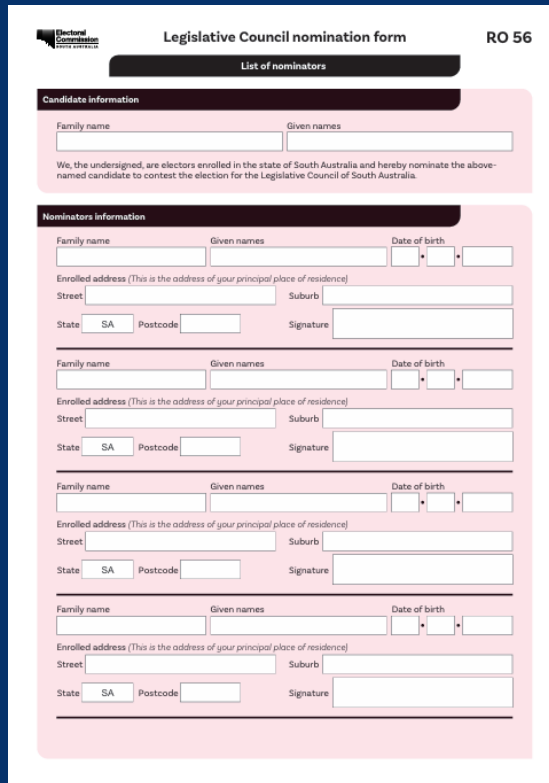
It is highly recommended that more than the minimum 250 nominators are provided in case any nominators are found to be ineligible during the nomination checking process.

### 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



The image shows a sample of the 'Legislative Council nomination form' (Form RO 56) from the Electoral Commission of South Australia. The form is titled 'Legislative Council nomination form' and 'RO 56'. It includes a section for 'List of nominators' and a 'Candidate information' section. The 'Candidate information' section contains fields for 'Family name' and 'Given names'. Below this, there is a statement: '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.' The 'Nominators information' section contains four identical blocks, each with fields for 'Family name', 'Given names', 'Date of birth', 'Enrolled address (This is the address of your principal place of residence)', 'Street', 'Suburb', 'State' (with a dropdown menu set to 'SA'), 'Postcode', and 'Signature'.

### 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  Signature

2. Candidate  Signature

3. Candidate  Signature

4. Candidate  Signature

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**

1. 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.
2. 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.

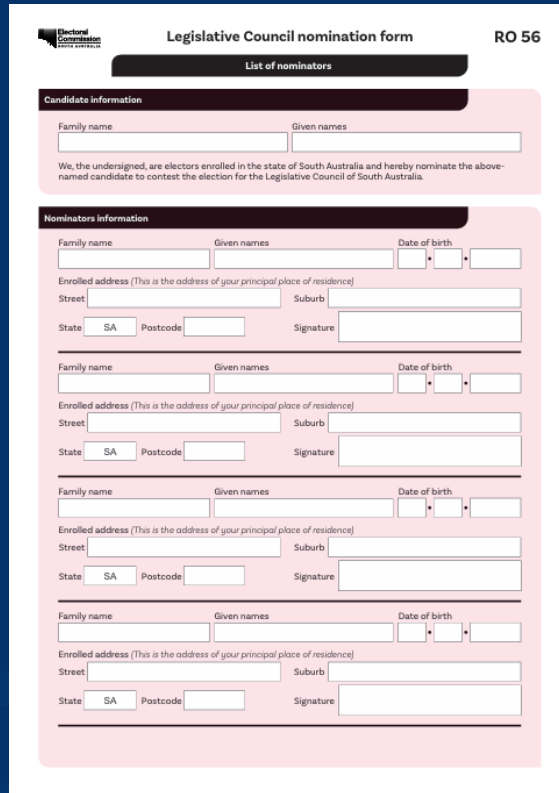
Form RO54A Application for a group on the ballot paper – independent group

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 image shows a sample of the 'Legislative Council nomination form' (Form RO56) from the Electoral Commission of South Australia. The form is titled 'List of nominators' and is divided into two main sections: 'Candidate information' and 'Nominators information'. The 'Candidate information' section includes fields for 'Family name' and 'Given names', and a statement: '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.' The 'Nominators information' section contains four identical blocks, each with fields for 'Family name', 'Given names', 'Date of birth', 'Enrolled address (This is the address of your principal place of residence)', 'Street', 'Suburb', 'State' (with 'SA' selected), 'Postcode', and 'Signature'.

### 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

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

Given names

Signature of candidate

Date

Voting tickets

Voting Ticket Number 1 (see Note 1)		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)	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)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received

Time

AM

PM

Signature of receiving officer

Notes

1. Either 1 or 2 voting tickets may be lodged by each candidate.
2. The voting ticket 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  
Commission**  

---

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

# Changes to the Legislative Council ballot paper

- South Australia, 2020 State Election**  
**Bullet Paper for the Election of 11 Legislative Councilors**  
 This paper is one of five pages. You are not legally obliged to mark this ballot paper.

**If you write ABOVE the box**

If you write above the box write the number 1 in the circle next to the group of your choice. You can also write the number if you want to. To write numbers in other areas starting with the number 2, do not write any numbers below the line.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8	GROUP 9	GROUP 10	GROUP 11	GROUP 12	GROUP 13	GROUP 14	GROUP 15	GROUP 16	GROUP 17

**OR**

**If you write BELOW the box**

If you write below the box write the number 1 in the circle next to the number of the candidates in the column of your choice. You can also write the number if you want to. To write numbers in other areas starting with the number 2, do not write any numbers above the line.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CANDIDATE 01	CANDIDATE 02	CANDIDATE 03	CANDIDATE 04	CANDIDATE 05	CANDIDATE 06	CANDIDATE 07	CANDIDATE 08	CANDIDATE 09	CANDIDATE 10	CANDIDATE 11	CANDIDATE 12	CANDIDATE 13	CANDIDATE 14	CANDIDATE 15	CANDIDATE 16	CANDIDATE 17
CANDIDATE 18	CANDIDATE 19	CANDIDATE 20	CANDIDATE 21	CANDIDATE 22	CANDIDATE 23	CANDIDATE 24	CANDIDATE 25	CANDIDATE 26	CANDIDATE 27	CANDIDATE 28	CANDIDATE 29	CANDIDATE 30	CANDIDATE 31	CANDIDATE 32	CANDIDATE 33	CANDIDATE 34
CANDIDATE 35	CANDIDATE 36	CANDIDATE 37	CANDIDATE 38	CANDIDATE 39	CANDIDATE 40	CANDIDATE 41	CANDIDATE 42	CANDIDATE 43	CANDIDATE 44	CANDIDATE 45	CANDIDATE 46	CANDIDATE 47	CANDIDATE 48	CANDIDATE 49	CANDIDATE 50	CANDIDATE 51
CANDIDATE 52	CANDIDATE 53	CANDIDATE 54	CANDIDATE 55	CANDIDATE 56	CANDIDATE 57	CANDIDATE 58	CANDIDATE 59	CANDIDATE 60	CANDIDATE 61	CANDIDATE 62	CANDIDATE 63	CANDIDATE 64	CANDIDATE 65	CANDIDATE 66	CANDIDATE 67	CANDIDATE 68
CANDIDATE 69	CANDIDATE 70	CANDIDATE 71	CANDIDATE 72	CANDIDATE 73	CANDIDATE 74	CANDIDATE 75	CANDIDATE 76	CANDIDATE 77	CANDIDATE 78	CANDIDATE 79	CANDIDATE 80	CANDIDATE 81	CANDIDATE 82	CANDIDATE 83	CANDIDATE 84	CANDIDATE 85
CANDIDATE 86	CANDIDATE 87	CANDIDATE 88	CANDIDATE 89	CANDIDATE 90	CANDIDATE 91	CANDIDATE 92	CANDIDATE 93	CANDIDATE 94	CANDIDATE 95	CANDIDATE 96	CANDIDATE 97	CANDIDATE 98	CANDIDATE 99	CANDIDATE 100	CANDIDATE 101	CANDIDATE 102
CANDIDATE 103	CANDIDATE 104	CANDIDATE 105	CANDIDATE 106	CANDIDATE 107	CANDIDATE 108	CANDIDATE 109	CANDIDATE 110	CANDIDATE 111	CANDIDATE 112	CANDIDATE 113	CANDIDATE 114	CANDIDATE 115	CANDIDATE 116	CANDIDATE 117	CANDIDATE 118	CANDIDATE 119
CANDIDATE 120	CANDIDATE 121	CANDIDATE 122	CANDIDATE 123	CANDIDATE 124	CANDIDATE 125	CANDIDATE 126	CANDIDATE 127	CANDIDATE 128	CANDIDATE 129	CANDIDATE 130	CANDIDATE 131	CANDIDATE 132	CANDIDATE 133	CANDIDATE 134	CANDIDATE 135	CANDIDATE 136
CANDIDATE 137	CANDIDATE 138	CANDIDATE 139	CANDIDATE 140	CANDIDATE 141	CANDIDATE 142	CANDIDATE 143	CANDIDATE 144	CANDIDATE 145	CANDIDATE 146	CANDIDATE 147	CANDIDATE 148	CANDIDATE 149	CANDIDATE 150	CANDIDATE 151	CANDIDATE 152	CANDIDATE 153
CANDIDATE 154	CANDIDATE 155	CANDIDATE 156	CANDIDATE 157	CANDIDATE 158	CANDIDATE 159	CANDIDATE 160	CANDIDATE 161	CANDIDATE 162	CANDIDATE 163	CANDIDATE 164	CANDIDATE 165	CANDIDATE 166	CANDIDATE 167	CANDIDATE 168	CANDIDATE 169	CANDIDATE 170
CANDIDATE 171	CANDIDATE 172	CANDIDATE 173	CANDIDATE 174	CANDIDATE 175	CANDIDATE 176	CANDIDATE 177	CANDIDATE 178	CANDIDATE 179	CANDIDATE 180	CANDIDATE 181	CANDIDATE 182	CANDIDATE 183	CANDIDATE 184	CANDIDATE 185	CANDIDATE 186	CANDIDATE 187
CANDIDATE 188	CANDIDATE 189	CANDIDATE 190	CANDIDATE 191	CANDIDATE 192	CANDIDATE 193	CANDIDATE 194	CANDIDATE 195	CANDIDATE 196	CANDIDATE 197	CANDIDATE 198	CANDIDATE 199	CANDIDATE 200	CANDIDATE 201	CANDIDATE 202	CANDIDATE 203	CANDIDATE 204
CANDIDATE 205	CANDIDATE 206	CANDIDATE 207	CANDIDATE 208	CANDIDATE 209	CANDIDATE 210	CANDIDATE 211	CANDIDATE 212	CANDIDATE 213	CANDIDATE 214	CANDIDATE 215	CANDIDATE 216	CANDIDATE 217	CANDIDATE 218	CANDIDATE 219	CANDIDATE 220	CANDIDATE 221
CANDIDATE 222	CANDIDATE 223	CANDIDATE 224	CANDIDATE 225	CANDIDATE 226	CANDIDATE 227	CANDIDATE 228	CANDIDATE 229	CANDIDATE 230	CANDIDATE 231	CANDIDATE 232	CANDIDATE 233	CANDIDATE 234	CANDIDATE 235	CANDIDATE 236		



**Electoral Commission**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# 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  
Commission**  

---

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 ECSCA 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.

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.

# 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](mailto: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:

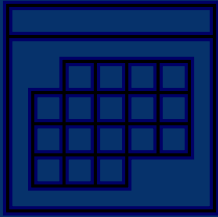
- (a) obstruct the access or approaches
- (b) obstruct or unnecessarily delay
- (c) behave in a disorderly manner



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

# Points of Contact

Mick Sherry Electoral Commissioner	08 7424 7400  Electoral.Commissioner@sa.gov.au
--	--

Dan Moriarty Manager Compliance	08 8429 3084  Daniel.Moriarty@sa.gov.au
---------------------------------------	---

Mario Armiento Nominations Manager – HA	08 7424 7400  Mario.Armiento@sa.gov.au
---	--

Daniel Marx Returning Officer – LC	08 7424 7446  Daniel.Marx@sa.gov.au
--	---

# Quick Links

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