



# Voting Options at the 2021 State General Election

The 2021 State election voting period runs from Wednesday 24 February through to election day on Saturday 13 March. A range of options are available to electors to be able to cast their vote conveniently and safely. The WA Electoral Commission is encouraging all electors to plan how, where and when they will vote.

Voting at State elections is compulsory for citizens over the age of 18, but to be able to vote you must be on the State electoral roll. You can enrol or check your enrolment online at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au) or contact 13 63 06 for assistance.

## Voting Options

- **Postal Voting:** From late January 2021, electors may apply for a postal vote online at [www.elections.wa.gov.au/pva](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/pva) or call 13 63 06 to have an application form posted to you. Once applications have been processed, postal vote ballot papers will be progressively sent to electors from 22 February. You don't need a reason to be able to apply for a postal vote.
- **General Early Voter:** Eligible persons (including electors living with a disability or serious illness, carers, and electors aged 70 or over) can choose to register as a General Early Voter, in which case ballot papers are automatically posted to you at every applicable election. For more information, look for Special Enrolment Options at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au) or call 13 63 06.
- **In-person Early Vote:** From Wednesday 24 February until Friday 12 March, electors may attend one of 70 early voting centres throughout WA to cast an in-person vote. Most of these centres will be open from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday, plus on the Saturday before election day. Locations and opening hours can be found at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au), will be published in *The West Australian* newspaper, or you can contact 13 63 06. You don't need to give a reason why you wish to vote early.
- **In-person Polling Day:** On election day, Saturday 13 March, you can attend any of the over 700 polling places throughout WA between 8.00am and 6.00pm to cast an in-person vote. The location of every polling place can be found on interactive maps or district tables at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au) and will also be published in *The West Australian* newspaper on election day.
- **Telephone Assisted Vote:** Electors who can't vote without assistance because of insufficient literacy skills, a vision impairment or some other incapacity are eligible to cast a telephone assisted vote by calling 13 68 00 (+61 8 9214 7290 if overseas). This is a two-stage process involving separate Vote Application and Vote Cast Call Centres whereby the anonymity of the elector is maintained.



## COVID Safe Voting

The WA Electoral Commission has worked closely with public health authorities to ensure that in-person voting options are managed in a way that safeguards the wellbeing of electors and staff. As a result, voting may take a little longer than in the past. However, electors concerned about attending an early voting centre or polling place may opt to apply for a postal vote, or if eligible vote via the telephone.

Many of the measures being adopted to ensure a COVID Safe voting environment are similar to what people see at shopping centres, clubs and restaurants. Others are specific to a voting situation.

Some of the more obvious measures include:

- The 2m<sup>2</sup> rule will apply at all voting venues. This means that the number of people inside a voting venue at any time will be dictated by its area with every venue having a *COVID-19 Voting Venue Safety Plan*
- The 1.5m physical distancing rule will be applied, with yellow tape marking standing positions at queuing locations for example.
- Everyone attending a voting venue will be required to scan the SafeWA QR code at the entrance or complete a confidential contact tracing slip. These will only be provided to WA Health should it become necessary to undertake contact tracing in respect of a particular venue. They are to be destroyed after 28 days.
- Electors are encouraged to bring their own pen or pencil but will be provided with a personal single-use pencil if required.
- Shared surfaces such as voting screen tops and common touch points will be regularly wiped down using approved wipes.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all voting venues.
- Each venue will have a COVID Safety Marshall and all electoral staff will have completed a COVID Safe training module.
- All voting venues will display various COVID-19 physical distancing and hygiene signage.

Should community transmission occur in Western Australia during the election period, some of the steps outlined above may change and added precautionary measures will likely be introduced upon advice from public health and emergency services authorities. The Commission's COVID-19 Management Plan and Guidelines covering all aspects of the election, has been endorsed by WA Health.

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